

European Parliament
Implementation of the 14 point Reform plan
‘Strengthening Integrity, Independence and Accountability’

17 July 2023

Legend ● In progress ● Reform implemented

Status	Point	Theme	Proposal	Delivered
	0	Changing Integrity Culture	<p>Awareness raising campaign</p> <p>Parliament will run regular awareness raising campaigns on ethics and transparency obligations for MEPs and staff and improve available guidance in this field.</p>	<p>More than 200 participants (Members, APA or political group staff) have already participated in the first sessions of the awareness raising campaign on transparency and integrity.</p> <p>To increase the turnout, a Quaestors Notice was sent to Members to inform about training offers.</p>
	1	Conflict of Interest	<p>A new revolving door policy</p> <p>A ‘cooling-off’ period for former Members who wish to lobby the Parliament will be introduced.</p>	<p>The Bureau has already adopted Parliament’s new revolving door policy and revised Parliament’s rules on former Members on 17 April 2023, which have entered into force on 1 May 2023.</p>
	2	Overall reform / Changing Integrity Culture	<p>Shining a brighter light on Members' activities</p> <p>Information relating to the integrity of parliamentary work will be available to the public in a centralised, complete and easily accessible way.</p>	<p>An integrity tab on the Parliament’s webpage has been created.</p>
	3	Lobbying	<p>Stronger checks on interest representatives</p> <p>Participation of interest and civil society representatives in any exchange of views or hearings in committee (or committee’s working or sub-groups) on Parliament’s premises is to be conditional on registration in the Transparency Register.</p>	<p>On 12 June 2023, the Bureau adopted the new rules governing the participation of interest representatives to events held in Parliament.</p> <p>An additional 12.000 meetings per year will be subject to the new rules.</p>

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	4	Lobbying	<p>Mandatory declaration of meetings</p> <p>A mandatory requirement will be extended to Members, APAs and staff to declare scheduled meetings with diplomatic representatives of third countries and third parties covered by the scope of the Transparency Register on specific reports or resolutions or in situations in which MEPs or staff have an active role and clear and immediate influence in the evolution of specific files.</p>	<p>Included in the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO) report drafted by the dedicated Working Group. Presented on 18 July at Committee level, will be voted in the Plenary session in September.</p> <p>All the objectives in this point are covered by the amendment to the Rules of Procedure (Rule 11).</p> <p>A Quaestors Notice has been sent to inform MEPs of their new obligations.</p>
	5	Foreign Interference	<p>Enforcing a ban on friendship groups with third countries</p> <p>Any activities or meetings of any unofficial groupings of Members that could result in confusion with official European Parliament activities will be banned.</p>	<p>Included in the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO) report drafted by the dedicated Working Group. Presented on 18 July at Committee level, will be voted in the Plenary session in September.</p> <p>All the objectives in this point are covered by the amendment to the Rules of Procedure (Rule 35) including sanctions and proactive obligations for MEPs.</p> <p>A Quaestors Notice has been sent to inform MEPs of their new obligations.</p>

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	6	Overall reform / Changing Integrity Culture	<p>Clarity on accessing the Parliament premises</p> <p>The creation of a new entry log for all persons above 18 years old visiting the European Parliament premises, stating the date, time and purpose of visit.</p>	<p>The Bureau has already adopted revised rules on access to Parliament’s premises on 8 May 2023. The legal basis for the creation of a new entry log has been introduced in this decision.</p>
	7	Conflict of Interest	<p>Revision of rules on former Members</p> <p>Permanent access badges currently granted to former Members and former staff will be replaced by new daily access badges. Former Members and former staff should no longer have the right to grant entry to anyone else.</p>	<p>The Bureau has already revised Parliament’s rules on former Members on 17 April 2023 and on access to Parliament’s premises on 8 May 2023.</p>
	8	Conflict of Interest	<p>Avoiding conflict of interests</p> <p>Any Member who finds that he or she has a conflict of interest shall immediately take the necessary steps to address it as set in Article 3(2) of the Code of Conduct.</p> <p>Any rapporteur or shadow rapporteur must submit a declaration of conflict of interests to the relevant committee secretariat when being appointed. This obligation also applies to EP co-rapporteurs in multilateral assemblies and their committees.</p>	<p>Included in the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO) report drafted by the dedicated Working Group. Presented on 18 July at Committee level, will be voted in the Plenary session in September.</p> <p>All the objectives in this point are covered by the amendment to the Code of Conduct (Art. 3).</p> <p>The Quaestors Notice has been sent to inform MEPs of their new obligations.</p>

