

# Salary Atlas in the 27 EU countries

**Huge gap: MPs earn an average of 878 percent more than  
EU citizens**

8.185 Parliamentarians in EU for 500 million citizens/Bulgarian citizens have to work 108 years to the content of his EU parliamentarian in a legislature

+++ With a € 90,000 monthly office allowance Members of the U.S. Congress take the cake. +++



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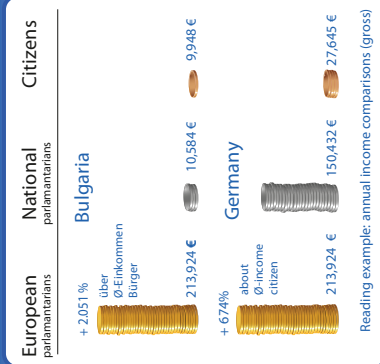
## Contents

	European Map	p. 2
1	Press Release - short versions	p. 3
2	Tables	p. 5
	Deputies Parliament salaries ("dieting") in EU national parliaments (Table 1)	p. 5
	Income from European parliamentarians and citizens compared (Table 2)	p. 6
	Payments to the European Union (Table 3)	p. 7
	Composition of the European Parliament (Table 4)	p. 8
	Privileges for parliamentarians (Table 5)	p. 9
	US Congress Income (Table 6)	p. 10
3	Sources	p. 11
4	Press Release - long version	p. 13
	Foreword	p. 13
	A total of 8,185 parliamentarians look after the interests of 500 million EU citizens and are paid € 3.9 billion for doing so	p. 13
	In the European Parliament everyone earns the same: the salaries take their cue from the highest paid MEPs - the Germans	p. 14
	A Bulgarian would have to work for 108 years to earn the salary of an MEP	p. 14
	€ 1.35 billion for members of parliament in Germany, France and Italy	p. 14
	Members of the European Parliament earn more than all other national elected representatives	p. 15
	Additional benefits for the elected representatives	p. 16
	Euro and economic crisis? Only to a point - if you're a member of parliament	p. 17
	This is how much Europe's taxpayers pay per annum into the EU's pot	p. 17
	The conclusion of the study:	p. 18
	Design of the study	p. 18
5	Sources / Imprint	p. 19

# EU-MEPs earn annually 213,924 Euro, which is 878 percent more than EU citizens

... and 209 percent more than the national parliaments

Bulgarian citizens have to work 108 years to the amount of their EU parliamentarian in one legislature (for more details see table)



Country	Income salary of the national parliamentarians (annual)	Citizens (annual)
Frankreich	157,520 €	25,469 €
Deutschland	150,432 €	27,645 €
Niederlande	120,384 €	29,813 €
Italien	114,601 €	23,909 €
Belgien	105,700 €	27,465 €
Irland	102,872 €	24,787 €
Österreich	99,165 €	28,815 €
Dänemark	96,276 €	29,093 €
Großbritannien	94,650 €	26,902 €
Schweden	90,517 €	28,545 €
Finnland	88,820 €	26,467 €
Griechenland	85,872 €	21,608 €
Slowakei	70,570 €	16,587 €
Slowenien	63,754 €	19,838 €
Portugal	54,311 €	18,065 €
Spanien	53,693 €	23,624 €
Luxemburg	51,662 €	44,704 €
Estland	40,488 €	14,344 €
Polen	40,097 €	13,721 €
Tschechische Republik	32,665 €	17,960 €
Lettland	29,716 €	13,211 €
Litauen	28,563 €	12,986 €
Zypern	28,304 €	22,724 €
Malta	24,492 €	17,382 €
Ungarn	18,612 €	14,321 €
Rumänien	15,890 €	10,908 €
Bulgarien	10,584 €	9,948 €

Source: Preisvergleich.de, Date: 7 December 2012. All data provided without guarantee.  
 Database: Extensive research in all 27 European countries - see also last page on the last site.

## **"Just like in ancient Rome": What the 8,185 European parliamentarians earn compared to their citizens / survey in 27 EU countries proves that politicians earn up to 2,000 percent more**

### **+++ short version +++**

Italian representatives who treat themselves to a free haircut at taxpayers' expense may be the least inexplicable considering former Prime Minister Berlusconi's bunga bunga mentality. But how does a Maltese delegate manage to consume 240 liters of free petrol per month that are granted to him by the taxpayers for his parliamentary activity on his tiny little Mediterranean island with only 122 sq mi in area? (table 5, appendix).

Do they possibly circle around their island with a private motor yacht? As a Member of the European Parliament (henceforth referred to as MEP) they certainly could afford it at least. The internationally established German consumer portal for price checks Preisvergleich.de (translated: price comparison), has now set up a survey and identified MEP's salaries in relation to ordinary citizens respectively. Astonishing results were revealed.

Furthermore Preisvergleich.de presents an interesting income ranking of the parliaments of the 27 EU member countries. All details of MEP's salaries referred to in this study have been based on the latest taxable base salary plus potential allowances, attendance fees and the estimated refunds for secondary residence. However, it does not include all allowances. For example, allowances for the office or staff are not included in.

Following the EU salary outline (graphic attached) in the 27 EU countries, a total of 8,185 parliamentarians are discharging their parliamentary mandate: 7,433 parliamentarians in the national parliaments of their respective countries and 752 MEPs (as of the 2009 European elections, now 754 MEPs) in the Strasbourg EU Parliament. Due to their salaries, the parliamentarians cost a total of 781 million EUR paid by 500 million EU citizens – overall 620 million in their national parliaments plus 160 million per year for the EU Parliament.

Their salaries come in cash from 500 million EU citizens. A total of EUR 781 million of taxpayers' money is paid per year – which equals a total of 620 million in their national parliaments plus 160 million per year for the EU Parliament.

An average monthly salary and other allowances of 17,827 Euros is received by an MEP equaling 213,924 Euros a year. A MEP's salary adds a base fee and additional extras such as allowances, attendance fees and travel expenses. In addition, the costs for offices and staff for the plenary members of the European Parliament make up an amount of up to 21,209 Euros per month or up to 254,508 Euros per year. It must be mentioned that there were some cases in the past few years in which these amounts were claimed for employees, even though they had no longer been working for the deputies. A scandalous approach according to the slogan: "The stupid Europeans are meant to do the job by paying without questioning."

One MEP comes into having 1,069,622 Euros during the 5-year legislative session adding up outlined allowances (appendix, table 2). This amount, taken as a basis, means that a parliamentarian in the European Parliament meanwhile earns 878 percent more than normal citizens (21,844 Euros gross per year) – Euro crisis aside. Basically the income levels in the 27 EU member states are drastically different between politics and citizens. A Bulgarian for example earns an average monthly gross income of only 829 Euros whereas a citizen from Luxembourg generates a rather high monthly average income of 3,725 Euro (tables 1 and 2 in appendix).

