

23rd August 2011

Hold them accountable!

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**Roll Call Votes (RCV) of interest in
the European Parliament during the
7th legislature 2009 to 2014**

This report is continuously updated during the 7th European Parliament legislature

OEIC – Organisation for European Interstate Cooperation
Jan A Johansson

Note:

The report is mainly in English but there are parts in Swedish for our Swedish members. The English language in the newest part of the report may not be revised.

De Castro report (A7-0005/2009) on the proposal for a Council regulation derogating from Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 ('Single CMO' Regulation) as regards the 2009 and 2010 intervention periods for butter and skimmed milk powder

Consultation procedure (this was before the Lisbon Treaty was implemented)

Thursday 17th of September 2009

Report summary:

The European Parliament tabled an amendment to a European Commission proposal. The European Parliament stated that "due to the serious crisis in the dairy sector," the proposed amendment asks to restore aid for the private storage of cheese.

This is a typical amendment from the European Parliament in agricultural issues. It always fights for the varying specific interests in the agricultural sector and push to uphold or expand subsidises.

Result of the vote on the resolution as a whole:

447 yes, 70 no and 16 abstained. 203 absent or present but did not vote. This vote was the first vote of the day, so many members arrived afterward. Two minutes later, the number of members that did not vote was down to around 130.

The Verts/ALE group voted no, as well as a few members from each of the different groups.

The Socialists (S&D), the Christian Democrats (EPP), around half of the Liberal ALDE group, and the larger part of the Greens voted yes.

No votes came from the Conservative ECR, the larger parts of the Left GUE/NGL, or the EU sceptic, EFD. Thirty members of the Liberal ALDE group abstained.

The Estonian members voted as follows:

Yes: Savisaar-Toomast (K, ALDE), Kelam (IRL, EPP), Padar (SDE, S&D).

No: Tarand (Independent, Verts/ALE).

Present but arrived to late to the vote: Ojuland (RE, ALDE), Oviir (K, ALDE),

The Irish members voted as follows:

Yes: Aylward (FF, ALDE), Crowley (FF, ALDE) (did not vote but stated afterwards that he intended to vote yes), Harkin (Independent, ALDE), Jim Higgins (FG, EPP), McGuinness (FG, EPP), Mitchell (FG, EPP), Alan Kelly (Lab, S&D).

No: Childers (Lab, S&D).

Present but arrived to late to the vote: Gallagher (FF, ALDE), Sean Kelly (FG, EPP), Joe Higgins (SP, GUE/NGL).

Absent: De Rossa (Lab, S&D).

De svenska ledamöterna röstade som följer:

Ja: Ek (C, ALDE), Corazza Bildt (M, EPP).

Nej: Paulsen (FP, ALDE), Schmidt (FP, ALDE), Wikström (FP, ALDE), E-B Svensson (V, GUE/NGL) (röstade ja men anmälde i efterhand att hon avsett att rösta nej), Fjellner (M, EPP), Ibrisagic (M, EPP), Alf Svensson (KD, EPP) (röstade ja men anmälde i efterhand att han avsett att rösta nej), Färm (S, S&D), Hedh (S, S&D) (röstade ja men anmälde i efterhand att hon avsett att rösta nej), Ludvigsson (S, S&D), Ulvskog (S, S&D), Westlund (S, S&D), Lövin (MP, Verts/ALE), Schlyter (MP, Verts/ALE).

Närvarande, men ej röstat (kom för sent): Engström (PP, Verts/ALE).

Frånvarande: Hökmark (M, EPP).

De svenska ledamöterna bröt i regel mot sina respektive grupper och röstade nej. Men två ledamöter från Sverige skiljde ut sig.

Anna Maria Corazza Bildt (M) röstade ja till betänkandet medan de andra två närvarande Moderaterna röstade nej. Lena Ek (C) röstade ja samtidigt som hon skrev på en skeptisk röstförklaring tillsammans med tre nej-röstande FP-ledamöter. Ek utmärkte sig även under föregående mandatperiod genom att vara den svenska ledamot som i högst utsträckning röstade för olika förslag från EU-parlamentet till en mycket reglerad jordbrukspolitik på EU-nivå.

Det vore intressant att höra argumenten från Corazza Bildt och Ek varför de stödjer EU:s gemensamma jordbrukspolitik på det här sättet?

De kan ju alltid hävda att det var en felröstning. Men sådant kan felanmälas i efterhand inom en viss tid. Tre svenska ledamöter, Alf Svensson (KD), Eva-Britt Svensson (V) och Anna Hedh (S) råkade rösta för betänkandet men har i efterhand anmält att de avsåg att rösta nej. Dessutom har som sagt Lena Ek (C) ett långt register av andra ärenden där hon genom åren har stött EU:s gemensamma jordbrukspolitik. Huruvida Corazza Bildt ser mer till den kristdemokratiska gruppens helhetsposition än de svenska Moderaternas återstår för henne att motivera.

Manka report (A7-0017/2010) on the estimates of revenue and expenditure for Amending Budget 1/2010 (Section I, European Parliament)

Thursday 25th of February 2010

Report summary:

With the Lisbon Treaty, the European Parliament claimed it received increased responsibilities and wanted to raise its budget in order to employ more assistants for the members. A raise of 13,4 million euros was demanded in the report.

From the report:

- A. whereas it was agreed, during the 2010 budget procedure, that any expenditure related specifically to the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community would be dealt with, if necessary, through existing budgetary instruments, such as an amending budget, after the adoption of the original 2010 budget,
- B. whereas it was emphasised that, in such a case and to the fullest possible extent, reorganisation of existing resources should be fully examined before any call for additional resources was made,
- C. whereas it was particularly stressed that the adopted original level of its budget amounting to 19.87 % of the authorised expenditure under heading 5 (administrative appropriations) of the MFF did not include any possible adaptations in the light of the Treaty of Lisbon, particularly in the legislative area,
- D. whereas, at the same time, it was acknowledged that, due to the limited margins available, further savings and redeployment would be required to enable additional requirements to be fulfilled,
 1. Welcomes the Bureau's proposal for a 2010 amending budget concerning the European Parliament's budget (section 1 of the Union's general budget) and recalls that this is fully in line with the agreement that any additional needs following the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon would be dealt with separately through existing budgetary instruments;
 2. Emphasises legislative excellence as Parliament's priority and the need to provide the Members, committees and political groups with the necessary means to achieve it; agrees with the general direction of the Bureau's proposal and the focus for reinforcements proposed; considers, furthermore, that the general magnitude of the proposal is justified given the justifications provided and the new challenges ahead;
 3. In view of the multiannual financial impact to be expected of these and possible other Lisbon-Treaty-related proposals, calls for an evaluation of the use of secretarial assistance allowances;
 4. Notes that the overall level of the budget as proposed by the Bureau would amount to EUR 1 620 760 399, representing 20.04% of the original heading 5; notes, given the context set out above and the total volume of the budget, that the long-standing self-imposed limit of 20% has been surpassed by 0.04% or EUR 3.2 million in the Bureau's proposal;
 5. Considers that the overall reference for its budget should continue to be the original multiannual programming of the MFF in order to ensure that its interests

are safeguarded while, at the same time, maintaining budgetary discipline;

6. Considers that the current 20% basis for heading 5 is now more restrictive compared to the previous situation as it will have to cover expenditure not foreseen in the self-imposed declaration of 1988; recalls that since 2006 Parliament has included expenditure such as the Members' Statute (generating savings for Member States), the Assistants' Statute, expenditure related to its new role following the Lisbon Treaty and also an expanded buildings policy to accommodate its overall needs, including enlargements;
7. Considers that, on the basis of the original MFF references, negotiated in 2006 and in force since 2007, its expenditure should remain within the traditional 20% limit, as an indicative reference;
8. Considers that, on a total volume of over EUR 1 600 000 000, it should be possible to keep within 20% (i.e. arrive at 19.99%) while fully respecting the additional needs set out in the Bureau's proposal; notes that this would mean a reduction to the overall budget of an amount of EUR 4 million;
9. Decides to make such an adjustment, without touching the elements contained in the Bureau's proposal, by reducing the buildings reserve from EUR 15 million to EUR 11 million; notes that this will take the overall level of the budget to EUR 1 616 760 399, representing 19.99% of heading 5; insists on the need for long-term planning of its building policy;
10. Highlights that actions aiming to secure budgetary sustainability in future years should be undertaken; reaffirms the importance of the elaboration of a zero-based budget policy that will ensure further rigour and transparency; appeals for clear information, as soon as possible, on the overall amount of fixed expenditure within the EP budget, as referred to in the European Parliament resolution of 22 October 2009 on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2010;

Result of the final vote:

430 yes, 117 no and 58 abstained. 131 absent or present but did not vote.

The Socialists S&D, the Christian Democrats (EPP), around half of the Liberal ALDE group, and the larger part of the Green voted yes.

No votes came from the Conservative ECR, the larger parts of the Left GUE/NGL, or the EU sceptics EFD. Thirty members of the Liberal ALDE group abstained.

The Estonian members voted as follows:

Yes: Ojuland (RE, ALDE), Savisaar-Toomast (K, ALDE), Kelam (IRL, EPP), Padar (SDE, S&D).

