

Amendment 31

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on behalf of the ALDE Group

Report**A8-0108/2019****Claudia Schmidt**

Discharge 2017: EU general budget - European Parliament
(2018/2167(DEC))

Motion for a resolution**Paragraph 107***Motion for a resolution*

107. *Notes the activities of the Bureau in relation to the General Expenditure Allowance (GEA), in particular by creating an ad hoc working group for defining and publishing the rules concerning the use of this allowance; regrets, however, that the only decision taken by the Bureau relates to a non-exhaustive list of eligible expenses; further notes that the working group of the Bureau could agree on the need for each Member of Parliament to have a separate bank account dedicated to funds received as part of the GEA; notes the Bureau's decision with regard to the GEA to apply the agreed modifications only after the 2019 elections; calls for Members to be fully accountable for their spending under this allowance ; notes that previous discharge resolutions called for:*

- *the need to define, expand and publish the rules concerning the use of the GEA (which requires, inter alia, an exhaustive list of eligible expenses);*

Amendment

107. *Recalls that in the past, Parliament has voted in favour of the position that Members should keep the receipts for their expenses, should annually publish an overview of their expenses, and should reimburse the unspent amount of money at the termination of their mandate or the end of their terms; recalls the decision of the Bureau to establish an ad-hoc Working Group for defining and publishing the rules concerning the use of the General Expenditure Allowance (GEA) following previous discharge recommendations; regrets the decision of the Bureau to disregard the proposal of the Working Group to introduce checks of the separate GEA accounts by an external auditor, thus preventing a meaningful reform of the GEA; calls on the Bureau to immediately resume discussions about the GEA and to come up with an agreement as soon as possible; believes that such agreement should include common rules for greater transparency and financial accountability, requiring:*

- *Members to keep all receipts pertaining to the GEA;*

- *that all receipts pertaining to the GEA be kept by Members;*

- *that the unspent share of the GEA be returned at the end of a Member's mandate;*

- *the admission of an independent auditor in charge of the annual check of the accounts and the publication of an auditor's opinion;*

- *Members to return the unspent share of the GEA at the end of their mandate;*

Or. en