

Thursday 17 December 1998

Split votes:

am. 4 (V):

1st part: text without the words 'underlines the fact... numerous occasions'

2nd part: these words

am. 7 (rapporteur):

1st part: up to 'Russia'

2nd part: 'endorses ... three institutions'

3rd part: 'insists that ... non-governmental organisations'

4th part: 'calls on the Commission... outside the Union'

5th part: remainder

Results of RCVs:

para. 3 (UPE):

Members voting:	481
For:	433
Against:	39
Abstentions:	9

Parliament adopted the resolution by RCV (UPE):

Members voting:	493
For:	424
Against:	39
Abstentions:	30

(Part II, Item 1).

The following spoke:

— Mr Samland, chairman of the Committee on Budgets, who established that the Council President had still not arrived and hoped the Council would make a statement;

— Mrs Dührkop Dührkop, general rapporteur, who noted an omission in the resolution which did not contain para. 7 concerning the Structural Funds (the President replied that para. 7 was in the resolution but that all language versions would be checked);

— Mr Wynn, who pointed out that this was the last time some members of the Budgets Committee would be participating in the budgetary procedure and congratulated them.

The President read out the following statement he had received from the President-in-Office of the Council, whose plane had not been able to land at Strasbourg airport because of the fog:

'Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen, Members of the European Parliament,

You have just completed your second reading of the 1999 draft budget.

The outcome of your vote corresponds to our expectations and I am consequently pleased to state that the Council can accept the maximum rate of increase which results from your second reading.'

The President, after establishing that there was complete agreement on the 1999 budget, declared the budget finally adopted.

The President invited Mr Liikanen, Member of the Commission, the chairman of the Committee on Budgets and the rapporteurs, to accompany him as he signed the budget.

7. 1996 discharge (vote)

Elles report — A4-0502/98

(Simple majority)

The following spoke:

— Mr Fabre-Aubrespy who, on behalf of the I-EDN Group, referred to Annex V, Article 3(3) of the Rules and noted there was confusion between the proposal for a decision and the proposal for a resolution in the report, which were only one text, and called for the procedure laid down in these provisions of the Rules to be observed (the President acknowledged the speaker was right and replied he would consult the House on the voting order);

— Mrs Theato, chairman of the Committee on Budgetary Control, who said that the motion for a resolution in fact continued until para. 24 and that paras 25 and 26 were the proposal for a decision;

— Mr Elles, rapporteur, who called for the procedure applied to respect the Treaty provisions;

— Mrs Aelvoet, on behalf of the V Group, who called for the provisions in the Rules to be respected;

— Mrs Theato who, with reference to her previous remarks, pointed out that the text of the proposal for a decision in fact started at para. 26;

— the rapporteur, who acknowledged the situation was unclear but repeated his conviction that the proposal for a decision ran from para. 1 up to para. 25 and that the motion for a resolution started at para. 26.

The President decided to follow the rapporteur's advice and put to the vote paras. 1 to 25 first in accordance with Annex V, Article 3(3) of the Rules (proposal for a decision) followed by the remainder of the text (motion for a resolution).

PROPOSAL FOR A DECISION:

Amendments adopted: 5; 21 by RCV; 19 by RCV

Amendments rejected: 10 by EV (199 for, 292 against, 14 abstentions); 11; 12 by EV (183 for, 324 against, 5 abstentions); 13 by RCV; 14; 8; 23 by EV (200 for, 298 against, 13 abstentions); 22

Amendments withdrawn: 24, 15

Amendment ruled inadmissible: 7

Amendment cancelled: 20

The different parts of the text were adopted in order (para. 2, 2nd part by EV (340 for, 150 against, 14 abstentions), para. 12 by EV (349 for, 145 against, 13 abstentions).

Para. 23 was rejected by RCV.

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The following spoke during the vote:

— Before the vote on para. 23 (decision on giving discharge), Mr Martens, on behalf of the PPE Group, announced that his group disagreed with the conclusions in the declaration distributed the previous day by the Commission and that many of his group's members would like para. 23 to be rejected, in other words for the matter to be referred back to committee pursuant to Article 6 of the same annex.

The following then spoke on procedure: Mrs Green, on behalf of the PSE Group, who announced her group would table a motion of censure if discharge was not given, Mr Fabre-Aubrespy, on behalf of the I-EDN Group, who announced his group would table a motion of censure if discharge was not given, Mrs Aelvoet, on behalf of the V Group, on what she considered the blackmail used by the Commission in its declaration the previous day, Mr Cox, on behalf of the ELDR Group, who stressed that the question was fundamentally political, procedural and institutional in nature, Mr Miranda, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group, on what he considered the Commission's blackmail and to point out his group would vote against discharge, Mr Pasty, on behalf of the UPE Group, who considered that both the Commission and the PSE Group had employed blackmail and announced his group would vote against discharge, Mrs Lalumière, on behalf of the ARE Group, who pointed out the unfortunate nature of the Commission's text and said her group was split but she would vote for discharge, and the rapporteur, who pointed out that a refusal to give discharge would not be final as the matter would then be referred back to the committee responsible.

The President then held a roll-call vote on para. 23 which was rejected, meaning that the matter was considered to have been referred back to the committee responsible.

Mrs Green, on behalf of the PSE Group, repeated her announcement that her group would table a motion of censure on the Commission but would not be voting for it.

