

Voice of the People

Manuscript
EU and the money
With answers from politicians at the Parliament
TVSYD, Brussels

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Translation

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Jacob Crüger, black smith, Denmark:

“What do we get for the money? Wasn't that a good question? Cause I think, it costs us a lot to be member of the Union”

SIGN:

The budget of the European Union was in 2002 at 98,635 millions EURO. 5% of these money were spend on administration

Claudes Turmes, Member of the Parliament, Luxembourg:

What is One Billion Euros? You have to compare it to the overall production of wealth in Europe. 13'49 The EU budget is this year not even 1%. We as Greens we asked to have a budget for at least 1,2% in order to have enough money to do the investments, which are needed to upgrade towns and schools and railways in Eastern Europe in order to get growth

Jacob Crüger, black smith, Denmark:

“It's a lot of money we pay for the Union, I think.

How much do you think?

I really don't know, but there are probably a lot of ceros behind. But actually I don't know how many billions we're talking about. But I think, it's fair, that we know that”

SIGN:

In year 2000 Denmark paid 13 billions KR to the Union and got 12 billions in return. In 1973, as Denmark became a member of the Union, we paid 398 millions KR and got 6 times as many back

Claudes Turmes, Member of the Parliament, Luxembourg:

With the structural funds we financed the economic development for Portugal, Spain, Greece and Ireland. Through this development we opened the markets for the former EU-countries. If we take enough money, and if we do intelligent investments we will be able to also to advance the economy of the Eastern European countries. These people will buy products and these products will come out from the factories, which are in our countries. 13'07 I think, it's very difficult to say, that for one Euro you'll get something back. In overall terms I am pretty convinced, that we get a lot back. Lot more than we invest into the European budget

Jacob Crüger, black smith, Denmark:

“It’s not because I want everything to be paid back. But is the money really spent on good things? Or are they just spend on keeping things going on in Brussels?”

SIGN:

The members of the European Parliament are paid by their home country and are getting the same salary as their colleagues in their home country. Beside that the members of the Parliament are getting paid for their travels, their per diems and their employees tax-free

Claudes Turmes, Member of the Parliament, Luxembourg:

Let’s look again to a smaller country. My country, Luxembourg, is a country where we export steel, glass, our finances are globalised. So the share effect, that Europe is enlarged, that we bring stability to another 150 million people, this is also not only movement for more peace and stability within Europe, it’s also bringing larger markets just in front of our house door for our industries. So it’s very little money compared to the economic benefits, that we have. It’s ridiculous money when we look at how much money we have to spend in these moments to rebuild the Balkans