The following survey results show the huge income disparities between the EU citizens battered by the economic crisis and their EU parliamentarians, concluding with one thesis only: We are dealing in Brussels and some national parliaments of the EU countries with conditions

similar to ancient Rome because just like in the former Roman Senate none of these "new class EU senators" are controlled in any way. For example, MEPs of France have a salary of around 740 percent higher than the salary level of the average French (25,469 Euros annually).

Even based on the average of all 27 EU parliaments, there are huge differences between politicians and citizens. A member of the French Parliament (National Assembly) meanwhile earns on average 157,524 Euros annually (monthly: 13,127 Euros). That equals 518 percent more than an ordinary citizen (details in tables 1 and 2 in appendix). The situation in Germany is quite similar: Here, the members of the German parliament in Berlin get around 150,432 Euros per year, representing a monthly fee of 12,536 Euros. This is 44 times as much as the earnings of an average German. In Britain, members of the House of Commons get 94,656 Euros per year (7,888 Euros per month), which is at least 252 percent above the average monthly British citizen's income (2,242 Euros). There are also striking differences in Italy. While the 946 parliamentarians in Rome can be looking forward to be earning about 114,600 Euros per year (9550 Euros a month), the average salary of ordinary Italians is only 1,992 Euros per month, equaling 379 percent less.

The 27 EU national parliaments cost a total of 2.79 billion Euros during one legislative session with France being the leader. Adding up each deputy's income in the French "Assemblée Nationale", the taxpayer is in charge of paying 545 million Euros in total (table 1, appendix). Following Italy's "Camera dei Deputati / Senato della Repubblica" (434 million Euros) and the German Bundestag (373 million Euros) as well as the "House of Commons" in London (308 million Euros).

Another result of the survey: The needier an EU country, the more significant the differences between normal income and parliamentary income: A Bulgarian, for example, would have to work 108 years to earn the salary of a respective deputy during a single five-year term. A Pole needs 78 years of work, an Italian 45 years, a Brit 40 years and a German would have to work 39 years. The EU citizens' average workload is 55 years (table 2).

Even more significant is the situation in Slovakia: The earnings of MEPs there are 1,190 percent higher than those of ordinary citizens. And in bankrupt Greece at least the Greek MEPs continue to earn good money: 890 percent more than their citizens. Leaders are the already mentioned Bulgarians: The politicians in the European parliament dispatched by the Balkan state get a salary 2,051 percent higher than the average citizen of Bulgaria (chart in appendix and tables 1 and 2).

The high salaries of elected officials in Brussels are based on a decision by the EU taken three years ago. Back then the decision was made to unify the remuneration of all MEPs. It is simply based on one income with the highest award of parliament - these were the German and the Italian MEPs. Ever since, MEPs have been earning almost 100,000 Euros per year more than their comparable counterparts in the U.S. Congress, which earn around 11,102 Euros per month.

Still, the American MPs get incredible 90,000 Euros as monthly allowance for office, staff costs and consultants. However, the U.S. law offers a lot more transparency to its citizens: Every three months, the 535 MPs in the U.S. Congress have to present and back up their actual expenditure to controlling. It is then officially published via Internet - available to all citizens ([http://disbursements.house.gov/2012q3/2012q3\\_singlevolume.pdf](http://disbursements.house.gov/2012q3/2012q3_singlevolume.pdf)).

As a result of the survey set up by the German consumer portal "Preisvergleich.de", it can be said that in contrast to the assertions of both the European Parliament and EU national parliaments, there is not much of actual transparency in the methods and inner structures of remuneration of the 8,185 European parliamentarians. The extreme differences in pay structure between politicians and citizens are very serious. There is at least as much need for discussion on this issue as on the EU's plan to cap the manager salaries of public companies.

### ***Preisvergleich.de - Background facts***

The consumer portal Preisvergleich.de (2.36 million users per month, AGOF Internet facts February 2013) offers numerous online comparisons on all matters concerning insurance and energy tariffs.



## Deputies Parliament salaries ("dieting") in EU national parliaments

Table 1

**7,433 EU National Parliament officials**  
collect €620m annually / €2.8bn per election period

EU Countries	National Parliament Name	Salaries of Parliament Officials ("Diets" incl. Allowance & Living Expenses)				National Structure			
		Legislative Period in €m (Total Parliament)	Year in €m (Total Parliament)	Per Capita / Per Month in €	Diet Deviation compared to Average Citizen Income	Inhabitants in m	Number of National Officials	Length of Legislative Period in Years	Officials per 100,000 Inhabitants
France	Assemblée Nationale	545 €	91 €	13,127 €	518%	62.6	577	6	0.9
Italy	Camera dei Deputati/Senato della Repubblica	434 €	108 €	9,550 €	379%	60.2	946	4	1.6
Germany	Deutscher Bundestag	373 €	93 €	12,536 €	444%	81.9	620	4	0.8
Great Britain	House of Commons	308 €	62 €	7,888 €	252%	61.8	650	5	1.1
Sweden	Riksdag	126 €	32 €	7,543 €	217%	9.3	349	4	3.8
Greece	Vouli ton Ellinon	103 €	26 €	7,156 €	297%	11.3	300	4	2.7
Poland	Sejm	92 €	18 €	3,341 €	192%	38.2	460	5	1.2
Austria	Nationalrat	91 €	18 €	8,264 €	244%	8.4	183	5	2.2
Spain	Cortes Generales	75 €	19 €	4,474 €	127%	46.0	350	4	0.8
Netherlands	Tweede Kamer	72 €	18 €	10,032 €	304%	16.5	150	4	0.9
Finland	Riksdag	69 €	17 €	7,235 €	228%	5.3	200	4	3.7
Denmark	Folketing	69 €	17 €	8,023 €	231%	5.5	179	4	3.2
Ireland	Dail Eireann	68 €	17 €	8,573 €	315%	4.5	166	4	3.7
Belgium	Chambre des Représentants*	63 €	16 €	8,808 €	285%	10.8	150	4	1.4
Portugal	Assembleia da Republica	62 €	12 €	4,526 €	201%	10.6	230	5	2.2
Slovakia	Narodna Rada	53 €	11 €	5,881 €	325%	5.4	150	5	2.8
Hungary	Országgyűlés	29 €	7 €	1,551 €	30%	10.0	386	4	3.9
Czech Republic	Poslanecká	26 €	7 €	2,722 €	82%	10.5	200	4	1.9
Slovenia	Državni zbor	23 €	6 €	5,313 €	221%	2.0	90	4	4.4
Romania	Parlamentul	21 €	5 €	1,323 €	46%	21.5	330	4	1.5
Estonia	Riigikogu	16 €	4 €	3,374 €	182%	1.3	101	4	7.5
Lithuania	Seimas	16 €	4 €	2,380 €	120%	3.3	141	4	4.2
Luxembourg	Chamber of Deputies	15 €	3 €	4,305 €	16%	0.5	60	5	12.0
Latvia	Saeima	12 €	3 €	2,476 €	125%	2.3	100	4	4.4
Bulgaria	Narodno Sabranje	10 €	3 €	882 €	6%	7.6	240	4	3.2
Malta	Il Kamra tad Deputa	8 €	2 €	2,041 €	41%	0.4	69	5	16.6
Cyprus	Vouli ton Antiprosopon/Temsikler Meclisi	8 €	2 €	2,359 €	25%	0.9	56	5	6.4
<b>Total</b>		<b>Σ 2,790 €</b>	<b>Σ 620 €</b>	<b>Ø 5,766 €</b>	<b>Ø 216%</b>	<b>Σ 498.6</b>	<b>Σ 7,433</b>		<b>Ø 3.7</b>

