

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
DRAFT BUDGET OF THE EUROPEAN UNION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2015

DRAFT AMENDMENT*

TABLED BY:

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SECTION (delete options not used):

~~I: Parliament / III: Commission / IV: Court of Justice / V: Court of Auditors / VI: Economic & Social Committee / VII: Committee of the Regions / VIII: Ombudsman / IX: Data Protection Supervisor / X: European External Action Service~~

Heading: 5.2 – Administrative expenditure of the institutions								
Line n°: XX 01 02 11 02								
Line Title: Conferences, meetings and expert groups' expenses								
	Commission - DB 2015		Council - 2015		Amendment		New amounts	
	Commit.	Paym.	Commit.	Paym.	Commit.	Paym.	Commit.	Paym.
Appropriations	25 842 500	25 842 500			-3 876 375	-3 876 375	21 966 125	21 966 125
<i>Reserve</i>					3 876 375	3 876 375	3 876 375	3 876 375

NOMENCLATURE (delete options not used):

~~Unchanged / Amend line title as follows: / Create the following new line: / Delete the following line:~~

~~Amend type of appropriations as follows:~~

REMARKS (delete options not used):

~~Unchanged / Reinstate remarks from DB / Amend as follows: / Add the following:~~

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.