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Green Plan for Transparency and Integrity in the European Parliament

Sven Giegold, MEP and Max Andersson, MEP

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The Green Plan

The European Institutions are being criticized for a strong and intransparent influence of lobbyists on their decision making and questions concerning conflict of interest. The European Parliament operates already a voluntary transparency register for lobbyists and has rules against conflict of interest. The transparency register provides more transparency than in member states' parliaments. While, the rules on conflict of interest and their disclosure are rather toothless and many member states went further in disclosing and tackling conflict of interest in national parliaments.

The European Parliament has been negotiating on the report "transparency, integrity and accountability in EU institutions" for now nearly a year. The report is ready to be voted, but has been blocked by Conservatives (EPP), Liberals and Social Democrats (S&D). The report, drafted by Sven Giegold, spokesperson of the German Green delegation, contains many practical suggestions to come to bitterly needed improvements in all EU institutions. Nevertheless, Conservatives (EPP), Liberals and Social Democrats (S&D) have agreed to proceed with the ongoing negotiations on the changes of the rules of procedure of the

European Parliament, in order to vote this package of changes before the report of Sven Giegold. The obvious objective is to avoid or delay the implementation of all changes in the European Parliament itself if they are eventually agreed when the Giegold report is voted.

This is why the Greens have now tabled a complete set of proposals to gear the rules of procedure of the European Parliament towards transparency and integrity. European democracy deserves more trust by the citizens. Walking the talk when it comes to our own rules is a key contribution to strengthen the ties of trust between the European Parliament and European citizens.

Our proposals

Mandatory lobby transparency: No registration, no meeting

Lobby transparency: No meetings with unregistered lobbyists

EU Commissioners, Directors-General and their cabinets do not meet unregistered lobbyists because this is their contribution to incentivise lobbyists to actually sign up to the voluntary Transparency Register. Parliament should follow the Commission's lead: At the very least rapporteurs, shadow rapporteurs and Committee Chairs should adopt the systematic practise of meeting only with registered lobbyists. (Rule 205, para 4.1)

Lobby transparency: MEPs to publish their lobby meetings on Parliament's website

The more MEPs publish their lobby meetings, the more Parliament will become transparent. While the freedom of the mandate conflicts with a too strict rule, MEPs are hereby explicitly invited. We call on Parliament's administration to facilitate this by providing the necessary infrastructure. (Rule 116, para 7a) Beside British Conservatives, Spanish Liberals and individual Social-Democrats, we Greens/EFA MEPs practise this already: <https://lobbycal.greens-efa-service.eu/all/>

Legislative footprint: showing who the lobby is

Legislative footprint as a rule for rapporteurs and committee chairs

Legislative footprints are lists of lobbyists who have been consulted while drafting a report and are attached to the respective file. MEPs may practise this lobby transparency already. But making it a rule for rapporteurs and committee chairs as the leaders of legislative processes inside Parliament raises significantly the incentives for lobbyists to register. (Code of Conduct for MEPs, Rule 4)

Legislative footprint: include written input by lobbyists

Rapporteurs and Committee chairs receive plenty of lobbying on what they should write into EU laws. Some of the suggestions are taken up verbally. The public should know where

the content of their laws come from. Therefore all written input to rapporteurs and committee chairs should be collected and disclosed by Parliament. (Rule 205, para 4.1b)

Shadow rapporteurs to be checked for conflicts of interest

Rapporteurs for a dossier in Parliament should lose their function in case they breach the code of conduct e.g. due to a conflict of interest. This present rule should also include shadow rapporteurs since they hold nearly the same influence on the dossiers as the main rapporteur but so far face no scrutiny. (Rule 21, para 2)

MEPs should be allowed to say where their amendments come from

Some amendments tabled by MEPs are originally drafted or inspired by lobbyists. This is legitimate but sources should be public. Present rules do not allow MEPs to add this information to the official documents published by the Parliament for most of the reports. The current limitation to legislative reports should be dropped. (Rule 169, para 1.3)

