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DRAFT REPORT

on amendments to Parliament's Rules of Procedure with a view to
strengthening integrity, independence and accountability
(2023/2095(REG))

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

Rapporteur: Gabriele Bischoff

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PROPOSAL FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DECISION

on amendments to Parliament's Rules of Procedure with a view to strengthening integrity, independence and accountability (2023/2095(REG))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the letter from its President of 9 March 2023,
 - having regard to Rules 236 and 237 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (A9-0000/2023),
1. Decides to amend its Rules of Procedure as shown below;
 2. Decides that the amendments shall enter into force on 1 November 2023; decides that the amendments empowering the Bureau and the Quaestors to adopt implementing measures shall however apply from the date that this decision is adopted;
 3. Decides that declarations of interests submitted on the basis of the provisions of the Rules of Procedure in force on the date that this decision is adopted will remain valid until 31 December 2023;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this decision to the Council and the Commission, for information.

Amendment 1

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 11

Present text

Rule 11

Members' financial interests and Transparency register

1. Parliament shall lay down rules ***governing the transparency of its Members' financial interests*** in the form of a Code of Conduct which shall be adopted by a majority of its component Members and attached to these Rules of Procedure as an annex⁵.

Those rules shall not otherwise prejudice or restrict Members in the exercise of their

Amendment

Rule 11

Rules of conduct regarding integrity and transparency

1. Parliament shall lay down rules ***of conduct regarding integrity and transparency*** in the form of a Code of Conduct, which shall be adopted by a majority of its component Members and attached to these Rules of Procedure as an annex⁵.

Those rules shall not otherwise prejudice or restrict Members in the exercise of their

office or of any related political or other activity.

2. Members should adopt the systematic practice of only meeting interest representatives that are registered in the transparency register established by means of the Interinstitutional Agreement on a mandatory transparency register⁶.

3. Members should publish online all scheduled meetings with interest representatives falling under the scope of the Interinstitutional Agreement. Without prejudice to Article 4(6) of Annex I, rapporteurs, shadow rapporteurs and committee chairs shall, for each report, publish online all scheduled meetings with interest representatives falling under the scope of the Interinstitutional Agreement. The Bureau shall provide for necessary infrastructure on Parliament's website.

4. The Bureau shall provide the necessary infrastructure on Members' online page on Parliament's website for those Members who wish to publish a voluntary audit or confirmation, as provided for under the applicable rules of the Statute for Members and its implementing rules, that their use of the General Expenditure Allowance complies with the applicable rules of the Statute for Members and its implementing measures.

5. These rules shall not otherwise prejudice or restrict Members in the exercise of their office or of any related political or other activity.

6. The code of conduct **and the rights and privileges of** former Members shall be laid down by a decision of the Bureau. **No distinction shall be made in the treatment of former Members.**

⁵ See Annex I.

⁶ **Interinstitutional Agreement of 20 May 2021 between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and**

office or of any related political or other activity.

4. The Bureau shall provide the necessary infrastructure on Members' online page on Parliament's website for those Members who wish to publish a voluntary audit or confirmation, as provided for under the applicable rules of the Statute for Members and its implementing rules, that their use of the General Expenditure Allowance complies with the applicable rules of the Statute for Members and its implementing measures.

6. The code of conduct **regarding integrity and transparency for** former Members shall be laid down by a decision of the Bureau.

⁵ See Annex I.

Amendment 2

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 35

Present text

Rule 35

Intergroups

1. Individual Members may form Intergroups ***or other unofficial groupings of Members***, for the purpose of holding informal exchanges of views on specific issues across different political groups, drawing on members of different parliamentary committees, and of promoting contact between Members and civil society.

2. Intergroups ***as well as other unofficial groupings*** shall be fully transparent in their actions ***and*** shall not engage in any activities which might result in confusion with the official activities of Parliament or of its bodies. They may not organise events in third countries that coincide with a mission of an official Parliament body, including an official election observation delegation.

3. Provided that the conditions laid down in Parliament's internal rules governing the establishment of ***such groupings*** are complied with, a political group may facilitate their activities by providing them with logistical support.

4. Intergroups shall be required to make an annual declaration of any support, ***whether*** in cash or in kind (***e.g. secretarial assistance***), which, if offered to Members as individuals, would have had to be

Amendment

Rule 35

Intergroups

1. Individual Members may form intergroups for the purpose of holding informal exchanges of views on specific issues across different political groups, drawing on members of different parliamentary committees, and of promoting contact between Members and civil society.

2. Intergroups shall be fully transparent in their actions. ***They*** shall not engage in any activities which might result in confusion with the official activities of Parliament or of its bodies. ***In particular, they shall not use the name or the logo of Parliament.*** They may not organise events in third countries that coincide with a mission of an official Parliament body, including an official election observation delegation.

3. Provided that the conditions laid down in Parliament's internal rules governing the establishment of ***intergroups*** are complied with, a political group may facilitate their activities by providing them with logistical support.

4. Intergroups shall be required to make an annual declaration of any support, ***including*** in cash or in kind, which, if offered to Members as individuals, would

declared under Annex I.

