

Balance of payments of the European Union Institutions, 2001¹

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Main features

The balance of payments (BOP) of the European Union Institutions (Table 1) reflects the various transactions of these Institutions with the Member States and the rest of the world. The structure of this balance of payments is affected by the special nature of the European Union Institutions, which are an entity without residents and without a real productive sector. The different actions of European Institutions are performed mainly by means of current and capital transfers or through loans financed by loan and bond issues. The balance of payments of the European Union Institutions also incorporates various other types of flows (e.g. purchase of goods and services, compensation of employees, investment income).

Table 1: Balance of payments of the EU Institutions, 2001 (Mio EUR)

| | CREDIT | DEBIT | NET |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. CURRENT ACCOUNT | 105 599 | 87 303 | 18 296 |
| 1.1. GOODS & SERVICES | 211 | 6 641 | -6 430 |
| 1.1.1. GOODS | 3 | 342 | - 339 |
| 1.1.2. SERVICES | 208 | 6 299 | -6 091 |
| 1.2. INCOME | 11 407 | 14 316 | -2 909 |
| 1.2.1. Compensation of employees | 0 | 3 466 | -3 466 |
| 1.2.2. Investment income | 11 407 | 10 851 | 556 |
| 1.3. GENERAL GOVERNMENT CURRENT TRANSFERS | 93 981 | 66 345 | 27 636 |
| 2. CAPITAL & FINANCIAL ACCOUNT | 57 499 | 75 796 | -18 297 |
| 2.1. CAPITAL ACCOUNT | 0 | 15 450 | -15 450 |
| 2.1.1. General government capital transfers | 0 | 15 450 | -15 450 |
| 2.1.2. Debt forgiveness | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2.2. FINANCIAL ACCOUNT | 57 499 | 60 346 | -2 847 |
| 2.2.1. Direct investment | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2.2.2. Portfolio investment | 35 535 | 21 155 | 14 380 |
| 2.2.3. Other investment | 21 964 | 37 386 | -15 422 |
| 2.2.4. Financial derivatives | 0 | 1 805 | -1 805 |
| 3. CURRENT & CAPITAL ACCOUNT | 105 599 | 102 753 | 2 847 |

The current and capital account credit flows of the balance of payments of the European Union Institutions (EUI) represented 1.20% of the EU gross domestic product in 2001 (GDP at market prices). This ratio was 1.24% in 2000 and 1.27% in 1999.

Current and capital account

In 2001, the balance of payments of the European Union Institutions (EUI) recorded a current account surplus of EUR 18.3 bn and a capital account deficit of EUR -15.5 bn. It led to a global current and capital account surplus of EUR 2.8 bn. This surplus has thus generated a financial account balance of EUR -2.8 bn, corresponding to a rise of the external financial assets held by the EUI.

¹ The EU Institutions included are: (a) All administrative bodies of EU financed by the General Budget (Commission, the Parliament, the Council, the Court of Justice and the Court of Auditors), (b) The European Investment Bank (EIB), (c) The assimilated units European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), and European Development Fund (EDF). The European Central Bank (ECB) is not included.

Statistics in focus

ECONOMY AND FINANCE

THEME 2 - 58/2002

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

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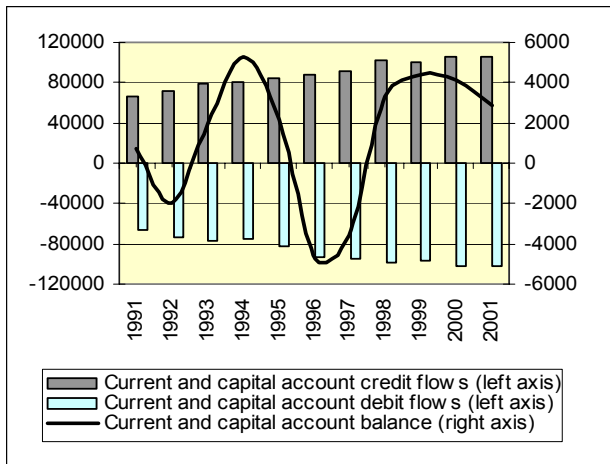
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Chart 1: Current and capital account credit or debit flows and balance (Mio EUR)



