



## Notes on the Draft Revised Budget 2017

---

### 1 Introduction

The budget 2017 was adopted at the Glasgow Council on 4 December 2016. End December, DG Finance of the EP communicated the final grant awarding figures, which put us **48.000 EUR lower** in grants than we had budgeted. The 2 reasons being that more European political parties applied for funding than we had expected, and we had less Greens MEPs we could declare as being affiliated to the EGP. This put the Committee in the situation of having to adjust the budget.

Second, the accounts 2016 were finalized on the 21<sup>st</sup> of April 2017 after the audit by Ernst & Young which took place 10-13 March. The finalization of the accounts 2016 led to a higher carry-over from 2016 to 2017 (money that was not spent in 2016 but can be transferred to the next year): we had budgeted 150.000 EUR, but the final carry-over was **42.000 EUR higher** (192.000 EUR).

The Committee took the occasion of the necessary revision of the budget 2017 to adjust a couple of budget lines in view of the Accounts 2016 and what we had spent last year.

Further, the preliminary financial outcome of the Greens2017 Congress in Liverpool could be quantified and thus the budget line for the Congress could be adjusted (**28.000 EUR less**).

Finally, the budget line 4.1.5 'Political Priority Projects 2017' had until then received no specific distribution of the 135.000 EUR allocated. The Committee made a proposal for this budget line (see point 4).

This is why the Committee adopted a revised budget 2017 at its retreat in July 2017.

### 2 Main changes in the Draft Revised Budget 2017

#### 2.2 Expenses

Budget line (BL) 1.2, Employer's Contribution: Thanks to the Belgian tax shift law, employer's contribution could be reduced to 25% of the total employee gross salary (**-46.000 EUR**).

BL 1.5.2, Other Personnel costs: include meal cheques, staff and volunteer insurances, staff travels to country of origin, work permit costs. These costs increased with the increased number of staff. Since most of these expenses will reoccur in 2017, we propose to increase this BL in view of the expenses 2016 (**+8.000 EUR**).

BL 3.3, Legal costs: Increase due to higher costs for the application process of EGP as European Political Party, to legal support for staff work permissions and to other staff issues, and for party-internal legal disputes (De Groenen) (**+13.000 EUR**).



BL 3.4.1, Accounting: 2015 was the first year we used the new online bookkeeping software (Admisol), which required more closely supervision by our external accountant. This external accountant (Catherine Maas from Liège) gave back her mandate early 2016, a new external accounting and tax consultant (Thierry Steemans, Brussels) started in 2017. Seeing the good work that was done in-house in bookkeeping and preparing the Accounts, he figured that a much lower external supervision will be needed. It was the initial goal in 2012 when the decision for the in-house bookkeeping was taken, to reduce costs in the mid-term **(-7.000 EUR)**.

BL 4.1.2, 2017 Congress: According to the very preliminary figures in the Congress budget, we will have spent less than the budgeted 620.000 EUR **(-28.000 EUR)**.

BL 4.1.5, EGP priority projects (according to Activity Plan): In order to balance the budget, The Committee proposes to reduce this BL by 9.500 EUR. Please note that a couple of priority projects are foreseen and will be booked under different budget lines (ChangeMaking/ACT Network under 4.1.8; Gender and LGTB Network Meetings under 4.1.6; Local Councillors Conference under 4.1.12; Fact finding missions under 4.1.11; South Tyrol Tourism Conference under 4.6.1; and Divestment Campaign under 5.3.1) **(-4.500 EUR)**

BL 4.1.8, ChangeMaking / ACT Network: Any expenses, mainly for the database to be programmed, and website building, can only start in December 2017 after the Council vote. Since these are investments, they will be depreciated only for the month of December. The bulk of expenses and investments will incur in 2018 for which we will have to foresee enough resources in the 2018 budget. The Committee believes that 5.000 EUR will be enough to plan everything so that the project can start once the Council has adopted the proposal on the ChangeMaking Network **(-10.000 EUR)**.

Category 6, Contributions in kind: With the ever more strict rules for accepting CIK from member parties, the previous budget allocation of 90.000 EUR needed to be adjusted. The Committee believes 60.000 EUR is the maximum for which we can get enough justifications that will be accepted by the EP **(-30.000 EUR)**

Non-eligible Expenditure, no. 4, Realized Losses: There was a case of Internet fraud which happened in February 2017. The court case is ongoing, but for budgetary precautions the Committee deems appropriate to add the possible costs already now, regardless the outcome of the judicial investigation **(+18.000 EUR)**.

