



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 24 October 2012

14942/12

**FIN 750
CES 32**

COVER NOTE

from:	Mr Staffan NILSSON, President of the European Economic and Social Committee
date of receipt:	12 October 2012
to:	Mr Andreas MAVROYIANNIS, President of the Council of the European Union

Subject:	Proposal for a Council Decision on the granting of daily allowances and the reimbursement of travelling expenses of members of the Economic and Social Committee and their alternates
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Delegations will find attached a document transmitted from the European Economic and Social Committee.

Encl.: 1

DRAFT
(PROPOSED BY THE EESC)

**COUNCIL DECISION
of ... 2012**

**on
on the granting of daily allowances and the reimbursement of travelling expenses of members
of the Economic and Social Committee and their alternates
(2012/.../EU)**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and, in particular, Article 301, third paragraph, thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In its resolution of 10 May 2012 with observations forming an integral part of its Decision on discharge in respect of the implementation of the European Union general budget for the financial year 2010, Section VI – European Economic and Social Committee⁽¹⁾, the European Parliament "Notes with satisfaction that the EESC Bureau decided, on 6 December 2011, to undertake a reform of the system for reimbursing expenses to members, which is aimed, in particular, at reimbursement of transport tickets on the basis of real costs only, which brings daily allowances and travel allowances into line with those paid by Parliament, and provides for allowances to compensate for the time spent by members in performance of their duties and for related administrative costs, taking into account the fact that EESC members do not receive any form of remuneration or pension from the EU budget",
- (2) As provided for by Decision 2001/368/EC of 7 May 2001 on the adjustment of the allowances paid to members and alternates of the Economic and Social Committee⁽²⁾, the European Economic and Social Committee should be allowed to set the amount of experts' allowances,
- (3) The amounts of the daily allowances paid to members and alternates of the Economic and Social Committee, initially laid down by Council Decision 81/121/EEC of 3 March 1981 on the granting of daily allowances and the reimbursement of travelling expenses of members of the Economic and Social Committee, alternates and experts, should be adapted⁽³⁾,
- (4) Decision 81/121/EEC should be repealed and replaced, and a transitional system provided for;

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

¹ COM(2011)0473 – C7-0261/2011 – 2011/2206(DEC), not yet published in the Official Journal.

² OJ L 130, 12.5.2001, p. 39.

³ OJ L 67, 12.3.1981, p. 29.

Article 1

European Economic and Social Committee members and their alternates are entitled to a daily allowance for meeting days and to reimbursement of their travel expenses, as set out below.

Article 2

The daily allowance shall be set at EUR 304. It may be increased:

- by a maximum of 50%:
 - where a beneficiary duly invited to one or more meetings is obliged to pay for overnight accommodation at the meeting venue both before the first meeting and after the last meeting,
 - in the event of a mission outside Brussels, where the rates of the hotels selected as accommodation for the beneficiaries are more than EUR 150;
- by a maximum of 60%:
 - for plenary assembly meeting days,
 - for section meeting days.

The daily allowance may be paid to beneficiaries for a maximum of two days bridging the gap between two meetings, where this solution is less costly than a return ticket.

Article 3

Travel expenses shall be reimbursed on the basis of the expenses actually incurred. The European Economic and Social Committee shall define the procedures and may set reimbursement ceilings.

Article 4

Members and alternates shall be entitled to distance and duration allowances. In the case of journeys between the beneficiary's place of residence and the Committee headquarters, the beneficiary shall be entitled to allowances covering one journey to the Committee headquarters and one journey from the Committee headquarters per week of work at the Committee.

Article 5

The distance allowance shall be calculated as follows:

- a) for the part of the journey between 0 and 50 km: EUR 22.50;
- b) for the part of the journey between 51 and 500 km: EUR 0.12/km;
- c) for the part of the journey between 501 and 1 000 km: EUR 0.06/km;
- d) for the part of the journey between 1 001 and 3 000 km: EUR 0.03/km;
- e) for the part of the journey exceeding 3 000 km: no allowance.

Article 6

The duration allowance shall be calculated as follows:

- a) for a journey with a total duration of between two and four hours: amount equivalent to one eighth of the daily allowance provided for in Article 2;
- b) for a journey with a total duration of between four and six hours: amount equivalent to one quarter of the daily allowance provided for in Article 2;
- c) for a journey with a total duration of more than six hours involving no overnight stay: amount equivalent to half the daily allowance provided for in Article 2;
- d) for a journey with a total duration of more than six hours and necessarily involving travelling overnight: amount equivalent to the daily allowance provided for in Article 2, subject to presentation of supporting documents.

Article 7

Council Decision 81/121/EEC of 3 March 1981 on the granting of daily allowances and the reimbursement of travelling expenses of members of the Economic and Social Committee, alternates and experts is hereby repealed, subject to the introduction of the transitional measures provided for in Article 9 of this decision.

Article 8

The European Economic and Social Committee shall have a period of three months from the entry into force of this decision within which to adopt implementing provisions.

As a transitional measure, it may at the same time continue to apply the provisions repealed by this decision until, at the latest, the end of the term of office in progress when this decision comes into force. If the European Economic and Social Committee takes this option, it may reduce the amount of the allowances set by Decision 81/121/EEC.

Article 9

This decision shall enter into force on ...

Done at ..., on

For the Council

The President