The 2001 current and capital account surplus followed three consecutive surpluses in 1998, 1999 and 2000, as illustrated in Chart 1. Over the 1991-2001 period, the current and capital account fluctuated between a surplus of EUR 5.3 bn and a deficit of EUR -4.7 bn. The cumulated balance over this period was positive (EUR 14.5 bn).

| | Credit flows in 2001 (Mio EUR) | Yearly growth rate 2000/2001 | Yearly average growth rate 1997/2001 | Share 2001 | Average share 1997/2001 |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------|
| Goods & Services | 211 | 49.6% | 7.5% | 0.2% | 0.2% |
| Income | 11 407 | 3.9% | 3.3% | 10.8% | 10.4% |
| GENERAL GOVERNMENT CURRENT TRANSFERS | | | | | |
| GNP related contributions | 34 879 | -6.4% | 6.7% | 33% | 33.9% |
| VAT | 31 320 | -8.4% | -2.3% | 29.7% | 32.5% |
| Customs duties | 14 237 | 10.6% | 1.1% | 13.5% | 13.3% |
| Other Current transfers | 13 545 | 32.3% | 18% | 12.8% | 9.7% |
| Total | 105 599 | -0.1% | 3.5% | 100% | 100% |

In 2001 credit flows remained at the same level as in 2000. This was the result of the significant decrease in the GNP related contributions (-6.4%) and VAT (-8.4%) as well as of the increase in Goods & Services (+49.6%), Other Current Transfers (+32.3%), Customs duties (+10.6%) and Income (+3.9%).

| | Debit flows in 2001 (Mio EUR) | Yearly growth rate 2000/2001 | Yearly average growth rate 1997/2001 | Share 2001 | Average share 1997/2001 |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------|
| Goods & Services: | | | | | |
| R&D services | 2 615 | -10.1% | -0.7% | 2.5% | 2.7% |
| Government services, n.i.e. | 3 091 | 3.1% | 4% | 3% | 2.8% |
| Other goods and services | 935 | 10.7% | 0.3% | 0.9% | 0.9% |
| Income: | | | | | |
| Compensation of employees | 3 466 | 3.6% | 5.5% | 3.4% | 3.2% |
| Investment income | 10 851 | 3.5% | 3.4% | 10.6% | 10.3% |
| General Government current transfers: | | | | | |
| EAGGF 'Guarantee' | 41 534 | 2.5% | 0.7% | 40.4% | 40.6% |
| Other Current transfers | 24 811 | 12.5% | 9% | 24.1% | 21.2% |
| Capital account | 15 450 | -16.1% | -5% | 15% | 18.4% |
| Total | 102 753 | 1.2% | 1.8% | 100% | 100% |

In 2001 debit flows increased slightly over 2000 (+1.2%). This result is explained by the increases in Other Current Transfers (+12.5%), Other Goods & Services (+10.7%), Compensation of employees (+3.6%), Investment income (+3.5%), and Government services n.i.e. (+3.1%), and European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) 'Guarantee' (+2.5%), and by the decreases in R&D Services (-10.1%) and Capital account debit flows (-16.1%).

² This table must be interpreted carefully because clear distinction is not easy between current and capital transfers.

Financial account

Tables 4.a, 4.b and 4.c present the main net changes in assets and liabilities of the EUI financial account. With regard to the portfolio investment, this component includes mainly purchases of bonds and notes on the asset side and the issue of bonds on the liability side.

These tables show that the transactions related to the lending and borrowing activities of the Institutions, in particular the European Investment Bank (EIB), continue to play a major role within the EUI BOP financial account. In 2001, the net change in the loans granted represented 78% of the net change in assets and the net change in bonds issue accounted for 90% of the net change in liabilities.