Cooling off period for MEPs: close the revolving door

Cooling off: No lobby jobs short after the mandate, obligation to notify

Depending on how long MEPs served they receive a transitional allowance for 6-24 months after their mandate, without any obligation. During this period they should not be allowed to take up work as a lobbyist. They should have to notify any new job to the Parliament and the Advisory Committee (on the Code of Conduct for MEPs) should check if it violates this rule. If they are found to breach this cooling off period they should be named and shamed. (Code of Conduct for MEPs, Rule 6, para 1)

Closing lobby loopholes

More transparency about who finances EU Parliament's intergroups

In many of the Parliament's so-called "intergroups", MEPs meet with lobbyists on a regular basis. Parliament's rules oblige intergroups to be transparent about who finances their meetings and activities. Yet many declarations are not up to date. We have proposed obligatory annual updates in order to remedy this. (Rule 34, para 2.2)

More enforcement for rules on intergroup transparency

Intergroups are important for the cooperation of MEPs across political groups, but existing transparency rules are not properly implemented. Quaestors, MEPs elected to lead the administration, should become responsible to enforce the rules. (Rule 34, para 2.3)

No entourage badges for lobbyists

Lobbyists falling into the remit of the EU's Transparency register should not be able to get EP entrance badges that disguise them as the entourage of an MEP. At the moment there is no safeguard against lobbyists receiving one of the about 730 entourage badges. (Rule 11, para 5a)

Lobbyists who refuse to appear before the European Parliament lose their entrance badges

Lobbyists who refuse to appear before the European Parliament to speak in a committee without giving a proper reason for it should lose their entrance badges. For example, IKEA declined to speak at the Parliament's special committee on tax rulings in public but then invited the same MEPs to a secretive lobby meeting. (Rule 11, para 8)

Integrity with teeth: fixing Parliament's Ethics Committee

More teeth for the decisions of the advisory committee

To date, the Advisory Committee has recommended sanctions for MEPs on 11 occasions. The Parliament's President rejected all of them. Since all investigations happen behind closed doors, the President doesn't have to justify his decisions to anyone. We want to change this so that the Parliament President is obliged to be transparent if he or she does not apply a recommended sanction. (Code of Conduct for MEPs, Rule 8)

Scrutiny by external experts, free of conflicts of interest

At present, the ethical Advisory Committee is composed of MEPs who are handpicked by the President of the Parliament. In order to avoid this obvious conflict of interest, external experts should be appointed instead. They should be chosen after an open call based on their qualification as a judge, auditor and/or anti-corruption expert; and this selection should be done by all political groups in the Parliament bureau, not just by the President alone. (Code of Conduct for MEPs, Rule 7)

Own-initiative powers of investigation

So far the Advisory Committee only scrutinises MEPs if the President asks them to do so. Suggestions by members of the advisory committee were already rejected, protecting MEPs with doubtful activities from being questioned internally. This should be changed so that the Committee can act on its own initiative. (Code of Conduct for MEPs, Rule 7 and Rule 8)

Pro-active checks on MEP's declarations of interest

At the moment the Advisory Committee checks the declarations of interest only when they get alerts from the public and are allowed to do so by the president. They should instead pro-actively check an annual sample of at least a quarter of the 751 MEPs' declarations for completeness and understandability. If necessary they should have access to additional documents. (Code of Conduct for MEPs, Rule 7)

Accepting complaints from citizens

As long as a complaint is substantiated by facts, anyone should be able to address them directly to the Advisory Committee without having to go through the office of the Parliament's president. (Code of Conduct for MEPs, Rule 8)

Renaming the 'Advisory Committee' as 'Ethics Committee'

The British House of Commons has an Ethics Committee and thanks to the full power to legislate also some more rights to sanction breaches of integrity rules. Renaming the

,Advisory Committee on the Conduct of Members' to an Ethics Committee expresses the stronger role we want for it. (Code of Conduct for MEPs, Rule 7)

