

REPORT ON THE ESTIMATED BUDGET FOR 2021-2022

The budget was drafted on both a cash and accrual basis, to ensure the utmost transparency and detail.

The budget's resources are destined to cover organization and interpretation costs (mentioned in Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure) and the functioning of the permanent Secretariat as per Rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure.

The financial year runs concurrently with the rotating presidency terms, namely a one-year period from 1 May to 30 April of the following year, as specified in article 7 of the financial regulation.

Should it be impossible to hold a session in the month of April, the financial regulation (Rule 9, para 3) includes a safeguard provision establishing that the draft budget approved by the Bureau can be used for financial management purposes. Additionally, Rule 9, para 4, makes it possible to approve any changes to the budget that become necessary during the year.

The budget is divided into revenue and expenditures, broken down into titles and chapters, for each of which the following are indicated:

- a) the expected amount of recognised revenues and committed expenditures;
- b) the expected amount of revenues to be collected and payments to be made.

To facilitate its understanding, the budget also uses categories, which group together several revenue and expenditure chapters of the same type, but have no accounting value.

The Parliamentary Assembly's revenues comprise contributions from each member country's Parliament and any other revenues. The amount of the contribution of each Parliament is specified in Annex I, which was approved during the Amman plenary session in 2010 and used until the last budget as an apportionment criterion. The validity of this criterion was reiterated during the plenary session organized by the Italian presidency in Rome in 2017. The total contributions of the member countries amount to € 585,319.00. Other revenues currently include € 25,000.00 per year made available by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on the basis of Law no. 63/2020, for a total of € 610,319.00.

Regarding expenditures, Title I refers to current expenditures, categorized by type of meeting: Plenary session - including Speakers' summit, Committee meetings, the meetings of the Bureau and the enlarged Bureau - which takes place once a year (Category 1); Meetings of the Bureau and enlarged Bureau, which take place twice a year (Category 2); Committees, calculating two meetings for each of the five Committees, for a total of 10 meetings a year (Category 3); a maximum of three fact-finding missions a year (Category 4). For each meeting category, organization costs (staff travel and accommodation costs, plus costs for preparing and printing documents) are indicated along with interpretation costs.

In particular, it should be noted that the draft budget under examination includes unpaid debts under the expenditures related to plenary sessions. These refer to the organization of Plenary sessions on the part of the Italian Parliament for 2016-2017 (€ 45,065.43), the Egyptian Parliament for 2017-18 (€ 58,816.70) and the first tranche of the expenses for the Plenary session organized by the European Parliament in 2019 (€ 30,000).

There is also a chapter (included under Category 5) dedicated to costs related to the functioning of the Permanent Secretariat, which include utilities, IT costs, bank fees, document translation costs, cleaning costs and others, for a total of € 100,000.00.

There is also a contingency fund (under Category 6) for unbudgeted expenses, such as meetings not already planned, e.g. those of the working group on the Rules of Procedure.

Finally, Title II refers to capital expenditure.