Other unofficial groupings shall also be required to declare, by the end of the following month, any support, whether in cash or in kind, which Members have not declared individually in accordance with their obligations under Annex I.

5. ***Only*** interest representatives ***who are registered in the transparency register*** may participate in intergroup ***or other unofficial grouping*** activities organised on Parliament's premises, for instance by attending meetings or events of the intergroup ***or other unofficial grouping***, by offering support to it, or by co-hosting its events.

6. The Quaestors shall keep a register of the declarations referred to in paragraph 4. The ***Quaestors*** shall adopt detailed rules on those declarations and their publication on Parliament's website.

7. The Quaestors shall ensure the effective enforcement of this Rule.

have had to be declared under Annex I.

5. Interest representatives may ***only*** participate in intergroup activities organised on Parliament's premises, for instance by attending meetings or events of the intergroup, by offering support to it, or by co-hosting its events, ***if they are registered in the transparency register.***

6. The Quaestors shall keep a register ***of the intergroups and*** of the declarations referred to in paragraph 4. The ***Bureau*** shall adopt detailed rules ***on that register and*** on those declarations and their publication on Parliament's website.

7. The Quaestors shall ensure the effective enforcement of this Rule.

7a. In the event of a breach of this Rule, the Quaestors may impose on the intergroup a ban on using Parliament's facilities for a period which may not exceed the remainder of the parliamentary term.

Or. en

Amendment 3

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 35 a (new)

Present text

Amendment

Rule 35a

Unofficial groupings

1. Individual Members may form unofficial groupings for the purpose of holding informal exchanges of views on

specific issues across different political groups, drawing on members of different parliamentary committees, and of promoting contact between Members and civil society.

2. Unofficial groupings shall be fully transparent in their actions. They shall not engage in any activities which might result in confusion with the official activities of Parliament or of its bodies. In particular, they shall not use the name or the logo of Parliament. They may not organise events in third countries that coincide with a mission of an official Parliament body, including an official election observation delegation. Members participating in unofficial groupings shall proactively disclose to external interlocutors that they are acting in their capacity as individual Members.

3. A political group may facilitate the activities of unofficial groupings by providing them with logistical support, except in the case of unofficial groupings related to third countries for which a standing interparliamentary delegation as referred to in Rule 223 exists.

Unofficial groupings related to third countries for which a standing interparliamentary delegation as referred to in Rule 223 exists shall not benefit from any facilities of Parliament for their activities.

The relation to the third country may result from the name or the activities of the unofficial grouping.

4. Unofficial groupings shall be required to declare, by the end of the following month, any support, including in cash or in kind. In the absence of such a declaration, the Chair of the grouping or, if the grouping has no Chair, any Member participating in it shall declare the support within 10 working days following the expiry of that deadline.

5. Interest representatives may only participate in unofficial grouping

activities organised on Parliament's premises, for instance by attending meetings or events of the unofficial grouping, by offering support to it, or by co-hosting its events, if they are registered in the transparency register.

6. The Quaestors shall keep a register of the declarations referred to in paragraph 4 and of the unofficial groupings that have submitted them. The Bureau shall adopt detailed rules on that register and on those declarations and their publication on Parliament's website.

7. The Quaestors shall ensure the effective enforcement of this Rule.

8. In case of a breach of this Rule, the Quaestors may impose on the unofficial grouping a ban on using Parliament's facilities for a period which may not exceed the remainder of the parliamentary term.

Or. en

Amendment 4

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 123

Present text

Rule 123

Access to Parliament

1. Access badges for Members, Members' assistants and third persons shall be issued on the basis of the rules laid down by the Bureau. Those rules shall also govern the use and withdrawal of access badges.
2. Badges shall not be issued to individuals within a Member's entourage who fall within the scope of the Interinstitutional Agreement on a mandatory transparency register.
3. Entities entered in the transparency

Amendment

Rule 123

Access to Parliament

1. Access badges for Members, **former Members**, Members' assistants and third persons shall be issued on the basis of the rules laid down by the Bureau. Those rules shall also govern the use and withdrawal of access badges.
2. Badges shall not be issued to individuals within a Member's entourage who fall within the scope of the Interinstitutional Agreement on a mandatory transparency register.
3. Entities entered in the transparency

register, and their representatives who have been issued with long-term access badges to the European Parliament must respect:

- the Code of Conduct for Registrants annexed to the Interinstitutional Agreement;
- the procedures and other obligations laid down by the Interinstitutional Agreement; and
- the provisions implementing this Rule.

Without prejudice to the applicability of the general rules governing the withdrawal or temporary de-activation of long-term access badges, and unless there are significant arguments to the contrary, the Secretary-General shall, with the authorisation of the Quaestors, withdraw or deactivate a long-term access badge where its holder has been disbarred from the transparency register for a breach of the Code of Conduct for Registrants, has been guilty of a serious breach of the obligations laid down in this paragraph, or has refused, without offering a sufficient justification, to comply with a formal summons to attend a hearing or committee meeting or to cooperate with a committee of inquiry.

4. The Quaestors may determine to what extent the Code of Conduct referred to in paragraph 3 is applicable to persons who, whilst in possession of a long-term access badge, do not fall within the scope of the Interinstitutional Agreement.