## **2.3 Revenues**

EP Grant: as explained in the introduction **(-48.000 EUR)**

Dissolution: Carry-over from previous year **(+41.675 EUR)**

Contribution in Kind: **(-30.000 EUR)**



### 3. Minor changes in the Draft Revised Budget 2017

#### 3.1 Expenses

BL 1.1, Salaries: The Committee proposes no change of the amounts, but the distribution among permanent (BL 1.1.1) and temporary staff (BL 1.1.2) as it is in reality (contracts with unlimited / with limited duration).

BL 1.5.4, Volunteers: The Committee proposes to reduce this BL in view of the expenses 2015/2016 (**-2.000 EUR**).

BL 2.3, Other maintenance costs: include the office alarm system, recycling and moving costs, computer repair costs. Since most of these expenses will reoccur in 2017, the Committee proposes to increase this BL in view of the expenses 2016 (**+2.500 EUR**).

BL 2.2.4, Other Office Equipment: includes the office water fountain, software licences and computer insurances. Since most of these expenses will reoccur in 2017 with a similar amount, the Committee proposes to reduce this BL in view of the expenses 2015/16 (**-3.500 EUR**).

BL 2.3.2, Depreciation Computers: The Committee proposes to reduce this budget line in view of the depreciations 2015/16 (**-5.000 EUR**).

BL 2.7.1, Other infrastructure costs: includes the installation of technical equipment in the office (in 2015: new office lamps). In view of the expenses 2016, the Committee proposes to reduce these (**-4.000 EUR**).

BL 4.1.3.1, Council Reimbursement according to new Rules: This is the rule that foresees reimbursement of accommodation costs for member parties category 2 and 3. The Committee foresees that the entire amount of 25.000 EUR won't be recovered (**-5.000 EUR**).

BL 4.1.7, Local Councillors Network: The Committee proposes a reduction in view of the expenses 2015/16 (**-4.000 EUR**).

BL 4.3, Representation costs: The Committee proposes to reduce this BL in view of the expenses 2015/16 (**-3.000 EUR**).

BL 4.6.2. Joint activities FYEG/EGP: needed to be recalculated on the basis of the new total amount of expenditure (**+410 EUR**).

#### 3.2 Revenues

BL Financial Income: In view of the low interest rates this year, the budget allocation needed to be reduced (**-1.000 EUR**).



#### 4. Political Priority Projects according to Activity Plan 2017

The activities spelled out in the Activity Plan 2017 can be attributed to the following budget lines.

##### BL 4.1.5: Political Priority Projects

- European Ideas Lab Brussels February 2017 (46.000 EUR)
- Campaign Workshop Washington DC (25.000 EUR)
- Regional European Ideas Lab (40.000 EUR)
- Regional Reset EU events (15.000 EUR)

BL 4.1.8: ChangeMaking / ACT Network (5.000 EUR)

BL 4.1.11: Committee Mission Travels (35.000 EUR)

BL 4.1.12: Local Councillors Conference (40.000 EUR)

##### BL 4.6.1: Transnational activities and cooperation member parties

- Internship Exchange Program (5.000 EUR)
- South Tyrol Conference (15.000 EUR)
- EELV Journées d'été (20.000 EUR)

BL 5.3.1: Publicity Campaigns: 2017 Divestment Campaign (80.000 EUR)

#### 5. Election Campaign Expenses

The situation of the previous EU election campaign budget was as follows:

Funding sources	budget year		total
	2013	2014	
- Dissolution from Campaign Fund	216.000	24.000	240.000
- From the running budget	247.000	441.000	688.000
- Committee decision: extra allocation to the Campaign budget	100.000	0	100.000
<b>Total</b>	<b>529.000</b>	<b>359.000</b>	<b>1.028.000</b>

The budget 2017 foresaw a provision to the Campaign Fund of 100.000 EUR. The Committee proposes to increase this provision by 50.000 EUR. to 150.000 EUR. This would make it 410.000 EUR at the end of this year.

Lena Lindström  
Treasurer EGP  
Brussels, 2 May 2017 / 27 October 2017