

Opinion 31 (1959)¹

Council of Europe Budget for 1960

Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly,

Having regard to the preliminary draft of Vote II of the Budget for 1960 (Expenditure of the Consultative Assembly), transmitted to the Assembly by the Secretary-General of the 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 the 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 the 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 :

See Table

For other items, the following estimates are suggested :

See Table

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

1. Creation of new posts

The Assembly considers that the increased work devolving on the Office of the Clerk as a result of the activities of the European Conference of Local Authorities necessitates an increase in the staff provided for under Vote I, Head I, of one post of administrative officer.

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

1. (see [Doc. 993](#), Report of the Committee on the Budget). This Opinion was adopted by the Assembly at its 7th Sitting, on 24th April 1959



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 Coordination Committee of Budgetary Experts set up by the Council of Europe, O.E.E.C., N.A.T.O., 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 I, Sub.head 6 b)

The Assembly notes that 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 connection, entailing considerable losses to the 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 that 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 Europe House, 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.

Appendix

Sub-head (a) - Remuneration of temporary staff	44,000,000 francs
Sub-head (b) - Travel expenses and allowances for travel time	10,900,000 francs
Sub-head (d) - Technical staff seconded by national administrations	6,000,000 francs
Sub-head (e) - Maintenance of radio-electrical equipment	800,000 francs
Sub-head (h) - Hire of cars	400,000 francs
Sub-head (i) - Representation, travel and subsistence expenses of the President	3,700,000 francs
Sub-head (j) - Expenditure for the President's private office	2,600,000 francs
Sub-head (l) - Official journeys of staff of the Secretariat	10,100,000 francs
Sub-head (m) - Experts' travelling expenses, subsistence allowances and fees	2,350,000 francs
Sub-head (n) - Miscellaneous expenditure and contingencies	1,100,000 francs
Sub-head (o) - European Prize	500,000 francs
Sub-head (c) - Sickness and accident insurance	500,000 francs
Sub-head (f) - Stationery and miscellaneous supplies	13,500,000 francs
Sub-head (g) - Publications	18,600,000 francs
Sub-head (k) - Representational and other official expenses incurred by members of the Assembly	6,300,000 francs
Sub-head (p) - European Conference of Local Authorities	12,000,000 francs