Absent: Oviir (K, ALDE), Tarand (Independent, Verts/ALE).

The Irish members voted as follows:

Yes: Aylward (FF, ALDE), Gallagher (FF, ALDE), Harkin (Independent, ALDE), Jim Higgins (FG, EPP), Sean Kelly (FG, EPP), McGuinness (FG, EPP), Mitchell (FG, EPP), Childers (Lab, S&D), De Rossa (Lab, S&D), Alan Kelly (Lab, S&D).

No: Joe Higgins (SP, GUE/NGL)

Absent: Crowley (FF, ALDE)

De svenska ledamöterna röstade som följer:

Ja: Corazza Bildt (M, EPP), Fjellner (M, EPP), Ibrisagic (M, EPP), Färm (S, S&D), Ludvigsson (S, S&D), Engström (PP, Verts/ALE).

Nej: E-B Svensson (V, GUE/NGL), Hedh (S, S&D), Ulvskog (S, S&D), Schlyter (MP, Verts/ALE), Hökmark (M, EPP) (den sistnämnde skall ha röstat fel enligt mediauppgifter).

Avstod: Ek (C, ALDE), Paulsen (FP, ALDE), Schmidt (FP, ALDE), Westlund (S, S&D).

Frånvarande: Alf Svensson (KD, EPP), Wikström (FP, ALDE).

Närvarande, men ej röstat: Lövin (MP, Verts/ALE) (röstade i ONU före och efter denna ONU).

Manka report (A7-0158/2010) on Council's position on Draft amending budget No 1/2010 of the European Union for the financial year 2010, Section I – European Parliament

Wednesday 19th of May 2010

Report summary:

The European Parliament managed to increase its budget while individual member states cut their budgets back.

From the report:

- A. whereas it was agreed, during the 2010 budget procedure, that any expenditure related specifically to the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community would be dealt with, if necessary, through existing budgetary instruments, such as an amending budget, after the adoption of the original 2010 budget,
- B. whereas it was emphasised that, in such a case and to the fullest possible extent, reorganisation of existing resources should be fully examined before any call for additional resources was made,
- C. whereas it was particularly stressed that the adopted original level of its budget amounting to 19,87 % of the authorised expenditure under heading 5 (administrative appropriations) of the MFF did not include any adaptations in the light of the Treaty of Lisbon, particularly in the legislative area,
- D. whereas, at the same time, it was acknowledged that, due to the limited margins available, further savings and redeployment would be required to enable additional requirements to be fulfilled,
 1. Welcomes the Commission's Draft amending budget No 1/2010, drawn up in full conformity with the Parliament's estimates of 25 February 2010;
 2. Notes the Council's position of 18 May 2010, approving the proposal without amendment, in full respect of the Gentlemen's Agreement;
 3. Emphasises that an extensive political debate and analysis of the measures put forward already took place during the estimates stage in January and February 2010;

The vote:

First there was a vote about Amendment 1 from MEP J Sargentini (Verts/ALE) and others that were against the raise with 8 832 000 euro for the Parliamentary assistance.

Result of the vote on amendment 1:

165 yes, 476 no and 20 abstained. 75 absent or present but did not vote.

The Conservative ECR group voted yes as well as a majority of the Left GUE/NGL, half of the EU sceptic EFD group, and small minorities in all other groups.

The no vote was proportionately strongest in the EPP group.

The Estonian members voted as follows:

Yes: Tarand (Independent, Verts/ALE).

No: Ojuland (RE, ALDE), Oviir (K, ALDE), Savisaar-Toomast (K, ALDE), Kelam (IRL, EPP), Padar (SDE, S&D).

The Irish members voted as follows:

Yes: Joe Higgins (SP, GUE/NGL).

No: Aylward (FF, ALDE), Jim Higgins (FG, EPP), Sean Kelly (FG, EPP), McGuinness (FG, EPP), Mitchell (FG, EPP), Childers (Lab, S&D), De Rossa (Lab, S&D), Alan Kelly (Lab, S&D).

Absent: Crowley (FF, ALDE).

Present but did not vote: Gallagher (FF, ALDE), Harkin (Independent, ALDE).

De svenska ledamöterna röstade som följer:

Ja: Ek (C, ALDE), de tre FP-ledamöterna (ALDE), Hedh (S, S&D), Ludvigsson (S, S&D), Ulvskog (S, S&D), Schlyter (MP, Verts/ALE), EB Svensson (V, GUE/NGL) (EBS röstade nej men anmälde felröstning till ja).

Nej: Corazza Bildt (M, EPP), Fjellner (M, EPP), Hökmark (M, EPP), Ibrisagic (M, EPP), Alf Svensson (KD, EPP), Färm (S, S&D), Engström (PP, Verts/ALE).

Frånvarande: Westlund (S, S&D), Lövin (MP, Verts/ALE).

Result of the final vote:

509 yes, 111 no and 31 abstained. 85 absent or present but did not vote.

The yes/no votes from the political groups were distributed about the same as in the vote about amendment 1, but the groups voted opposite what they had previously.

The Estonian members voted as follows:

Yes: Ojuland (RE, ALDE), Oviir (K, ALDE), Savisaar-Toomast (K, ALDE), Kelam (IRL, EPP), Tarand (Independent, Verts/ALE).

Present but did not vote: Padar (SDE, S&D).

The Irish members voted as follows:

Yes: Aylward (FF, ALDE), Gallagher (FF, ALDE), Harkin (Independent, ALDE), Jim Higgins (FG, EPP), Sean Kelly (FG, EPP), McGuinness (FG, EPP), Mitchell (FG, EPP), Childers (Lab, S&D), De Rossa (Lab, S&D), Alan Kelly (Lab, S&D).

No: Joe Higgins (SP, GUE/NGL).

Absent: Crowley (FF, ALDE).

De svenska ledamöterna röstade som följer:

Ja: Corazza Bildt (M, EPP), Fjellner (M, EPP), Hökmark (M, EPP), Ibrisagic (M, EPP), Alf Svensson (KD, EPP), Ludvigsson (S, S&D), Färm (S, S&D), Engström (PP, Verts/ALE).

Nej: Hedh (S, S&D), Ulvskog (S, S&D), Schlyter (MP, Verts/ALE), EB Svensson (V, GUE/NGL).

Nedlagda röster: Ek (C, ALDE) och de tre FP-ledamöterna (ALDE).

Frånvarande: Westlund (S, S&D), Lövin (MP, Verts/ALE).

Underligt nog var Lövin (MP) närvarande tisdag och torsdag i Strasbourg men inte under onsdagen. Lite underligt resemönster om hon reste från Sverige.

Främst bör alltså Moderaterna, Kristdemokraterna, Piratpartiet och Färm (S) hängas ut som EU-entusiaster och EU-egoister för deras stöd till högre offentliga utgifter som går till dem själva. Piratpartiet har visserligen sagt att de röstar som sin grupp i allt som inte rör deras datafrågor, men då ser vi också konsekvensen av detta. Piratpartiet borde i alla fall följa Schlyter (MP) i sådana här frågor.

Jędrzejewska/Trüpel report (A7-0284/2010) on Council's position on draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2011 - all sections and Letters of amendments Nos 1/2011, 2/2011 and 3/2011 to the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2011

Wednesday 20th of October 2010

Report summary:

The same day large state budget cutbacks were announced in the United Kingdom, the European Parliament voted in favour of a large increase in the EU's 2011 budget. The new budget was 5,9% larger, raising it to 130 billion euro. The United Kingdom's gross increase of the EU fee would be 840 million pounds. The European Parliament would increase its number of employees by 388 and increase the Members of Parliaments' secretariat allowances.

The federalist majority in the European Parliament states that this budget expansion is very little in comparison to the national budgets of the 27 member states.

After this proposal was approved, it went through negotiations with the Council. In the end, the EU budget for 2011 expanded by 2,9 %.

From the report:

The proposed resolution in paragraph #6 reads:

Understands the concern expressed by some delegations in the Council that the pressures on Member States' budgets are particularly heavy for the financial year 2011 and that savings are all the more necessary, but nevertheless considers arbitrary reductions in payments appropriations not to be in line with sound budgeting, considers moreover that arbitrary reductions in commitments appropriations jeopardize the implementation of Union policies and programmes already agreed;

The words "arbitrary reductions in payments appropriations" are interesting. Many that oppose cutbacks in the member states' budgets surely see proposals to do so as "arbitrary," but those cutbacks are done anyway.

The Conservative ECR group proposed to change the paragraph (amendment 12) to the following (the words in bold italics replace the text of the original paragraph 6):

6. Understands the concern expressed by some delegations in the Council that the pressures on Member States' budgets are particularly heavy for the financial year 2011 and that savings are all the more necessary; ***notes that several Member States are cutting back their budgets (for example Germany and the UK); believes that increases should not be rushed through at what is a particularly difficult moment for the EU and Member States; believes, for this reason, the only responsible approach on long-term trends is for a freeze at 2010 levels;***

Result of the vote on amendment 12:

92 yes, 564 no and 8 abstained. 72 absent or present but did not vote.

Paragraph 6 in the proposal therefore remained.

