



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 4 September 2013
(OR. en)**

11355/13

**FIN 361
CES 24**

"I/A" ITEM NOTE

From: Budget Committee

To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: Proposal for a Council Decision on the granting of daily allowances and the reimbursement of travelling expenses of members of the European Economic and Social Committee and their alternates

1. On 12 October 2012, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) submitted to the Council a proposal for a Council Decision on the granting of daily allowances and the reimbursement of travel expenses of members of the Economic and Social Committee and their alternates, repealing and replacing Council Decision 81/121/EEC¹, as recorded in doc. 14942/12 FIN 750 CES 32.
2. The purpose of the proposal is to reform the system for reimbursing expenses to EESC members, providing, in particular, for the reimbursement of transport tickets on the basis of real costs only, as well as for the compensation of allowances on the basis of the time spent by members in the performance of their duties and of related administrative costs.

¹ OJ L 67, 12.3.1981, p. 29. Decision as last amended by Council Decision 2008/845/EC, Euratom of 24 October 2008 (OJ L 301, 12.11.2008, p. 11).

3. The Budget Committee examined this proposal at several meetings over the period October 2012 - June 2013.
4. At these meetings, the Budget Committee sought for more clear guarantees that the reimbursement ceilings set for the travel expenses of the EESC members would not exceed the level of the voted annual budget. Moreover, the Budget Committee requested that the EESC report to the Council on the application of the new reimbursement system and particularly on the details of its budgetary impact. Consequently, the Budget Committee agreed on modifying Article 3 and on introducing new Articles 7a and 8a.

Furthermore, the Budget Committee agreed on the reduction of the amounts proposed for the daily allowance (Article 2), and consequently for the duration allowance (Article 6), as well as the distance allowance (Article 5).

The draft Council statement recorded in the Annex and some preliminary legal-linguistic changes were also part of the global agreement reached by the Budget Committee.

5. Following these discussions, the Budget Committee was able to agree, by a qualified majority, to suggest that the Permanent Representatives Committee advise the Council to:
 - adopt the Council Decision repealing Decision 81/121/EC, as set out after legal/linguistic revision in document 13122/13 FIN 490 CES 30;
 - have this Decision published in the Official Journal, series L;
 - have the Council statement recorded in the Annex published in the Official Journal, series C.

Council statement

"The Council welcomes the efforts made by the European Economic and Social Committee to create a more transparent system for the payment of daily allowances and reimbursement of travelling expenses of members of the European Economic and Social Committee and their alternates.

The Council stresses that expenditure on travel by EU institutions should be efficient and provide value for money. The Council therefore calls upon the European Economic and Social Committee to take all appropriate measures to apply the lowest possible cost options for travel and allowances on an ongoing basis."
