

EU Budget

What do I need to know before I start?

For the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) to carry out its tasks, the Treaty of Paris (1951; Art. 49) introduced levies on the production of coal and steel, thereby providing it with the necessary funds. With the Treaty of Rome (1957; Art. 200-201) establishing the European Economic Community (EEC), it was agreed that the EEC budget was to be financed through the contributions of Member States, which could at a later stage be replaced by the Community's own resources. Member States were to contribute to the Community's budget according to a percentage scale (differentiated depending on the type of expenditure) provided for in the Treaty, which could be modified by the Council by unanimous decision when necessary. Following long negotiations, Member States agreed in 1970 that the Community would be allocated its 'own resources' which would entirely finance the Community's budget (irrespective of other revenue). Consequently, all customs duties, agricultural duties, and other levies collected at the EU borders were transferred to the Community's budget while Member States retained 10% to cover the expenses for the collection of these so-called 'Traditional own resources' (TOR). As from 2001, the percentage of TOR retained by Member States to cover collection expenses was raised from 10% to 25%, and was later reduced to 20%. The DG Budget is the Commission's department responsible for the EU's budget management; it can propose and implement the financial framework, and it collects and allocates to the Commission's departments the resources that Member States have agreed to contribute. The Commission's budget proposals are then voted by the Council and the European Parliament. The annual budget must however remain within ceilings previously determined by the Multi Annual Financial Framework, reviewed every seven years by the Council.

Languages: Please be aware that although most documents available in our Archives are in French, English or German, some may be in other EU languages. In order to check the languages used in a fonds, please refer to our holdings page. Additionally, some fonds may contain a few files in a language other than those listed in the description.

What can I find at the HAEU?

Relating specifically to the EU budget and its evolution, the fonds available at the HAEU are:

1) *EU institutions*

[Council of Ministers](#)

Concerning the [ECSC Special Council of Ministers](#), the fonds includes various files concerned with the Community's [financial and budgetary affairs](#). Since the fonds of the Council of Ministers are organized by year, you need to browse the fonds for each separate year to access the abovementioned files (example for [1952](#)). To find these more easily, it is advisable to make

use of the database search engine and filter the results to limit the search to the specific Council fonds. Concerning the Council of Ministers, the fonds includes for each year a section ‘Finances’ or ‘Finances du Conseil’ concerned with the Council and the Community’s budget, the establishment of budgetary procedures as well as budget control (example for [1958](#) and [1967](#)).

[Commission](#)

Concerning the Community’s early budget and that of the ECSC High Authority (1948-1973), you may look into the High Authority’s fonds, which includes a section for [Administration and Finances](#), related among others to the ECSC budget. In the Commission, it is the [DG Administration](#) that was in charge of the Commission’s budget but the documents related to the work of this DG have not yet been transferred to the HAEU. You might still want to look into the sections related to the [Secretariat-General](#) and the [Cabinets](#).

[European Parliament](#)

Concerning the early years of the Parliament, you may look into the proceedings and reports of the [commission for investments, financial affairs and production development](#), as well as those of the [parliamentary commission for the Assembly’s administration and the Communities’ budget](#) and of the several other parliamentary commissions and working groups concerned with EU budget ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)) and its control ([1](#), [2](#)). Moreover, it can be useful to consult the reports and proceedings of the parliamentary commissions concerned with the [Parliament’s budget](#) and its [budgetary powers](#) vis-à-vis other institutions. Concerning its [first](#), [second](#), and [third](#) legislature, the European Parliament’s fonds include the proceedings and reports of the parliamentary commission on budgets (for the [1st](#), [2nd](#), and [3rd](#)) and of the parliamentary commission on budget control (for the [1st](#), [2nd](#), and [3rd](#)).

[European Court of Auditors](#) and [Commission on Budgetary Control](#)

You might find it interesting to consult the ECA’s [annual reports](#) (1977-1997), [special reports](#) (1978-1991) including those concerned with the [Community’s finances](#), as well as [opinions](#) (1977-1997), [internal documents](#), including [information documents](#) (1977-1994) and [working documents](#) (1977-1994) pertaining to the Community’s budget ([example](#)). To access relevant files more easily, it is advisable to search the database directly and filter the results to limit the search to the ECA’s fonds. Furthermore, concerning the period that preceded the establishment of the ECA, you may look into the files of the [Commission on Budgetary Control](#), set up in 1957 and in charge of financial controls until its replacement by the ECA in 1977.

[European Investment Bank](#)

You might find it interesting to look into the EIB fonds, in particular the sub-fonds ‘[Publications](#)’ that includes the EIB [annual reports](#).

