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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Giving an Opinion on the Council of Europe Budget for 1960

Report[1]
Committee on the Budget and the Intergovernmental Work Programme
Rapporteur: Mr Adolfus MOLTER, Belgium, Socialist Group

1. 1959 - 11th Session - First part

A. Draft Opinion submitted by the Committee on the Budget[2]

The Assembly,

Having regard to the preliminary draft of Vote I I of the Budget for 1960 (Expenditure of the Consultative Assembly), transmitted to the Assembly by the Secretary- General of t h e Council of Europe ;

Having regard to the Budget of the Council of Europe for the Financial Year 1959, as adopted by the Committee of Ministers, together with the General Accounts for t he Financial Year 1957, this being the latest period for which final accounts are available;

Having regard to Resolution (53) 38 of the Committee of Ministers;

Having regard to the decision of the Committee of Ministers concerning the discussion of t h e Budget of the Council of Europe by the Consultative Assembly, which was transmitted by letter of the Secretary-General to the President of the Consultative Assembly on 19th March 1955,

Adopts the following Opinion :

I. Preliminary draft of Vote II of the Budget for 1960 (Expenditure of the Consultative Assembly

The Assembly approves the Secretary-General's proposals for the following Sub-heads

RRemuneration of temporary staff 44,000,000

Travel expenses and allowances for travel time 10,900,000

Technical staff seconded by national administrations 6,000,000

Maintenance of radio-electrical equipment . . 800,000

Hire of cars . . . 400,000

Representation, travel and subsistence expenses of the President 3,700,000

Expenditure for the President's private office. . 2,600,000

Official journeys of staff of the Secretariat . . . 10,100,000

Experts' travelling expenses, subsistence allowances and f e e s 2,350,000

DMiscellaneous expenditure and contingencies 1,100,000

European Prize 500,000

Third Conference of Local Authorities 10,000,000

For other items, the following estimates are suggested :

Sickness and accident insurance 500,000

Stationery and miscellaneous supplies 13,500,000

Publications . . .18,600,000

Representational and other official expenses incurred by members of the Assembly 6,300,000

II. Council of Europe Budget (Votes other than Vote II)

1. Creation of new posts

The staff provided for under Vote I, Head 1, should be augmented by the addition of a post of Administrative Officer to act as secretary to the European Conference of Local Authorities.

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2. (a) Adopted unanimously by the Committee.
MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE : MM. Zimmer (Chairman] ; Lannung (Alternate : Mme. Gloerfelt-Tarp), Mölter (Vice-Chairmen) ; Bichet, Chichester-Clark (Alternate : Sir David Campbell), Böyum, Canevari, Duynstee, Lychnos, McEllistrim, Mark, Schaus (Alternate : Linden), Sundström, Mlle. Thorsteinsdottir, M. Tokus.
N. B. THE NAMES OF THE REPRESENTATIVES w h o TOOK PART IN THE VOTE ARE PRINTED IN ITALICS.
(b) See 7 th Sitting, 24th April 1959 (draft Opinion adopted), and Opinion No. 31.

The Assembly also trusts that the Secretary-General will take into account the requests put forward in its Opinions Nos. 22 (1957) and 28 (1958), especially with regard to the appointment of Assistants to ensure the satisfactory functioning of the office of the Clerk of the Assembly.

2. Maintenance of the purchasing power of staff salaries

The Assembly, which made a number of proposals in this connection in its Opinion No. 28, has noted with interest the work done by the Committee of Experts on Pay and Allowances and by the Governmental Co-ordination Committee of Budgetary Experts, set up by the Council of Europe, 0. E. E. C, N. A. T. 0., and W. E. U.

It wishes, however, that the arrangement applicable to Grade A staff whereby salaries are to be reviewed every nine months and adjusted according to the cost-of-living index, should also be applied to staff in Grades B and C.

3. Exchange guarantee for non-French staff [Vote 7, Sub-head 6, b)

The Assembly notes t h a t the Committee of Ministers has not granted the Assembly's wish, expressed in its Opinion No. 28, that there should be no reduction of the percentage and exchange value of the pay and allowances which non-French staff are authorised to transfer to their country of origin. It regrets that a fresh reduction has taken place in this respect, entailing considerable losses to t h e staff members concerned.

The Assembly asks that this question be re-examined with a view to finding a fair solution, whereby non-French staff will be allowed to transfer a fixed part of their pay and allowances, the purchasing power of which should remain constant, to their country of origin.

4. Establishment of a pension scheme

The Assembly has noted the work done in this field by the Working Party on the European Civil Service. Recalling the views on this matter in its Opinion No. 28, the Assembly again urges t h a t this question, which is one of great political as well as social importance, be settled as soon as possible.

5. Guided tours of Europe House

The Assembly which, in its Opinion No. 28 proposed estimates concerning guided tours for visitors to the House of Europe, wishes to re-emphasise the importance it attaches to an improvement of this service and requests once more that adequate appropriations be included for this purpose in the Budget.

