

# 2018 budget: estimates of revenue and expenditure, Section I – Parliament

2017/2022(BUD) - 05/04/2017 - Parliament's opinion on budgetary estimates/guidelines

The European Parliament adopted by 525 votes to 129, with 42 abstentions, a resolution on Parliament's estimates of revenue and expenditure for the financial year 2018.

Parliament recalled that a budget of EUR 1 971 883 373 has been proposed by the Secretary-General for Parliament's preliminary draft estimates for 2018, representing an overall increase of 3.26% on the 2017 budget and 19.06% of heading V of the 2014-2020 multiannual financial framework (MFF).

Parliament stressed that the share of Parliament's budget in 2018 should be maintained under 20 % of heading V. It also noted that the level of estimates for 2018 corresponds to 18.88 %, which is lower than that achieved in 2017 (19.26 %) and the lowest part of heading V in the past fifteen years. Members called for the method of establishment of the budget of the Parliament to be based on current needs and not on the basis of a system of coefficients.

In general, Parliament endorsed the agreement of 28 March 2017 with the Bureau on the level of 2018 estimates and called on the Parliament to decrease the level of expenditure by EUR 18.4 million compared to the initial position of the Bureau.

The overall level of its **estimates for 2018 shall amount to EUR 1 953 483 373**, corresponding to a total increase of 2.3% compared to the 2017 budget.

Stressing Parliament's role as an important element of European political awareness, Parliament reiterated its call for measures to enhance transparency and accessibility to the Parliament. It therefore requested:

- the publication of Parliament's budget to the general public on its website;
- improving the reception measures for Member's visitor groups.

**Security and cybersecurity:** while taking note of the ongoing measures to empower Parliament's security, relating to buildings, equipment and staff, cyber-security and communication security, Parliament regretted that despite the installation of SECure EMAIL system (SECeM), the Parliament is unable to receive restricted and non-classified briefings from other institutions. It called for improvements in this area by autumn 2017.

**Building policy:** Parliament called for information on the project to renovate the Paul Henri Spaak (PHS) building, specifically any opinions from independent external contractors on the possible options for the PHS, which has had a **short lifespan of 25 years**. It underlined that the **existing building doesn't fulfil the static requirements of a public building for parliamentary functions** which has higher security and needs to withstand external shocks without collapsing. It urged therefore the Bureau and the administration of the Parliament to work on future solutions for the PHS building that secures life and healthy working conditions of the persons present.

**Communication campaign for the 2019 European elections:** Parliament welcomed the communication campaign as a helpful effort to explain the purpose of the Union and the Parliament to the citizens. It underlined that this campaign should aim, among other things, at explaining the role of the European Union, the power of the Parliament, its functions, including the election of the President of the Commission, and its impact on the lives of citizens. It noted that in advance of the forthcoming 2019

European elections, preparatory work on the communication campaign is already due to begin in 2017. It noted that the total amount of expenditure for the 2019 elections communication campaign is estimated at EUR 25 million in 2018 and EUR 8.33 million in 2019, with a higher amount of financial commitments required in 2018.

Moreover, Parliament called for the Directorate-General for Communication (DG COMM) to act on the recommendations from the evaluation of the 2014 European election campaign.

**Member-related issues:** Plenary recalled the decision taken by the Parliament with the 2017 EP budget procedure, which establishes the creation of a service for the interpretation, in International Sign language, of all plenary debates and called upon the Administration to implement this decision **with no further delay**.

In preparation for the ninth legislature, Parliament called on the Secretary-General to submit to the Bureau a **more precise list of expenses defrayable under the General Expenditure Allowance (GEA)**. It reiterated the appeal for greater transparency regarding the general expenditure allowance, building on best practice cases from national delegations in the Parliament and Member States. Members should also be able to provide links on Parliament's website to places where they currently publish their spending records. According to Parliament, the improved transparency of the GEA should not require additional staff in Parliament's administration.

It also recalled the request, adopted by the plenary in its [resolution of 14 April 2016](#) on Parliament's estimates for 2017, that the rules governing the reimbursement of mission expenses related to travels between the Parliament's three working places and incurred by accredited parliamentary assistants (APAs) be revised in order to align them with the rules applicable to the rest of the staff.

**Staff-related issues:** Parliament recalled that the total level of staff in political groups is exempted from the 5 % staff reduction target in line with the decisions taken in respect of the financial years 2014 to 2017. Plenary considered that the **loss of 136 posts from Parliament's Secretariat in 2016** may create difficulties for the provision of services by Parliament's administration. It called on the Secretary-General to provide more information regarding staff reduction measures last year, and to evaluate the consequences of budgetary decisions on the functioning of the institution.

In an amendment adopted in plenary, Members called on the Bureau to propose a dismissal procedure by mutual consent between Members and the accredited parliamentary assistants.

**EP single seat:** Parliament recalled [Parliament's resolution of 20 November 2013](#) on the location of the seats of the European Union's Institutions, which estimated the costs of the geographic dispersion of the Parliament to be between EUR 156 million and EUR 204 million and equivalent to **10% of the Parliament's budget**. It emphasised the environmental impact of the geographic dispersion and underlined the negative public perception caused by this dispersion. Therefore, it reiterated their position in calling for a roadmap to a **single seat**.