

Finance Advisory Board (FAB)

Annual Report 2014

This annual report is provided on the basis of the provisions for the Finance Advisory Board in the EGP Statutes and Rule Book. As our last annual report was submitted to the last Council in Istanbul in November 2014 together with the accounts for 2013, this is a brief report with some updates on our activities over the last few months.

1. Accounts 2014

As usual, we were kept informed of the progress made during the process of finalising the accounts and auditing. The auditors did not raise any material issues regarding the 2014 accounts.

There are year-on-year changes by the European Parliament both to the conditions for spending the grant and to the accounting requirements. We are confident that the new bookkeeping software is going to make the accounting more efficient and less time-consuming for the office staff and the Treasurer, which is very welcome.

Recommendation:

We recommend to Council to formally approve the 2014 accounts.

2. Budget 2015

Following the final grant allocation by the European Parliament for 2015 and the financial outcome of the 2014 financial year the budget 2015 has been adjusted and agreed work priorities have been translated into financial provisions in the revised budget now submitted to Council for adoption. Thanks to careful handling of both the election campaign budget and the operating budget for last year, it is possible to implement important projects like the climate campaign in the run-up to COP21 in Paris and the Green Cities event.

3. Multi-annual financial planning: Proposed changes to membership fees and reimbursement rules

The three of us from FAB are members of the Working Group on Finances, which was tasked with developing proposals to address the gap in own resources (15% of eligible expenditure to receive the maximum EP grant covering 85% of eligible expenditure). Interim measures to achieve 15% own resources were agreed for the 2015 budget, but longer-term decisions are required to ensure maximum funding for future activities of the EGP.

The Working Group started in the summer of 2014 and continued deliberations after the discussions and decisions at the Istanbul Council. The proposals and the reasoning behind them have been explained in detail in the relevant papers to this Council.

FAB fully supports the two Committee proposals for a 15% membership fee increase and for the changes to the reimbursement rules.

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4. Work in progress / Other FAB activities

Following the election of the new Secretary General in Istanbul, we have quickly developed a very positive and constructive working relationship with Mar Garcia.

Finally, as a compulsory part of the FAB annual report according to Article 7.1 of the EGP Statutes, some remarks on compliance. The Finance Advisory Board can confirm, based on the information we have, that the European Green Party has acted in accordance with its statutes and rule book since our last report.

Thanks

We would like to thank in particular Lena Lindström, Mar Garcia, Armin Traute and the other office staff for their constructive cooperation and support.

Ute Michel, Dan Michels, Madeleine Petrovic
16.05.15