B. Explanatory Memorandum

1. General Remarks

The Assembly, which is required to express an opinion on t h e Budget of t h e Council of Europe for the Financial Year 1960 has, in accordance with the procedure agreed upon between the President of the Assembly and the Secretary-General, received from the latter the following documents[3]:

1. the preliminary draft Budget for t h e Financial Year 1960 (Vote II—-Expenditure for the Consultative Assembly);
2. the Budget of the Council of Europe for the Financial Year 1959, adopted by the Committee of Ministers;
3. the General Accounts for the Financial Year 1957, this being the latest period for which final accounts are available.

The Committee on the Budget has carefully scrutinised these documents in a spirit of strict economy in respect of all articles for which this was practicable. It agreed unanimously, however, that adequate appropriations must be made in every instance involving an expansion of the activities of the Council of Europe. The Committee feels itself in duty bound to see to it, in pursuance of the aims of the Statutes of the Council of Europe, t h a t the Council's activities are not impeded by purely financial considerations.

Concerning each of these documents,the Assembly makes the following comments :

1. The preliminary draft Budget for 1960 is only concerned with the expenditure relating to the Consultative Assembly, forming Vote II of the Budget. The estimates amount to 128,150,000 frs. as against 117,640,000 frs. for the Financial Year 1958. The increase is accounted for mainly by :
   a. an appropriation of 10,000,000 frs. already granted for the holding of a Third Conference of Local Authorities in 1960;
   b. a general increase :
      in remuneration of temporary staff,
      in travelling expenses and,
      the cost of stationery, miscellaneous supplies and printing. These increases are due primarily to the devaluation of the French franc.
2. The Budget of the Council of Europe for 1959 amounts, in expenditure and receipts, to 1,248,630,000 frs. It may be noted t h a t the expenditure of the Assembly given in Vote II accounts for less than 10 % of this figure. The details of the expenditure and receipts and the apportionment of contributions among the Member States will be found in t h e Appendices to Resolution (59) 5 of the Committee of Ministers, which precedes the Budget for the Financial Year 1959. The Committee on the Budget has ascertained that for most of the Sub-heads the estimates are in keeping with the needs of the Council of Europe. However, the Committee regrets that some of the requests made by it in Opinion No. 28 have not been granted. These included a request for appropriations which would make it possible to improve the service concerned with the reception of visitors to Europe House. Some of these requests haA'e been taken up again in the present Opinion and commented on in the detailed remarks below.
3. As regards the General Accounts for the Financial Year 1957, the Committee welcomes the accuracy with which the expenditure of the Council of Europe was estimated. Indeed, cancellations which, during previous years, have often exceeded normal limits, fell to less t h a n 0.5 % in the General Accounts for the Financial Year 1957.

2. Detailed comments

2.1. PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF VOTE II FOR 1 9 60 EXPENDITURE OF THE ASSEMBLY

Sub-head (a) Remuneration of temporary staff

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3. Les documents sont à la disposition des Représentants au Service de la Distribution.

The estimate for remuneration of temporary staff contains a provision for adjustment on the lines of what has been done for the permanent staff.

However, it has seemed advisable to assume a lower number of working days for temporary staff as a whole, the experience of 1 9 5 8 having shown that this item was slightly over-estimated.

Sub-head (c) Sickness and accident insurance

The Committee learnt that the Secretary- General was making arrangements to conclude, for the same rate of contribution as in 1 9 5 8 , new insurance contracts on terms more favourable to the staff. The Committee therefore proposes that the estimate be the same as that for 1 9 5 8 , i.e. 5 0 0 , 0 0 0 francs.

Sub-head (f) Stationery and miscellaneous supplies

The Committee considers that the system of distribution of Council of Europe documents might be reviewed, with the aim of reducing paper consumption. It therefore felt that an appropriation of 1 3 , 5 0 0 , 0 0 0 frs. should be sufficient to cover expenditure under this Sub-head.

Sub-head (g) Printing and publishing

In the preliminary draft, the Secretary- General submitted an estimate of 1 6 , 6 0 0 , 0 0 0 frs. The Committee on the Budget, having examined a request by the Cultural Committee, considers t h at this estimate should be increased to 1 8 , 6 0 0 , 0 0 0 frs. This is to make i t possible to distribute a number of publications designed to secure private moral and financial support for the Council of Europe Cultural Fund through the Representatives to the Consultative Assembly. These publications should comprise :

a. a handbook including the Statute of the Fund, Resolution 1 6 3 , t he explanatory memorandum to the Resolution adapted to meet the circumstances, and a brief outline of the programme of the Fund, in the language of each member country in which a campaign on behalf of the Cultural Fund is conducted on the initiative of one or more members of the Consultative Assembly;

b. a pamphlet on the aims and activities of the Council of Europe in the cultural sphere, similar to that once issued by the Directorate of Information and designed more especially to interest a broad section of the public in the efforts and achievements of the Cultural Fund;

c. a bulletin to be issued periodically by the Cultural Fund as a link between the various national committees and the central organs of the Cultural Fund, its chief purpose being to stimulate competition among the different countries in their work on behalf of the Cultural Fund.