5. The Bureau, acting on a proposal from the Secretary-General, shall lay down the measures needed to implement the transparency register, in accordance with the provisions of the Interinstitutional Agreement.

register, and their representatives who have been issued with long-term access badges to the European Parliament must respect:

- the Code of Conduct for Registrants annexed to the Interinstitutional Agreement;
- the procedures and other obligations laid down by the Interinstitutional Agreement; and
- the provisions implementing this Rule.

Without prejudice to the applicability of the general rules governing the withdrawal or temporary de-activation of long-term access badges, and unless there are significant arguments to the contrary, the Secretary-General shall, with the authorisation of the Quaestors, withdraw or deactivate a long-term access badge where its holder has been disbarred from the transparency register for a breach of the Code of Conduct for Registrants, has been guilty of a serious breach of the obligations laid down in this paragraph, or has refused, without offering a sufficient justification, to comply with a formal summons to attend a hearing or committee meeting or to cooperate with a committee of inquiry.

4. The Quaestors may determine to what extent the Code of Conduct referred to in paragraph 3 is applicable to persons who, whilst in possession of a long-term access badge, do not fall within the scope of the Interinstitutional Agreement.

5. The Bureau, acting on a proposal from the Secretary-General, shall lay down the measures needed to implement the transparency register, in accordance with the provisions of the Interinstitutional Agreement.

Or. en

Amendment 5

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Rule 176

Present text

Rule 176

Penalties

1. In serious cases of breach of Rule 10 (2) to (9), the President shall adopt a reasoned decision imposing upon the Member concerned the appropriate penalty in accordance with this Rule.

In relation to Rule 10 (3) or (4), the President may adopt a reasoned decision under this Rule regardless of whether or not an immediate measure within the meaning of Rule 175 had previously been imposed upon the Member concerned.

In relation to Rule 10 (6), the President may only adopt a reasoned decision under this Rule following the establishment of the occurrence of a harassment in accordance with the applicable internal administrative procedure on harassment and its prevention.

The President may impose a penalty upon a Member in cases in which provision is made, by these Rules of Procedure or by a decision adopted by the Bureau under Rule 25, for the application of this Rule.

2. The Member concerned shall be invited by the President to submit written observations before the decision is adopted. The President may decide to convene an oral hearing instead whenever it is more appropriate.

The decision imposing the penalty shall be notified to the Member concerned **by registered letter or, in urgent cases, via the ushers.**

After that decision has been notified to the

Amendment

Rule 176

Penalties

1. In serious cases of breach of Rule 10(2) to (9), **Rule 35 or Rule 35a**, the President shall adopt a reasoned decision imposing upon the Member concerned the appropriate penalty in accordance with this Rule.

In relation to Rule 10(3) or (4), the President may adopt a reasoned decision under this Rule regardless of whether or not an immediate measure within the meaning of Rule 175 had previously been imposed upon the Member concerned.

In relation to Rule 10(6), the President may only adopt a reasoned decision under this Rule following the establishment of the occurrence of a harassment in accordance with the applicable internal administrative procedure on harassment and its prevention.

Ia. The President may ***also*** impose a penalty upon a Member in cases in which provision is made, by these Rules of Procedure, ***including the Code of Conduct***, or by a decision adopted by the Bureau under Rule 25, for the application of this Rule.

2. The Member concerned shall be invited by the President to submit written observations before the decision is adopted. The President may decide to convene an oral hearing instead whenever it is more appropriate.

The decision imposing the penalty shall be notified to the Member concerned.

Once the penalty becomes final, it shall be

Member concerned, any penalty imposed on a Member shall be announced by the President in Parliament. The presiding officers of the bodies, committees and delegations on which the Member serves shall be informed.

Once the penalty becomes final, it shall be published prominently on Parliament's website, **and shall remain there for the rest of the parliamentary term.**

3. When assessing the conduct observed, account shall be taken of its exceptional, recurrent or permanent nature and of its seriousness. Account shall also be taken, if applicable, of possible damage inflicted on the dignity and reputation of Parliament.

4. The penalty may consist of one or more of the following measures:

(a) a reprimand;

(b) forfeiture of entitlement to the daily subsistence allowance for a period of between two and **thirty** days;

(c) without prejudice to the right to vote in plenary, and subject, in this instance, to strict compliance with the Members' standards of conduct, temporary suspension from participation in all or some of the activities of Parliament for a period of between two and **thirty** days on which Parliament or any of its bodies, committees or delegations meet;

(d) prohibition of the Member from representing the Parliament on an

announced by the President in Parliament. The presiding officers of the bodies, committees and delegations on which the Member serves shall be informed.

The penalty imposed shall be published prominently on Parliament's website **and on the Member's online page on Parliament's website.**

3. When assessing the conduct observed, account shall be taken of its exceptional, recurrent or permanent nature and of its seriousness. Account shall also be taken, if applicable, of possible damage inflicted on the dignity and reputation of Parliament.

