DRAFT AMENDMENT*

TABLED BY:
Helga Trüpel, Inge Gräßle, Monica Macovei, Jens Geier, Dennis De Jong, Heidi Hautala, Indrek Tarand

SECTION (delete options not used):

Heading: 5.2 – Administrative expenditure of the institutions

Line n°: XX 01 02 11 02

Line Title: Conferences, meetings and expert groups’ expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line Title</th>
<th>Commission - DB 2015</th>
<th>Council - 2015</th>
<th>Amendment</th>
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NOMENCLATURE (delete options not used):
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Amend type of appropriations as follows:

REMARKS (delete options not used):
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The reserve will be released when the Commission modifies the rules on expert groups in the following way and ensures their full implementation within all DGs:

1. Ban lobbyists and corporate executives sitting in expert groups in a ‘personal capacity’. The Commission should clarify whether members of an expert group are there as stakeholders or as experts committed to acting in the public interest. The latter should be thoroughly checked for conflicts of interest and their "declaration of professional activities" should be in the public domain.

2. Common selection criteria throughout all DGs, that guarantee balance among different categories of stakeholders and absence of Conflict of Interests for experts and establish an obligatory open selection process with a public call and a published mandate of each expert group which goes beyond a simple representation of Member states authorities.

3. All membership information (incl. affiliations), agendas, minutes and participants’ submissions should be available on-line unless if there is a clear and published reason for not providing this information. Reports of groups should be published before getting adopted by the Commission.

* Amendment has to be sent by mail budg-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu and signed version by fax (49012)
4. A review of the existing rules shall be conducted after the close of the European Ombudsman's Own Inquiry with the aim to transpose its findings into the Commission's rules on expert groups.

- JUSTIFICATION -
  (This must be filled in)

Expert groups often contribute significantly to the EU decision-making process. Non-transparent expert groups and unbalanced representation in favour of certain special interests constitute hence a considerable risk to the democratic quality of EU decision-making. In clear contradiction with the principles agreed on between the Parliament and the Commission in 2012, the practice of expert groups continues to violate the standards of balanced composition and transparency. The Commission should ensure their full respect throughout all DGs.