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| **MINISTERS’ DEPUTIES** | Decisions | **CM/Del/Dec(2023)1481/11.1-Part1** | 23 November 2023 |

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| **1481st (Budget) meeting, 21-23 November 2023**    **11.1 COUNCIL OF EUROPE BUDGETS**  **Financial Years 2024-2027**  Ordinary Budget, Subsidiary Budgets – Services, Subsidiary Budget of the European Youth Centres, Subsidiary Budget for Publications and adjustment of the scales of contributions of member States to the budgets of the Council of Europe  Reference documents  [CM(2023)130](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM(2023)130" \o "[1481/11.1] Draft Programme and Budget 2024-2027), [CM(2023)130-add](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM(2023)130-add" \o "[1481/11.1] Draft Programme and Budget 2024-2027 - Scenarios), [CM(2023)130-corr](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM(2023)130-corr" \o "[1481/11.1] Draft Programme and Budget 2024-2027 - Secretary General’s proposal), [CM(2023)135](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM(2023)135" \o "[1478/11.5] Meeting report of the Budget Committee – September 2023 session), [CM(2023)129](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM(2023)129" \o "[1481/11.1] Draft Programme and Budget 2024-2027 - Adjustment of scales of contributions to the budgets of the Council of Europe for the financial year 2024 - Secretariat Memorandum prepared by the Directorate of Programme and Budget), [CM(2023)131-prov2](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM(2023)131-prov2" \o "[1481/11.1] Draft Programme and Budget 2024-2027 - Intergovernmental structure), [CM(2023)131-addrev2](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM(2023)131-addrev2), [DD(2023)371](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=DD(2023)371" \o "GR-PBA (7 November 2023) - 1. Draft Programme and Budget 2024-2027 - Document distributed at the request of the Chair of the GR-PBA), [DD(2023)371-corr](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=DD(2023)371-corr), [DD(2023)371-corrrev](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=DD(2023)371-corrrev" \o "GR-PBA - Draft Programme and Budget 2024-2027 - Document distributed at the request of the Chair of the GR-PBA), [DD(2023)371-corr2](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=DD(2023)371-corr2" \o "GR-PBA (21 November 2023) - Draft Programme and Budget 2024-2027 - Document distributed at the request of the Chair of the GR-PBA), [DD(2023)388-rev](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=DD(2023)388-rev" \o "GR-PBA - Draft Programme and Budget 2024-2027 (continued) - Draft terms of reference of the CDPC - Document distributed at the request of the Chair of the GR-PBA / GR-PBA informel (17 novembre 2023) - Projet de Programme et Budget 2024-2027 (suite) - Projet de mandat du CDPC - Document distribué à la demande du Président du GR-PBA) |

*Decisions*

The Deputies

1. welcomed the Programme and Budget 2024-2027 as reflecting the priorities and decisions taken at the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Reykjavík on 16 and 17 May 2023 at which the Leaders of Europe came together to renew their commitment to the Council of Europe’s values and principles, to give further priority and direction to its work, and to state their resolve against Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine;

2. recalled the budgetary efforts collectively undertaken by member States to maintain the level of activities of the Council of Europe following the expulsion of the Russian Federation on 16 March 2022, in the face of the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, and decided to continue these efforts;

3. recalled also the commitment made by the Heads of State and Government in Reykjavík to ensure that the Council of Europe, and especially the Court, is financially sustainable;

4. decided to allocate additional targeted resources to the Council of Europe within the framework of the 2024-2025 Budget in order to protect democratic security in Europe and to counter the undermining of human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe;

5. adopted Resolution [CM/Res(2023)22](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM/Res(2023)22" \o "*) approving the adjustment of the scale of contributions to the Council of Europe Ordinary Budget for 2024, the Programme for 2024-2027 and the Budget for 2024, as well as the Budget for 2025 on a provisional basis;

6. agreed, on an exceptional basis, to suspend interest on late payment for the fulfilment of Ukraine’s financial obligations for 2024 and 2025;

7. commended the new approach by the Secretary General for the preparation of the draft Programme and Budget, including:

- the submission of funding scenarios/options, following early consultations with member States;

- the transversal presentation of programmes and allocation of operational and staff resources; and

