

Federal Act on Federal Support of Political Parties (Support of Political Parties Act 2012), Federal Law Gazette I No. 57/2012

Support of political parties at the federal level

§ 1. (1) The federation supports political parties in their activities in participating in the formation of political will at the federal level by annually granting subsidies.

(2) The subsidies by the federation shall be calculated by multiplying the number of persons eligible to vote in elections for the National Council by an amount of 4.6 euros. The subsidies shall be granted to the individual political parties in the following manner:

1. Every political party represented in the National Council that has at least five members of parliament (the minimum required for the formation of a parliamentary group as referred to in § 7 of the Rules of Procedure Law of 1975 [*Geschäftsordnungsgesetz 1975*], Federal Law Gazette No. 410/1975) shall receive a basic subsidy in the amount of 218,000 euros;
2. After deduction of the subsidies pursuant to subpara 1, the remaining funds shall be distributed among the political parties represented in the National Council pro rata to the votes cast for them in the last National Council election.

(3) Political parties not represented in the National Council but which received more than 1% of the valid votes in an election for the National Council shall be entitled to subsidies for their activities for the election year. Such political parties shall receive an amount of 2.5 euros per vote cast for them in a National Council election; such subsidies shall be paid within six months following the National Council election.

(4) Payment of the subsidies pursuant to para 2 shall be made in two instalments, the first instalment to be paid by the end of the first quarter and the second instalment by the end of the third quarter.

Special support of political parties for political activities in the European Parliament

§ 2. (1) Every political party that is represented by members of parliament in the European Parliament after an election for the European Parliament shall be entitled to federal subsidies after the election in accordance with the following provisions.

(2) The total amount of subsidies pursuant to para 1 shall be calculated by multiplying the number of persons eligible to vote in the relevant election for the European Parliament by an amount of 2 euros.

(3) The total amount calculated pursuant to para 2 shall be allocated to the political parties pro rata to the votes cast for them in the election for the European Parliament.

(4) Subsidies pursuant to para 3 shall be granted to a political party only up to the amount corresponding to the expenses actually incurred for the election campaign as referred to in § 4 para 2 of the Political Parties Act 2012 (*Parteiengesetz 2012*), Federal Law Gazette I No. 56/2012. To evidence such expenses, a statement of the expenses actually spent for the purposes of the election campaign, which shall be verified and signed by an auditor as referred to in § 9 of the Political Parties Act 2012, Federal Law Gazette I No. 56/2012, shall be attached to the request to be awarded subsidies (§ 3 para 1).

(5) The subsidies pursuant to para 1 shall be paid within six months following the election for the European Parliament.

Request to be awarded subsidies

§ 3. (1) Requests to be awarded subsidies shall be filed with the Federal Chancellery. Requests pursuant to § 1 para 2 subparas 1 and 2 must be received by no later than 15 December of the preceding year, and requests pursuant to § 1 para 3 or § 2 must be received by no later than the last day of the third month following the relevant National Council election or election for the European Parliament.

(2) If the conditions for entitlement pursuant to § 1 para 2 change because of the results of a National Council election, the results of such election shall be taken into account for the first time in the half year following such National Council election.

Statement of accounts

§ 4. Every political party that receives subsidies under this Federal Act shall keep records on the use of such subsidies. The use shall be evidenced in a separate section in the first part of the statement of accounts as referred to in § 5 of the Political Parties Act 2012 (*Parteiengesetz 2012*), Federal Law Gazette I No. 56/2012.

Inflation adjustment rule

§ 5. From the year 2015, the amounts referred to in § 1 paras 2 and 3 as well as § 2 para 2 will reduce or increase to the extent to which the 2010 consumer price index published by Statistics Austria or the index of the previous year replacing it will have changed; changes shall not be taken into account as long as they do not exceed 5% of that index figure and subsequently 5% of the index figure last relevant for the inflation adjustment. When calculating the new amounts, amounts not exceeding 50 cents shall be rounded down to the nearest whole euro, and amounts exceeding 50 cents shall be rounded up to the nearest whole euro. The new amounts shall apply from the first day of the second month following publication of an index change by Statistics Austria. The Court of Audit shall promulgate the amounts changed due to the inflation adjustment and the time at which the change becomes effective in Federal Law Gazette II.

Execution and application of other federal acts

§ 6. (1) The Federal Chancellor shall be entrusted with the execution of this Federal Act.

(2) To the extent this Federal Act refers to other federal acts, such federal acts shall be applied as amended from time to time.

Entry into force and transitional provisions

§ 7. (1) This Federal Act shall enter into force as of 1 July 2012.

(2) The difference resulting for the year 2012 between the calculation of federal subsidies pursuant to the rule in § 2 of the Political Parties Act (*Parteiengesetz*), Federal Law Gazette No. 404/1975, as amended by the federal act promulgated in Federal Law Gazette I No. 111/2010, and the calculation pursuant to § 1 para 2 of this Federal Act shall be divided among the political parties represented in the National Council according to the rule referred to in § 1 para 2 subpara 2 and paid together with the first instalment of the annual subsidy for 2013 pursuant to § 1 para 4.