4. **The penalty imposed shall be effective, proportionate and dissuasive.** The penalty may consist of one or more of the following measures:

(a) a reprimand;

(aa) prohibition of the Member from representing the Parliament on an interparliamentary delegation, inter-parliamentary conference or any interinstitutional forum, for up to one year;

(ab) in the case of a breach of confidentiality, a limitation in the rights to access confidential or classified information for up to one year;

(b) forfeiture of entitlement to the daily subsistence allowance for a period of between two and **sixty** days;

(c) without prejudice to the right to vote in plenary, and subject, in this instance, to strict compliance with the Members' standards of conduct, temporary suspension from participation in all or some of the activities of Parliament for a period of between two and **sixty** days on which Parliament or any of its bodies, committees or delegations meet;

interparliamentary delegation, inter-parliamentary conference or any interinstitutional forum, for up to one year;

(e) in the case of a breach of confidentiality, a limitation in the rights to access confidential or classified information for up to one year.

5. The measures laid down in points (b) to (e) of paragraph 4 may be doubled in the case of repeated breaches, or if the Member refuses to comply with a measure taken under Rule 175(3).

6. In addition, the President may submit a proposal to the Conference of Presidents for the suspension or removal of the Member from one or more of the offices held by that Member in Parliament, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Rule 21.

5. The measures laid down in points (aa) to (c) of paragraph 4 may be doubled in the case of repeated breaches, or if the Member refuses to comply with a measure taken under Rule 175(3).

6. In addition, the President may submit a proposal to the Conference of Presidents for the suspension or removal of the Member from one or more of the offices held by that Member in Parliament, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Rule 21.

6a. The President shall decide on the period of publication of the penalties taking into account that the minimum period of publication shall be, irrespective of the end of the mandate of the Member concerned, as follows:

- two years for the penalties referred to in points (a), (aa) and (ab) of paragraph 4;

- three years for the penalties referred to in points (b) and (c) of paragraph 4.

However, in cases of minor breaches, the President may decide on a shorter period of publication.

Or. en

Amendment 6

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Annex I – Title

Present text

ANNEX I

PE750.193v01-00

Amendment

ANNEX I

12/27

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CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS
OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
***WITH RESPECT TO FINANCIAL
INTERESTS AND CONFLICTS OF
INTEREST***

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS
OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
***REGARDING INTEGRITY AND
TRANSPARENCY***

Or. en

Amendment 7

**Parliament's Rules of Procedure
Annex I – Article 1**

Present text

Article 1

Guiding principles

In exercising their duties, Members of the European Parliament:

(a) are guided by and observe the following general principles of conduct: disinterest, integrity, openness, diligence, honesty, accountability and respect for Parliament's reputation,

(b) act solely in the public interest and refrain from obtaining or seeking to obtain any direct or indirect ***financial*** benefit or other reward.

Amendment

Article 1

Guiding principles

In exercising their duties, Members of the European Parliament:

(a) are guided by and observe the following general principles of conduct: disinterest, integrity, openness, diligence, honesty, accountability and respect for Parliament's ***dignity and*** reputation,

(b) act solely in the public interest and refrain from obtaining or seeking to obtain any direct or indirect benefit or other reward.

Or. en

Amendment 8

**Parliament's Rules of Procedure
Annex I – Article 2**

Present text

Article 2

Main duties of Members

In exercising their duties, Members of the European Parliament shall:

(a) not enter into any agreement to act or

Amendment

Article 2

Main duties of Members

In exercising their duties, Members of the European Parliament shall:

(a) not enter into any agreement to act or

vote in the interest of any other legal or natural person that would compromise their voting freedom, as enshrined in Article 6 of the Act of 20 September 1976 concerning the election of the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage and Article 2 of the Statute for Members of the European Parliament,

(b) not solicit, accept or receive any direct or indirect benefit or other reward, *whether* in cash or in kind, in exchange for specific behaviour in the scope of the Member's parliamentary work, and shall consciously seek to avoid any situation which might imply bribery, corruption, or undue influence,

(c) not engage in paid *professional* lobbying directly linked to the Union decision-making process.

vote in the interest of any other legal or natural person that would compromise their voting freedom, as enshrined in Article 6 of the Act of 20 September 1976 concerning the election of the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage and Article 2 of the Statute for Members of the European Parliament,

(b) not solicit, accept or receive any direct or indirect benefit or other reward, *including* in cash or in kind, in exchange for specific behaviour in the scope of the Member's parliamentary work, and shall consciously seek to avoid any situation which might imply bribery, corruption, or undue influence,

(c) not engage in paid lobbying *activities* directly linked to the Union decision-making process.

Or. en

Amendment 9

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Annex I – Article 3

Present text

Article 3

Conflicts of interest

1. A conflict of interest exists where a Member of the European Parliament *has a personal interest that could improperly influence the performance of his or her duties as a Member*. A conflict of interest does not exist where a Member benefits only as a member of the general public or of a broad class of persons.

2. *Any* Member who *finds that he or she has* a conflict of interest shall

Amendment

Article 3

Conflicts of interest

1. A conflict of interest exists where *the exercise of the mandate of* a Member of the European Parliament *in the public interest may be* improperly *influenced for reasons involving his or her family, emotional life, economic interest or any other direct or indirect private interest*.

