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Item 7

**52th NSC Executive Committee Meeting,
30 November 2009.**

NSC ISSUES.

Financing of Advisers

At last Executive Committee meeting following decision was made;

3.1 Payment of Advisers

The committee members discussed the problems experienced in recruiting and retaining Thematic Group Advisers, and the need to improve their support and review their budget allowance.

Decision:

It was agreed that the NSC Secretariat would produce a paper on the payment of Advisers for the next NSC Executive Committee meeting. This paper would describe the current situation, the impact of increasing membership fees and what is possible in the current economic climate.

The Secretariat has asked the Adviser's of their opinion and their general response is the money from NSC covers the travel, accommodation and to some extent meeting expenses, but not the time spent working for NSC. A rough calculation done by the Transport Adviser states; *"I have calculated that NSC Advisers regions are appr. spending an additional 15 000 Euros in working time based on 20% of full time at an hourly rate of 45 €. This means that a full compensation of Advisers costs would amount to at least 25 000 € p.a, probably not feasible for the NSC budget to cover."*

The Advisers points out the difficult economic situation of their councils and agree on some more funding from NSC would be helpful.

The adviser's come up with different ideas for improvement;

- I therefore think that the main challenge is to have group members share the duties. Especially help from the officers attending to assist the advisor.
- One should also consider a long-term rotation plan whereby other NSC countries are committing themselves to take over the Advisers or the staff costs for a certain period of time.
- One could also consider introducing a scheme whereby the countries without Advisers compensate by paying an extra subscription fee.

Points for discussion;

Basis 1;

- **No change of membership fee, with an income of 159.560 Euro using 2009 budget.**
- **No financial support to NSC secretariat for working time and the secretariat office expenses approx 150.000 euro.**



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Option 1; Today's situation or minor allocations of the budget

The main expenditures for NSC are;

- The support for the host region and the secretariat expenses in connection to the General Assembly in June of 30.000 Euro
- Advisers support of 55.000 Euro
- Travel and accommodation for the President and the secretariat at NSC and some CPMR meetings approx. 25.000 Euro.
- Internet, phone 10.000 Euro

A total of 120.000 Euro, with 40.000 Euro for covering seminars and promotional expenditure gives some limited possibilities to increase the Adviser's support, unless one reduces the support to GA, the Internet/phone and travel/accommodation.

Option 2; Full financing of Advisers"

If one uses the calculation of 25.000 Euro to cover all costs for the adviser a total of 125.000 Euro the remaining 34.560 Euro is to cover the rest of the expenses.

If so, what to give priority to and with how much money. If one agrees to finance the travel/accommodation for the President and secretariat to NSC and some CPMR meeting there will be a small amount of money to maintain the website, no GA support or to support for other events.

Basis 2;

- **Increase the membership fee.**
- **No financial support to NSC secretariat for working time and the secretariat office expenses approx 150.000 euro.**
- **No change in priorities, except full financing of Adviser's.**

If one increases the membership fee with the "missing" 70.000 Euro to a total of 230.000 Euro the membership fee must be increased to approx 5.500 Euro (3.191 in 2009), 8.250 Euro (4.786 in 2009) and 11.000 Euro (6.381 in 2009).

Comments from the secretariat:

The options described are some radical suggestions and there might be possibilities to find solutions somewhere between the two

Looking at today's economic climate the Secretariat think it will be difficult to get approval for raising the membership fee.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. For discussion