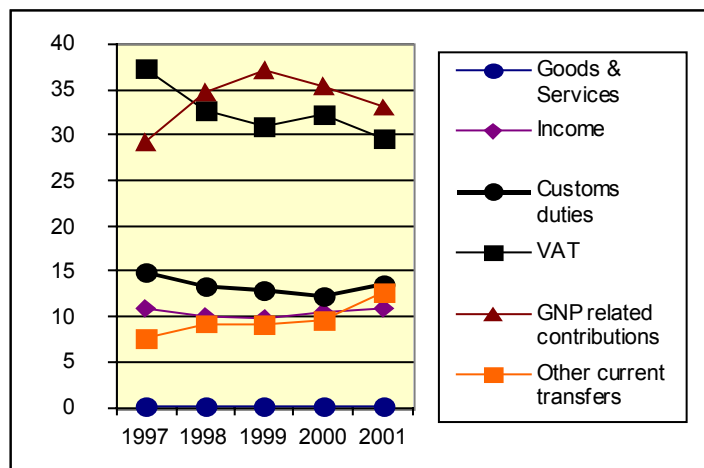
| Table 4a: Net changes in assets (Mio EUR) | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Portfolio investment | -1 134 | -1 051 | 1 006 | -886 | 417 |
| <i>Other investment:</i> | | | | | |
| Loans granted | -8 873 | -12 453 | -13 187 | -12 820 | -13 003 |
| Currency & deposits | 4 796 | -3 966 | -3 784 | -3 875 | -3 830 |
| Other | 177 | -339 | 4 | -412 | -200 |
| Total (A) | -5 034 | -17 809 | -15 961 | -17 993 | -16 616 |
| Table 4b: Net changes in liabilities (Mio EUR) | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 |
| Portfolio investment | 8 416 | 14 357 | 12 425 | 13 392 | 13 962 |
| <i>Other investment:</i> | | | | | |
| Loans | -315 | -443 | 1 042 | 80 | 368 |
| Currency & deposits | -290 | -1 174 | -1 215 | -185 | -716 |
| Other | 1 184 | 1 236 | 1 311 | 2 114 | 1 959 |
| Total (B) | 8 995 | 13 976 | 13 563 | 15 401 | 15 573 |
| Table 4c: Net financial derivatives and net financial account balance (Mio EUR) | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 |
| Financial derivatives (C) | -430 | 561 | -1 963 | -1 514 | -1 805 |
| Total (A + B + C) | 3 531 | -3 272 | -4 361 | -4 106 | -2 848 |

The Structure of the Balance of Payments of the EUI in 2001

Receipts of the EUI

The six components of the receipts of the EUI are shown in Chart 2.

Chart 2: Current credit flows in % from 1997 to 2001



Goods and services include revenue, derived mainly from financial services, the sale of R&D services and miscellaneous administrative receipts. Even if the weight of these transactions is marginal, they recorded an average growth rate (7.5%) over the 1997-2001 period.

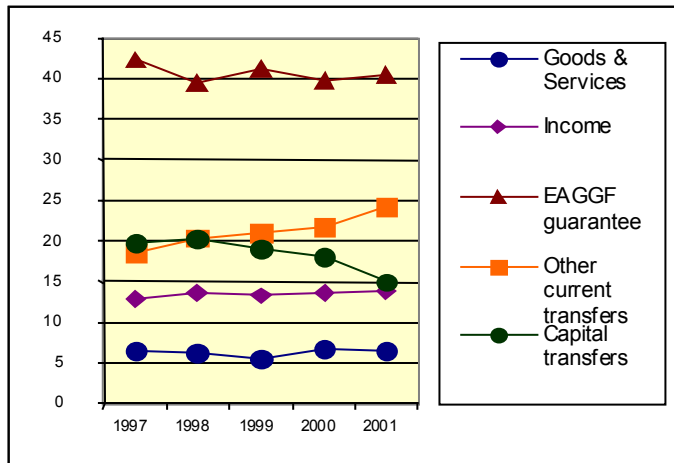
Investment income derives mainly from interest on loans granted by the EUI (mainly EIB), but also from income from various portfolios (in particular hedging portfolios) and assets held by the Institutions. After current transfers, investment income represents the other main receipt of the EUI. The weight of this item seems now more or less stable around 10% to 11%.