- consultations of committees, prior to proposing draft deliverables and their priority order, respecting, to the extent possible, a unified terminology;

and encouraged the same approach for future exercises and mid-term reviews;

8. emphasised the necessity to continue budgetary and programmatic prioritisation, including by the allocation or reallocation of resources according to a thorough evaluation of activities, and identifying areas for reprioritisation, to ensure the Organisation is delivering the outcomes of the Reykjavík Summit and responding appropriately to the evolving context; to this end, encouraged also a focus on strengthening the work on topics of priority where the Council of Europe has a competitive advantage and/or unique legal instruments and expertise, while sunsetting or downsizing, as appropriate, other activities which are of less priority or deemed to have achieved their goal and/or could risk unnecessary duplication with other international organisations;

9. underlined the determination of the Heads of State and Government to ensure a modern Council of Europe, that is more agile, resilient and results-oriented, and, to this end, welcomed the commitment of the Secretary General to continue the reform process to achieve greater transparency, efficiency and effectiveness and invited the Secretary General to seek further budgetary efficiency with quantifiable results whenever possible, aiming for at least 1% annual efficiency gains notably to be able to reinvest in priority sectors;

10. invited the Secretary General to continue fostering an organisational culture of mobility;

11. invited the Secretary General to present a mid-term review by 15 August 2025, as reflected in [DD(2021)283-rev2](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=DD(2021)283-rev2" \o "GR-PBA (9 November 2021) - 1. Draft Programme and Budget 2022-2025 - Mid-term review outline - Document distributed at the request of the Secretariat), to ensure the Organisation’s strategic direction and to support, and improve as necessary, its implementation, notably through reinvesting efficiency savings in key strategic priorities and emerging challenges and rationalising activities as appropriate, as well as ensuring the links with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. In this context, invited the Secretary General to include an evaluation by the Directorate of Internal Oversight to assess the degree to which the Reykjavík Declaration has been implemented, and which were the key factors influencing the implementation; and instructed their Rapporteur Group on Programme, Budget and Administration (GR-PBA) to keep under review the prioritisation of the Programme and Budget with a view to feeding into the preparation of the adjusted Programme and Budget for 2026-2027;

12. recalling the importance of the co-operation dimension of the Organisation for the protection and promotion of human rights, the rule of law and democracy in member States, agreed to strengthen this dimension through continued fostering of the decentralisation of the co-operation activities and adjusted funding on the Ordinary Budget and instructed their Rapporteur Group on Democracy (GR-DEM) to examine the rationale of the Secretary General’s proposed financing modalities and their impact on the governance aspects with a view to reporting back initially by mid-2024; and invited the GR-PBA to examine the proposed financing modalities and the parameters of a possible distinct scale of contributions for the co-operation dimension;

13. invited member and observer States to consider contributing or increasing voluntary contributions in order to supplement the funding available for Action Plans;

14. in light of the External Auditor’s comments, instructed the GR-PBA to examine the use of voluntary contributions in the broader context of the Council of Europe’s activities, including for the European Court of Human Rights and the execution of judgments, with a view to taking a more strategic and sustainable approach and to report back before the end of 2024;

15. welcomed the reflection proposed by the Secretary General on enlarging the scope of the Partial Agreement Quality of Medicines and Healthcare (EDQM, Pharmacopoeia) to encompass the work undertaken on the Ordinary Budget in the fields of biomedicine and health, Medicrime and organ trafficking (cf. [DD(2023)341](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=DD(2023)341" \o "Informal GR-PBA meeting (19 October 2023) - 1. Draft Programme and Budget 2024-2027 - Document distributed at the request of the Secretariat)) and requested to be provided, in the framework of the preparation of the 2025 Budget, with potential solutions thereof;

16. welcomed the efforts undertaken towards a greener Council of Europe and invited the Secretary General to submit, in the first quarter of 2024, a road map towards an even more sustainable reduction of the carbon footprint, including through a potential carbon offsetting as need be of Council of Europe activities across the board and to propose quantifiable targets in this regard, and their possible financial implications, to be discussed no later than the end of 2024;