The yes were distributed as follows: 12 from the Liberal ALDE group, 35 from the Conservative ECR group, 22 from the EU sceptic EFD group, 2 from the Left GUE/NGL group, 14 from non-attached members, 2 from the Christian Democratic EPP, 1 from the Socialist S&D, and 4 from the Verts/ALE group.

The Estonian members voted as follows:

No: Ojuland (RE, ALDE), Oviir (K, ALDE), Savisaar-Toomast (K, ALDE), Kelam (IRL, EPP), Padar (SDE, S&D), Tarand (Independent, Verts/ALE).

The Irish members voted as follows:

No: Aylward (FF, ALDE), Crowley (FF, ALDE), Gallagher (FF, ALDE), Harkin (Independent, ALDE), Joe Higgins (SP, GUE/NGL), Jim Higgins (FG, EPP), Sean Kelly (FG, EPP), McGuinness (FG, EPP), Childers (Lab, S&D), De Rossa (Lab, S&D), Alan Kelly (Lab, S&D).

Absent: Mitchell (FG, EPP).

De svenska ledamöterna röstade som följer:

Ja: Schmidt (FP, ALDE), Wikström (FP, ALDE), E-B Svensson (V, GUE/NGL), Lövin (MP, Verts/ALE), Schlyter (MP, Verts/ALE).

Nej: Paulsen (FP, ALDE), Corazza Bildt (M, EPP), Fjellner (M, EPP), Hökmark (M, EPP), Ibrisagic (M, EPP), A Svensson (KD, EPP), Färm (S, S&D), Hedh (S, S&D), Ludvigsson (S, S&D), Ulvskog (S, S&D), Engström (PP, S&D).

Avstod: Ek (C, ALDE).

Frånvarande: Westlund (S, S&D).

Det kan noteras att Haglund från Finlands Svenska Folkpartiet (ALDE) röstade nej medan Jäättenmäki från finska Centerpartiet (ALDE) röstade ja.

Result of the final vote:

546 yes, 88 no and 39 abstained. 63 absent or present but did not vote. That means 673 members out of 736 elected members voted, which equals 91,4 % turnout among the Members of the European Parliament.

The yes/no votes from the political groups were distributed about the same as in the vote about amendment 1, but the groups voted opposite what they had previously. It must be noted that the British Labour party delegation voted no.

The 88 no votes came from the following groups: 9 from Liberal ALDE group, 34 from Conservative ECR group, 14 from EU sceptic EFD group, 5 from Left GUE/NGL group, 15 from the non-attached members, 10 from the Socialist S&D group (British Labour Party), and 1 from the Verts/ALE group.

The Estonian members voted as follows:

Yes: Ojuland (RE, ALDE), Savisaar-Toomast (K, ALDE), Kelam (IRL, EPP), Padar (SDE, S&D), Tarand (Independent, Verts/ALE).

Present but did not vote: Oviir (K, ALDE).

Oviir voted in the RCV before and after this RCV.

The Irish members voted as follows:

No: Aylward (FF, ALDE), Crowley (FF, ALDE), Gallagher (FF, ALDE), Harkin (Independent, ALDE), Joe Higgins (SP, GUE/NGL), Jim Higgins (FG, EPP), Sean Kelly (FG, EPP), McGuinness (FG, EPP), Childers (Lab, S&D), De Rossa (Lab, S&D), Alan Kelly (Lab, S&D).

Absent: Mitchell (FG, EPP).

De svenska ledamöterna röstade som följer:

Ja: Ek (C), Paulsen (FP), Schmidt (FP), Wikström (FP), Corazza Bildt (M), Fjellner (M), Hökmark (M), Ibrisagic (M), A Svensson (KD), Färm (S), Hedh (S), Ludvigsson (S), Ulvskog (S), Engström (PP), Lövin (MP).

Nej: Schlyter (MP).

Avstod: E-B Svensson (V).

Frånvarande: Westlund (S).

Sammantaget kan sägas att även om Färm (S) och Hökmark (M) debatterat olikheter mellan dem i SvD nyligen röstar både S och M för budgetökningen på EU-nivå. Fast med lite olika motiveringar. Intressant att notera att brittiska Labourpartiet inte kunde rösta för budgetresolutionen medan svenska S-ledamöter gjorde det.

Podimata report (A7-0036/2011) on innovative financing at global and European level

Tuesday 8th of March 2011

Report summary:

A majority in the European Parliament supports the introduction of a Financial Transaction Tax (FTT), with the hope that the incomes of such a tax would go to the EU budget.

Extract out of paragraph 29 in the proposed report:

... notes the Commission's aim to increase the volume of the EU budget through the use of innovative financial instruments; is convinced that in order to safeguard the European added value of the aforementioned innovative financing tools a part of those revenues could be allocated to finance EU projects and policies; recalls that the Commission's recent Communication on a review of the EU budget regards EU taxation of the financial sector as a possible source of own resources; calls for a broad debate involving the EU institutions, national parliaments, EU stakeholders and civil society representatives on the choices available regarding those policies, the shares of revenue to be allocated at EU and national level and the various ways of achieving this; ...

Result of the final vote:

529 yes, 127 no and 18 abstained. 62 absent or present but did not vote.

The no votes mainly came from the Conservative ECR group, some Liberal ALDE members, the EU sceptic EFD group, some from the Left GUE/NGL group, and the non-attached members.

The Estonian members voted as follows:

Yes: Ojuland (RE, ALDE), Oviir (K, ALDE), Savisaar-Toomast (K, ALDE), Kelam (IRL, EPP), Padar (SDE, S&D), Tarand (Independent, Verts/ALE).

The Irish members voted as follows:

Yes: Harkin (Independent, ALDE), Jim Higgins (FG, EPP), Sean Kelly (FG, EPP), McGuinness (FG, EPP), Mitchell (FG, EPP), Childers (Lab, S&D), De Rossa (Lab, S&D).

Abstain: Aylward (FF, ALDE), Crowley (FF, ALDE), Gallagher (FF, ALDE)

Absent: Joe Higgins (SP, GUE/NGL) and Alan Kelly (Lab, S&D) resigned the 24th of February 2011 and their replacement had not yet been installed in the European Parliament.

De svenska ledamöterna röstade som följer:

Ja: Ek (C, ALDE), Färm (S, S&D), Ludvigsson (S, S&D), Ulvskog (S, S&D), Westlund (S, S&D), Engström (PP, Verts/ALE), Schlyter (MP, Verts/ALE), Löving (MP, Verts/ALE).

Nej: Corazza Bildt (M, EPP), Fjellner (M, EPP), Hökmark (M, EPP), Ibrisagic (M, EPP), Alf Svensson (KD, EPP).

Nedlagda röster: Paulsen (FP, ALDE), Schmidt (FP, ALDE), Wikström (FP, ALDE) (Paulsen och Wikström röstade ja men anmälde felröstning och avsåg att avstå).

Frånvarande: Hedh (S, S&D), EB Svensson (V, S&D).

Intressant är att de svenska Socialdemokraterna lämnade in en röstförklaring där de flitigt använder sig av uttrycket ”EU-skatt”. De skriver:

”Vi svenska socialdemokrater är starka förespråkare av en transaktionsskatt på global nivå. EU bör mycket aktivt verka för att ett sådant system ska etableras. Om en internationell överenskommelse med tiden skulle visa sig vara politiskt omöjlig bör alternativet att introducera en transaktionsskatt endast inom EU övervägas noga. Till grund för detta bör det ligga en balanserad konsekvensanalys. Kommissionen håller i dagsläget på att förbereda en analys, men det har inte hindrat dess representanter från att vid flera tillfällen gå händelserna i förväg genom att uttala sig klart negativt om en skatt på EU-nivå. Detta är i våra ögon inte acceptabelt. För att sända en tydlig signal till kommissionen om att saken bör tas på allvar och att processen måste vara förutsättningslös har vi därför valt att rösta för det ändringsförslag som konkret talar om införandet av en EU-skatt. Det är mycket viktigt att ett objektivt och genomarbetat beslutsunderlag nu skapas i denna fråga.”

Nu avser svenska S mestadels att EU ensidigt skall införa Tobinskatt även om inte övriga världen gör det. Men intressant att de så gärna använder sig av begreppet "EU-skatt" i syfte att bereda väg för detta politiska projekt.

Gunnar Hökmark (M) talade under debatten. Men sade i princip ingenting annat än att det blir bankkunderna som får betala denna Tobinskatt samt att ”finansvalpskatten” i Sverige ledde till att aktiehandeln flyttade till London. Om EU-skatten i sig sade han inget. Mitt intryck är att Moderaterna ligger lågt här. Hökmark sade också i avslutningen att han stödde sin grupp, den kristdemokratiska EPP, i denna fråga.

Vilket är konstigt då EPP-gruppen röstade för betänkandet och Moderaterna emot.

Men det kan ha varit ett sätt att smyga i frågan för Hökmark.

Sammantaget måste än en gång framhållas. För EU-kommissionen och EU-parlamentet lägga vantarna på en Tobinskatt blir det ett fortsatt EU-slöseri som idag och ingen skärpning av budgetpolitik och budgetkontroll i EU. Reform av jordbrukspolitiken behövs inte heller ty EU kan lugnt svälla med egna skatteinkomster.