Better defining conflicts of interest

An expensive lobby invitation abroad, a well-paid advice for a big company: MEPs might not know what constitutes a conflict of interest. The Committee should clarify the definition of conflict of interest including a transparent list. (Code of Conduct for MEPs, Rule 7)

Develop the rules with the challenges

Those who check the rules know best how to improve them. Nevertheless, at the moment only the Parliament's bureau is called to recommend changes. This call should also include the most experienced. (Code of Conduct for MEPs, Rule 8)

No financial ties between MEPs and lobbyists

Toughen the ban on lobby side jobs of MEPs

MEPs are already forbidden to accept cash or similar for voting a certain way or influencing it. Yet many argue work as consultant explaining others how to influence EU legislation would be still allowed. Therefore, the rules should be more precise to ban MEPs from any payment for "any activity which purpose is to influence or enable others to influence EU policy or decision-making". (Code of Conduct for MEPs, Rule 2, para 1.1b)

No payments for speeches, articles or extra functions of MEPs

To further strengthen existing anti-corruption rules the ban for MEPs to accept money should also include speeches, articles or appearances. They belong to the core job of MEPs to explain policies and should need no extra remuneration. Similarly, serving on a board of an association, corporation or similar should not be a reason for any payments. (Code of Conduct for MEPs, Rule 2 para 1.1b)

No external financing of MEPs' staff

MEPs should have the same opportunities. Therefore, there should be no external money to finance MEPs' staff. (Code of Conduct for MEPs, Rule 2, para 1.b)

MEPs to declare property and debts, not just side income

Following best practise of France, UK and other countries, MEPs should make transparent also what they own or owe, not just what they earn. MEPs' declarations of interest should also contain property, debt and liabilities. Similar rules already exist for Commissioners. Due to their important role in EU law making this should also apply for MEPs. (Code of Conduct for MEPs, Rule 4, para 2.1)

Full transparency about MEPs' side income: without upper ceilings or brackets

MEPs already have to declare their side incomes yet not in exact numbers. Rapporteur Corbett proposed that MEPs should declare the nearest 10.000 € to what they earn. This is an improvement compared to current rules, but still allows much more vagueness for the

largest amounts than for lower ones. Following best practise from France and other countries, MEPs should declare their exact side incomes. (Code of Conduct for MEPs, Rule 4, para 2.2)

Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs to state their independence

Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs have key influence over Parliament's decision making. They are supposed to be free of conflicts of interest yet this is hardly checked. To strengthen scrutiny, they should sign a declaration of independence before starting their special role. (Code of Conduct for MEPs, Rule 4)

Reconnecting to citizens: Transparency has to be understandable

Transparency about MEPs' side jobs which citizens can understand

MEPs have to declare all their side jobs to allow their peers and the public to judge if they might have conflicts of interest. Yet some only declare to work as consultant or lawyer without naming their clients who they lobby for. Such disguise has to stop, information has to be sufficiently comprehensive. (Code of Conduct for MEPs, Rule 4, para 3) Beside some hand writing present declarations of interest are regularly inaccessible to most citizens by language. Administration should in future translate them at least in English, French and German to strike a balance between access and translation cost. (Code of Conduct for MEPs, Rule 4, para 3)

Trilogue transparency: shedding light onto how legislation is negotiated

Parliament to publish results of each informal meeting on legislation

Trilogues between Parliaments rapporteurs and shadows, Council's presidency and Commission happen behind closed doors despite their decisive role in legislation. Foreseen reporting to Parliament's committees remains too limited to achieve sufficient transparency. Therefore, Committee Chairs should publish documents reflecting the outcome of each meeting proactively. (Rule 73, para 4.2) Parliament is the most transparent of all EU institutions when it comes to access to documents. Yet, trilogue documents are harder to access for the public because of the informal character of such meetings. Yet since trilogues are about legislation all documents in the negotiations should not be treated differently from the usual transparency in legislative processes. (Rule 116, para 2.1 and para 3.1)

