

Amendment 3**Mikuláš Peksa**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Report**A9-0072/2024****Luke Ming Flanagan**Discharge 2022: EU general budget - European Economic and Social Committee
2023/2135(DEC)**Motion for a resolution****Paragraph 12***Motion for a resolution**Amendment*

12. Is aware that the decisions pertaining to the Committee members' allowances for attending meetings and to the amount of such allowances are taken by the Council; regrets that, following the progressive lifting of travel restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council decided against repealing the temporary 2021 decision granting an allowance of EUR 145 for members' remote attendance of meetings, which remained in force until 25 May 2023, when a new Council decision was adopted with a flat rate of EUR 145 per day for remote attendance of meetings; considers that remote attendance is an important instrument for modern institutions given that, inter alia, it reduces the costs of meetings and allows broader participation, especially during crisis situations, as demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic; considers, nevertheless, that ***an allowance for remote attendance, despite being reduced, is difficult for the public to understand, even more so when taking into consideration the difference paid to the members of the Committee and members of the CoR for remote attendance; notes the several layers of control carried out to prove that a member is attending a meeting remotely prior to the payment of the allowance;***

12. Is aware that the decisions pertaining to the Committee members' allowances for attending meetings and to the amount of such allowances are taken by the Council; regrets that, following the progressive lifting of travel restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council decided against repealing the temporary 2021 decision granting an allowance of EUR 145 for members' remote attendance of meetings, which remained in force until 25 May 2023, when a new Council decision was adopted with a flat rate of EUR 145 per day for remote attendance of meetings; considers that remote attendance is an important instrument for modern institutions given that, inter alia, it reduces the costs of meetings and allows broader participation, especially during crisis situations, as demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic ***and significantly reduces carbon footprint and travel costs;*** considers, nevertheless, that ***there should be no difference between the flat rate allowance*** paid to the members of the Committee and members of the CoR for remote attendance; notes the several layers of control carried out to prove that a member is attending a meeting remotely prior to the payment of the allowance;

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