

## The Bureau of the Congress

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## Status of Turkey and budgetary implications

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<sup>1</sup> This document is classified as confidential until it has been examined by the Bureau of the Congress.

## **1. The budgetary consequences of Turkey becoming a major contributor (2016)**

On 14 January 2015, the Committee of Ministers was informed by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe of the undertaking by Turkey to become a major contributor to the Ordinary Budget as from 1 January 2016. (For the Council of Europe as a whole, this change corresponded to additional contributions of €19 900 000, including €16 500 000 for the ordinary budget).

The languages of the member countries which are major contributors are regarded as working languages of the PACE. The Assembly therefore amended Rule 28.3 of its Rules of Procedure on 22 May 2015 to include the Turkish language among its working languages.

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure in force at the time, the Congress introduced the Turkish language among its working languages as from 1 January 2016.

Budgetary consequences for the Congress:

- the ordinary budget of the Congress was increased to cover interpretation and translation costs for Turkish: + €200 000;
- in addition, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe allocated an exceptional amount to the Congress to expand its work in the area of combating radicalisation: + €150 000.

Alongside Turkey's undertaking to become a major contributor to the Ordinary Budget, the Committee of Ministers, taking account of the country's population growth, adopted a resolution increasing the number of its representatives in the Parliamentary Assembly. The Turkish delegation therefore increased from 12 to 18 representatives.

In accordance with Statutory Resolution CM/Res(2011)2 relating to the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, each member State has the right to the same number of seats in the Congress as it has in the Parliamentary Assembly. The Turkish delegation to the Congress therefore increased from 12 to 18 representatives at the 29th plenary session in October 2015.

The ordinary budget of the Congress was increased to cover the travel and subsistence expenses of the six additional Turkish representatives: + €35 000.

Overall, the ordinary budget of the Congress for 2016 was increased by €385 000.

## **2. The consequences of the cessation of Turkey's major contributor status (2018)**

In November 2017, the Secretary General was notified of Turkey's intention to discontinue its status as a major contributor as from 1 January 2018. The Deputies therefore decided to reduce Turkey's contributions to the Programme and Budget for 2018-2019 with effect from 1 January 2018. (For the Council of Europe as a whole, this change corresponded to a reduction of €19 300 000 in contributions, including €16 000 000 for the ordinary budget).

To offset this sharp reduction in the Council of Europe's budget, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe decided, in agreement with the Committee of Ministers, to freeze vacant posts in the Organisation and reduce the operating budgets of the major administrative entities.

Budgetary consequences for the Congress:

- two posts (A5 and A4 vacant at the time) were frozen: - €274 000
- the ordinary budget of the Congress was reduced on account of the discontinuation of interpretation and translation for Turkish: - €200 000
- the operating budget was reduced: - €175 000

Overall, the ordinary budget of the Congress for 2018 was reduced by €649 000.