Strengthening minority rights as guardian of Transparency

Limit big groups' veto against committees of inquiry

Although in many Parliaments setting up an inquiry committee is a right granted to the opposition, in the European Parliament any such decision has to pass through the

conference of group presidents. This effectively gives the big groups the power to stop or weaken any inquiry that might go against their interests although this is not foreseen in the EU treaties. Instead, Parliament should be able to vote on a proposal to initiate an inquiry committee directly, without having to go first via the political groups' leadership. (Rule 198, para 3)

Transparency for agenda setting in committees

Some decisions of Parliament are not made in the open but by those who set the agenda. Committee coordinators are decisive to set these agenda decisions. Therefore, the minutes of their meetings should be public and available in all official languages. (Rule 205, 2a)

Supporters of amendments in plenary should be transparent

Amendments to decisions of the European Parliament's plenary can be submitted by Committees and Political Groups yet also by 40 individual MEPs. Their names should be public as are the members of Committees and Political Groups. (Rule 169, para 1.1)

Strengthening Parliament: getting serious by following up on decisions

Keeping tabs on how Parliament's recommendations are applied

Parliament regularly calls on the Commission, Council and Member States to take specific actions or to deliver certain policies. Too often nothing happens because we do not follow up enough on our own decisions. A register on the demands made by Parliament including information on how they are followed up can strengthen the pressure for action and add to the EU Parliament's limited rights. (Rule 25, para 12a)

Annex: Green amendments on the Corbett report

on the General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 5

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Chapter 3 – rule 25 – paragraph 12 a (new)

Present text

Amendment

12 a. The Bureau shall create a public register of all calls and demands by Parliament on Commission, Council and Member States including a regularly updated documentation of their consequences.

Or. en

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 6

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Chapter 4 – rule 34 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 2

Present text

Such groupings shall be required to declare any support, whether in cash or in kind (e.g. secretarial assistance), which if offered to Members as individuals would have to be declared under Annex I.

Amendment

Such groupings shall be required to declare, **annually**, any support, whether in cash or in kind (e.g. secretarial assistance), which if offered to Members as individuals would have to be declared under Annex I.

Or. en

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 7

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Chapter 4 – rule 34 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 3

Present text

The Quaestors shall keep a register of the declarations referred to in the second subparagraph. That register shall be published on the Parliament's website. The Quaestors shall adopt detailed rules on those declarations.

Amendment

The Quaestors shall keep a register of the declarations referred to in the second subparagraph. That register shall be published on the Parliament's website. The Quaestors shall adopt detailed rules on those declarations ***and ensure the comprehensive enforcement of this Rule.***

Or. en

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 11

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Chapter 6 – rule 73 – paragraph 4 – subparagraph 2

Present text

After each trilogue the negotiating team shall report back to the following meeting of the committee responsible. Documents reflecting the outcome of the last trilogue shall be made available to the committee.

Amendment

After each trilogue the negotiating team shall report back to the following meeting of the committee responsible. Documents reflecting the outcome of the last trilogue shall be made available to the committee ***and should be published, proactively, by the Committee Chair.***

Or. en

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 13

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Rule 116 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1

Present text

For the purposes of access to documents, the term 'Parliament documents' means any content within the meaning of Article 3(a) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 which has been drawn up or received by officers of Parliament within the meaning of Title I, Chapter 2, of these Rules, by Parliament's governing bodies, committees or interparliamentary delegations, or by Parliament's Secretariat.

Amendment

For the purposes of access to documents, the term 'Parliament documents' means any content within the meaning of Article 3(a) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 which has been drawn up or received by officers of Parliament within the meaning of Title I, Chapter 2, of these Rules, by Parliament's governing bodies, committees or interparliamentary delegations, or by Parliament's Secretariat, ***including during the trilogue meetings.***

Or. en

Justification

This is a recommendation included in the Ferrara report adopted by Parliament on 28th April 2016

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 14

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Rule 116 – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 1

Present text

Parliament shall establish a register of Parliament documents. Legislative documents and certain other categories of documents shall, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, be made directly accessible through the register. References to other Parliament documents shall as far as possible be included in the register.