A conflict of interest does not exist where a Member benefits only as a member of the general public or of a broad class of persons.

2. *Members shall make every reasonable effort to detect conflicts of*

immediately *take the necessary steps to address it, in accordance with the principles and provisions of this Code of Conduct*. If *the Member is unable to resolve the conflict of interest, he or she shall report this to the President in writing. In cases of ambiguity, the Member may seek advice in confidence from the Advisory Committee on the Conduct of Members, established under Article 7.*

3. Without prejudice to paragraph 2, Members shall disclose, before speaking or voting in plenary or in one of Parliament's bodies, *or if proposed as a rapporteur*, any *actual or potential* conflict of interest in relation to the matter under consideration, where such conflict is not evident from the information declared pursuant to Article 4. Such disclosure shall be made *in writing or orally to the chair during the parliamentary proceedings in question.*

interest.

A Member who becomes aware of having a conflict of interest shall immediately endeavour to resolve it. If unable to resolve it, the Member shall make sure that the private interest concerned is declared in accordance with Article 4.

3. Without prejudice to paragraph 2, Members shall disclose, before speaking or voting in plenary or in one of Parliament's bodies, any conflict of interest in relation to the matter under consideration, where such conflict is not evident from the information declared pursuant to Article 4. Such disclosure shall be made orally *by intervening in the sitting or meeting concerned.*

3a. Before taking up the office of Vice-President, Quaestor, Chair or Vice-chair of a committee or delegation, the Member shall submit a declaration indicating whether or not he or she is aware of having a conflict of interest in relation to the responsibilities of that office.

If the Member is aware of having such a conflict of interest, he or she shall describe the conflict in that declaration. In that case, he or she may only take up the office if the respective body decides that the conflict of interest does not prevent the Member from exercising his or her mandate in the public interest.

When such a conflict of interest arises during the exercise of the office in question, the Member shall submit a declaration describing that conflict and

shall refrain from exercising the responsibilities with regard to this situation of conflict, unless the respective body decides that the conflict of interest does not prevent the Member from exercising his or her mandate in the public interest.

3b. A Member who is proposed as a rapporteur or shadow rapporteur or as a participant in an official delegation or in interinstitutional negotiations shall submit a declaration indicating whether or not he or she is aware of having a conflict of interest in relation to respectively the report or opinion or the delegation or negotiations in question. If the Member is aware of having such a conflict of interest, he or she shall describe the conflict in that declaration.

Where the Member who has been proposed as a rapporteur declares that he or she has a conflict of interest, the respective committee may decide by a majority of the votes cast that the Member may nevertheless be appointed as a rapporteur on the ground that the conflict does not prevent the Member from exercising his or her mandate in the public interest.

Where the Member who has been proposed as a shadow rapporteur or as a participant in an official delegation or in interinstitutional negotiations declares that he or she has a conflict of interest, the respective political group may decide that the Member may nevertheless be designated as a shadow rapporteur or as a participant in an official delegation or in interinstitutional negotiations on the ground that the conflict does not prevent the Member from exercising his or her mandate in the public interest. The respective body may, however, oppose this designation by a majority of two thirds of the votes cast.

3c. The Bureau shall draw up the form for the declarations mentioned in paragraphs 3a and 3b, pursuant to Article

9. Such declarations shall be published on Members' online page on Parliament's website.

Or. en

Amendment 10

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Annex I – Article 4

Present text

Article 4

Declaration *by Members*

1. For reasons of transparency, Members of the European Parliament shall ***be personally responsible for submitting*** a declaration of ***financial*** interests to the President by the end of the first part-session after elections to the European Parliament (or within 30 days of taking up office with the Parliament in the course of a parliamentary term), in accordance with a form ***to be adopted*** by the Bureau pursuant to Article 9. They shall notify the President of any changes that have an influence on their declaration by the end of the month following each change occurring.

2. The declaration of ***financial*** interests shall contain the following information, which shall be provided in a precise manner:

(a) the Member's occupation or occupations during the three-year period before ***he or she took up*** office with the Parliament, and ***his or her*** membership during that period of any boards or committees of companies, non-governmental organisations, associations or other bodies established in law,

(b) any salary which the Member receives for the exercise of a mandate in another parliament,

Amendment

Article 4

Declaration *of private interests*

1. For reasons of transparency ***and accountability***, Members of the European Parliament shall ***submit*** a declaration of ***private*** interests to the President by the end of the first part-session after elections to the European Parliament (or within 30 ***calendar*** days of taking up office with the Parliament in the course of a parliamentary term), in accordance with a form ***drawn up*** by the Bureau pursuant to Article 9. They shall notify the President of any changes that have an influence on their declaration by the end of the month following each change occurring.

