

Committee: Council of the European Union (EU)

Issue: Developing Measures to Ensure Transparency of National Politicians within EU Organs and Institutions

Student Officer: Olga Gkareli

Position: President

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates,

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the 6th session of the Deutsche Schule Thessaloniki Model United Nations. My name is Olga Gkareli and I am a senior attending Anatolia College in Thessaloniki. This year, I have the utmost honor to serve as the president of the Council of the European Union.

First and foremost, I would like to congratulate each and every one of you for choosing to participate in this year's conference. DSTMUN brings together students to reach a remarkable common goal, that is, helping us, the younger generations understand the importance of cooperation and diplomacy as well as giving them an opportunity to discuss crucial issues that currently affect the world. To me, Model United Nations is all that, and so much more. Having attended a plethora of conferences as a member of the Admin Staff, a Delegate and a Student Officer I've realized that MUN is not just a simulation of the UN, but also a simulation of our real day-to-day life. It graciously equips all participants with such important traits and skills as effective debating techniques, along with persistence, perseverance, and self-belief.

This session's agenda topics of the Council of the European Union topics are all exceptionally captivating and current. In this study guide you will find beneficial information and instructions that will come in handy regarding your research on the topic of *Developing Measures to Ensure Transparency of National Politicians within EU Organs*. However, please note that you ought not just base your research on this guide, its sole goal is to point your research in the right direction.

On a concluding note, I strongly recommend you browse over the Rules of Procedure manual prior to the conference. The Council of the European Union is a Specialized Agency and by acquiring its rules of conduct you may avoid encountering any confusion during the debate.

If any questions arise regarding our topic or the conference as a whole, please do not hesitate to contact me 20181022@student.anatolia.edu.gr is my email

address. I can not wait to meet you all this November and I hope for a fruitful debate!

Yours truly,

Olga Gkareli.

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

Providing a vital safeguarding umbrella against abuse of power, corruption and influence peddling, transparency is a key component to a well-functioning and trustworthy Union that lies in democracy and justice. A fully transparent Union guarantees that decision-making processes are open allowing for questioning by the general public, building confidence among citizens and revitalizing civic engagement and trust within it. Despite the European Union's diverse relationships, with each member state whom is providing its own national politicians within the different EU organs and organizations, developing stricter processes aimed at guaranteeing openness becomes critical for maintaining the Union's overall moral character.

At least since the 1990s, corruption has continued to be listed as one of the major shortcomings affecting old and new European democracies however, recent cases that involve the lack of transparency among European Union's national politicians are not negligible by no means and have rang the bell to some serious obstacles that gracefully emphasize the need to establish greater transparency measures throughout the European Union's organs and institutions. While the EU has put into effect multiple tools and institutions to enhance transparency, such as financial disclosure rules and monitoring organizations, the efficiency and execution of these policies varies per member state and sometimes is considered to be inefficient. Questions keep being raised around the integrity of EU politics and decision-making processes from national and supranational agencies as a result of frequent incidents of non-disclosure, conflicts of interest, and financial fraud from national politicians. Such occurrences shall serve as a reminder that the Union still has a long way to go in terms of ensuring strong transparency, integrity and accountability standards as well as that the fight against corruption within the Union is harmonically interlinked to the pursuit of greater transparency, as it is through transparency that corruption can be exposed, tackled, and ultimately prevented.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Transparency

An honest way of doing things that allows other people to know exactly what you are doing.¹

European Union's National Politicians

Elected representatives whom have been appointed to serve as members of national governments in the European Union's Member States. Said representatives consist of politicians whom contribute to European Union's Organs and Institutions (such but not limited to; Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), the European Council, the Council of the European Union etc.). Their actions and decision making coordinate with their national interests while simultaneously taking, the majority of time, into account the Union's broader goals and objectives having direct impact both to their national and the European Union's policy results.