Source: preisvergleich.de. Date: 7 December 2012. All data provided without guarantee. Image: dpa. \*Kamer van de Volksvertegenwoordigers. For Germany, for example, composed of taxable basic allowance, daily deposits, meeting fees, estimated reimbursement for second home at least EUR 300. Primary sources: Belgium: Report from the Press Office of the Belgian Parliament. Bulgaria: <http://www.parliament.bg/en/rulsotheorganisations>. Denmark: Report from the Press Office of the Danish Parliament. Germany: [http://www.bundestag.de/bundestag/abgeordnete17/mbd\\_dieten/index.html](http://www.bundestag.de/bundestag/abgeordnete17/mbd_dieten/index.html). Estonia: Report from the Press Office of the Estonian Government Headquarters. Finland: <http://web.eduskunta.fi/Resource.php/parliament/aboutparliament/presentation/payandallowances.htm>. France: Report from the Press Office of the French Parliament. Great Britain: Report from the Press Office of the British Parliament. Greece: <http://theiregreek.ordpress.com/category/bleatings-about-greece/>. Ireland: <http://www.oireachtas.ie/parliament/tdsssenators/parliamentarystandardallowance/>. Italy: <http://www.camera.it/383?conoscere%20lacamera-4>. Latvia: Report from the Press Office of the Latvian Parliament. Lithuania: Report from the Press Office of the Lithuanian Parliament. Luxembourg: Report from the Press Office of the Luxembourg Parliament. Malta: <http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/en/search?q=salaries+and+honoraria>. The Netherlands: Report from the Press Office of the Dutch Parliament. Austria: <http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/>. Poland: <http://edukacja.sejm.gov.pl/sejm-i-poslowie/poslowie/uposazenie-i-dieta-poselska.html>. Portugal: <http://www.en.parlamento.pt/MembersAR/StatutGoverningRemuneration.html>. Romania: [http://www.cdep.ro/pls/parlam/informati\\_economice.home](http://www.cdep.ro/pls/parlam/informati_economice.home). Sweden: <http://www.riksdagen.se/>. Switzerland: [http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/171\\_21/a2.html](http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/171_21/a2.html). Slovakia: Report from the Press Office of the Slovak Parliament. Slovenia: Report from the Press Office of the Slovenian Parliament. Spain: <http://www.congreso.es/portal/page/portal/Congreso/Congreso/Diputados/RegEcoyProtSoc>. Czech Republic: Report from the Press Office of the Czech Parliament. Hungary: Report from Hungarian Embassy in Berlin. Cyprus: Report from the Press Office of the Cypriot Parliament. (The research team has access to original versions of all reports from Parliaments or other government entities.)

## Income from European parliamentarians and citizens compared

Table 2

### Income of EU officials (752 in total) and citizens in comparison:

### Millionaires after one legislative period

A Bulgarian citizen would have to work for 108 years to earn as much as his EU Parliamentary Representative

Country	EU Officials (average gross income in € per capita)				EU Citizens (average gross national income in € per capita)			
	Month	Year	Legislative Period	EU Parliamentary Representative: Office Expenses Allowance in € per Official per Month Tax-Free up to (Max. allowance with submission of receipt - Frequently for two offices in Brussels and home country)	Month	Year	An average citizen would have to work this many years to earn as much as an EU official who was elected once	Difference of Income: Official vs. Citizen
	(Incl. allowances for travel, meetings, living expenses, etc. less office expenses)*	(Incl. allowances for travel, meetings, living expenses, etc. less office expenses)*	(Incl. allowances for travel, meetings, living expenses)*					
Bulgaria	17,827 €	213,924 €	1,069,622 €	21,209 €	829 €	9,948 €	108	2,051%
Romania	17,827 €	213,924 €	1,069,622 €	21,209 €	909 €	10,908 €	98	1,861%
Lithuania	17,827 €	213,924 €	1,069,622 €	21,209 €	1,082 €	12,986 €	82	1,547%
Latvia	17,827 €	213,924 €	1,069,622 €	21,209 €	1,101 €	13,211 €	81	1,519%
Poland	17,827 €	213,924 €	1,069,622 €	21,209 €	1,143 €	13,721 €	78	1,459%
Hungary	17,827 €	213,924 €	1,069,622 €	21,209 €	1,193 €	14,321 €	75	1,394%
Estonia	17,827 €	213,924 €	1,069,622 €	21,209 €	1,195 €	14,344 €	75	1,391%
Slovakia	17,827 €	213,924 €	1,069,622 €	21,209 €	1,382 €	16,587 €	64	1,190%
Malta	17,827 €	213,924 €	1,069,622 €	21,209 €	1,449 €	17,382 €	62	1,131%
Czech Republic	17,827 €	213,924 €	1,069,622 €	21,209 €	1,497 €	17,960 €	60	1,091%
Portugal	17,827 €	213,924 €	1,069,622 €	21,209 €	1,505 €	18,065 €	59	1,084%
Slovenia	17,827 €	213,924 €	1,069,622 €	21,209 €	1,655 €	19,858 €	54	977%
Greece	17,827 €	213,924 €	1,069,622 €	21,209 €	1,800 €	21,606 €	50	890%
Cyprus	17,827 €	213,924 €	1,069,622 €	21,209 €	1,894 €	22,724 €	47	841%
Spain	17,827 €	213,924 €	1,069,622 €	21,209 €	1,969 €	23,624 €	45	806%
Italy	17,827 €	213,924 €	1,069,622 €	21,209 €	1,992 €	23,909 €	45	795%
Ireland	17,827 €	213,924 €	1,069,622 €	21,209 €	2,066 €	24,787 €	43	763%
France	17,827 €	213,924 €	1,069,622 €	21,209 €	2,122 €	25,469 €	42	740%
Finland	17,827 €	213,924 €	1,069,622 €	21,209 €	2,206 €	26,467 €	40	708%
Great Britain	17,827 €	213,924 €	1,069,622 €	21,209 €	2,242 €	26,902 €	40	695%
Belgium	17,827 €	213,924 €	1,069,622 €	21,209 €	2,289 €	27,465 €	39	679%
Germany	17,827 €	213,924 €	1,069,622 €	21,209 €	2,304 €	27,645 €	39	674%
Sweden	17,827 €	213,924 €	1,069,622 €	21,209 €	2,379 €	28,545 €	37	649%
Austria	17,827 €	213,924 €	1,069,622 €	21,209 €	2,401 €	28,815 €	37	642%
Denmark	17,827 €	213,924 €	1,069,622 €	21,209 €	2,424 €	29,093 €	37	635%
Netherlands	17,827 €	213,924 €	1,069,622 €	21,209 €	2,484 €	29,813 €	36	618%
Luxembourg	17,827 €	213,924 €	1,069,622 €	21,209 €	3,725 €	44,704 €	24	379%
Average					Ø 1,824 €	Ø 21,884 €	Ø 55	

