

**Wednesday 28 November 2001**— *Thursday 29 November*

- The Committee on Budgets, which on Monday had adopted Mr Ferber's report on the supplementary estimates of revenue and expenditure of the European Parliament for the financial year 2001 (A5-0424/2001), had asked for this report to be put to the vote the following day without debate, pursuant to Rule 114.  
Parliament agreed to this request.  
The deadline for tabling amendments was set at 09.00 the following day.
- The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs had asked for the vote on Mr Bouwman's report on the protection of employees in the event of the insolvency of their employer (A5-0348/2001), currently on the draft agenda for December, to be brought forward to the following day's voting time as the Council was intending to take its decision on 3 December.  
Parliament agreed to this request.

**Points of order:**

The following spoke:

- Tajani who referred to a building which had collapsed the previous day in Rome, claiming numerous victims; he applauded the courage of the rescue services (the President announced that she had already sent a message of condolence to the Italian authorities);
- Figueiredo who drew the House's attention to the precarious situation of an ever greater number of Portuguese workers hit by the closure of textile firms; he asked that the Commission be made aware of this problem;
- Valdivielso de Cué who thanked the President for her statement condemning the acts of terrorism in the Basque region;
- Angelilli who supported Mr Tajani's remarks;
- Howitt who referred to Mr Van Orden's remarks during the last part-session (*Minutes of 15.11.2001, Item 2*) on the arrest of fourteen tourists in Greece accused of spying; he asked the President to speak on behalf of Parliament to the Greek authorities in support of these people (the President announced that her Cabinet had immediately contacted the Greek permanent representation and said that she was willing to intervene personally if necessary);
- Souladakis who pointed out that Greece had respected the rules relating to the rule of law and human rights but that measures had been taken because of the highly sensitive international situation regarding terrorism.

The President announced that a further dozen people had asked to speak on the issue; she decided to proceed to the first item on the agenda and take the remaining points of order thereafter.

## **10. European Council meeting in Laeken — Future of the European Union — European Governance — Promoting quality in employment and social policy (debate)**

The next item was the joint debate on Council and Commission statements, two reports drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, and two oral questions.

The President had received motions for resolutions from the following Members:

## (a) pursuant to Rule 37(2)

- Andrew Nicholas Duff, Willy C.E.H. De Clercq and Jules Maaten, on behalf of the ELDR Group, on the preparation of the Laeken European Council of 14/15 December 2001 (B5-0741/2001);
- Hans-Gert Poettering, Ilkka Suominen, W.G. van Velzen, Hubert Pirker, Arie M. Oostlander, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra and Elmar Brok, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group, on the preparation of the Laeken European Council (B5-0742/2001);
- Francis Wurtz, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group, on the preparation of the Laeken European Council of 14/15 December 2001 (B5-0743/2001);

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- Enrique Barón Crespo, Hannes Swoboda and Anne E. M. Van Lancker, on behalf of the PSE Group, on the preparation of the Laeken European Council of 14-15 December 2001 (B5-0744/2001);
  - Gerard Collins, on behalf of the UEN Group, on the preparation of the Laeken European Council of 14/15 December 2001 (B5-0745/2001);
  - Heidi Hautala, Paul Lannoye and Nelly Maes, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group, on the preparation of the Laeken European Council (B5-0746/2001);
- (b) pursuant to Rule 42(5):
- Michel Rocard, on behalf of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, on a European strategy to promote quality in employment and in social policy (B5-0739/2001).

Mr Michel, President-in-Office of the Council, and Mr Prodi, Member of the Commission, made statements on the preparation of the Laeken European Council and replied to questions B5-0529 and B5-0530/2001.

The following spoke: Poettering, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group, Barón Crespo, on behalf of the PSE Group, Cox, on behalf of the ELDR Group, and Voggenhuber, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group.

IN THE CHAIR: Mr PROVAN

*Vice-President*

The following spoke: Kaufmann, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group, Muscardini, on behalf of the UEN Group, and Bonde, on behalf of the EDD Group.

Mr Leinen and Mr Méndez de Vigo, co-rapporteurs, introduced their report on the Laeken European Council and the future of the Union (2001/2180(INI) (A5-0368/2001).