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	9	Conflict of Interest	<p>Increased transparency on financial declarations</p> <p>A revised Declaration Form on financial interests should be developed with a clearer level of detail. More information should be included on Members’ side jobs and outside activities where appropriate. Checks should be allowed to ensure proper enforcement of the rules.</p>	<p>Included in the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO) report drafted by the dedicated Working Group. Presented on 18 July at Committee level, will be voted in the Plenary session in September.</p> <p>All the objectives in this point are covered by the amendment to the Code of Conduct (Art. 4).</p> <p>A Quaestors Notice has been sent to inform MEPs of their new obligations.</p>
	10	Whistleblower rules	<p>Introduction of compliance and whistleblowing training</p> <p>Training for Members should be made regularly available throughout the legislature. The European Parliament should enforce mandatory training for all Members’ Accredited Parliamentary Assistants on financial rules, compliance, conduct and whistleblowing, ensuring they are aware of all rules and systems to protect the integrity of the Institution, themselves and the Member they work with.</p> <p>Training on whistleblowing should also be mandatory for all EP Staff managers.</p>	<p>The text of the internal rules on whistleblowing was politically agreed at the Bureau meeting of 10th July. The new staff committee will be consulted in the near future.</p>

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	11	Code of Conduct / Ethics	<p>Strengthening the Advisory Committee on the Code of Conduct</p> <p>While the European Parliament has already proposed a new Ethics Body for EU Institutions, we will take action unilaterally to ensure that Members get advice, easily and speedily, on possible conflicts of interests on a systematic basis from the Advisory Committee on the Conduct of Members. The role of the Committee should be reinforced.</p>	<p>Included in the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO) report drafted by the dedicated Working Group. Presented on 18 July at Committee level, will be voted in the Plenary session in September.</p> <p>All the objectives in this point are covered by the amendment to the Code of Conduct (Art. 7 and 8).</p> <p>The Quaestors Notice has been sent to inform MEPs of their new obligations.</p>
	12	Foreign Interference	<p>Fighting foreign interference while strengthening work on Human Rights</p> <p>The European Parliament’s work on protecting Human Rights around the globe is one we are proud of and must strengthen. We must do this by pushing back against any foreign interference in our work. Checks and balances for Motions for Resolutions tabled with urgency, that have been the target of undue influence, can be strengthened and confidence in this critical aspect of the European Parliament’s work restored.</p>	<p>Actions to reinforce our tools to fight against foreign interference are being implemented by Parliament’s administration.</p>

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	13	Overall reform / Changing Integrity Culture	<p>Boosting the fight against corruption</p> <p>The European Parliament should reinforce its cooperation with Member State intelligence, judicial and law enforcement authorities, to ensure that the Institution is best able to respond and aid with any investigations into alleged criminal activities of Members or staff. We will look into what protection such national intelligence, judicial and law enforcement institutions can provide to the Institution, particularly vis-a-vis third country attempts to influence the democratic process.</p>	<p>Actions to reinforce our tools to fight against corruption are being implemented by Parliament’s administration.</p>
	14	Code of Conduct / Ethics	<p>Sanctions</p> <p>The list of sanctionable activities for Members will need to be revised accordingly to help compliance with the obligations and responsibilities listed in this document. A system of warnings and reminders will be put in place to remind Members of rules before sanctions in case of severe and systematic breaches are to be applied.</p>	<p>Included in the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO) report drafted by the dedicated Working Group. Presented on 18 July at Committee level, will be voted in the Plenary session in September.</p> <p>All the objectives in this point are covered by the amendment to the Rules of Procedure (Rule 176).</p> <p>The Quaestors Notice has been sent to inform MEPs of their new obligations.</p>