

**CIRCLE III**

**Working document 13**

**"Discussion circle" on own resources**

**Subject :    Position of Henning Christophersen on CONV 654/03**

Members of the "Discussion circle" on own resources will find hereafter a paper from  
Mr. Henning Chrstopfersen, Member of the Convention.

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Discussion circle III on own resources - position of Henning Christophersen on conv  
654/03

**A) Should Council decisions under the Article 269 procedure continue to be unanimous? What role should the European Parliament play?**

The own resources ceilings and the introduction of new categories of own resources must continue to be decided unanimously by the Council. Concerning other issues qualified majority can be supported.

The Parliament should be consulted.

**B) Should the Article 269 procedure uphold the requirement for adoption by the Member States in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements, or should financing be turned into a Union competence?**

On the condition that the Council decides unanimously on the own resources ceilings and on the introduction of new categories of own resources it might be considered to abolish the requirement for ratification in the Member States. Any decision on the ceilings and introduction of new own resources must still in some way involve the national parliaments.

**C) Does the existing system of own resources meet public expectations in terms of fairness and transparency?**

The own resources must be based on the highest possible fairness and transparency. Some of the own resources are not as transparent, as one could hope for but it must be taken into account that these are based on political decisions..

**D) Would the existing decision-making procedure allow substantial amendments to be made to these resources?**

Substantial amendments – such as on the ceilings and the introduction of new own resources - must still be decided by unanimity and involve the national parliaments.

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