Lobbying

Lobbying in the European Union, also referred to officially as European interest representation, is the activity of representatives of diverse interest groups or lobbies who attempt to influence the executive and legislative authorities of the European Union through public relations or public affairs work.²

Conflict of Interest

A conflict between the private interests and the official responsibilities of a person in a position of trust.³

Corruption

Corruption, commonly referred to as the abuse of entrusted power for private gain, is a multi-sector phenomenon, present both in the public and private sector, and in the political arena. While corruption can take the form of petty crime or complex high-level corruption, it can also hide behind favoritism and nepotism, conflicts of interest and revolving doors – where business meets politics.⁴

Financial Disclosure

¹ "Transparency (Noun) Definition and Synonyms: Macmillan Dictionary." *TRANSPARENCY (Noun) Definition and Synonyms | Macmillan Dictionary*, www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/transparency. Accessed 2 July 2023.

² "European Union Lobbying." *Wikipedia*, 31 July 2022, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Union_lobbying.

³ "Conflict of Interest Definition & Meaning." *Merriam-Webster*, www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/conflict%20of%20interest. Accessed 3 July 2023.

⁴ "Corruption." Migration and Home Affairs, home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/internal-security/corruption_en. Accessed 4 July 2023.

The process where an individual provides details of their income, assets and liabilities usually using a financial statement.⁵

Oversight

Oversight refers to the actions taken to review and monitor public sector organizations, organs and nations and their policies, plans, programs, representatives and projects, to ensure that they: are achieving expected results; and are in compliance with applicable policies, laws, regulations, and ethical standards.⁶

Whistleblower

An individual who, without authorization, reveals private or classified information about an organization or another individual, usually related to wrongdoing or misconduct. Whistleblowers generally state that such actions are motivated by a commitment to the public interest.⁷

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Qatargate Scandal

Over the span of the last few months the European Parliament has been faced with what is believed to be the most atrocious corruption scandal in its history, commonly known as the Qatargate Scandal. This all began when speculations around Greek former European Parliament Member (MEP) and Vice-President of the European Parliament Eva Kaili along with her partner Francesco Giogi and senior Italian Member of the European Parliament (MEP) Pier Antonio Panzeri have been brought to the attention of authorities and media regarding the involvement of the Qatar nation to be heavily influencing the political and economical decisions of the European Parliament.

By December 2022, Belgian authorities confiscated cash worth more than a million euros from the MEPs homes when conducting investigations on their behalf. While the scope of the investigations continued to expand, the Belgian Federal

⁵ "Understanding Financial Disclosure ." *Elite Law Solicitors*, 8 June 2023, www.elitelawsolicitors.co.uk/financial-disclosure/.

⁶ 389. "What Is Oversight and How Does It Relate to Governance?" *Canadian Audit and Accountability Foundation*, www.caaf-fcar.ca/en/oversight-concepts-and-context/what-is-oversight-and-how-does-it-relate-to-governance. Accessed 3 July 2023.

⁷ "Whistleblower." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 29 June 2023, www.britannica.com/topic/whistleblower.

Prosecutor looked into charges of criminal organization participation, corruption, and fraud, it appeared that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and trade unions were also involved and used to transfer money around without rising allegations' and it appeared that the benefits were not solely limited to Qatar, but implicated Moroccan officials as well.

Typically, corruption research relied on a single nation state as the main framework or unit to be examined for corruption and anti-corruption policies. The Qatargate scandal, on the other hand, shedded light on the global extent of corruption, involving a third country allegedly attempting to buy their way into shaping EU policy, thus unduly interfering with the functioning of an exceptional international parliament with 705 elected members from different EU nations, parties, and cultural backgrounds. Different approaches prove successful in different settings. The European Parliament relied on the partnership of five national security organizations and the efforts of Belgian law enforcement to track down the illicit group on this occasion. This implies that when corruption spreads across borders and afflicts new institutions, measures to combat corruption need to develop to keep up. EU institutions must ultimately come up with individual specific solutions, while undoubtedly having to take into consideration the blurring lines between both private and public sectors, as well as political and economic power.

Previous Cases Of Corruption Involving National Politicians within the EU

Thus corruption scandals when it comes to lack of transparency vary in the timeline of the European Union Silvio Berlusconi and Nicolas Sarkozy are prominent European politicians who have had a significant impact on corruption within the European Union. Former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi faced multiple corruption scandals and legal disputes throughout his political career in 2011, raising concerns about corruption in the Italian political system and the integrity of the political process as well as abuse of office. Similarly, former French President Nicolas Sarkozy was convicted of corruption and found guilty of peddling in 2021, becoming the first ever European president to be convicted. Their involvement in scandals of great importance and legal trouble has highlighted the importance of transparency, accountability and a strong legal framework to effectively combat corruption in EU Member States. These two national politicians of the European Union are considered important examples of how the actions of high-level politicians may affect public trust in political institutions and the perceptiveness of corruption within EU organs and institutions.