Fernandes report (A7-0087/2011) on the estimates of revenue and expenditure of Parliament for the financial year 2012 - Section I - Parliament

Wednesday 6th of April 2011

Report summary:

In accordance with the budget procedure, the European Parliament voted on the budget for its own institution. Of course it increased demands for funding and a majority rejected proposals for cut backs.

Interesting Roll Call Votes:

In total there were seven Roll Call Votes on the Fernandes report, many of them interesting to analyse.

Amendment 14 from the Leftist GUE/NGL group – freezing of MEP allowances

The GUE/NGL group proposed a freezing of the members' General Expenditure Allowance. It read as follows:

9a. Insists that the item on the General Expenditure Allowance (item 1006), which covers expenses incurred for the parliamentary work of Members, should not be updated in 2012;

Result of the vote on amendment 14:

226 yes, 393 no and 53 abstained. 64 absent or present but did not vote.

Mainly the Conservative ECR group, the Leftist GUE/NGL group, and the Green/Regionalist Verts/ALE group supported this amendment with some rebels from the other groups. The Socialist S&D were very divided.

The Estonian members voted as follows:

Yes: Oviir (K, ALDE), Tarand (Independent, Verts/ALE).

No: Ojuland (RE, ALDE), Savisaar-Toomast (K, ALDE), Kelam (IRL, EPP), Padar (SDE, S&D).

The Irish members voted as follows:

Yes: Harkin (Independent, ALDE), Murphy (SP, GUE/NGL), Childers (Lab, S&D), De Rossa (Lab, S&D).

No: Aylward (FF, ALDE), Gallagher (FF, ALDE), Jim Higgins (FG, EPP), Sean Kelly (FG, EPP), McGuinness (FG, EPP), Mitchell (FG, EPP).

Abstain: Crowley (FF, ALDE).

Absent: Alan Kelly (Lab, S&D) resigned the 24th of February 2011 and had not yet been replaced in the European Parliament.

De svenska ledamöterna röstade som följer:

Ja: Ek (C, ALDE), Paulsen (FP, ALDE), Schmidt (FP, ALDE), Wikström (FP, ALDE), EB Svensson (V, GUE/NGL), Lövin (MP, Verts/ALE), Schlyter (MP, Verts/ALE).

Nej: Corazza Bildt (M, EPP), Fjellner (M, EPP), Ibrisagic (M, EPP), Alf Svensson (KD, EPP), Färm (S, S&D).

Avstår: Hedh (S, S&D), Ludvigsson (S, S&D) (röstade ja men anmälde i efterhand att han avsett att avstå), Ulvskog (S, S&D), Westlund (S, S&D),

Närvarande men ej röstat: Hökmark (M, EPP).

Frånvarande: Engström (PP, Verts/ALE).

Amendment 15 from the Leftist GUE/NGL group – freezing of MEPs salaries

The GUE/NGL group proposed a freezing of the members' salaries. It read as follows:

9b. Insists that the budget line on salaries and allowances of MEPs (Article 100) should not be updated in 2012. Savings in Parliament should start by its own Members;

Result of the vote on amendment 15:

213 yes, 391 no and 59 abstained. 73 absent or present but did not vote.

The political divisions were about the same as in the vote on amendment 14.

The Estonian members voted as follows:

Yes: Tarand (Independent, Verts/ALE).

No: Savisaar-Toomast (K, ALDE), Kelam (IRL, EPP), Padar (SDE, S&D).

Present but did not vote: Ojuland (RE, ALDE), Oviir (K, ALDE).

The Irish members voted as follows:

Yes: Harkin (Independent, ALDE), Murphy (SP, GUE/NGL), Childers (Lab, S&D), De Rossa (Lab, S&D).

No: Aylward (FF, ALDE), Crowley (FF, ALDE), Gallagher (FF, ALDE), Jim Higgins (FG, EPP), Sean Kelly (FG, EPP), McGuinness (FG, EPP), Mitchell (FG, EPP).

Absent: Alan Kelly (Lab, S&D) resigned the 24th of February 2011 and had not yet been replaced in the European Parliament.

De svenska ledamöterna röstade som följer:

Ja: Ek (C, ALDE), Paulsen (FP, ALDE), Schmidt (FP, ALDE), Wikström (FP, ALDE), EB Svensson (V, GUE/NGL), Lövin (MP, Verts/ALE), Schlyter (MP, Verts/ALE).

Nej: Corazza Bildt (M, EPP), Fjellner (M, EPP), Hökmark (M, EPP), Ibrisagic (M, EPP), Alf Svensson (KD, EPP), Färm (S, S&D).

Avstår: Hedh (S, S&D), Ludvigsson (S, S&D), Ulvskog (S, S&D), Westlund (S, S&D).

Frånvarande: Engström (PP, Verts/ALE).

Amendment 13 from the Leftist GUE/NGL group – no daily allowance for MEPs when travelling

The GUE/NGL group proposed that on travelling days, the MEPs should not get daily allowance. There has been criticism that an MEP can sign in at the European Parliament early in the morning and then go directly to the airport and fly back home. The amendment reads as follows:

9d. Stresses that the current Members' allowances system should be revised in order to avoid, on travelling days, the accumulation of the daily allowance with the time allowance; furthermore, considers that the revision of the Members' allowances system is essential in order to duly adjust the daily allowance to the days in which effectively the Members are fulfilling parliamentary activities.

Result of the vote on amendment 13:

151 yes, 405 no and 106 abstained. 74 absent or present but did not vote.
Mainly the Conservative ECR group and the Leftist GUE/NGL group voted no with some members from the other groups.

The Estonian members voted as follows:

No: Ojuland (RE, ALDE), Oviir (K, ALDE), Savisaar-Toomast (K, ALDE), Kelam (IRL, EPP), Padar (SDE, S&D).
Abstain: Tarand (Independent, Verts/ALE).

The Irish members voted as follows:

Yes: Harkin (Independent, ALDE), Murphy (SP, GUE/NGL), Childers (Lab, S&D), De Rossa (Lab, S&D).
No: Aylward (FF, ALDE), Crowley (FF, ALDE), Gallagher (FF, ALDE), Jim Higgins (FG, EPP), Sean Kelly (FG, EPP), McGuinness (FG, EPP), Mitchell (FG, EPP).
Absent: Alan Kelly (Lab, S&D) resigned the 24th of February 2011 and had not yet been replaced in the European Parliament.

De svenska ledamöterna röstade som följer:

Ja: Ek (C, ALDE), Paulsen (FP, ALDE), Schmidt (FP, ALDE), Wikström (FP, ALDE), EB Svensson (V, GUE/NGL).
Nej: Corazza Bildt (M, EPP), Fjellner (M, EPP), Hökmark (M, EPP), Ibrisagic (M, EPP), Alf Svensson (KD, EPP), Färm (S, S&D).
Avstår: Hedh (S, S&D), Ludvigsson (S, S&D), Ulvskog (S, S&D), Westlund (S, S&D), Lövin (MP, Verts/ALE), Schlyter (MP, Verts/ALE).
Frånvarande: Engström (PP, Verts/ALE).

Amendment 3 from the Greens/Regionalists (Verts/ALE) group, Leftist GUE/NGL group and an ECR member

This amendment number 3 is clear in and of itself and was tabled by members in the Green/Regionalist Verts/ALE group, the Leftist GUE/NGL group, and Lajos Bokros (MDF, ECR). It reads as follows:

13a. Calls on the Bureau to amend its rules relating to travel expenses (item 1004) included in its own decision PE 422.536/BUR, in order to establish the purchase of tickets in economy class for flights of less than 4 hours as a rule; considers that this new way of applying the Members' Statute should permit exceptions, taking into account the age of individual MEPs and their state of health; calls for this rule also to be applicable for Parliament staff;

Result of the vote on amendment 3:

216 yes, 402 no and 56 abstained. 62 absent or present but did not vote.
Mainly the Conservative ECR group, the Leftist GUE/NGL group and the Green/Regionalist Verts/ALE group voted in favour. The Liberal ALDE group was divided.

The Estonian members voted as follows:

Yes: Tarand (Independent, Verts/ALE).

No: Ojuland (RE, ALDE), Oviir (K, ALDE), Savisaar-Toomast (K, ALDE), Kelam (IRL, EPP), Padar (SDE, S&D).

The Irish members voted as follows:

Yes: Harkin (Independent, ALDE), Murphy (SP, GUE/NGL), Childers (Lab, S&D), De Rossa (Lab, S&D).

No: Aylward (FF, ALDE), Crowley (FF, ALDE), Gallagher (FF, ALDE), Jim Higgins (FG, EPP), Sean Kelly (FG, EPP), McGuinness (FG, EPP), Mitchell (FG, EPP).

Absent: Alan Kelly (Lab, S&D) resigned the 24th of February 2011 and had not yet been replaced in the European Parliament.

De svenska ledamöterna röstade som följer:

Ja: Paulsen (FP, ALDE), Schmidt (FP, ALDE), Wikström (FP, ALDE), EB Svensson (V, GUE/NGL), Lövin (MP, Verts/ALE), Schlyter (MP, Verts/ALE).

Nej: Corazza Bildt (M, EPP), Fjellner (M, EPP), Hökmark (M, EPP), Ibrisagic (M, EPP), Alf Svensson (KD, EPP), Färm (S, S&D).