Source: preisvergleich.de Date: 7 December 2012. All data provided without guarantee. Gross national income, image ©Stockphoto.com/jason\_V\_

Database: extensive research in all 27 EU countries - see primary source (last page).

\*Sum total of €7,956.87 diet (gross) \*+16x daily allowance à €304+2x lump sum travel expenses à 353.58+general expenses(4,299.00)

Primary source: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/aboutparliament/de/0081ddfaa4/Abgeordnete.html>

Table 3

## Payments to the EU: German taxpayers shell out for one-fifth of the budget

Country	Amount Paid into the EU Pot in 2010 (per country in €m)	Share of EU Pot in Total	Amount Paid in per Inhabitant in the year	EU Citizen (average gross national income in € per capita) in the year	+/- Average
Germany	20,708 €	20.0%	253 €	27,645 €	10.76%
France	18,174 €	17.6%	290 €	25,469 €	37.96%
Italy	13,664 €	13.2%	227 €	23,909 €	14.90%
Great Britain	12,146 €	11.7%	196 €	26,902 €	-11.61%
Spain	8,937 €	8.6%	194 €	23,624 €	-0.34%
Netherlands	3,864 €	3.7%	234 €	29,813 €	-5.07%
Poland	3,339 €	3.2%	88 €	13,721 €	-22.77%
Belgium	3,294 €	3.2%	305 €	27,465 €	34.57%
Sweden	2,809 €	2.7%	302 €	28,545 €	28.07%
Austria	2,460 €	2.4%	294 €	28,815 €	23.59%
Greece	2,095 €	2.0%	186 €	21,606 €	4.03%
Denmark	2,074 €	2.0%	375 €	29,093 €	56.08%
Portugal	1,714 €	1.7%	161 €	18,065 €	8.02%
Finland	1,575 €	1.5%	295 €	26,467 €	34.98%
Czech Republic	1,308 €	1.3%	125 €	17,960 €	-15.93%
Ireland	1,209 €	1.2%	272 €	24,787 €	32.66%
Romania	1,042 €	1.0%	49 €	10,908 €	-46.15%
Hungary	863 €	0.8%	86 €	14,321 €	-27.25%
Slovakia	540 €	0.5%	100 €	16,587 €	-27.24%
Slovenia	320 €	0.3%	157 €	19,858 €	-4.51%
Bulgaria	310 €	0.3%	41 €	9,948 €	-50.23%
Luxembourg	249 €	0.2%	499 €	44,704 €	35.14%
Lithuania	230 €	0.2%	69 €	12,986 €	-35.77%
Latvia	158 €	0.2%	70 €	13,211 €	-35.67%
Cyprus	158 €	0.2%	182 €	22,724 €	-3.29%
Estonia	125 €	0.1%	93 €	14,344 €	-21.20%
Malta	51 €	0.0%	124 €	17,382 €	-13.73%
<b>Total</b>	<b>Σ 103,416 €</b>	<b>Σ 100.0%</b>	<b>Ø 195 €</b>	<b>Ø 21,884 €</b>	

Source: preisvergleich.de Date: 7 December 2012. All data provided without guarantee.

Primary source: [http://ec.europa.eu/budget/library/biblio/publications/2010/fin\\_report/fin\\_report\\_de.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/budget/library/biblio/publications/2010/fin_report/fin_report_de.pdf) and Fischer Weltalmanach 2012 for EU citizen income.



## Composition of the European Parliament

Table 4

### EU Parliament: Germany provides the most officials

Casts only 13% of votes in spite of paying the highest contribution

Country	Number of EU Officials	EU Parliament Officials' Percentage of Votes	Country Inhabitants in m	Country Inhabitants' Percentage of Total EU Population	Vote Percentile Difference: EU Parliament vs. Inhabitants	Wages of All Officials* incl. Special Allowances per Year in €m
Germany	99	13.2%	81.9	16.4%	-3.3%	21 €
France	73	9.7%	62.6	12.6%	-2.8%	16 €
Great Britain	73	9.7%	61.8	12.4%	-2.7%	16 €
Italy	73	9.7%	60.2	12.1%	-2.4%	16 €
Spain	53	7.0%	46.0	9.2%	-2.2%	11 €
Poland	51	6.8%	38.2	7.7%	-0.9%	11 €
Romania	33	4.4%	21.5	4.3%	0.1%	7 €
Netherlands	26	3.5%	16.5	3.3%	0.1%	6 €
Belgium	22	2.9%	10.8	2.2%	0.8%	5 €
Greece	22	2.9%	11.3	2.3%	0.7%	5 €
Portugal	22	2.9%	10.6	2.1%	0.8%	5 €
Czech Republic	22	2.9%	10.5	2.1%	0.8%	5 €
Hungary	22	2.9%	10.0	2.0%	0.9%	5 €
Sweden	20	2.7%	9.3	1.9%	0.8%	4 €
Austria	19	2.5%	8.4	1.7%	0.8%	4 €
Bulgaria	18	2.4%	7.6	1.5%	0.9%	4 €
Denmark	13	1.7%	5.5	1.1%	0.6%	3 €
Finland	13	1.7%	5.3	1.1%	0.7%	3 €
Slovakia	13	1.7%	5.4	1.1%	0.6%	3 €
Ireland	12	1.6%	4.5	0.9%	0.7%	3 €
Lithuania	12	1.6%	3.3	0.7%	0.9%	3 €
Latvia	9	1.2%	2.3	0.5%	0.7%	2 €
Slovenia	8	1.1%	2.0	0.4%	0.7%	2 €
Estonia	6	0.8%	1.3	0.3%	0.5%	1 €
Luxembourg	6	0.8%	0.5	0.1%	0.7%	1 €
Malta	6	0.8%	0.4	0.1%	0.7%	1 €
Cyprus	6	0.8%	0.9	0.2%	0.6%	1 €
<b>Ergebnis</b>	<b>Σ 752</b>		<b>Σ 499</b>			<b>Σ 161 €</b>

Source: preisvergleich.de. Date: 15 February 2012. Bild © iStockphoto.com/Jason\_V\_ All data provided without guarantee.