Furthermore, The Economist declared that 25,000 lobbyists who had a combined yearly budget of more than 3 billion euros sought to influence EU policy, overshadowing the amount of money acquired by Belgian police. Around 7,500 lobbyists have been registered with the European Parliament, which means they can

interact with MEPs on a regular basis without being required to disclose the meetings in the EU Transparency report.

Impact of Transparency Breaches and Corruption on the European Union

Lack of transparency in the EU can lead to a situation where some political personelles are able to act with impunity, while others are held accountable for their actions. This can undermine the Unions' rule of law by creating a situation where the law is not applied equally to everyone. Additionally, a lack of transparency can make it difficult for citizens to understand how the law is being applied and to hold their leaders accountable for their actions. This can result in a democratic deficit, a lack of legitimacy, and a lack of accountability, which can further erode the rule of law. Ultimately, transparency is critical for maintaining the trust of citizens and upholding the European Unions' rule of law. According to reports by the European Parliament, a lack of transparency in the EU can lead to "a democratic deficit, a lack of legitimacy, and a lack of accountability."

Lack of public procurement shall also be alarming to the Union. In the European Union, a lack of transparency in public procurement may have serious implications for financial occupancy, undermine public trust, and restrict legitimate rivalry. When procurement processes are transparent, it facilitates corruption, bias, abuse of the economy. Such actions not only threaten the EU's integrity, but they also have an influence on the effective utilization of resources and the quality of products and services provided to individuals.

Transparency Challenges in the European Union

Ensuring national politicians' transparency within the EU utilizes several of complex challenges that have significant effects on the standards of governance. The rise of the "Revolving Door" phenomenon stands out as a significant issue of concern within these difficulties. The "Revolving Door" practice entails politicians rotating between public and private sector duties and obligations, which might lead to the improper use of their position of authority for personal financial or sociopolitical benefit. Consequently, public confidence can erode and conflicts of interest may arise, jeopardizing both the openness and unbiased judgment of decision-making processes.

In addition to such queries, the disparity of disclosure requirements and regulation processes between EU member states generates asymmetry regarding the submission of financial interests and assets. The lack of established standards and central oversight adds to the issue in question. This inconsistent approach interferes with efficient monitoring of officials' actions, making it harder to uncover and resolve possible violations of ethical principles. The absence of a single framework not only

makes identifying abnormalities more difficult, but it also continuously raises concerns about responsibility and justice in the Union's political sphere.

Lastly, achieving a balance between promoting transparency and protecting politicians' privacy and security can become difficult to accomplish in such an instance. Increased disclosure rules and regulations may unintentionally prevent eligible individuals from pursuing political careers due to worries about being obligated in constant disclosing of personal and financial information. Achieving transparency while maintaining individuals' logical privacy concerns takes cautious navigation and an effective approach that recognizes those contradictions.

Conclusion

Transparency shall stand as the foundation of a functioning democracy and a vital element of the European Union's administration structure. It becomes essential for the EU to give emphasis to efforts towards enhancing accountability in order to protect its principles and the integrity of its organs and institutions. This significance of such initiative shall stem from its role as a Union in encouraging transparency among national politicians, since officials who recognize that their activities are being scrutinized by the public are more probable to act ethically and in the best interests of their nations. Transparency acts as an effective deterrent to corruption, conflicts of interest, and unethical behavior, holding elected officials accountable to any form of misconduct. Furthermore, transparency is critical in building and preserving public trust in the EU's institutions through offering citizens access to information about decision-making processes and policies, fostering assurance in the EU and advocating active citizen engagement in shaping policies and electing representatives. To effectively address transparency within the EU, several important steps should be prioritized, including enacting comprehensive legislation requiring politicians to disclose financial interests and assets, building an independent oversight body to investigate misconduct allegations and enforce transparency regulations, as well as creating accessible online platforms with information on politicians' assets and liabilities, deciding records, and decisions regarding policies. Transparency promotes not only accountability but also public confidence and participation and in order to avoid previous mistakes the Union should tackle its forces in a fight against corruption.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

France

France has encountered severe political corruption issues, as evidenced by many scandals involving politicians and the law enforcement officials. It is further exacerbated by a lack of transparency in decision-making, which destroys the Union's

trust. To effectively combat corruption, France must prioritize openness and accountability, enacting anti-corruption legislation and imposing harsh consequences for misconduct. Promoting ethical behavior will restore trust in government and improve the nation's relations with the Union.

