

Own resources system

Regarding the Community's own resources system, a preliminary examination has taken place of the issues and options mentioned in the Commission's report on the operation of the own resource system.

It is generally agreed that the own resources system should continue to:

- provide adequate resources for the implementation of agreed Union policies,
- and allow for transparent and cost-effective financing of the tasks attributed to the Community.

For some Member States the own resources system should also achieve a greater degree of equity.

While different opinions were expressed on the issues and options mentioned in the Commission's Report on the operation of the own resources system, many Member States felt that it provided a good basis for guiding future discussions. In the view of some Member States, the reduction of excessive net burdens is an integral component of the Agenda 2000 package.

A number of Member States stressed that they wanted the question of existing budgetary imbalances to be addressed, which should be dealt with on the basis of concrete proposals by the Commission as soon as possible. Other Member States stressed that the aim of Agenda 2000 was to undertake EU policy reform and that it is only in the context of the expected outcome of such reform that this issue could be addressed. Other Member States, however, have stressed the need to introduce elements of progressivity to improve the equity of the system. »