Image Expenses plus average per diem rates, plus travel allowances (excluding allowances for personnel).

Primary source: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/aboutparliament/de/0081ddfaa4/Abgeordnete.html>

Table 5

## The Sweet Life of a State Official: From the taxi to the gym, everything is taken care of - even police protection is included.

EU Countries and European Parliament	Name of Parliament	Special Allowance per Month					Telephone / Internet**	Allowance for office space and personnel	One-time allowances***	Extras**
		Office expenses allowance up to**	Office expenses reimbursed with receipt**	Personnel**	Work expenses reimbursed with receipt					
Belgium	Chambre des Représentants/Kamer van de Volksvertegenwoordigers							Yes		
Bulgaria	Narodno Sabranje		Yes				free website	Yes		Basic salary increase up to 15% for graduates. Reimbursement of childcare costs
Denmark	Folketing	12,000 €						No		
Germany	Deutscher Bundestag			14,712 €*				Yes	255 € for the first year in the Deutscher Bundestag	
Estonia	Riigikogu							No		
Finland	Riksdag							No		
France	Assemblée Nationale	9,138 €						Yes		
Great Britain	House of Commons	Special allowance between 778 € and 972 €	Postage and stationery up to € 802	Up to five people Costs for six people**				Yes		
Greece	Vouli ton Ellinon	10,088 €						Yes	5,500 € for office equipment	Kindergarten, fitness studio
Ireland	Dail Eireann		up to 2,148 €					Yes		
Italy	Camera dei Deputati	3,690 €					Telephone costs up to 258.30 €	Yes		
Latvia	Saeima							No		
Lithuania	Seimas							na		
Luxembourg	Chamber vun Deputierten							No		
Malta	Il Kamra tad Deputati							No		
Netherlands	Tweede Kamer						Free internet and telephone costs	No	Annual money in December	240 liters of gas, monthly
Austria	Nationalrat				Yes			No		
Poland	Sejm	2,274 €						Yes		
Portugal	Assembleia da Republica							Yes		
Romania	Parlamentul	1,884 €						No		13th and 14th monthly salary
Sweden	Riksdag							Yes		
Slovakia	Narodna Rada	up to 1,765 €						No		
Slovenia	Dzrany zbor							No		
Spain	Cortes Generales							No		
Czech Republic	Poslanecka	less estimated costs of a second home					free telephone costs	Yes	Equipment of constituency office	Taxi in Madrid: up to 250 € per month 13th and 14th salary, personal security
Hungary	Vouli ton Anitrospon/Tensklar Meclisi	459 €						Yes		
Cyprus	European Parliament	1,025 €						Yes		Police protection
EU		21,209 €						Yes		

Source: preisvergleich.de, Data: 7 December 2012. All data provided without guarantee. Image: Stockphoto.com/Jason\_V\_

\*The personnel allowance of 14,712 € per month is not paid directly; rather, the Federal Parliament administration issues payment to the personnel of officials.

\*\*Not guaranteed to be comprehensive.

\*\*\*Personnel costs for four secretaries and two assistants calculated at 15,000 € in addition to the maximum allowance.

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Table 6

# U.S. Congress Income Comparison to Officials Income



US Congress: Officials Income Example	Judy Biggert, Illinois	Madeleine Bordallo, Guam	Gary Ackermann, New York
2012 Total Year in Euros			
Total Budget and Income 2012	1,167,734 €	1,218,424 €	1,146,435 €
Diet per Legislative Period (2 Years)	266,442 €	266,442 €	266,442 €
<b>Annual Diet</b>	<b>133,221 €</b>	<b>133,221 €</b>	<b>133,221 €</b>
Monthly Diet	11,102 €	11,102 €	11,102 €
Representation Allowance for Office, Personnel, Travel, etc.	1,034,513 €	1,085,203 €	1,013,214 €
*Example of Representation Allowances 2012 / 3rd Quarter in Euros			
Personnel	172,461 €	144,706 €	166,414 €
Post	66,078 €	223 €	124 €
Office Equipment /Rent	15,793 €	34,871 €	23,442 €
Printing Technology	47,883 €	1,297 €	626 €
Office Materials	2,900 €	8,731 €	3,435 €
Travel	5,842 €	72,632 €	3,309 €
Miscellaneous	4,719 €	5,328 €	412 €
Provisioning/Communications	671 €	1,740 €	7,096 €
Total	316,348 €	269,529 €	204,857 €
*Monthly Average			
	105,449 €	89,843 €	68,286 €

Source: preisvergleich.de Date: 7 December 2012. All data provided without guarantee.

Primary source: [http://disbursements.house.gov/20122q3/\\_singlevolume.pdf](http://disbursements.house.gov/20122q3/_singlevolume.pdf), State December 07 2012.

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Czech Republic: Press Information Bureau of the Czech Parliament,  
Hungary: Information of the Hungarian Embassy in Berlin  
Cyprus: Information of the Press Information Bureau of the Cypriot Parliament.  
(Information provided by the respective parliamentary and government agencies are the study team in the original)

# Research & Study Salary Atlas in the 27 EU countries

## Long version





# **EU incomes atlas confirms enormous pay gap: members of parliament earn 878 % more than EU citizens**

**An army of 8,185 parliamentarians looks after the interests of 500 million EU citizens**

**A Bulgarian citizen would have to work for 108 years to reach the salary level of one of his EU parliamentarians**

**Top of the list are members of the US congress with an allowance for office expenses of up to €90,000 per month**

+++ Long version +++

## **Foreword by Anette Kröning**

*As an internal market the European Union (EU) is converging ever more closely; national borders are disappearing; the economy is becoming increasingly globalised, and yet the differences from country to country within the EU are still enormous. The same is true of politics. For instance, there is still a yawning social gap between the parliamentary delegates to the EU and their compatriots back in their 27 home countries. This is the finding of product, energy and financial services portal Preisvergleich.de in its major salaries and parliamentary allowances report.*