Current transfers from the Member States account for 90% of the receipts of the EUI. Four main components can be identified: own resources based on GNP, own resources related to VAT, own resources derived from customs duties and other current transfers. Since 1998 the GNP related contribution is the main resource of the EUI (33% in 2001). The share of the VAT has declined to 30% level whereas the share of Customs duties remained stable (around 13%).

Expenditures of the EUI

The five main components of the EUI expenditures are shown in Chart 3.

Chart 3: Current and capital debit flows in % from 1997 to 2001



The **goods and services** item relates mainly to the administrative expenditures (+/-1%) of the EU Institutions to R&D services (+/-2.5%) and to government services (+/-3%). This last sub-item includes Member States costs of collecting resources. Globally this item represents more or less 6.5% of debit flows.

The **Income** item corresponds to Compensation of employees and Investment Income and accounts for 14% of total expenditures. The share of the Compensation of employees is growing gradually and in 2001 was equal to 3.5% of total expenditures (the share of this item together with those of administrative expenditures and Government services account for nearly 7.5% of operating expenses of EUI). The EIB is the main operator with regard to **investment income** debit flows (weight around 10.5%), generated mainly by interest on bonds and loans issued by the Institutions but also including the financial year surplus of the EIB, whose capital is held by the Member States.

Current and capital transfers play an important role in the balance of payments of the European Union Institutions. Almost 80% of the debit flows of the current and capital account is linked to these two forms of transfers.

The largest component of current transfers relates to the Common Agricultural Policy financed by the **EAGGF Guarantee Section**. These current transfers, generally in the form of subsidies, assistance or price support in favor of various agricultural products, are now quite stable around 40% of the EUI debit flows.

The **other current transfers** (more than 20% of total expenditures) cover a share of structural measures (e.g.: Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG), Community Initiatives, Transitional measures and innovation schemes), some of the various internal policies of the European Union (structural policy, employment, education, information, audiovisual, etc.) and the component of the General Budget dealing with external measures (food and humanitarian aid, cooperation with Asia, Latin America, the Central and Eastern European Countries (CEECs), etc.). The social benefits paid to the employees of the European Union and the financial compensation paid to the United Kingdom and the new Member States are also included. Current transfers from the EDF and the ECSC make up the remaining part of the EUI current transfers.

The **capital account** is composed almost entirely of capital transfers (less than 20%) made in relation to the structural actions of the European Union (EAGGF Guidance section, FIFG, European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Cohesion Fund but with the exception of the European Social Fund (ESF)) and grants from the EDF.

