

Pragmatic timetable for the annual budgetary procedure

Caption: Table showing the course of the annual budgetary procedure in accordance with the pragmatic timetable applied by the Council, the Parliament and the Commission since 1977.

Source: CVCE.

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Early May	The Commission adopts the preliminary draft budget.
Before 15 June	The preliminary draft budget is sent to the budgetary authority by the Commission.
From 15 June to 31 July	The Council conducts its first reading of the preliminary draft budget. The Council establishes the draft budget by qualified majority.
Before the end of October	Parliament examines the draft budget (first reading). Parliament has 45 days to consider the draft budget. It may: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - approve it. In this case, the budget is adopted definitively; - not react. In this case, the budget is adopted definitively; - adopt amendments to NCE* (requiring a majority of members) or propose amendments to CE** (requiring an absolute majority of votes cast).
Before the end of November	The Council studies Parliament's proposals and amendments (second reading). The Council has to take a decision within 15 days. It may: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - accept all Parliament's amendments and proposed modifications. In this case, the budget is adopted definitively; - modify Parliament's amendments (NCE) (by qualified majority); - reject or modify Parliament's proposed modifications (CE) (by qualified majority). The Council determines the final amount of CE; it has the last word on such expenditure.
Before mid-December	Parliament reviews the position taken by Council (second reading), mainly on NCE. Parliament has 15 days to take a decision. It may: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - not act. In this case, the budget is adopted definitively; - amend or modify the Council's proposed modifications to NCE (by an absolute majority of members and 3/5 of the votes cast) and then adopt the budget (it has the last word on NCE) - reject the proposed budget for important reasons (by a majority and 2/3 of the votes cast).
* Non-compulsory expenditure ** Compulsory expenditure	