Amendment

Parliament shall establish a register of Parliament documents. Legislative documents, ***including those from trilogue meetings***, and certain other categories of documents shall, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, be made directly accessible through the register. References to other Parliament documents shall as far as possible be included in the register.

Or. en

Justification

This is a recommendation included in the Ferrara report adopted by Parliament on 28th April 2016

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 15

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Rule 116 – paragraph 7 a (new)

Present text

Amendment

7 a. Members are invited to publish their meetings with individuals and organisations falling within the remit of the Transparency Register. The Bureau shall provide for necessary infrastructure on Parliament's webpage.

Or. en

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 18

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Chapter 5 – rule 169 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1

Present text

Amendments for consideration in Parliament may be tabled by the committee responsible, a political group or at least 40 Members.

Amendment

Amendments for consideration in Parliament may be tabled by the committee responsible, a political group or at least 40 Members. ***The names of all the co-signatories should be published.***

Or. en

Justification

This is a recommendation included in the Ferrara report adopted by Parliament on 28th April 2016

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 19

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Chapter 5 – rule 169 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 3

Present text

Amendments ***to documents of a legislative nature within the meaning of Rule 47(1)*** may be accompanied by a short justification. Such justifications shall be the responsibility of the author and shall not be put to the vote.

Amendment

Amendments may be accompanied by a short justification. Such justifications shall be the responsibility of the author and shall not be put to the vote.

Or. en

Justification

Justification of amendments should not be limited to legislative documents, in order to allow that potential sources of amendments can be made transparent on any kind of reports.

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Committee on Constitutional Affairs

26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 24

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Chapter 1 – rule 198 – paragraph 3

Present text

3. The request to set up a committee of inquiry must specify precisely the subject of the inquiry and include a detailed statement of the grounds for it. Parliament, ***on a proposal from the Conference of Presidents***, shall decide whether to set up a committee and, if it decides to do so, on its composition, in accordance with Rule 199.

Amendment

3. The request to set up a committee of inquiry must specify precisely the subject of the inquiry and include a detailed statement of the grounds for it. Parliament shall decide whether to set up a committee and, if it decides to do so, on its composition, in accordance with Rule 199.

Or. en

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 25

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Chapter 1 – rule 205 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Present text

Amendment

2 a. The minutes of the committee coordinators' meetings shall be translated into the official languages and distributed to all Members of the committee and shall be accessible to the public, unless the committee coordinators exceptionally, for reasons of confidentiality, as laid down in Article 4(1) to (4) of European Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, decides otherwise with regard to certain items of the minutes.

Or. en

Justification

This is a recommendation included in the Ferrara report adopted by Parliament on 28th April 2016

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 26

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Chapter 1 – rule 205 – paragraph 4 – subparagraph 1 a (new)

Present text

Amendment

Rapporteurs, shadow rapporteurs and committee chairs should adopt the systematic practice of only meeting interest representatives that have registered in the Transparency Register and publish online all scheduled meetings having the purpose to influence EU-legislation.

Or. en

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 27

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Chapter 1 – rule 205 – paragraph 4 – subparagraph 1 b (new)

Present text

Amendment

All input, pertaining to the subject matter of the report, received by Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs from individuals and organisations falling within the remit of the Transparency Register shall be collected and disclosed by Parliament. The Bureau shall provide for necessary infrastructure for the disclosure of such input.

Or. en

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Committee on Constitutional Affairs

26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 30

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Annex I – rule 2 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1 – point b a (new)

Present text

Amendment

(b a) not receive any kind of remuneration for any activity which purpose is to influence or enable others to influence EU policy or decision-making.

