

# STANDARDS OF INTEGRITY AND ETHICS

## for Members of The Left Group in the European Parliament - GUE/NGL

The Left group in the European Parliament - GUE/NGL (hereinafter "The Left in the EP") is at the forefront of the fight for more integrity, transparency and accountability in public institutions and in particular, for those who hold a public mandate. Recent corruption scandal confirmed that the fight of The Left in the EP is important as ever. While advocating for thorough reform of the existing Code of Conduct for Members of the European Parliament<sup>1</sup>, Members of The Left in the EP hereby set out the high standards of ethics and public integrity that they uphold.

Members of The Left in the EP, firmly reaffirm their commitment to prioritise the defence of workers' and peoples' rights and aspirations, the public interest, public services, the environment, peace, cooperation and friendship among all peoples over profit and private interests. Their ethical commitment also includes the rejection of any association between major economic interests and political representatives, and of policies that perpetuate and promote exploitation, social injustice, inequality and discrimination.<sup>2</sup>

When exercising their duties, Members of The Left in the EP are guided by and observe the principles of transparency, integrity, disinterestedness, openness, diligence, honesty, accountability, rule of law and respect for the Group's values. Members of The Left in the EP are committed to the platforms, programmes and mandates of the political parties or movements with which they were elected.

Left in the EP also takes into consideration additional codes of integrity and ethics of the political organisations and movements with which the Members stand for election.

Members of The Left in the EP are bound by the Statute for Members of the European Parliament,<sup>3</sup> the Rules of Procedure<sup>4</sup> and the Code of Conduct for Members of the European Parliament.<sup>5</sup> Nothing in the following standards conflicts with the above-mentioned rules.

### I. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Members of The Left in the EP do not act in their own personal interest but represent interest of the people within framework of the mandate they have received. More specifically, they do not take financial inducements nor instructions from corporate, financial interest or representatives of third countries.

Members of The Left in the EP avoid or resolve any situation which may give rise to, or reasonably be perceived to give rise to, a conflict of interest<sup>6</sup>, in particular by abstaining from tabling parliamentary texts or amendments and from voting in committee or in plenary on matters relating to the conflicting interest.

### II. FINANCIAL INTEREST DECLARATION

Members of The Left in the EP publish a declaration of financial interests timely (hereinafter "DFI") when they take up their duties and shall update it as soon as the situation changes. They ensure that DFI is clear and complete. In accordance with relevant national and European regulations, the DFI shall include information on any professional activities, whether remunerated or not, outside the Parliament, as well as any financial interests or assets, such as shares or property.

Members of The Left in the EP submit a final DFI at the end of their mandate.

1 <https://left.eu/issues/explainers/how-parliament-the-eu-should-react-to-the-qatar-corruption-scandal/>

2 <https://left.eu/what-we-stand-for/>

3 2005/684/EC, Euratom: Decision of the European Parliament of 28 September 2005 adopting the Statute for Members of the European Parliament, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32005Q0684#d1e268-1-1>

4 Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament, [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/RULES-9-2023-02-14-TOC\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/RULES-9-2023-02-14-TOC_EN.html)

5 Code of Conduct for Members of the European Parliament with respect to financial interests and conflicts of interest, Annex I to the Rules of Procedure, [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/RULES-9-2023-02-14-ANN-01\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/RULES-9-2023-02-14-ANN-01_EN.html)

6 as defined by the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament, Annex I.

### III. TRANSPARENCY REGISTER AND DECLARATION OF MEETINGS

The Transparency Register<sup>7</sup> is designed to show what interests are being represented at EU level. When meeting with interest representatives carrying out activities to influence the EU policy and decision-making process, members of The Left in the EP meet only with those registered in the Transparency Register, unless they have legitimate reasons for not being registered, such as safety concerns.

Members publish these meetings online, unless the disclosure of such meeting can reasonably put people in danger.<sup>8</sup> Publications are made regularly, without any undue delay and with a brief description of the subject of the meeting.

### IV. LEGISLATIVE FOOTPRINT

Members of The Left in the EP who are rapporteurs or shadow rapporteurs publish a legislative footprint<sup>9</sup> with a view to provide transparency in the legislative process.

### V. SIDE JOBS

Members cannot engage in any paid lobbying activities or activities creating a conflict of interest.

Members of The Left in the EP shall not be members of boards or committees of profit-making companies, whether remunerated or not. Members of The Left in the EP cannot be remunerated for being members of boards of non-governmental organisations or associations.

### VI. GIFTS IN ANY FORM

Members of The Left in the EP refuse any gifts or similar benefits seeking to influence public policy. Gifts should be handled and declared according to the Rules of the EP.<sup>10</sup>

### VII. TRAVELS AND ATTENDANCE IN EVENTS

Members of The Left in the EP should avoid that their travel and accommodation costs are covered by third-parties seeking to influence legislation and policy-making. If for any reason members do accept funding, they must disclose any such funding following the European Parliament rules.<sup>11</sup>

### VIII. THE WHISTLEBLOWERS PROTECTION

Members endeavour to protect whistleblowers<sup>12</sup> by respecting their rights, dealing fairly and appropriately with their claims, refraining from and preventing any retaliation against them.<sup>13</sup>

Whistle-blowers alert will be handled in full confidentiality.

### IX. RESPECT OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS, DIGNITY AND EQUALITY

Members of The Left in the EP respect the fundamental rights, dignity and equality of all. All Members of The Left in the EP take training on harassment, including sexual harassment.

Members condemn, address and aim to redress any situation of abuse, including violence, harassment, or discrimination, that arises during the course of their mandate.

### X. ENFORCEMENT

Bureau is responsible for ensuring that these standards are respected and fully implemented.

7 Transparency Register is defined by the Interinstitutional Agreement of 20 May 2021 between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on a mandatory transparency register.

8 For example human rights defenders

9 A legislative footprint is a comprehensive public record of stakeholders (including interest representatives) and experts consulted during preparation of a report. It shows the range of external expertise and opinions received by the rapporteur. The Committee secretariat has a form for listing the stakeholders consulted with during the drafting of a report.

10 In line with the Article 5 of the Annex I: Code of Conduct for Members of the European Parliament with respect to financial interests and conflicts of interest with the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament.

11 Implementing measures for the Code of Conduct for Members of the European Parliament with respect to financial interests and conflicts of interest, Bureau decision of 15 April 2013. .

12 understood as 'reporting persons' in the meaning of the Directive 20019/1937 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2019 on the protection of persons who report breaches of Union law.

13 Article 22a, 22b and 22c of the Staff Regulations <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A01962R0031-20140501#toCld24> and Decision of the Secretary-General of the European Parliament on internal rules implementing article 22c of the Staff Regulation (2016).