Geographical breakdown: main Balance of Payments flows, 2001

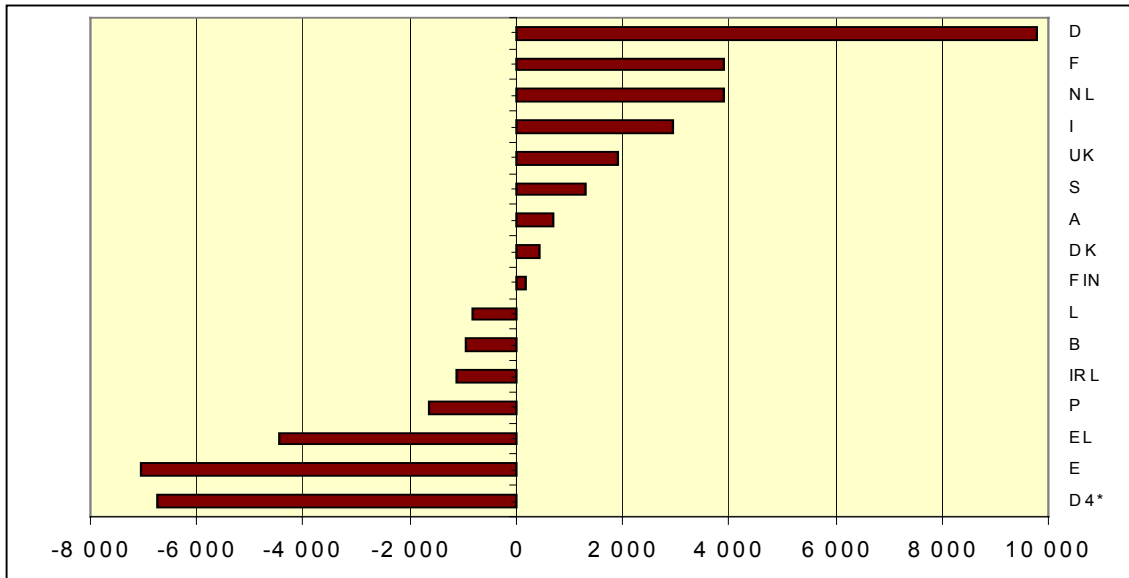
EUI current and capital account balance excluding investment income balance

Since 1999 that Euro entered into force it is not possible any more to estimate the Member States' debit flows concerning investment income. Consequently geographical breakdown analysis for Member States is limited to EUI current and capital account balance excluding investment income balance (EUR 556 Mio in 2001).

The geographical breakdown of the current and capital account balance excluding investment income balance in 2001 (Chart 4) shows that the European Union Institutions had a credit balance with nine Member States and a debit balance with six Member States and with extra-EU-15 countries. Germany, France, the Netherlands, Italy, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Austria, Denmark and Finland, in that order, were the Member States with which the European Union Institutions recorded a surplus in 2001. The total surplus with these nine Member States was EUR 25.0 bn in 1998. On the other hand, the Institutions were in deficit with Spain, Greece, Portugal, Ireland, Luxembourg, Belgium, and 'non-EU countries'. These deficits totaled almost EUR -22.7 bn in 2001, of which EUR -6.7 bn were vis-à-vis extra-EU-15 countries.

Chart 4 : Geographical breakdown of the 2001 current and capital account balance excluding the investment income balance

(Mio EUR)



* D4 means extra-EU-15

In 2001, the geographical breakdown of the current and capital account balance is more or less in line with the structure observed over the 1997-2001 period. A significant part of the observed volatility can be explained by the inclusion of corrections concerning the contributions of previous financial years when aggregating the data for the current year. The variation of the financial compensation paid to the United Kingdom has also to be considered.

Considering the average figures for the period 1997-2001, the following points summarize the basic characteristics of the balance of payments transactions of the EUI with Member States:

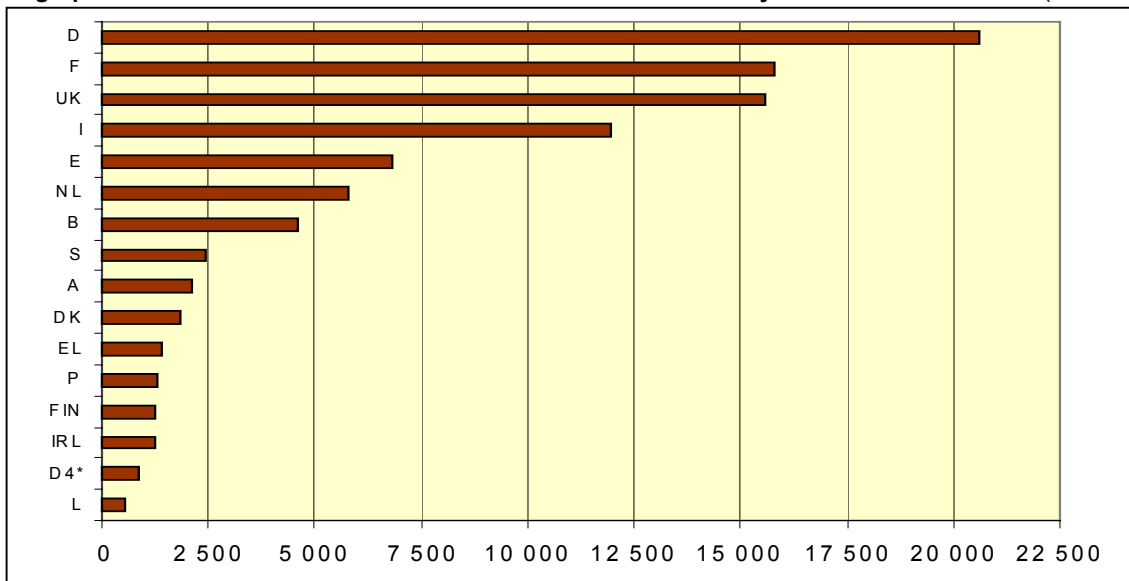
- Positive balances with 9 EU Member States: Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden and United Kingdom.
- Negative balances (linked to EUI presence) with Belgium and Luxembourg, and with Spain, Greece, Portugal and Ireland, with a declining trend for the last two countries.