*The focal point of the study was the following question: How much do EU parliamentarians in Strasbourg and members of the respective EU member state parliaments earn in comparison to the citizens of the EU? Of equal interest was this: How many parliamentarians in total are actually engaged in working for the welfare of the inhabitants of the 27 EU member states? In all of this, the following can be stated in anticipation: As far as the authors of the study are aware, the difference in salaries between the rulers and the ruled in Europe has never been examined in the degree of detail now being presented by the consumer portal preisvergleich.de.*

## **A total of 8,185 parliamentarians look after the interests of 500 million EU citizens and are paid € 3.9 billion for doing so**

According to the present study carried out by product, energy and financial services portal [Preisvergleich.de](http://Preisvergleich.de), 8,185 parliamentarians go about their daily business in the 27 EU member states. This figure is composed of 7,433 members of national parliaments and 752 (as of European elections of 2009, now 754 MEPs) in the European Parliament. Whilst the members of EU national parliaments receive some € 620 million per annum in the form of parliamentary allowances and other benefits, their EU counterparts get € 161 million of taxpayers' money from around 500 million EU citizens. This amounts to a grand total of € 781 million per annum. Per legislative period, therefore, the lady and gentlemen members of parliament enjoy a combined income of € 3.9 billion (tables 1 and 2)

But that isn't all: The gap in earnings between national elected representatives and ordinary citizens is more like a yawning chasm. Thus, for example, according to the current preisvergleich.de salaries atlas, the 752 members of the European Parliament now earn on average 878 per cent more than the average citizens of the 27 member states. This is a huge difference

Just how glaring the disparity of incomes between MEPs and their citizens has become is revealed by the following statistics: for instance, French delegates to the European Parliament now earn a salary that is 740 % higher than that of the ordinary French "mortal". A deputy to the French parliament now earns on average 518% more than his compatriots.

Equally striking is the extent to which allowances claimed by MEPs from financially squeezed Italy exceed the average income of their compatriots (795%), whilst members of the Italian national parliament in Rome earn 379% more than their fellow citizens

The situation in Slovakia reveals an equally stark discrepancy: the MEPs from this country receive around 1,190% more than their compatriots, whilst the incomes of members of the Slovakian national parliament are 325% higher than those ordinary Slovaks.

The picture in bankrupt Greece is similar. Here, Greek members of the European Parliament earn 890% more than their citizens, whilst incomes of members of the national parliament in Athens exceed those of their compatriots by 297%. But first place goes to the Bulgarian deputies to the EU: They earn a staggering 2,051 per cent more than the average citizen of the Balkan state, whereas members of the Bulgarian national parliament earn a mere 6% more than their compatriots (see European chart).



## **In the European Parliament everyone earns the same: the salaries take their cue from the highest paid MEPs - the Germans**

Similarly extreme is the difference between the salaries of the citizens and those of their MEPs in Bulgaria's northern neighbour, Romania. Romanian MEPs earn 1,861% more than their fellow nationals. The fact that in particular Romanian and Bulgarian MEPs in Brussels or Strasbourg rake in so much more than their compatriots is also down to the other EU parliamentarians. About three years ago, the MEPs decided to raise their own "incomes" (parliamentary allowances) to a standard level across the board. In the process, the guideline figure used was one of the highest salary levels - that of the German MEPs. (Table 2)

Prior to this hike in income, the difference between the MEPs' allowances and the average income of EU citizens was less than 300 per cent. There's just one thing: MEPs now earn almost € 100,000 a year more than even the comparable US congressmen and women (Table 6).

It's true that their American colleagues get a supplementary allowance of about € 90,000 per month for their office, staff and advisers. This may admittedly be significantly more than the MEPs receive (€ 21,209), but this latter figure still represents a generous amount.

In all this, one thing is clear: Although the German word "Diät" covers both eating habits and parliamentary allowances, there's nothing remotely slim about the latter: € 3.9 billion for the members of the 27 national parliaments and the EU Parliament in Strasbourg. This is a lot of money, and it does not even take into account regional parliaments (where these exist), although it has to be said that the representatives in such parliaments often work in a voluntary capacity. And yet: € 3.9 billion represents just a fraction of the total cost to their taxpayers of the governments and ministries of EU states. Here, rough estimates on the part of preisvergleich.de indicate that this might well amount to an additional € 100 billion in five years.

## **A Bulgarian would have to work for 108 years to earn the salary of an MEP**

To earn the sum received by a deputy to the EU in one single five-year legislative period - roughly € 1 million - EU citizens would have to work for an average of 55 years. A Bulgarian back home would have to work for up to 108 years to earn this amount. Average income in the Balkan state is a mere € 9,948 per annum (Table 2).

And equally glaring differences in income are also to be found in other EU member states. For instance, a Pole would have to work for 78 years to get his hands on the salary earned by a deputy to the EU in five years of membership of the plenum. On the other side of the Oder and Neisse rivers, the average gross annual income is € 13,721. Similarly vast differences are to be found in Italy (45 years' work), the United Kingdom (40 years' work), Germany (39 years' work) and Luxembourg (24 years' work). (Table 2)

## **€ 1.35 billion for members of parliament in Germany, France and Italy**

In contrast to millions of EU citizens, whose salaries are in some cases subject to laborious negotiations between employers and unions, the picture in politics is quite different. Members of parliament in the EU democracies can set their own salaries and supplementary benefits as if they were in some kind of self-service store. They are employers and employees all rolled into one. Even in the midst of the Eurozone and global economic crises, hardly a single parliament is trying to enact cuts in the income of EU politicians. Quite the contrary, in fact. The allowances are, if anything, often being increased yet further.

Since 1975, for example, members of the lower house of the German parliament (Bundestag) have been allowed to set the level of their allowances for themselves ("Diäten-Urteil" ("parliamentary allowances ruling") of the German Constitutional Court). Just how much this costs the German taxpayer is revealed in the following example: The 620 deputies to the Bundestag receive € 373 million per legislative period (4 years). This makes the Bundestag the third most expensive parliament in the EU. But, it gets more expensive still: For instance, the members of the French National Assembly (€ 545 million per six-year legislative period) and the Italian parliament (€ 434 million in four years) can pride themselves on raking in yet more taxpayers' money - and that in spite of the fact that their countries are less populous than Germany. This corresponds to € 1.35 billion per legislative period (Table 1).

## Members of the European Parliament earn more than all other national elected representatives

A glance at the income of the deputies to the EU parliament in Strasbourg reveals the striking fact that no member of any other parliament in Europe can boast such high levels of “income”. An MEP receives, on average, € 17,782 per month in parliamentary allowances or € 213, 924 per annum. This amount is comprised of several items. The basic rate per month is € 7,957 and the supplementary general expenses allowance comes to € 4,299 per month. Added to that you get annual flat-rate compensation for travel expenses amounting to € 4,243 and an average daily allowance of € 304. In return for proof of expenditure, the members of the plenum of the European Parliament can in addition claim office and staff expenses of up to € 21,209 per month or up to € 254,508 per annum (tables 1 and 2).

