



*WORKING GROUP ON FINANCING OF THE ASSEMBLY AND  
REVISION OF THE PA-UfM RULES OF PROCEDURE*

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**MINUTES**  
of the meeting of 12 November 2012, from 13.30 to 14.30  
BRUSSELS

The Chair, Isabelle Durant, opened the meeting on Monday 12 November 2012 at 15.30.

**Present:** Ms Hachichi (Algeria), Mr Kikane (Algeria), Mr Sanduqua (Palestinian Authority), Mr Schennach (Austria), Ms Mulić (Croatia), Mr Kaabi (Tunisia), Ms Merai-Friaa (Tunisia), Mr Ercoşkun (Turkey).

**1. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted without amendment.

**2. Approval of minutes of meeting of 9 February 2012**

The minutes of the meeting of 9 February 2012 were approved without amendment.

**3. Chair's announcements**

The Chair welcomed the participants to this, the first meeting of the Working Group in its new form.

**4. Appointment of vice-chair**

The Working Party confirmed the appointment of Ercoşkun Ali, Chair of the PA-UfM Economic Committee and a member of the Turkish delegation, as vice-president.

## **5. PA-UfM draft budget for 2013 and secretariat**

The Chair presented the 2013 draft budget of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (PA-UfM). She pointed out that, under Article 21 of the Assembly's Financial Regulation, the Working Group was to send the budget to the national parliaments for the purposes of consultation before the Bureau approved it. Owing to the time constraints caused by Belgium's late signing of the headquarters agreement – thus delaying the setting-up of the Assembly's secretariat – that would not be possible this year. The parliaments would therefore be consulted after the Bureau, which was meeting on that day, had given its approval. The total budget was equal to the amount agreed on at the sixth plenary session of the Assembly in Amman, Jordan in March 2010. Total revenue and expenditure amounted to EUR 608 720.

The Working Group adopted the budget for 2013 and would inform the Bureau of the Assembly and the national parliaments of its decision.

## **6. Exchange of views on the composition of the PA-UfM's standing committees and on the assigning of Members to the committees**

The Chair stated that at its plenary session in 2009 the PA-UfM decided to increase the number of its members from 260 to 280 to include members from six new countries. The five committees had therefore been expanded: the Political, Economic and Culture Committees would now have 64 members and the Women's Rights and Energy Committees would have 44. The issues of how seats on the committees should be assigned remained unresolved, and at its meeting of 8 June 2012 the Bureau had therefore instructed the Working Group to propose criteria to govern the distribution of seats among delegations from each part of the Assembly.

The working group decided to submit a proposal taking account of both the accession of Croatia to the European Union on 1 July 2013 and the strong likelihood that Libya would be accepted as a member of the UfM, whilst also attempting to ensure an equal number of members were appointed to each committee. In the ensuing discussion, Mr Schennach stated that a redistribution of seats was necessary, and that all committees should have an equal number of seats since the Women's Rights and Energy Committees were now standing committees and had therefore become more important and garnered greater interest among members.

## **7. Other business**

Mr Ercoşkun thanked the members for the confidence they had shown in him and the new members of the Working Group (Ms Hachichi, Mr Kikane, Ms Mulic and Ms Merai-Friia) presented themselves to their new colleagues.

## **8. Date and place of next meeting**

The next meeting would be held in early 2013. The members would be informed of the precise date as soon as possible.