

Political Agreement
on a Parliamentary Budget Office in the Parliamentary Administration
and
the Standing Subcommittee of the Budget Committee

The undersigned political parties agree on the following points:

1. An independent Parliamentary Budget Office shall be set up with the President of the National Council to support the National Council in the deliberation, adoption and supervision of the federal budget. The capacity of the independent Parliamentary Budget Office shall be aligned with the fulfilment of the tasks in accordance with points 2 to 5. The Parliamentary Budget Office is to commence operations in 2012 with regard to drawing up the budget for the 2013 financial year.

2. The tasks of the Parliamentary Budget Office include

a) advising the Budget Committee, in particular in the form of written expertise, analyses and short studies, on the documents to be submitted pursuant to the BHG 2013 (in particular the draft of the federal budget law, the draft of the medium-term expenditure framework act, reports pursuant to §§ 47, 66 to 68 BHG 2013),

b) advising the other committees of the National Council on the impact assessment of legislative measures (§ 17 BHG) and

c) preparing of statements at the request of individual members of the Budget Committee, whereby the number and scope of the requests shall be subject to a restriction to the extent that the ability to work is not impaired.

The above-mentioned tasks also include the outcome orientation, in particular with regard to the effective equality of women and men.

3. The Standing Subcommittee of the Budget Committee shall be reduced to a viable number of Members, ensuring that the smallest parliamentary group has at least one Member.

4. The half-yearly and annual reports shall, after the preliminary discussion in the Standing Subcommittee, also be dealt with in the Budget Committee, where the budget deliberations take place. The monthly and quarterly reports shall be discussed and dealt with by the Standing Subcommittee of the Budget Committee.

5. Reports pursuant to §§ 66 to 68 BHG shall be dealt with in accordance to the procedure in the Court of Audit Committee or its sub-committee. The individual items on the agenda are then determined in advance and, depending on the responsibility, the Federal Minister of Finance or the Federal Chancellor is invited. If necessary, the responsible Members of the Federal Government shall also be invited. Within this framework, supplementary information is obtained, if necessary, by the chairperson of the Committee.

6. Relationship between Parliamentary Budget Office and Court of Audit

The Parliamentary Budget Office is responsible for the control of the actual budget implementation, while the Court of Audit remains responsible for ex-post controls.