

Group of the Progressive Alliance of
Socialists & Democrats
in the European Parliament

European Parliament
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To whom it may concern

According the rules of the European parliament in force regarding the **parliamentary assistance allowance**, members of the European parliament (MEPs) are entitled to the reimbursement of expenses incurred in employing one or more parliamentary assistants.

Parliamentary assistants may be either "local" (employed in the member's constituency) or "accredited" (employed in Parliament premises).

The admissibility of these expenses is governed by Bureau decisions adopted on 5 July 2010 and 26 October 2015. Expenses are admissible only if they relate to the exercise of the members' mandate.

Among the tasks to be performed by parliamentary assistants, either local or accredited, with corresponding expenses to be defrayed, the Bureau decisions list the following:

- office management (administrative and secretariat support, diary, travel arrangements, archiving, correspondence, meetings preparation and organisation)
- support to members's activities (press conferences, seminars, meetings, visitors' groups, speeches, translations, media reviews, assistance to committee work)
- IT related support (website management)

The Bureau decisions also list inadmissible expenses such as:

- personal expenses (in connection to members' private life)
- any expenses in relation to elections, referendums or any other campaigns, whether at national or EU level
- any expense that is a grant or donation of a political nature

We can therefore conclude from the above that employing assistants is for the sole benefit of members' parliamentary work and for the direct realisation of their mandate. Any other purpose is contrary to the rules in force.

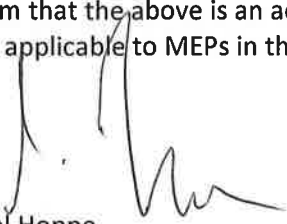
As regards the **General Expenditure Allowance (GEA)** that members received as lump-sum allowance on a monthly basis, its use is regulated by a Bureau decision approved on 2 July 2018. The GEA is intended to cover costs incurred which are directly related to the exercise of the member's parliamentary mandate.

It is meant to cover expenses such as: office management expenses (office space for the use of the members' parliamentary activities and available to their staff), telephone bills, postal charges, purchase of office supplies, purchase of IT equipment, or internet subscriptions.

The rules specify that the amounts paid may not be used to cover personal expenses or to fund grants or donations of a political nature.

As a conclusion, the GEA is not meant for subsidising any external body, including political parties or foundations.

I confirm that the above is an accurate and honest description of the existing rules (both rights and duties) applicable to MEPs in the context of their mandate.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Michael Hoppe', written over a faint horizontal line.

Michael Hoppe
Secretary general
S&D Group