

Public info on Allowances, Remuneration of Assistants and Members' Statute

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Allowances paid to Members of the European Parliament

Like Members of national parliaments, Members of the European Parliament receive a number of allowances that are intended to cover the expenditure they incur in the performance of their parliamentary duties.

General expenditure allowance

This allowance is intended to cover expenditure in the Member State of election, such as Members' office management costs, telephone and postal charges, the purchase, operation and maintenance of computer and telematics equipment, and the cost of travel. The allowance is halved in the case of Members who, without due justification, do not attend half the number of plenary sittings in one parliamentary year (September to August).

The amount of this allowance in 2009 is EUR 4 202 per month.

Flat-rate travel allowance

This allowance is intended to cover the cost of travel undertaken by Members within the European Community in order to attend official meetings of the European Parliament, such as plenary sessions, committee meetings, group meetings, etc. It also covers associated expenses incurred while travelling, such as the cost of bookings, tickets, luggage transport, meals, etc. The amount reimbursed depends on the type of transport that the Member uses.

In order to receive the allowance, Members must present the following supporting documents:

for journeys by air, the boarding pass or, if no boarding pass is issued, the flight ticket or a copy thereof;

for journeys by rail, the train ticket or, if it is needed for another journey, a copy thereof;

for journeys by private car, a personal travel declaration showing the car's registration number, the kilometrage reading at the beginning and end of the journey and the place where the vehicle is parked at the place of work.

Where Members have to attend official meetings held outside the territory of the European Community, Parliament reimburses Members on the basis of the air fare by the most direct route, on presentation of the relevant travel voucher.

Annual travel allowance

Members often have to travel outside their home Member State in the performance of their duties but for purposes other than official meetings (for example, to attend a conference in another Member State or to make a working visit to another country in his/her capacity as rapporteur).

To cover this eventuality, Members may receive reimbursement from a fixed yearly travel allowance for their travel, accommodation and associated expenses. Reimbursement is made on the basis of the air fare or rail fare on presentation of the relevant travel vouchers and the requisite supporting documents.

For 2009, the allowance is fixed at a maximum of EUR 4 148.

Subsistence allowance

Parliament pays this flat-rate allowance of EUR 298 for each day of attendance at official meetings of the Parliament bodies on which the Member serves that are held within the European Community. It covers accommodation, meals and all other expenses involved in such attendance. Parliament pays the allowance only if the Member has signed an official attendance register.

During plenary sessions, Parliament reduces this amount by one half for Members who have not taken part in one half of the roll-call votes held on the Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays of part-sessions held in Strasbourg and on the second day of part-sessions held in Brussels.

Parliament pays a sum of EUR 149 per day, plus accommodation and breakfast expenses, for attendance at meetings held outside the European Community, again provided that the Member has signed the official attendance register for the meeting.

Remuneration of Members' assistants

Members are entitled to assistance from personal staff whom they may freely choose. Parliament shall defray expenses actually incurred and arising wholly and exclusively from the employment or the use of the services of one or more assistants. The maximum monthly amount defrayable shall be up to EUR 17 540.

Parliament pays the allowance either directly to the assistant(s), or to a paying agent appointed by the Member to be responsible, in part or in full, for the administrative management of his/her assistant(s), or to a service provider.

Travelling expenses, social security contributions and tax paid on behalf of the assistant(s) may also be reimbursed directly to the Member upon presentation of duly receipted invoices.

Members' Statute

After the European elections in 2009, the Members' Statute will enter into force and will cover matters such as Members' salaries, sickness insurance, pensions and allowances.

Members will continue to receive flat-rate subsistence and general expenditure allowances. The annual travel allowance for journeys made by Members outside their Member State of election in the performance of their duties will also remain in place. Members will also be able to receive reimbursement for a limited amount of travel within their Member State of election. However, the flat-rate travel allowance will be replaced by the reimbursement of expenses actually incurred.

There will also be a series of changes to the disbursement of the parliamentary assistance allowance.

The Secretary-General is in contact with the Commission and Council with a view to establishing a new set of common rules for Brussels-based assistants, on a basis analogous to the existing rules for contract staff working for the EU institutions. For other assistants, Parliament will conclude model contracts with certified paying agents in the Member States. These paying agents will assume full responsibility for managing parliamentary assistance expenditure in accordance with national legislation, and reimbursement of the cost of services will be contingent on the submission of invoices. It should also be noted that costs incurred in employing first-degree relatives and analogous persons will no longer be reimbursed.