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• A long debate took place at Parliament's Budget Committee last week about how to cover the €1,500 [£1,300] increase on parliamentary assistance for the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty. The discussion was not about deciding whether or not it should be paid but just how it would be financed. The decision to pay it out had already been made by the Bureau of the Parliament (made up of the President and Vice presidents of the European Parliament plus the Quaestors).

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