2. The declaration of ***private*** interests shall contain the following information, which shall be provided in a ***detailed and*** precise manner:

(a) the Member's occupation or occupations during the three-year period before ***taking up*** office with the Parliament, and membership during that period of any boards or committees of companies, non-governmental organisations, associations or other bodies established in law,

(c) any **regular** remunerated activity **which the Member undertakes** alongside the exercise of **his or her** office, **whether as an employee or as a self-employed person**,

(d) membership of any boards or committees of **any** companies, non-governmental organisations, associations or other bodies established in law, or any other relevant outside activity that the Member undertakes, **whether the membership or activity in question is remunerated or unremunerated**,

(e) any **occasional remunerated outside activity (including writing, lecturing or the provision of expert advice)**, if the total remuneration of all the Member's occasional outside activities exceeds EUR 5 000 in a calendar year,

(f) any holding in any company or partnership, where there are potential public policy implications or where that holding gives the Member significant influence over the affairs of the body in question,

(g) any support, whether financial or in terms of staff or material, additional to that provided by Parliament and granted to the Member in connection with his or her political activities by third parties, whose identity shall be disclosed,

(h) any **other financial** interests which might influence the performance of the Member's duties.

For any item to be declared in accordance with **the first subparagraph**, Members shall, where appropriate, indicate whether it **is remunerated** or not; **for items (a), (c), (d), (e) and (f)**, Members shall **also** indicate **one of the following income categories**:

(c) any remunerated activity **undertaken** alongside the exercise of **the Member's** office, **including the name of the entity as well as the field and the nature of the activity**, where the total remuneration of all the Member's outside activities exceeds EUR 5 000 gross in a calendar year,

(d) membership of any boards or committees of companies, non-governmental organisations, associations or other bodies established in law, or any other relevant outside activity that the Member undertakes,

(f) any holding in any company or partnership, where there are potential public policy implications or where that holding gives the Member significant influence over the affairs of the body in question,

(g) any support, whether financial or in terms of staff or material, additional to that provided by Parliament and granted to the Member in connection with his or her political activities by third parties, whose identity shall be disclosed,

(h) any **direct or indirect private** interests **within the meaning of Article 3(1)** which might influence the performance of the Member's duties **and which are not referred to in points (a) to (g)**.

2a. For any item to be declared in accordance with **paragraph 2**, Members shall, where appropriate, indicate whether it **generates income or other benefits** or not.

If it generates income, Members shall indicate **for each separate item the respective amount of that income and, where relevant, its periodicity. Other**

benefits shall be described in nature.

- *Unremunerated;*
- *EUR 1 to EUR 499 a month;*
- *EUR 500 to EUR 1 000 a month;*
- *EUR 1 001 to EUR 5 000 a month;*
- *EUR 5 001 to EUR 10 000 a month*
- *above EUR 10 000 a month, with an indication of the nearest EUR 10 000 amount.*

Any income that Members receive in respect of each item declared in accordance with the first subparagraph, but not on a regular basis, shall be calculated on an annual basis, divided by twelve and placed in one of the categories set out in the second subparagraph.

3. The information provided to the President in accordance with *this Article* shall be published on Parliament's website in an easily accessible manner.

4. Members may not be elected as office-holders of Parliament or of one of its bodies, be appointed as a rapporteur or participate in an official delegation or interinstitutional negotiations, if they have not submitted their declaration of *financial* interests.

5. If the President receives information, which leads him or her to believe that the declaration of *financial* interests of a Member is substantially incorrect or out of date, the President *may* consult the *advisory committee* provided for in Article 7. *Where appropriate*, the President *shall* request the Member to correct *his or her* declaration within *10* days. *The Bureau may adopt a decision applying paragraph 4 to Members who do not comply with the President's* correction request.

3. The information provided to the President in accordance with *paragraphs 1 to 2a* shall be published on Parliament's website in an easily accessible manner.

4. Members may not be elected as office-holders of Parliament or of one of its bodies, be appointed as a rapporteur *or be designated as a shadow rapporteur* or participate in an official delegation or interinstitutional negotiations, if they have not submitted their declaration of *private* interests.

5. If the President receives information, which leads him or her to believe that the declaration of *private* interests of a Member is substantially incorrect or out of date, *the President shall request clarification from the Member. In the absence of a satisfactory clarification*, the President *shall* consult the *Advisory Committee* provided for in Article 7. *If the Advisory Committee concludes that the declaration does not comply with this Code of Conduct, it shall recommend to the President to request the Member to correct his or her declaration. If, taking into account that recommendation*, the President *concludes that the Member has breached this Code of Conduct, he or she*

shall request the Member to correct *the* declaration within *15 calendar* days. *If the Member does* not comply with *this* correction request, *the President shall adopt a reasoned decision in accordance with Article 8(3). The internal appeal procedures defined in Rule 177 of the Rules of Procedure shall be available to the Member concerned.*

6. *Rapporteurs may voluntarily list in the explanatory statement to their report outside interests who have been consulted on matters pertaining to the subject of the report*⁵⁶.

⁵⁶ *See Bureau Decision of 12 September 2016 on the implementation of the Inter-Institutional Agreement on the Transparency Register.*

Or. en

Amendment 11

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Annex I – Article 5

Present text

Article 5

Gifts or similar benefits

1. Members of the European Parliament shall refrain from accepting, *in the performance of their duties*, any gifts or similar benefits, other than those with an approximate value of less than EUR 150 given in accordance with courtesy usage or those given to them in accordance with courtesy usage when they are representing Parliament in an official capacity.