Avstår: Ek (C, ALDE), Hedh (S, S&D), Ludvigsson (S, S&D), Ulvskog (S, S&D), Westlund (S, S&D),

Frånvarande: Engström (PP, Verts/ALE).

Amendment 1 from Marta Andreasen, (UKIP, EFD) criticising increased expenses for setting up the House of European History

While the EU Parliament does not want to save on their own expenses, they are willing to spend more money on new projects. The plans advance for setting up the House of European History. This house will show European history after 1945. The costs are estimated to 60 million euro, but it is now said that the costs has increased 100 percent in comparison with the budget. This house will cost around 13,5 million euro a year to maintain. The chairman of the EU Parliament Budget Committee, Alain Lamassoure (UMP, PPE), is also a member of the board of the House of European History, which presents a conflict between his roles, as he is both in a position to make contributions to the project and, at the same time, is working to set up the project.

The amendment 1 from Marta Andreasen, (UKIP, EFD) reads as follows:

17. Takes note of the information received so far concerning the expense of the House of European History; takes note of the estimated cost for setting up the House of European History of EUR 55 400 000, the estimated running costs and the staffing needs of EUR 13 450 000 per annum provided by the Coordinator of House of European History; seeks confirmation that the cost of acquisition of a 99-year lease on the Eastman Building has been omitted from the preparatory and development costs as originally presented, and that that cost adds another EUR 18 500 000 to the set-up costs for the project; calls on the Bureau to recognise the folly of the project and cancel it;

The original paragraph 17 in the report reads as follows:

17. Welcomes the detailed information received concerning the continuation of the realisation of the House of European History; takes note of the estimated total cost for setting up the House of European History, the estimated running costs and the staffing needs; asks the Bureau to reduce the estimated running costs; requests - in order to maintain a transparent and fruitful dialogue with the

parties involved - to be presented with a business plan setting out the long-term business strategy of the House of European History and requests to be informed as soon as possible on the building project according to Article 179(3) of the Financial Regulation proposes a reserve of EUR 2 million until receipt of said business plan;

Result of the vote on amendment 1:

121 yes, 527 no and 25 abstained. 63 absent or present but did not vote.

Mainly the Conservative ECR group, the EU critical EFD group and non-attached members voted in favour of amendment 1.

The Estonian members voted as follows:

No: Ojuland (RE, ALDE), Oviir (K, ALDE), Savisaar-Toomast (K, ALDE), Kelam (IRL, EPP), Padar (SDE, S&D), Tarand (Independent, Verts/ALE).

The Irish members voted as follows:

Yes: Murphy (SP, GUE/NGL).

No: Aylward (FF, ALDE), Crowley (FF, ALDE), Gallagher (FF, ALDE), Jim Higgins (FG, EPP), Sean Kelly (FG, EPP), McGuinness (FG, EPP), Mitchell (FG, EPP), Childers (Lab, S&D), De Rossa (Lab, S&D).

Abstain: Harkin (Independent, ALDE).

Absent: Alan Kelly (Lab, S&D) resigned the 24th of February 2011 and had not yet been replaced in the European Parliament.

De svenska ledamöterna röstade som följer:

Ja: EB Svensson (V, GUE/NGL), Schlyter (MP, Verts/ALE).

Nej: Ek (C, ALDE), Paulsen (FP, ALDE), Schmidt (FP, ALDE), Wikström (FP, ALDE), Corazza Bildt (M, EPP), Fjellner (M, EPP), Hökmark (M, EPP), Ibrisagic (M, EPP), Alf Svensson (KD, EPP), Färm (S, S&D), Hedh (S, S&D), Ludvigsson (S, S&D), Westlund (S, S&D), Lövin (MP, Verts/ALE).

Avstår: Ulvskog (S, S&D).

Frånvarande: Engström (PP, Verts/ALE).

Result of the vote on the resolution as a whole – final vote:

479 yes, 176 no and 23 abstained. 58 absent or present but did not vote.

Mainly the Conservative ECR group, the EU critical/sceptical EFD group, the Leftist GUE/NGL group, and the Green/Regionalist Verts/ALE group voted against the resolution/report as a whole.

The Estonian members voted as follows:

Yes: Ojuland (RE, ALDE), Oviir (K, ALDE), Savisaar-Toomast (K, ALDE), Kelam (IRL, EPP), Padar (SDE, S&D).

No: Tarand (Independent, Verts/ALE).

The Irish members voted as follows:

Yes: Aylward (FF, ALDE), Crowley (FF, ALDE), Gallagher (FF, ALDE), Jim Higgins (FG, EPP), Sean Kelly (FG, EPP), McGuinness (FG, EPP), Mitchell (FG, EPP), Childers (Lab, S&D), De Rossa (Lab, S&D).

No: Murphy (SP, GUE/NGL).

Abstain: Harkin (Independent, ALDE).

Absent: Alan Kelly (Lab, S&D) resigned the 24th of February 2011 and had not yet been replaced in the European Parliament.

De svenska ledamöterna röstade som följer:

Ja: Ek (C, ALDE), Corazza Bildt (M, EPP), Fjellner (M, EPP), Hökmark (M, EPP), Ibrisagic (M, EPP), Alf Svensson (KD, EPP), Färm (S, S&D), Hedh (S, S&D).

Nej: EB Svensson (V, GUE/NGL), Lövin (MP, Verts/ALE), Schlyter (MP, Verts/ALE).

Avstår: Paulsen (FP, ALDE), Schmidt (FP, ALDE), Wikström (FP, ALDE) (röstade ja men anmälde i efterhand att hon avsett att avstå), Ludvigsson (S, S&D), Ulvskog (S, S&D), Westlund (S, S&D).

Frånvarande: Engström (PP, Verts/ALE).

Svensk politisk sammanfattning:

På Strasbourg-sessionen i april röstade EU-parlamentets majoritet ja till att öka sin budget med 2,3 procent för år 2012. Den föredragande, kristdemokratiske portugisen JM Fernandes, försvarade ökningen med att EU:s nuvarande inflationstakt är 2,8 procent och att ytterligare besparingar skall ske under implementeringen av budgeten. Ministerrådet har för sin del deklarerat att de siktar på att skära ned sin budget med 4,4 procent.

Ändringsförslag som syftade till besparingar, lagda av ledamöter från de Gröna, vänstern och de konservativa, röstades ner av de styrande grupperna kristdemokraterna-socialisterna-liberalerna. Dessa ändringsförslag hade inneburit betydande besparingar. Bland annat föreslogs att EU-parlamentariker och högre EU-parlamentstjänstemän skall resa i ekonomiklass på resor under fyra timmar. Det skulle innebära en besparing på mellan 15 och 20 miljoner euro per år. Men de stora grupperna stödde inte detta. De ursäktade sig med att en förändring av reseregelverket inte skall ske i budgetprocessen utan genom en förändring av ledamöternas stadga. Undertecknad kommer ihåg när en svensk partidelegation beslöt att deras reseöverskott skulle återbetalas till EU-systemet och inte behållas av ledamöterna. Då slutade de att resa i ekonomiklass och reste i affärsklassen i stället. Så visst fungerar det för EU-parlamentariker att resa i ekonomiklass bland "folket", det handlar bara om motivation.

Kristdemokrater, socialister och liberaler röstade också nej till en formulering om att besparingar i EU-parlamentet skall börja bland dess egna medlemmar och att inga öknings skulle ske av ledamöternas löner och olika ersättningar. Likaså röstades ett tredje ändringsförslag ned om att EU-parlamentariker inte skall kunna erhålla betalning för att vara i EU-parlamentet samma dag som de reser till och från det. Det har vid ett flertal tillfällen avslöjats hur till exempel ledamöter skriver in sig tidigt på fredagsmorgonen i EU-parlamentet som närvarande och sedan tar flyget direkt hem. Då får de både dagstraktamentet för vistelsen i Bryssel samt en reseersättning.

Garriga-Polledo report (A7-0193/2011) on Investing in the future: a new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for a competitive, sustainable and inclusive Europe

Wednesday 8th of June 2011

Report:

This was an own-initiative report (outside legislation) from the European Parliament. The federalist majority in the European Parliament voted on its proposals for the next long-term EU budget, due to run from 2014 to 2020. MEPs are asking for a 5% increase from the previous budget period (2007-2013). They are also calling for all rebates on member states' contributions to the EU budget to be scrapped and an EU tax to fund the EU budget directly.

Meanwhile, Het Laatste Nieuws reports that Belgian liberal MEP Guy Verhofstadt has described the UK's position on the EU budget as "a provocation." Commenting on a letter from the UK government which voiced disappointment with a European Parliament report demanding a 5% increase in the next long-term EU budget, he said: "This means that we have a good report."

Interesting Roll Call Votes:

There were several interesting Roll Call Votes but it is best to concentrate on the most interesting ones from a political perspective.

Amendment 18 – limited and precise cuts in the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP)

Amendment 18 from the Liberal ALDE group wanted to change paragraph 81 on the Common Agriculture Policy from the EP committee proposal, which reads:

81. Insists that, *given the wide array of tasks and objectives that the CAP is called to respond to, the amounts allocated to the CAP in the budget year 2013 should be at least maintained during the next financial programming period;*

ALDE group wanted instead that the paragraph should be written as follows:

81. Insists that *limited and precise cuts in the CAP may become possible, depending on the outcome of the current CAP reform;*

However, some members may have thought that this was not an ambitious enough cutback to the Common Agriculture Policy.

