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07 SEP 2010 Â By Martin Banks | The Parliament Â MEPs have welcomed parliamentâ€™s decision to shelve controversial plans to â€œfineâ€• MEPs who did not attend commission president JosÃ© Manuel Barroso's keynote speech. Â However, deputies said parliament had scored a â€œspectacular own goalâ€• over the affair. Â Claude Moraes, a UK Socialist deputy, said, "It's crazy. The story became the [revolt against the] fine rather than Barroso's state-of-the-union address." Â The u-turn comes after group leaders last Thursday decided to deduct MEPs one quarter of their daily allowance for non-attendance at Barroso's big set-piece speech. Â But this decision was reversed on Monday at a meeting of parliamentâ€™s bureau, comprising its president Jerzy Buzek and 14 vice presidents. Â Announcing the decision before Barroso's speech, Buzek said, "We looked at the matter and agreed that we need to beef up MEPsâ€™ presence during debate. But we felt we need a bit more time to mull over the various possibilities." Â MEPs had poured scorn on the idea and were quick to react to the change of thought. Â UK Independence Party MEP Nigel Farage said, "By chopping and changing, the EU Bureau have brought their own house into disrepute, much more than I have ever done. Â "Even ardent euro Federalists balked at fining MEPs for not attending Barroso's State of union speech - another PR disaster for the EU." Â [Read entire article](#)

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