

Letter from the President of the Council to Josep Borrell (Brussels, 6 June 2005)

Caption: In this letter dated June 2005 sent to Josep Borrell, President of the European Parliament, the President of the Council sets out the elements which would allow the Council to give its agreement to the draft Statute for Members of the European Parliament.

Source: Note from the Presidency to Delegations, Subject: Statute of Members of the European Parliament - Letter to the President of the European Parliament. 9747/1/5 REV 1. Brussels: Council of the European Union, 06.06.2005. 3 p. "Letter from the President of the Council to Josep Borrell", p. 2-3.

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COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
GENERAL SECRETARIAT
RUE DE LA LOI, 175
B – 1048 BRUXELLES
Tél: (32) 02 285 71 09.
Fax: (32) 02 285 73 93
TELEGRAMS : CONSILIUM BRUXELLES
Telex: 21711 Consil B

Brussels,

Mr Josep BORRELL FONTELLES
President of the European Parliament
Plateau du Kirchberg
L - 2929 LUXEMBOURG

Sir,

Subject: Statute for Members of the European Parliament

Following the European Parliament resolution of 4 June 2003 on the above matter, and the resolution of 17 December 2003, which was presented to the Council on 26 January 2004 (doc. 5575/04), and after an exchange of letters between the President of the Council and the European Parliament in September and October 2004, the Council is now in a position to communicate to you the following elements which would allow it to give its agreement to the draft Statute:

1. set MEPs' allowance, from the date on which the Statute enters into force, at EUR 7 000 before tax, to be presented, if appropriate, in the form of a percentage of the basic salary of a judge of the Court of Justice of the European Communities;
2. include in the enacting terms of the Decision the principle of reimbursement of travel, mission and staff expenses on the basis of actual cost, with the recognition that the current flat-rate allowance, set by the European Parliament for other general expenses related to MEPs' term of office, would be maintained;
3. pension contributions would be borne by the Parliament;
4. MEPs would bear 1/3rd of medical and accident insurance contributions and the European Parliament would pay the remaining 2/3rds;
5. taxes levied on parliamentary allowances and pensions would accrue to the budget of the Communities, except for Member States which wished to apply their national tax law, in which case any double taxation would be excluded;
6. from the date on which the Statute enters into force, a transitional provision would be laid down, for two full terms of office, during which each Member State could opt to maintain the current national system of allowances for all as elected MEPs.

I hope that these elements will enable us to overcome the obstacles which had prevented an agreement in January 2004.

It is now for your institution to adopt its position, following its internal procedures.

Finally, if these modifications are accepted by the European Parliament, both our institutions should perform a final check of the text before the European Parliament adopts the Statute.

Please find enclosed the declaration by the Representatives of the Member States meeting within the Council.

Yours sincerely

The President of the Council