2. Any gifts presented to *Members* in accordance with paragraph 1 when *they are* representing Parliament in an official capacity shall be handed over to the President and dealt with in accordance with

Amendment

Article 5

Gifts or similar benefits

1. Members of the European Parliament shall refrain from accepting, *in their capacity as Members*, any gifts or similar benefits, other than those with an approximate value of less than EUR 150 given in accordance with courtesy usage or those given to them in accordance with courtesy usage when they are representing Parliament in an official capacity.

2. Any gifts *with an approximate value of more than EUR 150* presented to *a Member* in accordance with paragraph 1 when *he or she is* representing Parliament in an official capacity shall be handed over

implementing measures to be laid down by the Bureau pursuant to Article 9.

3. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply to the reimbursement of travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses of Members, or to the direct payment of such expenses by third parties, when Members attend, pursuant to an invitation and in the performance of their duties, *at* any events organised by third parties.

*The scope of this paragraph, and in particular the rules designed to ensure transparency, shall be specified in the implementing measures **to be** laid down by the Bureau pursuant to Article 9.*

to the President and dealt with in accordance with implementing measures to be laid down by the Bureau pursuant to Article 9.

3. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply to the reimbursement of travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses of Members, or to the direct payment of such expenses by third parties, *in full or in part*, when Members attend, pursuant to an invitation and in the performance of their duties, any events organised by third parties. ***Members shall declare to the President their attendance at such events and the required information in accordance with*** implementing measures laid down by the Bureau pursuant to Article 9.

Or. en

Amendment 12

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Annex I – Article 5 a (new)

Present text

Amendment

Article 5a

Publication of meetings

1. Members should only meet interest representatives that are entered in the transparency register.

2. Members shall publish online all scheduled meetings relating to parliamentary business, in which the Member has an active role,

- with interest representatives falling under the scope of the Interinstitutional Agreement on a mandatory transparency

register, or

- with representatives of public authorities of third countries, including their diplomatic missions and embassies.

3. The obligation laid down in paragraph 2 applies to meetings attended by the Member or by the Member's parliamentary assistants on his or her behalf.

4. For the purposes of paragraph 2, "active role" means that, in relation to the parliamentary business in question, the Member

- speaks in plenary or committee,

- tables amendments,

- makes an effort to influence other Members by written communications,

- exercises the function of rapporteur, shadow rapporteur or coordinator or

- holds an office within the meaning of Rule 21 of the Rules of Procedure.

5. By way of derogation from paragraph 2, Members shall not publish a meeting the disclosure of which would endanger the life, physical integrity or liberty of an individual or may decide not to publish a meeting where there are other compelling reasons for maintaining confidentiality. Such meetings shall instead be declared to the President, who shall keep this declaration confidential or shall decide on an anonymised or delayed publication. The Bureau shall lay down the conditions under which the President may disclose such a declaration.

6. The Bureau shall provide for the necessary infrastructure on Parliament's website.

7. Article 4(5) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

Or. en

Amendment 13

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Annex I – Article 5 b (new)

Present text

Amendment

Article 5b

Declaration of input

Without prejudice to the requirement to publish meetings pursuant to Article 5a, rapporteurs shall list the entities or persons from whom they received input on matters pertaining to the subject of the file in an annex to their report or opinion.

Or. en

Amendment 14

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Annex I – Article 6

Present text

Amendment

Article 6

Activities of former Members

Former Members of the European Parliament who engage in professional lobbying or representational activities directly linked to the European Union decision-making process should inform the European Parliament thereof and may not, throughout the period in which they engage in those activities, benefit from the facilities granted to former Members under the rules laid down by the Bureau to that effect⁵⁷.

Article 6

Relations with former Members

Members shall not engage with former Members for a period of six months after the end of their mandate in any activity, including scheduled meetings within the meaning of Article 5a, which could allow the former Members to influence the formulation or implementation of policy or legislation, or the decision-making processes of Parliament.

⁵⁷***Bureau Decision of 12 April 1999 on facilities granted to former Members of the European Parliament.***

Or. en

Amendment 15

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Annex I – Article 7

Present text

Article 7

Advisory Committee on the Conduct of Members

1. An Advisory Committee on the Conduct of Members ('the Advisory Committee') is hereby established.
2. The Advisory Committee shall be composed of five members, appointed by the President at the beginning of his or her term of office from amongst the members of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs and the Committee on Legal Affairs, taking due account of the Members' experience and of political balance.

Each member of the Advisory Committee shall serve as chair for six months on a rotating basis.

3. The President shall also, at the beginning of his or her term of office, appoint reserve members for the Advisory Committee, one for each political group not represented in the Advisory Committee.

In the event of an alleged breach of this Code of Conduct by a member of a political group not represented in the Advisory Committee, the relevant reserve member shall serve as a sixth full member of the Advisory Committee ***for the purposes of investigation of that alleged breach.***

Amendment

Article 7

Advisory Committee on the Conduct of Members

1. An Advisory Committee on the Conduct of Members ('the Advisory Committee') is hereby established.
2. The Advisory Committee shall be composed of five members, appointed by the President at the beginning of his or her term of office from amongst the members of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs and the Committee on Legal Affairs, taking due account of the Members' experience and of political ***and gender*** balance.