Italy

Within the European Union, Italy has experienced immense hurdles in terms of openness among national politicians however not nearly enough convictions. Corruption and unethical activities have been prevalent problems, resulting in a lack of faith in the democratic system. Several highly publicized corruption scandals involving politicians have arisen in the nation, heightening concerns about openness and accountability. To address these challenges and restore public trust in Italy's political institutions, there have been calls for more disclosure regarding financial interests and transparent decision-making procedures. Strengthening transparency measures in Italy is critical for upholding democratic values and promoting an integrity ethos inside the EU.

Greece

Greece has struggled with transparency issues in its political landscape, which have created challenges for its democratic governance. The country has been plagued by corruption scandals, and EU authorities are worried about the lack of accountability and openness in political decision-making. Concerns about conflicts of interest and favoritism have further eroded public trust in the government. It's crucial for Greece to address these transparency issues to ensure ethical governance, rebuild public confidence, and uphold democratic principles within the European Union. By putting in place stronger transparency measures and accountability mechanisms, Greece can regain trust in its political institutions and contribute to the EU's overall integrity.

Poland

The Polish nation has been a topic of concern within the EU owing to addresses relating to national representatives' lack of dignity. There have been specific signs of corruption and conflicts of interest against Polish politicians. Furthermore, several political decision-making procedures have been criticized for their lack of transparency and accountability. These flaws have generated serious concerns about the effectiveness of transparency measures concerning the EU in Poland.

Transparency International

Founded in 1993 by former employees of the World Bank in Berlin, Transparency International, a non-governmental organization working to promote openness and accountability in the political process, as well as to uncover and prevent corruption has expanded into a global movement with chapters in the EU and around the world. The organization advocates for measures such as public disclosure of political bribing, conflict of interest legislation for politicians, and whistleblower protection and provides a platform for monitoring and evaluating their adherence to ethical standards and anti-corruption measures. The organization's assessments shed light on the perceived levels of corruption in different governments and businesses as well as serve as a benchmark for measuring progress in combating corruption. Finally, Transparency International's work and contribution is particularly important in the context of national politicians in the EU, where corruption and lack of transparency can have serious consequences for democracy and the rule of law.

Open Government Partnership

Grounded in 2011, the Open Government Partnership (OGP) is a multilateral organization promoting transparent, participatory, inclusive and accountable governance. Working closely with a vast plethora of the Union's bodies, organs and institutions the Partnership serves as a catalyst in establishing responsive governance systems and disseminating anti-corruption and integrity principles within the member states, lying in a collaborative framework, knowledge-sharing and through the creation of multiple action plans. As of today, 20 EU member states also serve as official partners with the OGP striving to create a more disinterested and equitable world through joint efforts to combat corruption and promote transparency.

BLOCS EXPECTED

When generating your draft resolutions the two following blocs shall emerge;

Bloc 1

Member countries which support the enhancement of transparency measures and are stressing the vitality of accountability and anti-corruption initiatives. Such nations may advocate for increased disclosure standards, including financial and political initiative and could also strive for enhanced surveillance and inspection processes to monitor financial actions and conflict interests of national politicians within the European Union, they also call for more public access for establishing credibility.

Bloc 2

Member countries that are expressing concerns regarding the privacy and security of their national representatives in the European Union’s organs and institutions of transparency measures get stricter. Such nations could also stress the bureaucratic expenses, and the possible discouragement to political engagement such an enhancement may hold, emphasize on the risks associated with the upbringing of personal information and explore the possible detrimental influence on political activity from other member nations in the European Union.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of event
May 4, 1993	Founding of Transparency International.
January 31, 1996	Establishment of the European Parliament Code of Conduct for Members.
November 9th, 2005	Formal Adoption of the European Transparency Initiative (ETI).
June 23, 2011	Founding of the EU Transparency Register.
September 20, 2011	Grounding of the Open Government Initiative (OGP).
June 16, 2015	Establishment of the EU Intergrity Watch.
December 16, 2019	The EU Whistleblower Directive initiative sets off.
December 16, 2021	Official talks begin regarding the creation of the EU Ethics Body.
December, 2022	Launch of further investigation on the Qatargate Scandal.

RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

Article 15 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

Settling to further promote citizen participation and fostering good governance the 15th Article of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)⁸ guarantees that the Union's institutions, organizations, offices, and bodies must conduct their work as transparently as possible as well as grants the access to

⁸ “Lex - 12008E015 - En.” *EUR*, eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX%3A12008E015%3Aen%3AHTML. Accessed 21 July 2023.

documents held by them to the public. Its aims and purposes are to promote openness in decision making processes while simultaneously reassuring that all decisions are due to be made in public meetings and encouraging the right of access to documents that however aligns with limits and principles of possible indifference between the ground of the public and private interest. Ultimately, Article 15 of the TFEU lays the groundwork for enhancing transparency and public involvement within the EU. As with any other decision, its efficacy is solely dependent on appropriate regulatory execution, compliance by EU institutions, and the ability to solve growing difficulties in the Union.

Article 10 of the Treaty on the European Union

Highlighting the principles of transparency and accountability that the European Union should be committed to the 10th Article of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU)⁹ promotes the importance of citizen participation in the democratic life of the Union while unitedly encouraging the EU bodies to create open dialogue and engage with the citizens and plan decision making according to their needs. Article 10 of the TEU also mentions the obligation for EU institutions to allow access to documents they handle while also affirming how civic engagement will benefit from such initiatives. Overall, it successfully aims to ensure that the EU institutions and bodies operate in a transparent way, allowing citizens to have access to information and actively participate in the parliamentary processes of the Union.

European Parliament Code of Conduct

Coming into force in 1996 and being frequently altered and renewed since, the European Parliament Code of Conduct for Members is critical in ensuring openness within the EU¹⁰. It establishes ethical standards and principles for Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to follow in order to ensure honesty and accountability in their behavior. The Code of Conduct outlines principles regarding dealing with conflicts of interest, financial transparency, and giving or receiving gifts or favors. MEPs are required to disclose their financial interests, which include any outside activities or supplementary sources of income. Such disclosure helps to avoid any conflicts between personal interests and public responsibilities. However, the effectiveness of it has been put under severe scrutiny throughout the years for its lack of enforcement, clarity and loss of monitoring. Being a vital tool for promoting transparency for national politicians within the EU the European Parliament Code Of

⁹ "Article 10." *Art. 10 Treaty on European Union*, [lexparency.org/eu/TEU/ART_10/](https://www.lexparency.org/eu/TEU/ART_10/). Accessed 21 July 2023.

¹⁰ *Code of Conduct for Members of the European ... - European Parliament*, www.europarl.europa.eu/pdf/meps/201305_Code_of_conduct_EN.pdf. Accessed 21 July 2023.

Conduct for MEPs shall set even clearer expectations for ethical behavior in order to maintain the Integrity of the European Parliament and the Union as a whole.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

The European Transparency Initiative

Introduced in May 2005 and formally adopted in November the same year, the European Transparency Initiative (ETI) in response to the need to link Europe with its citizens and bridge the physical and mental gaps that make it difficult for people to grasp what Europe does and why it matters. The ETI's goals have therefore been to strengthen the openness and accessibility of EU institutions, create knowledge about the use of the EU budget, and make the Union's institutions more responsible to the public in order to promote transparency in EU policy-making. However, the question of lobbying transparency and ethics still remains in the center of the TEI table since the largest organization of demanding-profit lobbyists, has long advocated for "self-regulation," voluntary rules of conduct, and registration with the aim to protect confidentiality and privileged access to information.

