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**REPORT OF THE TREASURER
OF THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE**

Ms. Doris BARNETT

MINSK, 5 - 9 JULY 2017

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Ms. Doris BARNETT

OSCE PA STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING,

MINSK, 5 JULY 2017

Mr. President, Members of the Standing Committee,

As Treasurer of the Assembly I would like to start my report here in Minsk by warmly thanking the Parliament of Belarus for the support provided to our Organization by hosting this Annual Session.

My gratitude also to all those Member Parliaments that have hosted, and will host Assembly meetings and events.

The Assembly functions in an extremely cost-effective way, but we need the continuous support and solidarity of national delegations to ensure that the Assembly can continue its programme of activities and meetings. I call on those delegations that have not yet hosted a meeting of the Assembly to do it soon.

I am pleased to report to the Standing Committee that the finances of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly continue to be in very good order. In accordance with our *Rules of Procedure*, I presented the audited accounts to this Committee in Vienna last February. I was very satisfied that the Assembly received a positive assessment from our outside independent professional auditor once again. Our auditor continues to be satisfied with the financial procedures and accountability carried out in our Secretariat.

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Proposed Budget 2017/2018 / 26th Financial Year (1 October 2017 – 30 September 2018)

Attached to this report you will find my proposal for the Assembly's budget for the next financial year (1 October 2017 – 30 September 2018). This proposal has been thoroughly prepared together with the Secretary General and his team in order to reflect the minimum basic needs of the Assembly and it was unanimously supported by the Bureau at its last meeting held in Copenhagen.

This proposed draft budget, in accordance with our *Rules of Procedure*, was distributed to the Standing Committee last June giving you ample time to review it. In this period I have received no comments or questions from Members about my Proposal.

The Secretary General and I have ensured that our budget complies with and reflects the efforts of our national legislatures to minimize expenses and remain within our objectives of austerity and accountability in the use of our tax-payers money.

As you can see, compared to previous years, the proposed budget is presented in a new, very clearly outlined format with the various items clearly defined.

While the structural changes have resulted in some categories changing, my overall proposal is to leave the budget almost as it is, with no significant increases, with just a minor adjustment of two per cent related to an increase of 65,000 Euros in the total budget. This adjustment relates partially to increases of dependent/education allowances (more staff with newborn children) as well as an adjustment in the Research Assistant Programme in order to comply with Danish law. Expenses in all categories including salaries, travel, other meetings, publicity, and other categories will remain basically at the same level as in the current year. For your information, the current budget for 2016-2017 is also attached.

I hope that you have also all had an opportunity to consider the draft Financial Regulations circulated by our Secretary General. I have reviewed this document on several occasions over the past half-year, and believe that it is both an important and useful step for our Assembly to agree on this. I believe that they strike the right balance of flexibility, while at the same time providing a reasonable framework within which our Secretariat must work. With clear lines of authority specified, I think that we can all be confident that our resources will continue to be used effectively and with clarity. When the Standing Committee designates an auditor, we will have an additional level of independent accountability guaranteed. I hope that you will agree to support this document as distributed.

National Contributions: Current Fiscal Year 2016/2017

The list of national contributions for the fiscal year that started 1 October 2016 and will conclude on 30 September 2017 is attached. As you can see we have received almost 100 percent of our annual budget.

OSCE Scales of Contribution / National Contributions to the OSCE PA (2017-2018)

In accordance with Rule 41, Paragraph 4 of our Rules of Procedure, national contributions to the budget of the Parliamentary Assembly shall be apportioned according of the formula used to divide the costs of the intergovernmental OSCE.

In December 2015 the Permanent Council of the OSCE approved the scales of contribution for the period 2016 to 2017 (PC.DEC/1196) which remain unchanged from previous years. Our annual budget will therefore be apportioned accordingly among national delegations.

I welcome the ongoing process to suggest improvements to our system of contributions. But until we reach a consensus to amend our *Rules of Procedures* we will continue implementing the current system.

Additional Contributions

It is important that National Delegations contribute to support the Assembly. This can be done by:

1. Seconding personnel – we are very grateful to the Italian Government for their support in currently seconding two full-time staff members in our Secretariat;
2. Hosting Assembly's Meetings and events. Again we are very grateful to the German Parliament for hosting our Session in 2018 and Kyrgyzstan for the Autumn Meeting;
3. Extra budgetary contributions for specific events: election observation and other seminars or conferences of interest to the OSCE PA and its Members.

I am at your entire disposal to discuss any proposals you may have to enhance the work of the Parliamentary Assembly.