[Economic and Social Committee \(CES\)](#)

Similarly to the Council of Ministers, the inventory of the Committee is organized by year, each including a special section ‘Budget’ (example for [1977](#)) and ‘Commission de Contrôle’ (example for [1958](#)) is mainly concerned with the Committee’s budget and budgetary control. Concerning the Community’s budget, the inventory does not include a special section but the section ‘Avis’ (example for [1976](#)) comprises several files (reports, articles, and position papers) pertaining to budgetary affairs in the Community (example [1](#), [2](#)) and it is advisable to search directly the database to find relevant documents and filter the results to limit the search to the Committee’s fonds.

2) *Corporate Bodies*

[European Space Agency](#)

The ESA’s inventory includes a section ‘[Finance and Budget](#)’ pertaining to the budget of the ESA and its main projects. You may also look into the section for the ESA [Administrative and Finance Committee \(AFC\)](#), concerning ESA’s financial and budgetary issues, as well as concerning ESA members’ financial contributions. In addition, the section ‘[Official issues](#)’ includes several files related to budgetary affairs in the Community (example [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)) and it might be easier to search the database directly and filter the results to limit the search to the ESA’s fonds to find these files.

3) *Individuals*

[Emile Noël](#)

Noël’s private fonds includes an important number of files concerned with the [Community’s budget and finances from 1974 to 1987](#), including the budget’s evolution [following British accession](#) and [following the adoption of the Single European Act](#). In addition, you may look into his notes on the European Council and Commission’s meetings, as well as into documents related to the [work of the different DGs](#) of the Commission during his time as Secretary-General.

[Altiero Spinelli](#)

The private fonds of Spinelli includes special sections on his work as member of the [parliamentary commission on budgets](#) (1976-1979), as [vice-president](#) of the same commission (1979-1982) and again as [member](#) (1984-1986), including notes, reports and articles pertaining to the Community’s budgetary policy.

[Angel Viñas](#)

With regard to the Community's [budget allocation for human rights programmes](#) in particular, you may at the Viñas' private fonds which includes various files concerning [budgetary issues in the DG1A](#) and [budgetary priorities](#) in the Community. The fonds also includes a dossier on the [evolution and characteristics of the Community's budget from 1958 to 2000](#), as well as some files (notes and statements) produced by for the attention of the [Parliament's Commission of Budgetary Control](#).

[Graham J. L. Avery](#)

Avery's private fonds includes several files ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#)) on the Community's budgetary policy, particularly with regard to the implications/consequences of enlargement on the Community's budget. Additional files to the ones mentioned above may be of relevance and it is advisable to search directly the database and filter the results to limit the search to Avery's private fonds and access relevant files more easily.

[Helen Wallace](#)

You may consult the private fonds of Helen Wallace which includes files concerning the [Community's budget](#) and to the United Kingdom's budgetary contribution ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#)).

[Uwe Kitzinger](#)

The private fonds of Uwe Kitzinger includes numerous Commission documents on [budgetary affairs](#) and [budgetary convergence](#) as well as a file concerning Margaret Thatcher's request for budget rebate and the [UK's contribution](#) to the Community's budget for 1980.

[Emanuele Gazzo](#)

You may also consult the private fonds of Emanuele Gazzo, which includes [financial notes, correspondence and documentation](#) pertaining to the Community's budget and to the management of Member States' contributions.

4) Oral History

In addition, take a look at the [oral history holdings](#), which comprise numerous interviews of European politicians and officials, including important figures and officials. Below, you can find a (non-exhaustive) list of persons interviewed who addressed budgetary affairs in the Community, including Member States' contributions and the Community's own resources.

[Pierre Uri](#)

[George Van Reeth](#)

[Karl-Egon Reuter](#)

[Wolfgang Finke](#)

[Horst Uwe Keller](#)
[Bjarne Bladbjerg](#)
[Richard Burke](#)
[Frans De Koster](#)
[Michael Emerson](#)
[Jens Hauge Pedersen](#)
[Lars Kolte](#)
[Marc Lepoivre](#)
[Ivor Richard](#)
[Crispin Tickell](#)
[Uffe Toudal Pedersen](#)
[Christopher Tugendhat](#)
[Jean Guyot](#)
[Hans-Günther Sohl](#)
[Michael Butler](#)
[Arthur Cockfield](#)
[David Hannay](#)
[Ivor Seward Richard](#)
[André Chandernagor](#)
[Ernst Albrecht](#)
[Ralf Dahrendorf](#)
[Edmund Wellenstein](#)
[Alan Dukes](#)
[Michael O'Kennedy](#)
[Hubert Ehring](#)
[Daniel Cardon De Lichtbuer](#)
[Jean-Claude Eeckhout](#)
[Carlo Facini](#)
[Pierre Defraigne](#)
[Karl-Heinz Narjes](#)