The EU Transparency Register

Established in 2011, the EU transparency register is a database that identifies organizations and parties that attempt to influence the EU institutions' legislative and decision making processes. The register reveals whose interests are being pursued, by whom, and with what resources. In this way, the register allows for inspection by the public and enables citizens and other interest groups to follow lobbyists' activity. The EU institutions and national politicians work with a diverse range of associations and organizations representing a variety of different interests and agendas. The register is a legitimate and vital component of the decision-making process, since it ensures that EU policies represent the true requirements of the Union and its citizens.

The EU Whistleblower Directive

Whistleblowers are essential for preserving an open and transparent democracy since they have the temerity to reveal wrongdoing. The EU Directive for the Protection of Whistleblowers went into force on December 16, 2019, to guarantee that they are better protected against consequences that are adverse in the future. The Directive required EU Member States to adopt it into national law by December 2021, a date that the majority of nations failed to meet. Even today, throughout Europe, the process is still taking place.

The EU Integrity Watch

Adopted in 2015 by Transparency International EU, the EU Integrity Watch is intended to serve as one focal point for online tools that allow individuals, media, and civil society groups to monitor the integrity of EU politicians' choices. Data that is typically dispersed and difficult to come by is gathered, organized, and made available for this purpose. The platform enables individuals to easily search, rate, and filter information. EU Integrity Watch thereby contributes to greater openness, integrity, and equality of access to EU decision-making, as well as monitoring EU institutions for potential conflicts of interest, undue influence, or even corruption.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Reforming the EU Transparency Register

As mentioned, at the EU level, there already exists a Transparency Register, which oppressive regime lobbyists easily avoid since it is insufficient, voluntary, and rarely enforced. The easiest, most apparent, and long-overdue move would be to finally close the gaps in the EU openness Register, making it legally obligatory and fully carried out, with the aim to ensure complete transparency regarding lobbying by oppressive governments as well as all other types of lobbying.

Establishing A New Independent EU Ethics Body

The existing ethics bodies in the Commission and Parliament are unable to effectively manage cases of revolving doors, conflicts of interest, or breaches of codes of conduct. This undermines citizen confidence in the EU and its institutions, as scandals often reveal. The weak sanctioning mechanisms and lack of independence from political interests in the procedure to vet national politicians for potential conflict of interest further exacerbate the issue. On December 16th, 2021 Recently, the European Parliament adopted in plenary an own-initiative report advocating for and explaining its views on an independent EU ethics body undermining all bodies prior to it. The position of the Parliament is encouraging, but it lacks ambition in important areas. A new independent ethics body would ensure impartial investigation of ethical violations, promote ethical conduct among officials, lobbying regulation and reinforce public trust in the EU's decision-making processes.

Lobbying Transparency and Regulation

Maintaining effective lobbying legislation is vital for promoting transparency within the European Union. The EU can guarantee its citizens know who wants to influence procedures and why by implementing legislation requiring lobbyists to register, disclose how they operate, and report interactions with officials. Enforcing a lobbyist code of conduct will protect ethical standards and fair procedures. Putting an end to closed door tactics and conflicts of interest among EU officials will improve accountability. Incorporating mechanisms for public input on proposed policies

would boost public engagement. Utilizing such approaches achieves an appropriate balance between involving stakeholders and avoiding excessive influence, resulting in a more inclusive decision making process. By promoting transparency within lobbyists, the EU can build public trust, uphold democratic values, and create a system that genuinely represents the interests of its citizens

Frequent Conflict of Interest Checks

It must become essential to carry out regular conflict of interest checks among national politicians in order to promote transparency, accountability and guarantee the credibility of the process by which decisions are made. The EU can prevent undue foreign influence and guarantee officials behave in the public interest by constantly checking financial interests and ties. Such measures prevent secretive misconduct in which former officials use their positions of power for their own benefit after leaving public service. By adhering to moral values and eliminating any conflicts, the EU must foster trust and confidence among citizens, ensuring them that policymaking is fair, accountable, and dedicated to serving the public's best interests.

Financial Oversight, Auditing and Anti-Corruption Measures

Financial Oversight, Auditing, and Anti-Corruption Measures serve as vital for reassuring national politicians and maintaining the democratic union's integrity. The EU may closely monitor the financial activities of politicians by introducing stringent monitoring systems, ensuring they adhere to ethical principles and preventing any misuse of public funds. Regular and independent audits of politicians' financial affairs offers openness and accountability, allowing the public to have faith in their elected representatives' financial oversight and in order to prevent corruption combated practices so are anti-corruption measures.