To be fair, however, one thing has to be said: At least as far as the flat-rate sum for office expenses is concerned, the handout is relatively modest in comparison with that received by US representatives, as the salaries of the parliamentarian’s staff have to be paid out of it. However: In the USA, citizens are offered significantly higher levels of transparency. Every three months the 545 US representatives in congress are obliged to hand over expenses records for financial controlling. There then follow detailed breakdowns showing which politicians have spent how much money on which items (staff, mail, office furniture, rent, printing technology, office material, travel, various, communication). These reports are then presented on the Internet to be inspected or downloaded by the citizenry. For instance, the report for the third quarter of 2012 is available here: [http://disbursements.house.gov/2012q3/2012q3\\_singlevolume.pdf](http://disbursements.house.gov/2012q3/2012q3_singlevolume.pdf).

### *Members of the German parliament come second – to France*

As a rule, national members of parliament in the 27 member states earn significantly less than their counterparts in the European Parliament. And yet: Even here you can find “people’s chambers” which cash in on a grand scale: Deputies to the French National Assembly can on average draw on a sum of € 13,127 per month (before tax) or over € 157,520 per annum (more than representatives in the US Congress, whose parliamentary allowances amount to € 133,221 per year plus an average monthly allowance for office expenses per representative of around € 90,000 or about € 1 million per annum). Included in the income of members of the French National Assembly are average expense allowances and living costs. This explains the huge sum of € 545 million per parliamentary term which French taxpayers have to stump up for their elected representatives.

Second place on the leader board for the most lavishly rewarded members of parliament goes to representatives to the German Bundestag. They coin in an average of € 12,536 per month (taking into account the most significant additional flat-rate allowances)\* or € 150,432 per annum. In the wake of the most recent rise on 1.1.2013, the basic compensation for members of parliament comes to € 8,252 per month on its own (this increase did not feature even once in the appended tables due to the fact that the cut-off date for the research was the beginning of December 2012). Third place in the list of top earners in the national parliaments is taken by the Dutch chamber, with € 10,032 per month or € 120,384 per annum per elected representative (compensation for expenditure, accommodation allowances etc. see Table 1 footnote).

It’s also richly rewarding for members of all national parliaments to claim free extra benefits (“benefits in kind”). In this way, the 946 Italian elected representatives get, for example, a free official car in addition to their basic salary of € 9,550 and can even treat themselves to a free haircut (Table 1 and 5).

Moreover, nearly all national parliaments offer an expense allowance or a daily living allowance and attendance fee on top of the actual parliamentary allowances for MPs. In this case, the disparity within the 27 EU member states when it comes to declaring such extra benefits is enormous. Whereas some parliaments require rigorous evidence of costs, others don’t bother at all - thereby opening the door to conduct that is simply shameless.

For instance, poverty-ridden Bulgaria is very strict in this respect. Here, members of parliament have to account for their costs down to the last cent before being reimbursed. MPs in Cyprus, Estonia and Finland, on the other hand, don’t get any extra money for attending parliamentary sessions. Taxpayers in those countries ought to be glad. It’s a different story in the liberal Netherlands. Here, MPs can even claim a holiday bonus during the parliamentary recess.

## Additional benefits for the elected representatives

A comprehensive structure of income opportunities for the elected representatives, some of which add significantly to their parliamentary allowances, has emerged both within the European Parliament and in the 27 national parliaments of the European Union. The following sections go into this issue in greater detail.

### *EXTRA: In Paris, representatives are not required to provide receipts for rental expenses*

In almost all cases (with the exception of Luxembourg and Cyprus), the costs of a second home for representatives who live away from the seat of government are borne by the state. In some cases (France, Slovakia and the Czech Republic), members of parliament get flat-rate compensation for their secondary residence in the place where parliament meets. In the majority of instances, members of national parliaments from Sweden to Portugal are reimbursed for expenditure on their secondary residence in return for proof of costs actually incurred. There's just one thing: Millions of EU citizens also have to run two residences - one at the workplace and another at home. The reason: commuting between far-flung places has long been compulsory for ordinary citizens too, especially if they wish to remain in work.

Of interest are those EU member states in which the representatives are allowed to rent the most expensive apartments, without any need to provide evidence of costs, and are effectively not held to account for it. Taking as the basis of calculation the average costs of a 30-square-metre apartment in the most exclusive locations in the EU's capital cities, it doesn't require genius to work out that British MPs can bill the taxpayer with no further ado for a whopping monthly sum of € 2,410 for their second homes - at the very least (here, notwithstanding comprehensive research, the study was unable to get a transparent overview, as this kind of information is not publicly available). Hard on their heels are parliamentarians in Paris (with, in the most inexpensive case, a monthly allowance for living costs of at least € 1,200), Helsinki (€ 900), Dublin (€ 850) and Rome (€ 800). Comparatively modest in terms of their reimbursement for secondary residences are the Greeks (€ 450), the Estonians (€ 240) and, bringing up the rear, the Lithuanians (€ 140).

These are in all cases the very lowest cost estimates for apartments of 30 square metres in the EU's capital cities. It is a fair assumption that most members of parliament live instead in a space of between 60 and 100 square metres, even in their second homes. There is hardly a single EU member state which really opens up to public scrutiny the additional money paid to each parliamentarian for his or her second home. In democracies, which like to lament the way in which dictators stash money away for their own clans, this is an unacceptable state of affairs

### *EXTRA: Free air and rail tickets*

Whilst in many countries the national members of parliament get an extra travel allowance, the parliamentarians in Estonia, Luxembourg, Malta and the Netherlands have to shell out for themselves. Elsewhere in Europe, members of parliament receive free rail, air and ferry tickets (in Scandinavia, Greece and, more recently, Germany, they even get rail tickets for private purposes). There is money per kilometre (Portugal), a flat-rate tax allowance (Spain) or an official vehicle for the capital city (Germany).

### *EXTRA: Office and staff expenses*

In addition to the parliamentary allowances, expense allowances, costs for a second home and travel expenses paid to the elected national representatives, the taxpayers in 16 of the 27 EU member states are also forced to foot the bill for what are in some cases extravagant expenses for personal members' offices, complete with equipment and staff at the seat of the parliament.