Let me conclude my report by congratulating our Secretary General, Mr. Roberto Montella, for his efforts in making this institution so efficient in such a transparent, accountable, and cost-effective way.



Doris Barnett

Annexes: OSCE PA / Proposed Budget / 26th Financial Year: 1 October 2017 – 30 September 2018/

OSCE PA / List of Contributions 2016/2017



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Budget Proposal 2017/2018

Salaries And Staff Expenses	
Salaries	1,378,000.00
Insurance: Health & Accident	70,000.00
Post Allowance / Adjustment	190,000.00
Dependent / Education Allowance	162,000.00
Pension Fund	189,000.00
Total Salaries and Staff Expenses	1,989,000.00

Research Assistant Programme	
Subsistence/Lodging	124,000.00
Insurance	8,000.00
Documentation/Research	3,000.00
Equipment/Office Costs	2,000.00
Electricity/cable TV/ internet	5,000.00
Total Research Assistant Programme	142,000.00

General Administrative Expenses	
Staff Recruitment/Removal Expenses	10,000.00
Cleaning/Maintenance	20,000.00
Renovation	2,000.00
Electricity/Heating	5,000.00
Security	6,000.00
IT & Equipment	35,000.00
Leasing office equipment/print	38,000.00
Furniture/Small Fixed Assets	5,000.00
Postage/Freight	2,000.00
Telephone/Fax	30,000.00
Stationary/Supplies	12,000.00
Contacts with delegations	4,000.00
Periodicals, Subscriptions	3,000.00
Translation of Documents	5,000.00
Use and Maintenance of Cars	10,000.00
Insurance	10,000.00
Audit Fees / Accounting / Consulting	39,000.00
Legal Fees/Bank charges	5,000.00
Library - Documentation	1,000.00
Representation	2,000.00
Miscellaneous Gen. Adm. Exp.	4,000.00
Total General Administrative Expenses	248,000.00

Vienna Liaison Office	
Office Rent	14,000.00
Representation Vienna	2,500.00
Events	2,500.00
Deposit/Bank charges/Fee	1,000.00
Electricity	2,000.00
Cleaning	7,000.00
Furniture/Equipment	2,500.00
Postage/Freight	500.00
Telephone/fax	6,000.00
Stationary/Supplies	1,000.00
Miscellaneous Office Expenses	1,000.00
Total Vienna Liaison Office	40,000.00

STATUTORY MEETINGS

-- Annual Session	
Translation	90,000.00
Interpretation	106,000.00
External Staff	29,000.00
Staff Travel and Lodging	50,000.00
Consultants	2,000.00
Equipment/Office Expenses	2,000.00
Reproduction/Printing	1,000.00
Events and Public Relations	8,000.00
Local Transportation	5,000.00
Communications Costs	1,000.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,000.00
	295,000.00

-- Winter Meeting	
Staff Travel and Lodging	30,000.00
Office Expenses / Equipment	1,000.00
External Staff (Interpreters and Procedural Team)	20,000.00
Representation	1,000.00
	52,000.00

-- Autumn Meeting	
Staff Travel and Lodging	20,000.00
Office Expenses / Equipment	1,000.00
External Staff (Interpreters)	33,000.00
Representation	1,000.00
	55,000.00

-- Bureau Meetings and Ministerial Council	
Staff Travel and Lodging	16,000.00
Office Expenses / Equipment	1,000.00
External Staff (Interpreters)	12,000.00
Representation	1,000.00
	30,000.00

Total Statutory Meetings	432,000.00
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ACTIVITIES

General Travel Expenses	10,000.00
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-- Programmes and Missions	
Staff Travel and Lodging	36,000.00
Equipment/Office Expenses	4,000.00
Local Staff	10,000.00
	50,000.00

-- Presidential Support	
Staff Travel and Lodging	25,000.00
Local Staff	2,000.00
Representation	3,000.00
	30,000.00

-- Election Observation	
Staff Travel and Lodging	120,000.00
Conference Facilities	25,000.00
External Staff (Interpreters and Locally Recruited Staff)	55,000.00
Administrative Expenses	5,000.00
Pre-electoral Visit and Needs Assessment Missions	40,000.00
Follow-up Missions	25,000.00
	270,000.00

-- Publicity Expenses	
Press Releases/Brochures	10,000.00
P.R. Costs	5,000.00
	15,000.00

Total Activities	375,000.00
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TOTAL OSCE PA BUDGET PROPOSAL	3,226,000.00
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