Open Data Initiatives and Digital Technologies

By pursuing Open Data Initiatives and Digital Technologies the EU may closely monitor politicians' financial activities, prevent corruption, and promote responsible government by introducing transparent financial supervision and employing digital technology. Open data promotes citizen trust and a responsive democratic system, ensuring that officials prioritize the public's interests.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

“About.” Transparency.Org, www.transparency.org/en/about. Accessed 21 July 2023.

Transparency International EU. “EU Political Integrity.” Transparency International EU, transparency.eu/priorities/. Accessed 21 July 2023.

“Lobbying in Europe: Hidden Influence, Privileged Access - Publications.” Transparency.Org, www.transparency.org/en/publications/lobbying-in-europe. Accessed 21 July 2023.

“Lex - 12008E015 - En.” EUR, eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX%3A12008E015%3Aen%3AHTML. Accessed 21 July 2023.

“Article 10.” Art. 10 Treaty on European Union, lexpency.org/eu/TEU/ART_10/. Accessed 21 July 2023.

Lefief, Jean-Philippe. “‘Qatargate’: What We Know about the Suspected Corruption at the European Parliament.” *Le Monde.Fr*, 15 Dec. 2022, www.lemonde.fr/en/international/article/2022/12/15/qatargate-what-we-know-about-suspected-corruption-at-the-european-parliament_6007916_4.html.

“Representative Democracy in the European Union (Article 10, TEU).” Lewik, www.lewik.org/term/12393/representative-democracy-in-the-european-union-article-10-teu/. Accessed 21 July 2023.

Fernandes , Meenakshi, and Lenka Jančová. “European Parliament.” European Parliament Research Service , [www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2023/734687/EPRS_STU\(2023\)734687_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2023/734687/EPRS_STU(2023)734687_EN.pdf). Accessed 22 July 2023.

Code of Conduct for Members of the European ... - European Parliament, www.europarl.europa.eu/pdf/meps/201305_Code_of_conduct_EN.pdf. Accessed 21 July 2023.

New Code, Old Conduct - Corporate Europe Observatory, corporateeurope.org/sites/default/files/new_code_old_conduct_report.pdf. Accessed 21 July 2023.

“The European Transparency Initiative and Alter-EU.” ALTER, 19 July 2012, www.alter-eu.org/about/coalition.

“What Is the Transparency Register?” Transparency Register, ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/public/staticPage/displayStaticPage.do;TRPUBLIC-ID-prod=U5F5SR6JlvnyZ_2WsQWeXDrGiNHvEo5QBqldnBSkvRRq5KHNHxwU!-1751856859?locale=en&reference=WHY_TRANSPARENCY_REGISTER. Accessed 21 July 2023.

Stamouli, Nektaria. “Cash Missing? Eva Kaili Arrest Warrant Points to ‘several Million Euros’ in Qatargate Payments.” *POLITICO*, 22 Feb. 2023,

www.politico.eu/article/cash-missing-eva-kaili-arrest-warrant-points-several-million-euros-qatargate-payments-belgian-police-bribery-ring-francesco-giorgi/.

“Senior MEP Eva Kaili in Custody over ‘Bags of Cash from Qatar.’” *Euronews*, www.euronews.com/2022/12/12/eu-parliament-vice-president-eva-kaili-in-custody-for-alleged-bags-of-cash-from-qatar. Accessed 22 July 2023.

“A Corruption Scandal Leaves the EU Reeling.” *The Economist*, www.economist.com/europe/2022/12/15/a-corruption-scandal-leaves-the-eu-reeling. Accessed 22 July 2023.

“Transparency Register.” European Commission, commission.europa.eu/about-european-commission/service-standards-and-principles/transparency/transparency-register_en. Accessed 21 July 2023.

Koutsokosta, Efi. “European Commission Unveils Plans for Ethics Body to Fight Corruption.” *Euronews*, www.euronews.com/my-europe/2023/06/08/european-commission-announces-plans-for-new-ethics-body-aimed-at-fighting-corruption. Accessed 22 July 2023.

“What Is the European Whistleblower Directive?” *National Whistleblower Center*, 19 Apr. 2021, www.whistleblowers.org/what-is-the-european-whistleblower-directive/.