Thus, for instance, members of the German Bundestag receive by some distance the most generous supplementary allowance of all European parliaments, of up to € 26,712 per month (or € 320,544 per annum), for the running of their offices and for their staff. However: MEPs get an even higher flat-rate sum for office and staff - up to € 21,209 per month - and in the US this figure is yet higher. Moreover, where these figures are disclosed online in a really transparent way - in the kind of detail you get in the US - the office allowances are, if anything, on the moderate side. But this is not the case in the US: with a monthly supplementary allowance for office and staffing of up to € 90,000, what goes on here is nothing less than the squandering of huge sums of money to pay for luxury (Tables 5 and 6).

### *EXTRA: 240 litres of free petrol on Malta*

Some of the other extras granted also occasionally make for curious reading. The spectrum is broad and ranges from a € 5,500 supplement for the purchase of office equipment right through to free entry to museums (Greece), a flat-rate amount of € 802 for postage costs (the United

Kingdom) and the assumption of child care costs and those of gym membership in the parliament building (Greece).

Just as unusual as these are the following: on the small Mediterranean island of Malta, the parliamentary deputies receive 240 litres of petrol for nothing each month; and in Madrid there's a lavish flat-rate allowance of € 250 for travel by taxi. For parliamentarians in the Czech Republic and on Malta there is even free police or, as the case may be, comprehensive personal protection (Table 5).

## **Euro and economic crisis? Only to a point - if you're a member of parliament**

One thing is clear from the current public discussion concerning national budgets: the economic management currently practised in some national parliaments in Europe just can't go on. Critics complain that the sinecures which some elected representatives allow themselves are excessive. The idea of parliament as a self-service store is gaining currency and is also backed up in some (but not all!) EU member states by the study carried out by the consumer portal [preisvergleich.de](http://preisvergleich.de).

But never mind: after heated discussions and under pressure from a populace hemmed in on all sides by compulsory austerity, former Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti decided when taking office to waive his salary. However, as a former member of the Senate in Rome, he already gets a pension in excess of € 200,000 per annum and isn't therefore exactly hard up. It's true that the deputies to the state parliament in Rome voted for a reduction in their allowances of € 1,300 per month and a minimal reduction in their pension entitlements. But if and when the new regulation will actually take effect is still unclear. Just as lacking in actual implementation is the decision made in the Spanish parliament to reduce parliamentary allowances in the *Corte Generales* by seven per cent. And in France, whilst it's true that the new president has reduced his own salary and that of his cabinet colleagues, this reduction has merely returned them to the level at which they were before being raised by his predecessor five years previously. The members of the French National Assembly are unaffected by this.

And where do the Greeks, reviled as wasters of taxpayers' money, come in this comparison of different countries? Whilst all Greece's elected representatives put together get "only" € 103 million per legislative period, this still puts Greece in sixth place in the cost ranking of the 27 EU national parliaments. This is all relative. As the parliament of the country currently being kept afloat by the Eurozone's rescue package has only 300 elected members, the Greek parliamentarian pockets € 7,156 per month, almost exactly the amount of taxpayer's money taken home by his counterpart in the United Kingdom, at € 7,888 (Table 1).

## **This is how much Europe's taxpayers pay per annum into the EU's pot**

The major differences are not confined to comparisons between the EU's national parliaments and with the European Parliament in Strasbourg – they also feature when it comes to the size of the contributions made by EU member states to the EU budget. A well-known fact: Germany tops the league of contributors and is the place of origin of at least every fifth euro spent – some 20% or at least € 20.7 billion net per annum. The runners-up are France (17.6%), Italy (13.2%) and the United Kingdom (11.7%). These four member states between them contribute 62.6% of the EU's total budget. The burden of the remaining 37.4% is shared between the 23 nations of the European Community. (Table 3)

Moreover: whereas the four largest member states (Germany, France, the United Kingdom and Italy) between them account for 53.5% of the total population of the EU, they have a mere 42.3% of the vote in the European Parliament.

Even though the Germans pay a great deal into the EU budget, one thing still needs to be said: in proportion to the average gross national income per head, it is actually the Danes, with an annual contribution of € 375 per person, who pay the most into the EU budget. In comparison to the average income per head, this is some 56% above average.

But this too needs to be said: in comparison with the average annual gross income per head, Bulgaria's contribution to the EU budget, at only € 41 per head per annum, is 50% below the EU average, a significant figure which, in comparison with other poor EU member states, must be considered too low. (Tables 3 and 4)

## The conclusion of the study:

There's currently precious little transparency when it comes to the allowances claimed by all elected representatives in Europe. Also of concern are what have become significant differences in pay structure between the politicians and the citizens of the European Union. What you get is a difference in salary averaging 878 per cent.

## Design of the study

In the course of months of difficult, detailed and multilingual research, journalist Annette Kröning and her team of statisticians investigated the "income" of politicians in Europe for the German product, energy and financial services portal Preisvergleich.de. For this purpose she surveyed all 27 EU national parliaments and established contact with members of the European Parliament in Brussels.

In the process, the research overall proved extremely difficult. In the case of Greece, for instance, the people carrying out the study had to turn to a Greek blogger for the decisive tip on exactly where in the obscure depths of the parliament's website to find the statutory information on the members' salary structure (all figures in the annex to the tables are marked with source references). The Greek parliament showed itself in a particularly bad light in this respect. For instance, the office of the Greek parliamentary speaker was not prepared to disclose information on incomes, nor was it easy to get usable information from Italy, Portugal or Malta. Even the comparatively clearly and uniformly structured EU salaries earned by MEPs required the surveying team to brush up its maths before it was able to produce what was little more than a usable rough outline of these incomes.

Whereas some parliaments (Benelux, Scandinavia and the Baltic states) were willing and able to quickly provide information on parliamentary allowances and bonus payments for their members, numerous other parliaments completely ignored the survey requests from the product, energy and financial services portal preisvergleich.de.

The basis of the information on the yearly income of EU citizens is formed by the annually updated "Fischer Weltalmanach". For this reason, this part of the research was the least complicated.

Primary sources only were used for the information in the tables (See appended references). A conscious decision was made to exclude from the study the regulations on the disclosure of secondary paid activities, the contributions paid by elected representatives and the pension entitlements of parliamentarians. All data and calculations are derived from the research as it stood on 07.12.2012

### ***Preisvergleich.de - Background facts***

The consumer portal Preisvergleich.de (2.36 million users per month, AGOF Internet facts February 2013) offers numerous online comparisons on all matters concerning insurance and energy tariffs.



### Primary sources for Table 1 and 5

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Czech Republic: Press Information Bureau of the Czech Parliament,  
Hungary: Information of the Hungarian Embassy in Berlin  
Cyprus: Information of the Press Information Bureau of the Cypriot Parliament.  
(Information provided by the respective parliamentary and government agencies are the study team in the original)

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