Or. en

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 31

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Annex I – rule 2 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1 – point b b (new)

Present text

Amendment

(b b) not receive any payment or anything of value for an appearance, speech, or article, excluding any actual and necessary travel and accommodations expenses, and gifts as defined in Article 5(1);

Or. en

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 32

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Annex I – rule 2 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1 – point b c (new)

Present text

Amendment

(b c) not receive support in terms of staff or other resources from outside interests with the exception of political parties;

Or. en

Justification

Based on an input from ALTER EU: "Ten policy recommendations for a strengthened MEP code of conduct"

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Committee on Constitutional Affairs

26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 33

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Annex I – rule 2 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1 – point b d (new)

Present text

Amendment

(b d) not be remunerated for serving on a board of an association, corporation or any other entity;

Or. en

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Committee on Constitutional Affairs

26/09/2016

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General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 34

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Annex I – rule 4 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1 – point h a (new)

Present text

Amendment

(h a) property owned by the Member;

Or. en

Justification

Similar requirements are included in the French and UK laws on conflict of interests.

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Committee on Constitutional Affairs

26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 35

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Annex I – rule 4 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1 – point h b (new)

Present text

Amendment

(h b) debt or liabilities owned by the
Member

Or. en

Justification

Similar requirements are included in the French and UK laws on conflict of interests

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General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 36

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Annex I – rule 4 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 2 – introductory part

Present text

Any regular income Members receive in respect of each item declared in accordance with the first subparagraph shall be ***placed in one of the following categories:***

Amendment

Any regular income Members receive in respect of each item declared in accordance with the first subparagraph shall be ***reported with precise amounts***

Or. en

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 37

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Annex I – rule 4 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 2 – indent 1

Present text

Amendment

– EUR 500 to EUR 1 000 a month; deleted

Or. en

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26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 38

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Annex I – rule 4 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 2 – indent 2

Present text

Amendment

– EUR 1 001 to EUR 5 000 a month; deleted

Or. en

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 39

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Annex I – rule 4 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 2 – indent 3

Present text

Amendment

– EUR 5 001 to EUR 10 000 a month; deleted

Or. en

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Committee on Constitutional Affairs

26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 40

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Annex I – rule 4 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 2 – indent 4

Present text

Amendment

– more than EUR 10 000 a month. deleted

Or. en

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 41

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Annex I – rule 4 – paragraph 3

Present text

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

Amendment

3. The information provided to the President in line with this Article shall be published on Parliament's website in an easily accessible manner, ***with sufficiently comprehensive information to allow citizens to understand the effective meaning of side jobs and to what extent they may, or may not, constitute a conflict of interest;***

Or. en

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 42

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Annex I – rule 4 – paragraph 3 a (new)

Present text

Amendment

3 a. Declarations of financial interest should be translated at least into English, French and German and be made available in an open and machine readable format.

Or. en

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 43

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Annex I – rule 4 a (new)

Present text

Amendment

Rule 4 a

Declaration by Rapporteurs and
Committee Chairs

1. Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs
shall sign a declaration of independence
when commencing their special function.

2. Rapporteur and committee chair shall
list in an attachment to the report any
meeting they have had with outside
interests pertaining to the subject matter
of the report.

Or. en

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 44

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Annex I – rule 6 – paragraph 1

Present text

Former Members of the European Parliament who engage in professional lobbying or representational activities directly linked to the European Union decision-making process 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 effect²⁵.

Amendment

1. Former Members of the European Parliament who engage in professional lobbying or representational activities directly linked to the European Union decision-making process 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 effect²⁵.

2. During a period of equivalent length to that during which former Members are eligible for a transitional allowance as defined in Article 13(2) of the Statute for Members of the European Parliament, they shall not receive any kind of remuneration for any activity which purpose is to influence or enable others to influence EU policy or decision-making.

3. Without prejudice to paragraph 1, former Members shall notify the European Parliament of any post-term-of-office occupation they intend to take

up. The Advisory Committee should look into these notifications to determine if their purpose is to influence or enable others to influence EU policy or decision-making. In such cases, the names of former Members should be published.

²⁵ Bureau Decision of 12 April 1999.

²⁵ Bureau Decision of 12 April 1999.