— the following then spoke on procedure: the rapporteur, Mrs Muscardini, who also complained at not being given the same speaking rights as the political group, Mrs Jackson, on the PSE Group's announcement that it would be tabling a motion of censure and then voting against it, Mr Crowley, Mr Wijzenbeek, Mr Cox, who asked the Commission to make a statement following the decision not to give discharge, and Mr Robles Piquer.

Mr Liikanen, Member of the Commission, pointed out that the position as expressed by the Commission in its declaration the previous day remained the same.

Separate votes: para. 8 (PSE), 11 (ELDR), 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20 (PSE), 21 (PSE, ARE), 23 (ELDR, GUE/NGL), 24 (PPE), 25 (PPE, GUE/NGL), 27 (PSE)

Split votes:

para. 2 (PSE):

1st part: up to 'Integrated Control System' (point (d))
2nd part: remainder of point (d)
3rd part: points (e) and 2nd subparagraph

para. 7 (ELDR):

1st part: point (a)
2nd part: point (b)
3rd part: point (c)

para. 10 (PSE):

1st part: up to 'effectively'
2nd part: remainder

para. 22 (PSE):

1st part: text without the words 'with unacceptable abuses arising from this'
2nd part: these words

Results of RCVs:

para. 5 (PPE):

Members voting:	497
For:	327
Against:	159
Abstentions:	11

am. 13 (V):

Members voting:	513
For:	182
Against:	311
Abstentions:	20

para. 7 (1st part) (PPE):

Members voting:	508
For:	353
Against:	142
Abstentions:	13

para. 7 (2nd part) (PPE):

Members voting:	505
For:	337
Against:	155
Abstentions:	13

para. 7 (3rd part) (PPE):

Members voting:	508
For:	327
Against:	164
Abstentions:	17

am. 21 (PPE):

Members voting:	514
For:	298
Against:	198
Abstentions:	18

am. 19 (PPE):

Members voting:	512
For:	279
Against:	211
Abstentions:	22

para. 9 (PPE, I-EDN):

Members voting:	513
For:	359
Against:	144
Abstentions:	10

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para. 10 (1st part) (PPE, I-EDN):

Members voting:	491
For:	483
Against:	5
Abstentions:	3

para. 10 (2nd part) (PPE, I-EDN):

Members voting:	502
For:	323
Against:	166
Abstentions:	13

para. 11 (PPE):

Members voting:	503
For:	489
Against:	9
Abstentions:	5

para. 13 (PPE):

Members voting:	507
For:	350
Against:	148
Abstentions:	9

para. 14 (PPE, I-EDN):

Members voting:	502
For:	346
Against:	144
Abstentions:	12

para. 15 (PPE, I-EDN):

Members voting:	506
For:	350
Against:	143
Abstentions:	13

para. 18 (PPE):

Members voting:	511
For:	363
Against:	138
Abstentions:	10

para. 21 (PPE):

Members voting:	510
For:	339
Against:	157
Abstentions:	14

para. 22 (1st part) (PPE):

Members voting:	499
For:	491
Against:	1
Abstentions:	7

para. 22 (2nd part) (PPE):

Members voting:	510
For:	302
Against:	185
Abstentions:	23

para. 23 (PSE, PPE, GUE/NGL, UPE, I-EDN, ARE, V):

Members voting:	518
For:	225
Against:	270
Abstentions:	23

IN THE CHAIR: Mr COT

Vice-President

8. Ariane ***II (procedure without debate) (vote)

Recommendation for 2nd reading by the Committee on Culture, Youth, Education and the Media, on the common position adopted by the Council with a view to adopting a European Parliament and Council Decision amending Decision 2085/97/EC establishing a programme of support, including translation, in the field of books and reading (Ariane) (C4-0656/98 — 98/0282(COD)) (A4-0504/98) (rapporteur: Mr Pex) (*Qualified majority*)

COMMON POSITION OF THE COUNCIL C4-0656/98 — 98/0282(COD):

The President declared the common position approved (*Part II, Item 2*).

9. Kaleidoscope ***II (procedure without debate) (vote)

Recommendation for 2nd reading by the Committee on Culture, Youth, Education and the Media, on the common position adopted by the Council with a view to adopting a European Parliament and Council Decision amending Decision 719/96/EC establishing a support programme for artistic and cultural activities with a European dimension (Kaleidoscope) (C4-0654/98 — 98/0283(COD)) (A4-0505/98) (rapporteur: Mr Pex) (*Qualified majority*)

COMMON POSITION OF THE COUNCIL C4-0654/98 — 98/0283(COD):

The President declared the common position approved (*Part II, Item 3*).

10. Sale of consumer goods and associated guarantees ***II (vote)

Kuhn recommendation for 2nd reading — A4-0469/98 (*Qualified majority*)

The rapporteur spoke.

COMMON POSITION OF THE COUNCIL C4-0533/98 — 96/0161(COD):

Amendments adopted: 1; 3; 5 (1st part) by EV (322 for, 47 against, 9 abstentions); 11 by EV (315 for, 68 against, 13 abstentions); 12 by EV (353 for, 49 against, 6 abstentions); 15 by EV (328 for, 67 against, 5 abstentions); 33 by RCV; 18 by EV (397 for, 43 against, 4 abstentions); 19; 34 by EV (386 for, 43 against, 9 abstentions); 25 to 27 collectively; 28