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | Average |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------------|---------|
| Germany | 11 249 | 10 827 | 11 702 | 11 326 | 9 763 | 10 973 |
| United Kingdom | 1 788 | 5 756 | 5 393 | 5 505 | 1 905 | 4 069 |
| Netherlands | 2 303 | 3 009 | 3 356 | 2 940 | 3 884 | 3 098 |
| France | 927 | 2 116 | 951 | 2 648 | 3 894 | 2 107 |
| Italy | 71 | 2 156 | 1 807 | 117 | 2 955 | 1 421 |
| Sweden | 1 159 | 1 103 | 1 200 | 1 285 | 1 290 | 1 207 |
| Austria | 684 | 770 | 807 | 713 | 690 | 733 |
| Denmark | -78 | 187 | 133 | 41 | 430 | 143 |
| Finland | -68 | 155 | 296 | -227 | 196 | 70 |
| Luxembourg | -769 | -779 | -760 | -790 | -797 | -779 |
| Belgium | -1 330 | -600 | -1 102 | -1 216 | -932 | -1 036 |
| Ireland | -2 684 | -2 229 | -1 812 | -1 639 | -1 100 | -1 893 |
| Portugal | -2 704 | -2 870 | -2 698 | -2 072 | -1 650 | -2 399 |
| Greece | -4 353 | -4 613 | -3 683 | -4 260 | -4 441 | -4 270 |
| Spain | -5 932 | -6 732 | -6 732 | -4 699 | -7 063 | -6 232 |
| Intra-EU-15 | 263 | 8 256 | 8 858 | 9 672 | 9 024 | 7 215 |
| Extra-EU-15 | -4 328 | -4 493 | -4 766 | -6 068 | -6 736 | -5 278 |
| World (all entities) | -4 065 | 3 763 | 4 092 | 3 604 | 2 288 | 1 936 |

Transfers received by the EUI

Chart 5: Geographical breakdown of the current transfers received in 2001 by the EUI

(Mio EUR)