Mrs Kaufmann introduced her report on the Commission White Paper: European Governance (COM(2001) 428 — C5-0454/2001 — 2001/2181(COS) (A5-0399/2001).

Mr Frank Vanhecke, Non-attached Member, spoke.

Mr Menrad, deputising for Mr Rocard, moved the oral questions to the Council and the Commission, tabled by Mr Rocard on behalf of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, on a European strategy to promote quality in employment and in social policy (B5-0529 and 0530/2001).

The following spoke: Medina Ortega, draftsman of the opinion of the JURI Committee (on A5-0399/2001), De Clercq, draftsman of the opinion of the JURI Committee (on A5-0368/2001), Jackson, draftsman of the opinion of the ENVI Committee, Theorin, draftsman of the opinion of the FEMM Committee, and Gemelli, draftsman of the opinion of the PETI Committee.

IN THE CHAIR: Mr PACHECO PEREIRA

*Vice-President*

The following spoke: Brok, chairman of the AFET Committee, Van den Berg, Duff, MacCormick, Sjöstedt, Hyland, Farage, Dupuis, Schwaiger, Van Lancker, Malmström, Frassoni, Figueiredo, Berthu, Thyssen, Caveri, Hager, Oostlander, Corbett, Väyrynen, Dimitrakopoulos, Swoboda, De Sarnez, Tajani, Cederschiöld, Schleicher, Majj-Weggen and Carnero González.

IN THE CHAIR: Mrs PLOOIJ-VAN GORSEL

*Vice-President*

The following spoke: Michel and Barnier, Member of the Commission.

The President closed the debate.

Vote: Minutes of 29.11.2001, Items 22 to 25.

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**Points of order** (continuation):

The following spoke:

- on the tourists arrested in Greece: Van Orden who asked particularly the President of Parliament and the President-in-Office of the Council to contact the Greek authorities about getting these people released (the President reminded the House of the President's reply at the start of the sitting), Ludford, Corbett, Lynne and Manders;
- Boumediene-Thiery, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group, who asked for the oral questions to the Council and the Commission on the Association Agreement with Egypt to be dealt with during the current part-session and asked for Mr Hugues Martin's recommendation to be held over until a later part-session (the President replied that this request would be dealt with later that evening under the relevant item);
- Korakas on the fate of Greek sailors who had been detained for ten years in Egypt for drug trafficking.

**11. Combating terrorism/European arrest warrant \* — Eurojust \* (debate)**

The next item was the a debate on two reports drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Citizens' Freedom and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs.

Mr Watson introduced his report on

1. a proposal for a Council framework decision on combating terrorism (COM(2001) 521 — C5-0452/2001 — 2001/0217(CNS)) and
2. a proposal for a Council framework decision on the European arrest warrant and the surrender procedures between the Member States (COM(2001) 522 — C5-0453/2001 — 2001/0215(CNS)) (A5-0397/2001).

Mrs Gebhardt introduced her report on a draft Council decision setting up EUROJUST with a view to reinforcing the fight against serious organised crime (12727/1/2001/rev. 1 — C5-0514/2001 — 2000/0817(CNS)) (A5-0398/2001).

The following spoke: Neyts-Uyttebroeck, President-in-Office of the Council, and Vitorino, Member of the Commission.

IN THE CHAIR: Mrs LALUMIÈRE

*Vice-President*

The following spoke: Palacio Vallelersundi, chairman of the JURI Committee, Galeote Quecedo, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group, Díez González, on behalf of the PSE Group, Ludford, on behalf of the ELDR Group, Boumediene-Thiery, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group, Di Lello Finuoli, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group, Angelilli, on behalf of the UEN Group, Krarup, on behalf of the EDD Group, Borghezio, Non-attached Member, Pirker, Swiebel, Maes, Crowley, Paisley, Gargani, Cerdeira Morterero, Segni, Terrón i Cusí, Neyts-Uyttebroeck and Vitorino.

The President closed the debate.

Vote: Minutes of 29.11.2001, Items 16 and 17.

*(The sitting was suspended at 20.25 and resumed at 21.05.)*