Result of the vote on amendment 18:

140 yes, 513 no and 14 abstained. 69 absent or present but did not vote.

Yes votes came from a majority in the Liberal ALDE group and a majority in the Conservative ECR group. The no votes came from the Christian Democratic EPP group, the Socialist S&D group, and the Green/Regionalist Verts/ALE group.

The Estonian members voted as follows:

Yes: Ojuland (RE, ALDE), Oviir (K, ALDE), Savisaar-Toomast (K, ALDE), Padar (SDE, S&D).

No: Kelam (IRL, EPP), Tarand (Independent, Verts/ALE).

The Irish members voted as follows:

No: Aylward (FF, ALDE), Gallagher (FF, ALDE), Harkin (Independent, ALDE), Jim Higgins (FG, EPP), Sean Kelly (FG, EPP), Mitchell (FG, EPP), Childers (Lab, S&D), De Rossa (Lab, S&D), Prendergast (Lab, S&D), Murphy (SP, GUE/NGL).
Absent: Crowley (FF, ALDE), McGuinness (FG, EPP).

De svenska ledamöterna röstade som följer:

Ja: Ek (C, ALDE), Paulsen (FP, ALDE), Schmidt (FP, ALDE), Wikström (FP, ALDE), EB Svensson (V, GUE/NGL), Corazza Bildt (M, EPP), Fjellner (M, EPP), Hökmark (M, EPP), Ibrisagic (M, EPP), Alf Svensson (KD, EPP), Hedh (S, S&D), Ludvigsson (S, S&D) (röstade nej men anmälde i efterhand att han avsett att rösta ja), Ulvskog (S, S&D), Westlund (S, S&D), Lövin (MP, Verts/ALE), Schlyter (MP, Verts/ALE).

Nej: Färm (S, S&D), Engström (PP, Verts/ALE).

Amendment 15 – Reduction of the next long term budget with at least 2,8 %

There were demands for a reduction of the future EU budget. Amendment 15 was tabled by Marta Andreasen from the EU sceptic EFD group.

Paragraph 162 in the proposed report suggested the following wording:

162. Is therefore of the firm opinion that *freezing* the next MFF *at* the 2013 level, *as demanded by some Member States, is not a viable option; points out that even with an increase of the level of resources for the next MFF of 5% compared to the 2013 level⁸ only a limited contribution can be made to the achievement of the Union's agreed objectives and commitments and the principle of Union solidarity; is, therefore, convinced that at least a 5% increase of resources is needed for the next MFF; challenges the Council, in case it does not share this approach, to clearly identify which of its political priorities or projects could be dropped altogether, despite their proven European added value;*

Marta Andreasen wanted to change amendment 15 to the following:

162. Is therefore of the firm opinion that the next MFF *should be reduced by at least 2.8% from* the 2013 level, *this percentage representing the average amount of irregularities that the Court of Auditors has found in the accounts of the EU; notes the inability of the Commission to act in order to stop these irregularities; points out that, in times of crisis, it becomes even more critical to ensure that taxpayers' money is properly spent; is of the view, additionally, that in this context Member States may not be in a position to co-finance certain projects and that this situation makes it more sensible to be less ambitious in the demands of budget for the period;*

Result of the vote on amendment 15:

52 yes, 613 no and 4 abstained. 67 absent or present but did not vote.

Yes votes came mainly from the EU sceptic EFD group and non attached members.

The Estonian members voted as follows:

No: Ojuland (RE, ALDE), Oviir (K, ALDE), Savisaar-Toomast (K, ALDE), Kelam (IRL, EPP), Padar (SDE, S&D), Tarand (Independent, Verts/ALE).

The Irish members voted as follows:

No: Aylward (FF, ALDE), Gallagher (FF, ALDE), Harkin (Independent, ALDE), Murphy (SP, GUE/NGL), Jim Higgins (FG, EPP), Sean Kelly (FG, EPP), Mitchell (FG, EPP), Childers (Lab, S&D), De Rossa (Lab, S&D), Prendergast (Lab, S&D).

Absent: Crowley (FF, ALDE), McGuinness (FG, EPP).

De svenska ledamöterna röstade som följer:

Ja: EB Svensson (V, GUE/NGL), Ibrisagic (M, EPP), Lövin (MP, Verts/ALE), Schlyter (MP, Verts/ALE).

Nej: Ek (C, ALDE), Paulsen (FP, ALDE), Schmidt (FP, ALDE), Wikström (FP, ALDE), Corazza Bildt (M, EPP), Fjellner (M, EPP), Hökmark (M, EPP), Alf Svensson (KD, EPP), Färm (S, S&D), Hedh (S, S&D), Ludvigsson (S, S&D), Westlund (S, S&D), Engström (PP, Verts/ALE).

Närvarande men ej röstat: Ulvskog (S, S&D).

Amendment 7 – The long term EU budget should not exceed 2013 level with growth rate below the rate of inflation

This amendment was tabled by the Conservative ECR group. Some that voted in favour of amendment 15 did not support this “weaker” proposal.

The original proposal of paragraph 162 can be read above. The ECR amendment changed the proposal to the following:

162. Is therefore of the firm opinion that freezing the next MFF at the 2013 level, as demanded by some Member States, is a viable option; *welcomes the letter from the five Heads of Government – those of the United Kingdom, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Finland – and shares the opinion that commitment appropriations over the next multiannual financial framework should not exceed the 2013 level, with a growth rate below the rate of inflation;*

Result of the vote on amendment 7:

104 yes, 540 no and 27 abstained. 65 absent or present but did not vote.

Yes votes came mainly from the Conservative ECR group, the EU sceptic EFD group, and non-attached members. Some EFD members that voted in favour of amendment 15 voted against amendment 7.

The Estonian members voted as follows:

No: Ojuland (RE, ALDE), Savisaar-Toomast (K, ALDE), Kelam (IRL, EPP), Padar (SDE, S&D), Tarand (Independent, Verts/ALE).

Abstain: Oviir (K, ALDE).

The Irish members voted as follows:

No: Aylward (FF, ALDE), Gallagher (FF, ALDE), Harkin (Independent, ALDE), Murphy (SP, GUE/NGL), Jim Higgins (FG, EPP), Sean Kelly (FG, EPP), Mitchell (FG, EPP), Childers (Lab, S&D), De Rossa (Lab, S&D), Prendergast (Lab, S&D).

Absent: Crowley (FF, ALDE), McGuinness (FG, EPP).

De svenska ledamöterna röstade som följer:

Ja: EB Svensson (V, GUE/NGL), Corazza Bildt (M, EPP), Fjellner (M, EPP), Hökmark (M, EPP), Ibrisagic (M, EPP), Alf Svensson (KD, EPP), Lövin (MP, Verts/ALE), Schlyter (MP, Verts/ALE).
Nej: Ek (C, ALDE), Paulsen (FP, ALDE), Schmidt (FP, ALDE), Wikström (FP, ALDE), Färm (S, S&D), Hedh (S, S&D), Ludvigsson (S, S&D), Ulvskog (S, S&D), Westlund (S, S&D), Engström (PP, Verts/ALE).

Paragraph 169 – Introduction of an EU tax (EU`s own resources)

Paragraph 169 in the original proposed report clearly indicated that the European Parliament wants an EU tax, even if they cover it up and call it the EU`s “own resources”.

The paragraph is also clear about the different ways to tax the people of the European Union. It reads:

“169. Takes note of the potential new own resources proposed by the Commission in its Communication on the Budget Review (taxation of the financial sector, auctioning under the greenhouse gas Emissions Trading System, EU charge related to air transport, VAT, energy tax, corporate income tax); awaits the conclusions of the impact analysis of these options, including a feasibility study on the various options for an EU Financial Transaction Tax, that should also examine the relevant collection mechanisms, in view of the presentation by the Commission of a legislative proposal by 1 July 2011;”

Result of the vote on paragraph 169:

560 yes, 103 no and 10 abstained. 63 absent or present but did not vote.

The no votes came mainly from the conservative ECR group, the EU sceptic EFD group, and non attached members.

The Estonian members voted as follows:

Yes: Oviir (K, ALDE), Savisaar-Toomast (K, ALDE), Kelam (IRL, EPP), Padar (SDE, S&D), Tarand (Independent, Verts/ALE).

Abstain: Ojuland (RE, ALDE).

The Irish members voted as follows:

Yes: Harkin (Independent, ALDE), Murphy (SP, GUE/NGL), Jim Higgins (FG, EPP), Sean Kelly (FG, EPP), Mitchell (FG, EPP), Childers (Lab, S&D), De Rossa (Lab, S&D), Prendergast (Lab, S&D).

No: Aylward (FF, ALDE), Gallagher (FF, ALDE).

Absent: Crowley (FF, ALDE), McGuinness (FG, EPP).