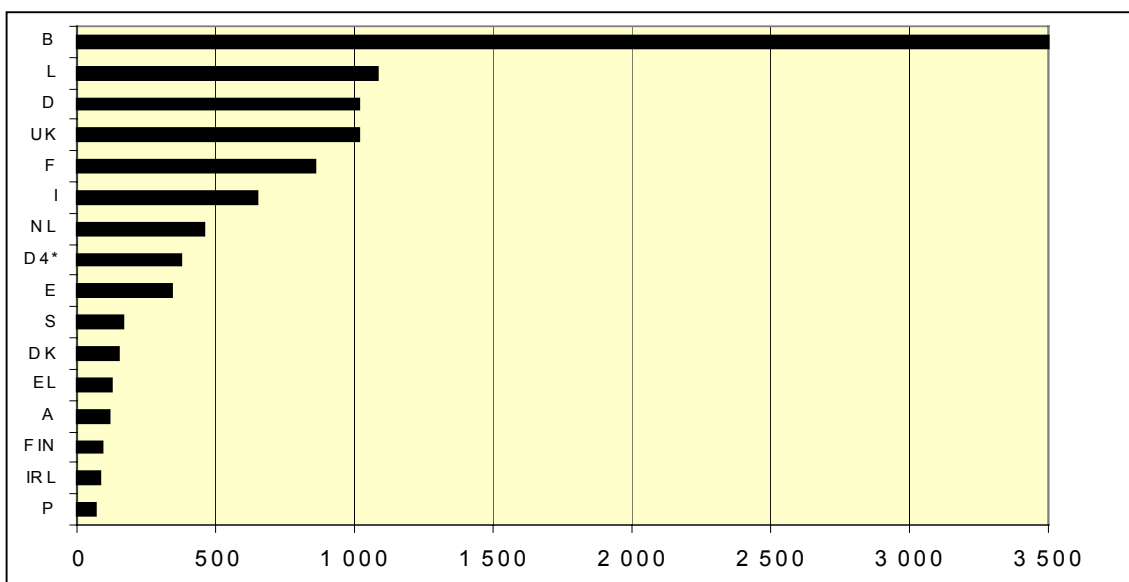
* D4 means extra-EU-15

The contributions of Germany (21.9%), France (16.8%), the United Kingdom (16.6%) and Italy (12.7%) represented 68% of the transfers received by the Institutions in 2001. Apart from them, Spain (7.2%), the Netherlands (6.1%) and Belgium (4.9%) are the other main contributors. The contribution of the eight remaining Member States was equal to 12.9% of the total transfers received by the EUI. Transfers from outside the European Union (Extra-EU-15) were 0.9%.

Goods & services and compensation of employees paid by the EUI

Chart 6: Geographical breakdown of 'G & S and compensation of employees' paid by the EUI in 2001

(Mio EUR)