Sub-head (k) Representational and other official expenses incurred by members of the Assembly

In the preliminary draft, the Secretary- General submitted an estimate of 4,300,000 frs. The Committee on the Budget, having examined a request by the Cultural Committee, considers that this appropriation should be increased by 2 million francs, bringing it to 6,300,000 frs. This increase is to enable the Chairman and members of the Cultural Committee to carry out the plan for securing private moral and financial support for the Council of Europe Cultural Fund, as advocated by the Assembly in Resolution 163.

The expenses concerned would include those incurred by the Chairman and members of the Cultural Committee, in connection with postal and, delivery charges, receptions for the setting up of national committees, the hire of premises, journeys to meet distinguished persons interested in the Fund, and possibly the remuneration of a secretary.

Sub-head (o) European Prize

As in previous years, the Committee on Local Authorities considers that the sum awarded to prize-winners should be 1,000,000 frs. The non-restrictive appropriation to cover sundry expenses entailed by the reception of prize-winners at Strasbourg should be increased from the previous 100,000 frs. to a figure more nearly approaching the actual cost in recent years.

The Committee on the Budget notes t h a t despite the repeated requests of the Assembly for an appropriation of 1,250,000 frs., the Committee of Ministers has never granted more than 350,000 (250,000 for the Prize and 100,000 (non-restrictive) for sundry costs). Hence the Committee on the Budget considers t h a t the Secretary-General's proposal for an appropriation of 500,000 frs (250,000 for the Prize and, in the light of experience, 250,000 for sundry costs) may be recommended for approval.

Sub-head (p) Third Session of the European Conference on Local Authorities

The Committee on the Budget would point out t h a t the Committee on Local Authorities requested an appropriation of 14 million frs. to cover the holding of the Conference. It is nevertheless grateful to the Committee of Ministers for having voted a sum of 10 million frs. which, while considered inadequate by the Assembly, is still a real improvement on the appropriations for previous years. The Committee has considered a request from the Committee on Local Authorities that this appropriation be increased to cover the cost of the meetings of certain organs of the Conference between Sessions. It considers that a supplementary estimate might possibly be submitted in due course.

2.2. VOTES OTHER THAN VOTE II

2.2.1. Creation of new posts

In its Opinions No. 22 (1957) and No. 28 (1958) the Assembly prepared a chart of the minimum needs of the Office of the Clerk. The number of staff placed entirely at the disposal of the Assembly as at 31st December 1958 is shown in the Appendix to this Report

In view of the increase in the work of the Office of the Clerk since 1956, t he Committee on the Budget proposes to draw the Secretary-General's attention to this situation, with particular reference to the inadequate number of assistants.

Furthermore, the Assembly considers i t necessary to increase the strength of the Clerk's Office by one post of administrative officer for the Secretariat of the European Conference on Local Authorities.

2.2.2. Guided tours of Europe House

The Committee, in the Explanatory Memorandum (Doc. 819) to Opinion No. 28 considered that now, more than ever, efforts should be made to promote the idea of European unification and that one of the best ways of doing this was to make European institutoins known to young people. The Committee therefore felt t h a t the Council of Europe should give a warm welcome to those who visit it, suitable explanatory talks being given to foster their interest in the European idea.

In order to improve the existing facilities, t h e Committee made a number of practical suggestions and the Assembly requested appropriations to cover the employment of guides, the publication of pamphlets and folders intended for visitors to Europe House and the setting up there of an historical exhibition with exhibits from the Council of Europe Pavilion in Brussels, as well as t h e installation of a projection theatre where films might be shown to visitors, in particular to students.

The Committee requests that an adequate appropriation for improving arrangements for the reception of visitors be made for the Financial Year 1960.

2.2.3.

The Committee has no special comments to make on the remaining items in the Budget.

TABLE showing staff of the Secretariat-General placed entirely at the disposal of the Assembly on 31st December 1958

1	Clerk of the Assembly having the rank of Deputy Secretary- General	1 Assistant
1	Deputy Clerk of the Assembly having the rank of Head of Department	1 Assistant
1	Counsellor	1 Assistant
1	First Secretary (Head of Private Office of the President)	1 Assistant
1	First Secretary (Bureau of the Assembly, Standing Committee and Committee on Rules of Procedure)	1 Assistant
1	First Secretary (Political Committee, Joint Committee	2 Assistants
1	Secretary (Economic Committee	1 Assistant
1	Secretary (Social Committee)	1 Assistant

1	Secretary (Legal Committee, Committee on Non-Represented Nations)	1 Assistant
1	Secretary (Committee on Agriculture)	1 Assistant
1	Secrétaire (commission de l'Agriculture)	1 Assistant
1	Secretary (Committee on the Budget, Working Party on Relations with National Parliaments)	
1	Secretary (Committee on Population and Refugees)	
1	Secretary (Sittings, documents,Yearbook)	
1	Supervisor (Committee on Local Authorities)	1 Assistant
		13 Assistants
1	Clerk of the Assembly having the rank of Deputy Secretary-General	
1	Deputy Clerk of the Assembly having the rank of Head of Department	
1	Counsellor	
3	First Secretaries	
8	Secretaries (Second and transitional Secretaries)	
1	Supervisor	