17. approved the terms of reference of the steering and ad hoc committees, and their subordinate groups, as they appear in document [CM(2023)131-addfinal](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM(2023)131-addfinal" \o "[1481/11.1] Programme and Budget 2024-2027 - Terms of Reference of Intergovernmental Structures), for 2024-2025, and for 2026-2027 on a provisional basis, while recognising that terms of reference may be adjusted as necessary in the light of the mid-term review;

18. fixed the rates of contribution to the special accounts for cultural and sports activities for 2024 of the non-member State Parties to the European Cultural Convention according to Table 31 of document [CM(2023)129](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM(2023)129" \o "[1481/11.1] Draft Programme and Budget 2024-2027 - Adjustment of scales of contributions to the budgets of the Council of Europe for the financial year 2024 - Secretariat Memorandum prepared by the Directorate of Programme and Budget);

19. approved the amounts for the rates of the various retainers, honoraria and daily allowances with effect from 1 January 2024, as they appear in Table 25 at Appendix VI of document [CM(2023)130](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM(2023)130" \o "[1481/11.1] Draft Programme and Budget 2024-2027);[[1]](#footnote-1)

20. fixed, as follows, with effect from 1 January 2024, the rates of the annual representational allowances for specially appointed officials:

‑ Secretary General €24 0382

‑ Deputy Secretary General and Secretary General of the Assembly

having the rank of Deputy Secretary General €9 7992

21. fixed, as follows, with effect from 1 January 2024, registration fees for the activities of the European Youth Centres:

- Study sessions €50

- Training courses €60

- Symposia/Conferences €40

22. approved the organisation chart, with effect from 1 January 2024, as it appears at Appendix II in document [CM(2023)130](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM(2023)130" \o "[1481/11.1] Draft Programme and Budget 2024-2027);

23. fixed the total appropriations for staff-related expenditure at €173 739 700, noting that in accordance with their decision adopted at their 971st meeting (12 July 2006) ([CM/Del/Dec(2006)971/11.6](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM/Del/Dec(2006)971/11.6" \o "Thematic Co-ordinator on the consideration of a ceiling on total staff-related appropriations (TC-SAL))), any increase in this total would require their approval;

24. approved the table of jobs, as it appears in Tables 26 and 27 at Appendix VII of document [CM(2023)130](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM(2023)130" \o "[1481/11.1] Draft Programme and Budget 2024-2027) as amended by [DD(2023)371](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=DD(2023)371" \o "GR-PBA (7 November 2023) - 1. Draft Programme and Budget 2024-2027 - Document distributed at the request of the Chair of the GR-PBA) and [DD(2023)371-corrrev](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=DD(2023)371-corrrev" \o "GR-PBA - Draft Programme and Budget 2024-2027 - Document distributed at the request of the Chair of the GR-PBA);

25. approved the investment projects plan for 2024, as well as for 2025 on a provisional basis, as it appears in the Table at Appendix IV of document [CM(2023)130](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=CM(2023)130" \o "[1481/11.1] Draft Programme and Budget 2024-2027) as amended by [DD(2023)371](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?Reference=DD(2023)371" \o "GR-PBA (7 November 2023) - 1. Draft Programme and Budget 2024-2027 - Document distributed at the request of the Chair of the GR-PBA);

26. having regard to Article 28 of the Financial Regulations[[2]](#footnote-2) governing transfers between programme lines within the operational pillars and between programme lines within the support pillar of the Budget, noted whenever transfers between programme lines exceed 10% of the supplying or receiving programme line or €100 000, the Committee of Ministers shall be immediately informed.

1. Amounts maintained at the same level as in 2023. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. “1. If need be, the Secretary General shall be authorised to make transfers between programme lines within the operational pillars and between programme lines within the support pillar of the Budget for a given financial year, under the conditions laid down by the Committee of Ministers at the time of that Budget's approval. Any other transfer shall require the Committee of Ministers' prior approval. Whenever the total of transfers between programme lines exceed 10% of the supplying or receiving programme line or €100 000, the Committee of Ministers shall be immediately informed of the transfers and their justification.

   2. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 28, paragraph 1, the Secretary General shall be authorised to make transfers of a technical nature related to the charging of staff costs and the allocation of common provisions.” [↑](#footnote-ref-2)