

# Procedure file


## Basic information

REG - Parliament's Rules of Procedure	<a href="#">1996/2055(REG)</a>	Procedure completed
Code of conduct for representatives of interest groups		
Subject 8.40.01.08 Business of Parliament, procedure, sittings, rules of procedure 8.40.16 Relations with interest representatives		

## Key players

European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>REGL</b> Rules of Procedure, Verification of Credentials and Immunities		09/10/1996
		PSE <a href="#">FORD Glyn</a>	

## Key events

21/03/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
18/03/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
18/03/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary	<a href="#">A4-0107/1997</a>	
12/05/1997	Debate in Parliament		Summary
13/05/1997	Decision by Parliament	T4-0217/1997	Summary
13/05/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
02/06/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

## Technical information

Procedure reference	1996/2055(REG)
Procedure type	REG - Parliament's Rules of Procedure
Procedure subtype	Rules
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 237-p1
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	REGL/4/07746

## Documentation gateway

Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		<a href="#">A4-0107/1997</a> <a href="#">OJ C 150 19.05.1997, p. 0002</a>	18/03/1997	EP	
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Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0217/1997 <a href="#">OJ C 167 02.06.1997, p. 0014-0022</a>	13/05/1997	EP	Summary
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## Code of conduct for representatives of interest groups

The Committee approved the draft decision introducing a Code of Conduct governing lobbyists (rapporteur: Mr Glyn FORD (PES, UK)). The report was adopted by 7 to 2 with 2 abstentions. The proposed Code of Conduct asks lobbyists to be honest, fair and open in their dealings with Parliament. The committee made a clearer distinction between Members' assistants and lobbyists by amending Annex IX, Article 2 of the rules of procedure, which sets out the provisions governing lobbying, so that 'only those registered assistants working exclusively as assistants shall have access to Parliament under the same conditions as staff of the Secretariat or the political groups'. A new Article 3 was added to Annex IX, concerning the Code of Conduct for the persons whose names appear in the register kept by the Quaestors (provided for in Rule 9(2)). This stated that lobbyists must: - state the interest or interests they represent; - refrain from any action designed to obtain information dishonestly; - not claim any formal relationship with Parliament in any dealings with third parties; - not circulate for a profit to third parties copies of documents obtained from the European Parliament; - comply strictly with the provisions of Annex I(2) of the Rules, which states that 'Members of Parliament shall refrain from accepting any other gift or benefit in the performance of their duties'; - satisfy themselves that any assistance provided in the context of these provisions is declared in the register; - comply, when recruiting former officials of the institutions with the provisions of the Staff Regulations, and observe any rules laid down by Parliament on the rights and responsibilities of former Members; - in order to avoid possible conflicts of interest, obtain the prior consent of the Member or Members concerned as regards any contractual relationship or employment of a Member's assistant, and subsequently satisfy themselves that this is declared in the register provided for in Rule 9(2); - submit each year, with a view to securing the extension of their passes, a report on their activities carried out with the aim of influencing decision-making in the European Parliament. The committee also adopted a penalty clause with a view to ensuring any breach of the Code of Conduct may lead to the withdrawal of the pass issued to the persons concerned and, if appropriate, their firms.?

## Code of conduct for representatives of interest groups

Stressing that the previous report's failure had given a negative picture of the European Parliament, the rapporteur welcomed the fact that the main parts of the new report had been unanimously approved during the vote in committee. Mr Ford stressed that sanctions could be applied in the event of any breach of the Code of Conduct. He then accepted the amendment on the keeping of a register, presented by Mr Donnelly (EPP, UK). The latter, on behalf of the EPP Group, was against Amendment No 1 which specified that only those registered assistants working exclusively as assistants would have access to Parliament. He was also against Amendment No 12 which required the submission each year, with a view to securing the extension of lobbyists' passes, of a report on their activities carried out with the aim of influencing decision-making in Parliament. Mr Wijsenbeek (ELDR, NL) also said that the annual report was a bureaucratic nonsense. On behalf of the GUE-NGL Group, Mr EPHREMIDIS (EL) considered that the report in question did not achieve the desired effect. While accepting that this represented progress compared to the previous version, Mrs AELVOET (V, BE) regretted that there was no longer any parallel approach between the Ford report and the Nordmann report which provided for the declaration of interests from which Members might benefit.

## Code of conduct for representatives of interest groups

The European Parliament adopted the report by Mr Glyn Ford (PSE, UK) regarding the introduction of a code of conduct for lobbyists. This code of conduct requires lobbyists to be honest, fair and open in their dealings with the European Parliament. The code of conduct, for persons whose name must appear in a register kept by the Quaestors in pursuance of Article 9 of the rules, is set out in a new Article 3 of Annex IX. This states that lobbyists must: - state the interest or interests they represent; - refrain from any action designed to obtain information dishonestly; - not claim any formal relationship with the European Parliament in any dealings with third parties; - not circulate for a profit to third parties copies of documents obtained from the European Parliament; - comply strictly with the provisions of Article 2 of Annex I of the Rules, which states that 'Members of Parliament shall refrain from accepting any gift or benefit in the performance of their duties'; - satisfy themselves that any assistance provided in the context of the provisions of Annex 1, Article 2, is declared in the register provided for this purpose; - comply, when recruiting former officials of the institutions, with the provisions of the Staff Regulations and with any rules laid down by the European Parliament on the rights and responsibilities of former Members; - obtain, in order to avoid possible conflicts of interest, the prior consent of the Member or Members concerned as regards any contractual relationship or employment of a Member's assistant, and shall ensure that this is declared in the Register. As a penalty, the text states that any breach of the code of conduct may lead to the withdrawal of the pass issued to the persons concerned and, if appropriate, to their firms. ?