

General Affairs Council press release: extract concerning the Statute for Members of the European Parliament (26 April 1999)

Caption: Following the European Parliament's adoption, on 3 December 1998, of a draft Statute for its Members, the General Affairs Council of 26 April 1999 reaches agreement on the main elements of an overall compromise regarding the draft Statute.

Source: PRESS OFFICE/NEWSROOM. [ON-LINE]. [Brussels]: Council of the European Union, [24.11.2005]. 7561/99 (Press 118). Available on http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/gena/07561e~1.htm.

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http://www.cvce.eu/obj/general_affairs_council_press_release_extract_concerning_the_statute_for_members_of_the_european_parliament_26_april_1999-en-9058bf92-852a-49cb-8bb7-90e2999bb339.html

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**2173rd Council meeting
- General Affairs -
Luxembourg, 26 April 1999**

[...]

Statute for Members of the European Parliament

The Council reached agreement on the main elements of an overall compromise on the draft Statute for Members of the European Parliament. The Parliament had adopted its draft on 3 December 1998 and sent it to the Council.

The compromise, taking as its starting point an agreement in principle on a standard parliamentary allowance, to be paid for out of the Community budget, of EUR 5 677 per month, representing the average of the current national allowances, focuses on the solution of the main outstanding problems, namely:

- the legal basis: Article 190(5) of the Treaty (as amended by the Treaty of Amsterdam, ex-Article 138 TEC) constitutes an adequate legal basis for all aspects whose incorporation in the Statute for Members of the European Parliament is contemplated;
- taxation: the principle of imposing Community taxation on the parliamentary allowance and on other income and emoluments disbursed by the Communities should be laid down in the Statute.

However, the option is open for Member States to impose additional national taxes on the income of Members coming under their national taxation systems. Member States which wish to take up this option must state their intention before the final adoption of the Statute by the European Parliament. The sums thus raised in national taxation should preferably be paid over to the budget of the European Communities.

The Statute should also cover the following: incompatibilities, the independent mandate, immunity, verification of credentials and validity of mandate, vacant seats, substitution, reimbursement of costs actually incurred by Members, end-of-service allowance, retirement pension, invalidity pension, survivor's pension, sickness, pregnancy and accident cover and a register of Members' interests.

The Council instructed the Presidency to communicate the outcome of its discussions to the European Parliament. It underlined its willingness to take a decision very quickly (by written procedure) on a revised draft formally submitted to it by the European Parliament after 1 May 1999, the date of entry into force of the Treaty of Amsterdam. The European Parliament could thus be in a position to adopt its Statute during its final part-session, from 3 to 7 May 1999.

[...]