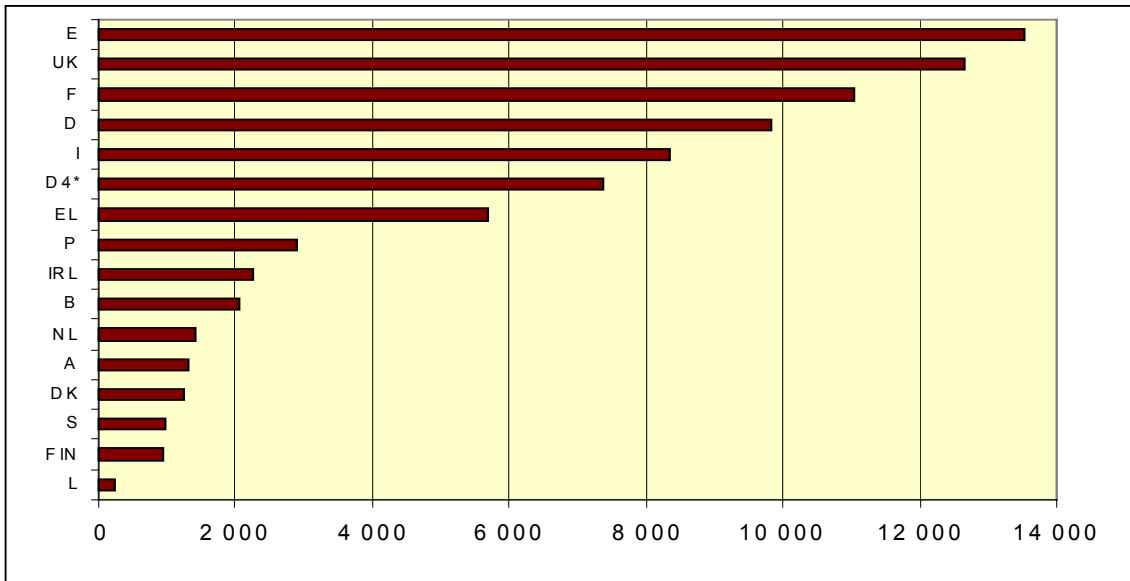
* D4 means extra-EU-15

The geographical breakdown of purchases of 'goods & services and compensation of employees' indicates that the main recipients of this expenditure are the Member States where the main European Institutions are based (Belgium, Luxembourg, France) or those involved in research and development programs (United Kingdom, Germany, France, Italy, The Netherlands). Transactions with these seven Member States accounted for 84.9% in 2001. The other Member States received 11.4%, whereas the remaining (3.7%) went outside the European Union (Extra-EU-15).

Current and capital transfers paid by the EUI

Chart 7: Geographical breakdown of the transfers paid by the EUI in 2001

(Mio EUR)



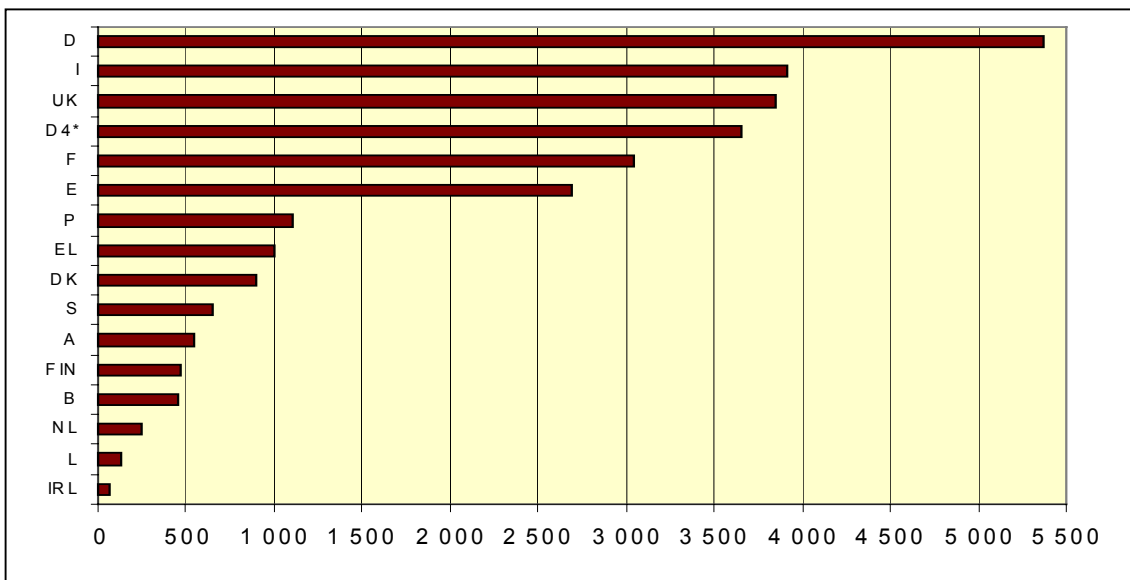
* D4 means extra-EU-15

The geographical breakdown of paid transfers (current and capital transfers) indicates that the main recipients are the Member States benefiting from the Common Agricultural Policy or structural funds transfers. The second rank for the United Kingdom is due mainly to bigger financial compensation in 2001 than previous years. The highest current and capital transfers to six Member States accounted for 74.7% of the total in 2001. The other Member States received about 16.3%, whereas the remaining (9%) went outside the European Union (Extra-EU-15).

Loans granted by the EUI

Chart 8: Geographical breakdown of the loans granted by the EUI in 2001

(Mio EUR)



* D4 means extra-EU-15

The geographical breakdown of the loans granted by the EUI indicates that the five biggest Member States (Germany, Italy, United Kingdom, France and Spain) accounted for over 67% of the total in 2001. The other ten Member States received almost 20%, whereas the remaining (13%) went outside the European Union (Extra-EU-15).

Further information:

➤ Reference publications

Title Balance of Payments of the European Union Institutions -
Data 1997-2001
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