“1. About.” *About*, www.integritywatch.eu/about.php. Accessed 21 July 2023.

D’Amedelio, Riccardo. “What Does the ‘Qatargate’ Corruption Scandal in the European Parliament Tell Us about Corruption?” *UK in a Changing Europe*, 31 Jan. 2023, ukandeu.ac.uk/what-does-the-qatargate-corruption-scandal-in-the-european-parliament-tell-us-about-corruption/.

“Integrity Watch Europe: Online Tools for the Fight against Political...” *Transparency.Org*, www.transparency.org/en/projects/integrity-watch-europe-online-tools-for-the-fight-against-political-corruption-in-europe. Accessed 21 July 2023.

“EU Fraud Agency Accuses Marine Le Pen of Misusing Public Funds.” *France 24*, 19 Apr. 2022, www.france24.com/en/france/20220419-eu-fraud-agency-accuses-marine-le-pen-of-misusing-public-funds.

“Press Corner.” *European Commission - European Commission*, ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_3106. Accessed 22 July 2023.

“Beyond Qatargate: The EU Needs a Compulsory Register That Targets All Covert Lobbying.” Corporate Europe Observatory, corporateeurope.org/en/2023/05/beyond-qatargate-eu-needs-compulsory-register-targets-all-covert-lobbying. Accessed 21 July 2023.

Guarnieri, Carlo, et al. “Political Corruption in Italy: Many Investigations, Few Convictions?” *Civitas - Revista de Ciências Sociais*, 1 Jan. 1970, www.redalyc.org/journal/742/74266204002/html/.

Barigazzi, Jacopo. “A Very Italian Scandal.” *POLITICO*, 8 Mar. 2023, www.politico.eu/article/italy-scandal-qatargate-corruption-pier-antonio-panzeri/.

Lichfield, John. “How Corrupt Is French Politics?” *POLITICO*, 20 May 2021, www.politico.eu/article/corrupt-trial-france-politics-former-french-president-nicolas-sarkozy/.

Jacqué, Philippe, et al. “‘Qatargate’: Pier Antonio Panzeri, from the Milanese Left to European Lobbying.” *Le Monde.Fr*, 13 Dec. 2022, www.lemonde.fr/en/international/article/2022/12/13/qatargate-pier-antonio-panzeri-from-the-milanese-left-to-european-lobbying_6007670_4.html.

Yuhas, Alan. “The Many Twists, Quotes and Scandals of Silvio Berlusconi.” *The New York Times*, 12 June 2023, www.nytimes.com/2023/06/12/world/europe/italy-berlusconi-career.html.

“About.” *Open Government Partnership*, 9 June 2023, www.opengovpartnership.org/about/.

“Two Reasons Why the EU Should Join The Open Government Partnership - World Wide Web Foundation.” *World Wide Web Foundation - Founded by Tim Berners-Lee, Inventor of the Web, the World Wide Web Foundation Empowers People to Bring about Positive Change.*, 29 July 2015, webfoundation.org/2015/07/two-reasons-why-the-eu-should-join-the-open-government-partnership/.

Venturi, Richard. “The Open Government Partnership and the EU.” *Accueil*, www.strategie.gouv.fr/english-articles/open-government-partnership-and. Accessed 5 Aug. 2023.

“Revolving Door.” *Opensecrets RSS*, www.opensecrets.org/revolving/. Accessed 5 Aug. 2023.

“Summary Revolving Door Prohibitions.” *National Conference of State Legislatures*, www.ncsl.org/ethics/revolving-door-prohibitions. Accessed 5 Aug. 2023.

“Lack of Transparency in Political Financing Poses Serious Problems For Countries.” Transparency.Org, www.transparency.org/en/press/20070602-lack-of-transparency-in-political-financing-poses-serious-problems. Accessed 5 Aug. 2023.

“Common Challenges in Lobbying Transparency: Lessons from Europe.” Open Government Partnership, 27 July 2022, www.opengovpartnership.org/stories/common-challenges-in-lobbying-transparency-lessons-from-europe/.

“About Good Governance.” OHCHR, www.ohchr.org/en/good-governance/about-good-governance. Accessed 5 Aug. 2023.