Or. en

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26/09/2016

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General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 45

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Annex I – rule 7 – title

Present text

Amendment

Advisory Committee on the Conduct of
Members

Ethics Committee

Or. en

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 46

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Annex I – rule 7 – paragraph 1

Present text

1. An Advisory Committee on the Conduct of Members ('the Advisory Committee') is hereby established.

Amendment

1. An ***Ethics*** Committee is hereby established.

Or. en

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 47

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Annex I – rule 7 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1

Present text

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 bureaux and the coordinators of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs and the Committee on Legal Affairs, **taking due account of the Members' experience and of political balance.**

Amendment

The **Ethics** Committee shall be composed of five members, appointed by the **Bureau after consulting** the members of the bureaux and the coordinators of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs and the Committee on Legal Affairs.

They shall be chosen from among persons who are Union citizens, have full civil and political rights, and offer every guarantee of independence. They shall not be sitting MEPs. They shall comprise:

- At least one member who has held high judicial office
- At least one member who is a qualified auditor
- At least one member who is a former MEP
- At least one member with an outside

perspective from preventing corruption in
companies or from a civil society
organisation working on parliamentary
ethics

Or. en

Justification

Based on an input by Transparency International

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 48

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Annex I – rule 7 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 2

Present text

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

Amendment

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

Or. en

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 49

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Annex I – rule 7 – paragraph 3

Present text

Amendment

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

deleted

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.

Or. en

Justification

Consequence of the previous amendment

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 50

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Annex I – rule 7 – paragraph 4 – subparagraph 1

Present text

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.

Amendment

Upon request by a Member, the **Ethics** 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.

Or. en

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Committee on Constitutional Affairs

26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 51

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Annex I – rule 7 – paragraph 4 – subparagraph 2

Present text

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.

Amendment

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

Or. en

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Committee on Constitutional Affairs

26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 52

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Annex I – rule 7 – paragraph 5

Present text

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

Amendment

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

Or. en

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Committee on Constitutional Affairs

26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 53

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Annex I – rule 7 – paragraph 5 a (new)

Present text

Amendment

5 a. The Ethics Committee shall set up, at the beginning of its mandate, a list of criteria on the basis of which it may be established what types of activity could result in a conflict of interests.

Or. en

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Committee on Constitutional Affairs

26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 54

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Annex I – rule 7 – paragraph 5 b (new)

Present text

Amendment

5 b. The Ethics Committee shall verify every year the accuracy of at least 25% of the declarations submitted by Members pursuant to Article 4.

Or. en

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General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 55

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Annex I – rule 7 – paragraph 6

Present text

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

Amendment

6. The Ethics Committee shall publish an annual report of its work, which shall also include recommendations for improving the compliance of Members of Parliament with the Code of Conduct, notably by clarifying its content when necessary.

Or. en

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26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 56

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Annex I – rule 8 – paragraph 1

Present text

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

Amendment

1. Where there is reason to think that a Member of the European Parliament may have breached this Code of Conduct, the ***Ethics Committee, on its own initiative or at the request of the President, may investigate the matter.***

Or. en

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 57

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Annex I – rule 8 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Present text

Amendment

1 a. Anyone may lodge a complaint to the Ethics Committee, substantiated by material facts, about suspected breach of this code of conduct.

Or. en

Justification

Based on an input from ALTER EU: "Ten policy recommendations for a strengthened MEP Code of Conduct"

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 58

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Annex I – rule 8 – paragraph 2

Present text

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

Amendment

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

Or. en

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

26/09/2016

Richard Corbett

General Revision of Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Parliament's Rules of Procedure EP Rules - 2016/2114(REG)

Amendment 59

Max Andersson, Sven Giegold

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Annex I – rule 8 – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 1

Present text

If, taking into account that recommendation, the President concludes that the Member concerned has breached the Code of Conduct, he shall, after hearing the Member, adopt a reasoned decision laying down a penalty, which he shall notify to the Member.

Amendment

If, taking into account that recommendation, the President concludes that the Member concerned has breached the Code of Conduct, he shall, after hearing the Member, adopt a reasoned decision laying down a penalty, which he shall notify to the Member. ***In case the President does not follow the advice given by the Ethics Committee for a sanction, the advice of the Ethics Committee and the reasoning of the President are made public;***

Or. en