De svenska ledamöterna röstade som följer:

Ja: Ek (C, ALDE), Paulsen (FP, ALDE), Schmidt (FP, ALDE), Wikström (FP, ALDE), Corazza Bildt (M, EPP), Fjellner (M, EPP), Hökmark (M, EPP), Ibrisagic (M, EPP), Färm (S, S&D), Hedh (S, S&D), Ludvigsson (S, S&D), Ulvskog (S, S&D), Westlund (S, S&D), Engström (PP, Verts/ALE), Lövin (MP, Verts/ALE), Schlyter (MP, Verts/ALE).

Nej: EB Svensson (V, GUE/NGL), Alf Svensson (KD, EPP).

The final vote at the report/resolution

At the end, there was a Roll Call Vote for the resolution as a whole. The MEPs then voted on the “package” in total.

Result of the final vote:

468 yes, 134 no and 54 abstained. 80 absent or present but did not vote.

A majority of the Liberal ALDE group voted in favour. A huge majority of the Conservative ECR group voted against, as did the EU sceptic EFD group and most of the non attached members. The vast majority of the Christian Democratic EPP group, the Socialist S&D group, and the Green/Regionalist Verts/ALE group voted in favour.

The Estonian members voted as follows:

Yes: Savisaar-Toomast (K, ALDE), Kelam (IRL, EPP), Padar (SDE, S&D), Tarand (Independent, Verts/ALE).

No: Ojuland (RE, ALDE).

Abstain: Oviir (K, ALDE).

The Irish members voted as follows:

Yes: Aylward (FF, ALDE), Gallagher (FF, ALDE), Harkin (Independent, ALDE), Jim Higgins (FG, EPP), Sean Kelly (FG, EPP), Childers (Lab, S&D), De Rossa (Lab, S&D), Prendergast (Lab, S&D).

No: Murphy (SP, GUE/NGL).

Present but did not vote: Mitchell (FG, EPP) (left before this RCV).

Absent: Crowley (FF, ALDE), McGuinness (FG, EPP).

De svenska ledamöterna röstade som följer:

Ja: Färm (S, S&D), Ludvigsson (S, S&D), Ulvskog (S, S&D), Westlund (S, S&D), Engström (PP, Verts/ALE).

Nej: EB Svensson (V, GUE/NGL), Corazza Bildt (M, EPP), Fjellner (M, EPP), Hökmark (M, EPP), Ibrisagic (M, EPP), Alf Svensson (KD, EPP).

Avstår: Ek (C, ALDE), Paulsen (FP, ALDE), Schmidt (FP, ALDE), Wikström (FP, ALDE), Hedh (S, S&D) (röstade nej men anmälde i efterhand att hon avsett att avstå), Lövin (MP, Verts/ALE), Schlyter (MP, Verts/ALE).

Från debatten på förmiddagen onsdagen den 8:e kan citeras ett intressant utdrag ur Göran Färms (S, S&D) tal. Han sade:

”... Vi i SURE-utskottet förstår att det kan verka egendomligt att när många medlemsstater skär i sina egna budgetar, då begär vi mer pengar till EU:s budget efter 2013. Men samtidigt vore det helt orimligt att bortse från de här utmaningarna, att ge efter för EU-skepsisen och överge de politiska ambitioner som medlemsstaterna har gett oss bl.a. genom Lissabonfördraget. Man ska också komma ihåg att stora nedskärningar inte gynnar de mest utsatta, Grekland, Irland och Portugal, utan tvärtom minskar det EU:s möjlighet att stödja dem. ...”

Ett antal svenska ledamöter lämnade också in skriftliga röstförklaringar.

Röstförklaringarna från C och FP har sällats bort då de inte är direkt relevanta i EU-skattefrågan. De övriga svenskarnas röstförklaringar kan läsas nedan:

Anna Hedh (S, S&D), skriftlig. – Jag anser att EU:s budget måste ges tillräckliga resurser för att kunna finansiera beslutade åtaganden. Samtidigt vill jag framhålla att EU bör ha en restriktiv hållning och tillhandahålla dessa resurser genom omfördelning

inom befintlig EU-budget, jag anser inte att den totala storleken behöver öka. Helst skulle jag vilja att jordbruksbudgeten sänktes till förmån för de prioriteringar som anges i EU 2020; forskning och utveckling, grön omställning m.m. Jag anser därför inte heller att 2013 års budgetnivå för jordbruket bör bibehållas, men välkomnar att jordbruksstöden ska fördelas jämnt mellan medlemsländerna.

Jag anser det också väldigt viktigt att effektivisera EU:s administrativa utgifter, varav en väg är att öka insynen i processen för fördelning och användning av dessa utgifter. Jag anser inte att taket för egna medel bör revideras, då EU:s politik bör kunna finansieras inom nuvarande inkomsttak. Jag ser även ett behov att systemet med EU:s egna medel ses över. Det nuvarande systemet är mycket komplicerat, och saknar transparens. Rabatterna har inte gjort systemet mer rättvist, utan snarare gett upphov till en rad nya undantag och korrigeringar. Emellertid innebär en förändring i detta system inte någon direkt beskattningsrätt för EU, unionen har inte någon sådan kompetens i fördraget. Varje förändring av systemet med egna medel kräver dessutom att samtliga medlemsländer ger sitt godkännande för att de skall kunna träda i kraft.

Olle Ludvigsson, Marita Ulvskog och Åsa Westlund (samtliga S, S&D), skriftlig. – Vi anser att EU:s budget måste ges tillräckliga resurser för att kunna finansiera beslutade åtaganden. Samtidigt vill vi framhålla att EU så långt som möjligt bör ha en restriktiv hållning och tillhandahålla dessa resurser genom omfördelning inom befintlig EU-budget. Helst skulle vi vilja att jordbruksbudgeten sänktes till förmån för de prioriteringar som anges i EU 2020; forskning och utveckling, grön omställning m.m. Vi anser därför inte heller att 2013 års budgetnivå för jordbruket bör bibehållas, men välkomnar att jordbruksstöden ska fördelas jämnt mellan medlemsländerna. Vi anser det också väldigt viktigt att effektivisera EU:s administrativa utgifter, varav en väg är att öka insynen i processen för fördelning och användning av dessa utgifter. Vi anser inte att taket för egna medel bör revideras, då EU:s politik bör kunna finansieras inom nuvarande inkomsttak. Vi ser även ett behov att systemet med EU:s egna medel ses över. Det nuvarande systemet är mycket komplicerat, och saknar transparens. Rabatterna har inte gjort systemet mer rättvist, utan snarare gett upphov till en rad nya undantag och korrigeringar. Emellertid innebär en förändring i detta system inte någon direkt beskattningsrätt för EU, unionen har inte någon sådan kompetens i fördraget. Varje förändring av systemet med egna medel kräver dessutom att samtliga medlemsländer ger sitt godkännande för att de skall kunna träda i kraft.

Gunnar Hökmark (M, PPE), skriftlig. – Vi moderater i Europaparlamentet valde vid omröstningen om betänkandet om EU:s långtidsbudget i Strasbourg den 8 juni 2011 att rösta emot förslaget. Vi gjorde så eftersom förslaget saknar de prioriteringar mellan viktiga och mindre viktiga utgifter som vi anser nödvändiga. Istället för att visa ledarskap och satsa på det som ger Europa tillväxt och konkurrenskraft kräver förslaget en höjning av budgeten med fem procent för att på så vis kringgå behovet att prioritera. I ett läge där EU:s medlemsstater kämpar mot stora budgetunderskott och växande statsskulder väljer Europaparlamentet att kräva mer pengar till EU. Det är en linje som vi inte kan stödja. Istället borde vi fasa ut stödet till den gemensamma jordbrukspolitiken (CAP) och strukturfonderna, men dessvärre går förslaget som röstades igenom i motsatt riktning. Samtidigt som vi röstade emot betänkandet i dess helhet välkomnar vi den skrivning som finns i förslaget om att en "signifikant ökning" av anslagen till vetenskap och forskning ska genomföras. Detta är något vi jobbat hårt för och att detta finns med är ett steg i rätt riktning.

Alf Svensson (KD, PPE), skriftlig. – När Europaparlamentet igår, onsdagen den 8 juni, röstade om investering i framtiden: en ny flerårig budgetram för ett konkurrenskraftigt och hållbart Europa för alla, valde jag att rösta emot. I en tid då EU:s medlemsstater befinner sig under allvarlig budgetpress är det med besvikelse jag konstaterar att Europaparlamentet istället för att prioritera, väljer att öka budgeten med minst 5 procent. Europaparlamentet röstade för fortsatta bidrag inom områden som låser fast den europeiska ekonomin i gamla mönster, bland annat genom att avsätta minst lika stora belopp som för budgetåret 2013 till den gemensamma jordbrukspolitiken. Vidare motsätter jag mig Europaparlamentets förslag att reformera EU:s finansiering genom att införa ett system för egna medel. Medel som bland annat skulle komma från en skatt på finansiella transaktioner (FTT).

United Kingdom politics and the EU tax

It can also be noted that the British Lib Dem and Labour MEPs voted in favour of an EU tax, while Lib Dem MEPs seem to have voted against an amendment calling for national rebates to be maintained. So if Lib Dem MEPs had their way, both the UK's gross contribution (with the 5% increase) and its net contribution (because the rebate would be scrapped) would increase significantly.