Each member of the Advisory Committee shall serve as chair for six months on a rotating basis.

3. The President shall also, at the beginning of his or her term of office, appoint reserve members for the Advisory Committee, one for each political group not represented in the Advisory Committee.

In the event of an alleged breach of this Code of Conduct by a member of a political group not represented in the Advisory Committee ***or in the event of a request pursuant to paragraph 4 concerning such a member***, the relevant reserve member shall serve as a sixth full member of the Advisory Committee.

3a. In the event of an alleged breach of this Code of Conduct by a permanent member or by a reserve member of the Advisory Committee, the member or reserve member concerned shall not take part in the proceedings of the Advisory Committee on that alleged breach.

4. *Upon* request *by* a Member, the Advisory Committee shall give him or her, in confidence and within 30 calendar days, **guidance** on the interpretation and implementation of the provisions of this Code of Conduct. The Member in question shall be entitled to rely on such guidance.

At the request of the President, the Advisory Committee shall also assess alleged breaches of this Code of Conduct and advise the President on possible action to be taken.

5. The Advisory Committee may, **after consulting the President**, seek advice from outside experts.

6. The Advisory Committee shall publish an annual report of its work.

4. *At the* request *of* a Member, the Advisory Committee shall give him or her **guidance**, in confidence and within 30 calendar days, on the interpretation and implementation of the provisions of this Code of Conduct, **in particular with regard to conflicts of interest**. The Member in question shall be entitled to rely on such guidance.

At the request of the President, the Advisory Committee shall also assess alleged breaches of this Code of Conduct and advise the President on possible action to be taken.

The Advisory Committee shall proactively monitor compliance by Members with this Code of Conduct and its implementing measures. It shall signal to the President any possible breaches of those provisions.

5. The Advisory Committee may seek advice from outside experts, **in full confidentiality**.

6. The Advisory Committee shall publish an annual report of its work **and raise Members' awareness of this Code of Conduct and its implementing measures on a regular basis**.

Or. en

Amendment 16

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Annex I – Article 8

Present text

Article 8

Procedure in the event of **possible** breaches of **the** Code of Conduct

1. Where there is reason to **think** that a Member of the European Parliament may have breached this Code of Conduct, the President shall, **except in manifestly vexatious cases**, refer the matter to the

Amendment

Article 8

Procedure in the event of **alleged** breaches of **this** Code of Conduct

1. Where there is reason to **believe** that a Member of the European Parliament may have breached this Code of Conduct, the President shall refer the matter to the Advisory Committee.

Advisory Committee.

2. The Advisory Committee shall examine the circumstances of the alleged breach, and may hear the Member concerned. Based on its findings, it shall make a recommendation to the President *concerning a possible decision.*

In case of an alleged breach of the Code of Conduct by a permanent member or by a reserve member of the Advisory Committee, the member or reserve member concerned shall refrain from taking part in the proceedings of the Advisory Committee on that alleged breach.

3. If, taking into account that recommendation, and having invited the Member concerned to submit written observations, the President concludes that the Member concerned has breached *the* Code of Conduct, he or she shall adopt a reasoned decision *laying down* a penalty. The President shall notify that Member of the reasoned decision.

The penalty may consist of one or more of the measures listed in Rule 176(4) *to* (6) of the Rules of Procedure.

4. The internal appeal procedures defined in Rule 177 of the Rules of Procedure shall be available to the Member concerned.

2. The Advisory Committee shall examine the circumstances of the alleged breach, and may hear the Member concerned. Based on its findings, it shall make a recommendation to the President *comprising, where appropriate, a penalty, which may consist of one or more of the measures listed in Rule 176(4), (5) and (6) of the Rules of Procedure.*

3. If, taking into account that recommendation, and having invited the Member concerned to submit written observations, the President concludes that the Member concerned has breached *this* Code of Conduct, he or she shall adopt a reasoned decision *imposing* a penalty. The President shall notify that Member of the reasoned decision.

The penalty may consist of one or more of the measures listed in Rule 176(4), *(5) and* (6) of the Rules of Procedure.

4. The internal appeal procedures defined in Rule 177 of the Rules of Procedure shall be available to the Member concerned.

4a. The President shall also refer to the Advisory Committee systematic, severe or repetitive failures to comply with disclosure obligations laid down in this Code of Conduct.

Or. en

Amendment 17

Parliament's Rules of Procedure Annex I – Article 9

Present text

Article 9

Implementation

The Bureau shall lay down implementing measures for this Code of Conduct, including a monitoring procedure, ***and shall, when necessary, update the amounts referred to in Articles 4 and 5.***

The Bureau may bring forward proposals for revision of this Code of Conduct.

Amendment

Article 9

Implementation

The Bureau shall lay down implementing measures for this Code of Conduct, including a ***compliance*** monitoring procedure ***and training for Members.***

The Bureau may bring forward proposals for ***the*** revision of this Code of Conduct.

Or. en