

Notes to the Draft Budget 2016

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Conditions

The grant is calculated on the information received from the General Directorate Finances of the European Parliament on 15 September 2016. It is based on an increased total grant to the European Political Parties as adopted by the EP in October, on an increased number of European political parties applying (plus 2 compared to 2015), and on the number of MEPs affiliated to one European political party. This means for the EGP: we have 37 Green MEPs plus 2 MEPs affiliated with us.

The total EP budget for the European political parties has increased by 13% between 2015 and 2016. At the same time, more parties apply for funding and share the total grant. Taking all these elements together, we expect a grant from the EP that is roughly equal to the one in 2015.

In this first draft, we have calculated with a grant of 1.700.000 euro. As a maximum we could get up to 1,8 million euros.

Process

As in previous years, we have to send in our grant application with a budget to the General Directorate Finances by 30 September latest. In our application to the EP, the budget should always include the maximum grant we can possibly receive. In the budget presented to you now, we have made a more careful grant estimate.

Considerations

2016 will be a particularly difficult year with respect to our own resources: we will have to invest much effort in raising the own contributions in order to get to the obligatory 15% own contributions to the eligible expenditure. Once we start dissolving parts of the funds (the congress fund in 2017 and the campaign fund in 2018), we will have fewer difficulties reaching the 15% since the dissolution of a fund is considered an own resource. But this solution is not available in 2016. That is why the Zagreb Council voted on the increase of membership fees and participations fees.

In this budget, we suggest keeping the individual supporters' fees as in previous years, but the Committee has committed itself to looking into the future of the individual supporters, and this might lead to a different budget allocation in 2017.

It is suggested to keep the number of office staff full time equivalents (FTE) as adopted at the Madrid Council (10,75 FTE) plus one additional staff member to help realising the political priorities and campaigns as outlined in the Activity Report 2016.

Further, we suggest allocating 100.000 euro to the Campaign Fund for the 2019 EU elections, and 75.000 EUR euro to the Congress Fund.

Below is an overview of the development of the expenditure categories between 2015 and 2016 as we suggest them:

Category eligible expenses	draft budget 2016	% of total	budget 2015	difference
1. Personnel costs	831.000	41	816.200	+14.800
2. Infrastructure and operating costs	191.800	10	216.300	-24.500
3. Administrative expenditure	165.500	8	175.000	- 9.500
4. Meeting and representation costs	661.400	33	654.000	- 7.400
5. Information and publications	104.000	5	183.000	- 79.000
6. Contribution in Kind from member parties	60.000	3	60.000	0
Total eligible expenses	2.013.700	100	2.104.500	-90.800

Notes:

Expenditure side

- 1) We propose a slight increase of personnel costs due to a decent salary raise and one additional temporary staff member that is foreseen to assist the Committee in realizing the political projects and campaigns 2016 as they are outlined in the activity report.
- 2) In the total rent EGP pays for the office space. 7.800 EUR is paid for the FYEG office and 2.250 EUR for the Global Greens' secretariat. The FYEG rent is deducted from the 3.5% contribution they receive (see budget lines 3.5.1. und 4.6.2.).
- 3) This budget line includes translation costs for translations that cannot directly be assigned to a specific project/budget line. More translation costs are included in other project/budget lines.
- 4) According to the EP financial rules for European political parties, there is a limit of 60.000 EUR per year, which the parties can give as a lump sum to their affiliated organisations (like FYEG and the Global Greens).
- 5) The reimbursement rules as adopted by the Istanbul and Zagreb Councils foresee additional reimbursement to Councils also for those parties that until now were not eligible for reimbursement, as a give-back
- 6) The budget allocation to working groups is reduced in view of the level of spending in the previous 4 years.
- 7) Due to the 2014 electoral campaign, the Committee had halted the applications processes and promised to get back to all pending applications. Further, with respect to the "Towards 2019" strategy, an intensified exchange with the member parties is planned to prepare the EU 2019 election campaign, causing more travel costs.
- 8) In the preparation of the joint EGP/Global Greens Congress 2017 in Liverpool, meetings between EGP, the Global Greens and the Green Party of England and Wales and other activities are planned.
- 9) Amongst other, the internship exchange program is financed through this budget line.

Revenue side

- 10) Increased membership fees as adopted at the Zagreb Council.