It must also be noted that the Lib Dems stated in their election manifesto for the European elections in 2009 that:

"We do not see the need, in the current context, for any significant growth in the budget's size, nor the abolition of the British rebate."

The Lib Dems' voting record this week does not suggest that they honoured this pledge.

Berès report (A7-0228/2011) on the financial, economic and social crisis: recommendations concerning the measures and initiatives to be taken

Wednesday 6th of July 2011

From the Special Committee on the Financial, Economic and Social Crisis
EP's own-initiative report (outside legislation).

By the decision of 7 October 2009, the European Parliament set up a Special Committee on the Financial, Economic and Social Crisis (CRIS). The committee tabled this report in the July 2011 session in Strasbourg. Paragraph 13 was particularly interesting (see below).

Paragraph 13 in the proposed resolution:

Calls on the Commission to carry out an investigation into a future system of Eurobonds, with a view to determining the conditions under which such a system would be beneficial to all participating Member States and to the eurozone as a whole; points out that Eurobonds would offer a viable alternative to the US dollar bond market, and that they could foster integration of the European sovereign debt market, lower borrowing costs, increase liquidity, budgetary discipline and compliance with the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP), promote coordinated structural reforms, and make capital markets more stable, which will foster the idea of the euro as a global 'safe haven'; recalls that the common issuance of Eurobonds requires a further move towards a common economic and fiscal policy;

Result of the vote at paragraph 13:

547 yes, 116 no and 14 abstained. 59 absent or present but did not vote.

Those who voted in favour were the Christian Democratic PPE group, the Socialist S&D group, the Liberal ALDE group, the Green/Regionalist Verts/ALE group, around half of the EU critical EFD group, and some non attached members.

Those who voted against were the Conservative ECR group, the Leftist GUE/NGL group, around half of the EU critical EFD group, and most of the non attached members. A handful of members from the larger groups voted no or abstained.

The Estonian members voted as follows:

Yes: Oviir (K, ALDE), Savisaar-Toomast (K, ALDE), Kelam (IRL, EPP), Padar (SDE, S&D), Tarand (Independent, Verts/ALE).

Absent Ojuland (RE, ALDE).

The Irish members voted as follows:

Yes: Aylward (FF, ALDE), Gallagher (FF, ALDE), Harkin (Independent, ALDE), Jim Higgins (FG, EPP), Sean Kelly (FG, EPP), Mitchell (FG, EPP), Childers (Lab, S&D), De Rossa (Lab, S&D), Prendergast (Lab, S&D).

No: Murphy (SP, GUE/NGL).

Absent: Crowley (FF, ALDE), McGuinness (FG, EPP).

De svenska ledamöterna röstade som följer:

Ja: Ek (C, ALDE), Paulsen (FP, ALDE), Schmidt (FP, ALDE), Wikström (FP, ALDE), Färm (S, S&D), Engström (PP, Verts/ALE).

Nej: Corazza Bildt (M, EPP), Fjellner (M, EPP), Hökmark (M, EPP), Ibrisagic (M, EPP), Alf Svensson (KD, EPP), Lövin (MP, Verts/ALE), Schlyter (MP, Verts/ALE).

Avstår: Hedh (S, S&D), Ludvigsson (S, S&D), Ulvskog (S, S&D), Westlund (S, S&D)

Frånvarande: EB Svensson (V, GUE/NGL).

Amendment 30 from Verts/ALE:

The Green/Regionalists Verts/ALE wanted to replace paragraph 30:

30. Stresses the need to open up public procurement markets, on a transparent and reciprocal basis;

With a stronger text that read as follows:

30. Stresses the need for transparency and reciprocity in public procurement markets;

Result of the vote on amendment 30:

283 yes, 380 no, and 7 abstained. 66 absent or present but did not vote.

Mainly the Socialist S&D group, the Green/Regionalist Verts/ALE group, and the Leftist GUE/NGL group voted yes.

The Estonian members voted as follows:

Yes: Padar (SDE, S&D), Tarand (Independent, Verts/ALE).

No: Savisaar-Toomast (K, ALDE), Kelam (IRL, EPP).

Present but did not vote: Oviir (K, ALDE).

Absent: Ojuland (RE, ALDE).

The Irish members voted as follows:

Yes: Murphy (SP, GUE/NGL), Childers (Lab, S&D), De Rossa (Lab, S&D), Prendergast (Lab, S&D).

No: Aylward (FF, ALDE), Gallagher (FF, ALDE), Harkin (Independent, ALDE), Jim Higgins (FG, EPP), Sean Kelly (FG, EPP), Mitchell (FG, EPP).

Absent: Crowley (FF, ALDE), McGuinness (FG, EPP).

No RCV - Paragraph 99 – raising the EU budget to a much higher level:

Paragraph 99 could have been an interesting RCV, but another amendment was approved before paragraph 99, so it fell. Instead, amendment 35 from the Christian Democratic EPP group was approved. It reads as follows:

99. Concludes that, in order to achieve political union and economic integration commensurate with monetary union, in line with the priorities agreed by the European Council, the EU needs a budget of sufficient size to accommodate the euro in a sustainable way, providing the currency with a relevant budget space on the level of political organisation at which it is issued;

The original paragraph 99 in the proposal for resolution from the Committee was written as follows:

99. Concludes that, in order to deepen democratic political union and economic integration commensurate with monetary union, all relevant expenditure from the EU budget must be effectively streamlined with the aim of increasing the competitiveness of the EU as a whole and of the less competitive regions, so as to maximise Europe's economic strength in the interest of its citizens, while

preserving or regaining a fair social balance; believes, therefore, that the EU budget needs to be raised to a level between 5% and 10% of the Union's GDP; asks that, in parallel to the increase in the EU budget on the basis of own resources – to finance policies and measures in the fields of foreign and security policy, the energy and transport sectors, development cooperation and R&D – the national budgets should be reduced to ensure tax neutrality for citizens;

Part 2 of amendments 18 and 36 from S&D and EPP group (identical):

However, another proposal in the same subject as the original paragraph 99 had been tabled from the Socialist S&D group and the Christian Democratic EPP group. They proposed that the following text should be added in the resolution:

99a. Recalls that reports preceding the realisation of monetary union – notably the McDougall report, which analysed the conditions necessary for the implementation of the Werner plan – affirmed that the volume of such a budget would have to be between 2,5 and 10 percent of Union GNI, depending on whether and which re-allocation functions would be assumed by the Union budget, that the budget would need to be financed on the basis of own resources, and that it should be used to finance policies and measures in the fields of foreign, security and defence policy, the energy and transport sectors, development cooperation and R&D, and that national budgets would be reduced correspondingly in order to achieve tax neutrality for citizens and businesses;

The first part of amendments 18 and 36 was approved without a RCV. But there was a RCV for part 2 – the underlined text above. It is not as strongly written as the proposed paragraph 99 above, but it clearly states that the EU budget should increase enormously and that member states must then let go of a number of things in favour of the EU budget.

Result of the vote on amendment 18+36/part 2:

425 yes, 194 no and 37 abstained. 80 absent or present but did not vote.

Mainly the Christian Democratic EPP group, the Socialist S&D group, and the Green/Regionalist Verts/ALE group voted yes.

The Estonian members voted as follows:

Yes: Kelam (IRL, EPP), Padar (SDE, S&D), Tarand (Independent, Verts/ALE).

No: Oviir (K, ALDE), Savisaar-Toomast (K, ALDE).

Absent: Ojuland (RE, ALDE).

The Irish members voted as follows:

Yes: Jim Higgins (FG, EPP), Sean Kelly (FG, EPP), Mitchell (FG, EPP), Childers (Lab, S&D), De Rossa (Lab, S&D).

No: Aylward (FF, ALDE), Gallagher (FF, ALDE), Harkin (Independent, ALDE).

Abstained: Murphy (SP, GUE/NGL).

Present but did not vote: Prendergast (Lab, S&D).

Absent: Crowley (FF, ALDE), McGuinness (FG, EPP).

The vote at the resolution as a whole:

Finally there was a RCV for the resolution as a whole. In conclusion, it was a far-reaching resolution for additional financial resources for the European Union, while it demanded the reduction of the role of member states.

Result of the vote on the resolution as a whole:

434 yes, 128 no and 33 abstained. 141 absent or present but did not vote.

Mainly the Liberal ALDE group, the Christian Democratic EPP group, the Socialist S&D group, and the Green/Regionalist Verts/ALE group voted yes.

The Conservative ECR group, the EU-sceptic EFD group, and the Leftist GUE/NGL group voted no.

The Estonian members voted as follows:

Yes: Oviir (K, ALDE), Kelam (IRL, EPP), Tarand (Independent, Verts/ALE).

Present but did not vote: Savisaar-Toomast (K, ALDE), Padar (SDE, S&D).

Absent: Ojuland (RE, ALDE).

The Irish members voted as follows:

Yes: Childers (Lab, S&D), De Rossa (Lab, S&D), Prendergast (Lab, S&D).

No: Aylward (FF, ALDE), Gallagher (FF, ALDE), Murphy (SP, GUE/NGL).

Abstained: Harkin (Independent, ALDE), Jim Higgins (FG, EPP), Sean Kelly (FG, EPP), Mitchell (FG, EPP).

Absent: Crowley (FF, ALDE), McGuinness (FG, EPP).