

## UK-EU PARLIAMENTARY PARTNERSHIP ASSEMBLY MOTION

### FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES

*Memorandum by the Accounting Officer*

1. A motion has been tabled by the Leader of the House to approve the establishment of a Parliamentary Partnership Assembly (PPA) between the European Parliament and the UK Parliament and to agree to set up a delegation of 35 members from the UK Parliament to the PPA. If the motion were agreed, and a comparable decision were reached by the House of Lords, the delegation would be nominated, funded and supported in the same way as the delegations to the NATO PA, OSCE PA and PACE. The full text of the motion can be found on the Order Paper.
2. Under Standing Order No. 22C, a motion which if agreed would have a direct consequence of additional expenditure under the House of Commons: Administration Estimate, estimated to be £50,000 or more shall not be considered by the House unless a memorandum setting out its expected financial consequences has been made available to the House by the Accounting Officer. This memorandum therefore seeks to set out the expected financial consequences were the House to agree this motion.
3. This memorandum relates only to the costs that would impact the House of Commons Administration Estimate and which are not included in the current estimate. It is usual for the costs of delegations to be shared between the two Houses. This memorandum necessarily makes assumptions about the cost contribution from the House of Commons, but it could be greater or smaller depending on the staffing and wider contribution from the House of Lords.
4. The actual cost will also vary depending upon the pattern of activity undertaken by the delegation and participation rates. This memorandum is based on best estimates based on the experience of existing delegations and the expectation that the new PPA will meet in full twice a year (once in the UK and once in Brussels), with limited additional meetings of the two co-chairs or the bureau (three UK members and three EP members).
5. Hosting the PPA in Westminster will entail expenditure on meeting expenses; participating in meetings hosted by the European Parliament will entail travel, accommodation and subsistence for the delegation and staff. The House of Commons Commission has agreed to apply the existing guidance on support for delegations to the new delegation to the UK-EU PPA.
6. The UK delegation to the PPA would be supported by a dedicated delegation secretary working on this and the delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly to the Council of Europe. This represents an increase in staffing costs of approximately 0.6 of a full time post. Further administrative support will be provided from the Interparliamentary Relations Office, and policy support will be drawn from the Select Committee Team specialist pool. There may be some additional costs involved in staff attendance to run PPA plenary meetings in London.
7. Based on these broad assumptions the total anticipated cost to the House of Commons for the operation of the UK delegation to the UK-EU PPA per financial year is £66,600.

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