

Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	1994/2143(INI)	Procedure completed
Transparency and Members' financial interests (Annex I of the EP Rules of Procedure)		
Subject 8.40.01.02 President, members, mandates, political groups		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	REGL Rules of Procedure, Verification of Credentials and Immunities		19/06/1995
		ELDR NORDMANN Jean-Thomas	
	Former committee responsible		
	REGL Rules of Procedure, Verification of Credentials and Immunities		19/06/1995
		ELDR NORDMANN Jean-Thomas	

Key events			
26/10/1994	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
25/09/1995	Vote in committee		Summary
16/01/1996	Debate in Parliament		Summary
17/01/1996	Decision by Parliament	A4-0218/1995	
17/01/1996	Report referred back to committee		
29/05/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
29/05/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0177/1996	
16/07/1996	Debate in Parliament		Summary
17/07/1996	Decision by Parliament	T4-0398/1996	Summary
17/07/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
09/09/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1994/2143(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	REGL/4/07492; REGL/4/06009

Documentation gateway

Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A4-0218/1995 OJ C 323 04.12.1995, p. 0004	25/09/1995	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A4-0177/1996 OJ C 198 08.07.1996, p. 0004	29/05/1996	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T4-0398/1996 OJ C 261 09.09.1996, p. 0051-0073	17/07/1996	EP	Summary

Transparency and Members' financial interests (Annex I of the EP Rules of Procedure)

The committee, which met in Brussels on 25 and 26 September, approved the report by Jean-Thomas NORDMANN (ELDR, F) seeking to strengthen the transparency of members' financial interests within the context of the current rules of conduct for MEPs by a majority of 7 votes to 2 with 2 abstentions. It also unanimously adopted the report by Robert EVANS (PSE, UK) on the vote of appointment of the executive Commission (EP 213.716). The proposed amendment allowed the vote of appointment to be postponed until the next parliamentary session. The NORDMANN report completes the implementing provisions of Article 9 of the Rules of Procedure in Annex I to the rules. According to Mr NORDMANN, the European Parliament is increasingly threatened by two-faced moralizers trying to destabilize Parliament in order to promote extremist doctrines. Given the increase in the powers and influence of the European Parliament, current practices in national parliaments and the growing demand by the European public for transparency from their politicians, provisions guaranteeing that parliamentary mandates are exercised with the greatest clarity need to be laid down. At the time of election, each MEP will be required to make a personal declaration in a register kept by the quaestors giving precise details relating to: - his or her professional activities and any other office or paid activity; - any donation or payment in cash or in kind within the scope of his or her mandate, stating the identity of the donor. This includes various payments in the form of support (assistants paid, even partly, by third parties, gifts, travel, cut price hotels etc.). The sum of donations or perquisites shall be set by the quaestors; - any movables or property owned; Mr Brendan DONNELLY (PPE, UK) tabled a reservation on behalf of the PPE group on this last point. These declarations must be updated annually or after any event which renders them inaccurate or incomplete. This register will be open to the public: it will be available in the European Parliament's place of work and in the European Parliament's information offices in the Member States and included in the European Parliament's databases. The Bureau of the European Parliament is called on to make the necessary arrangements to prevent the data published from being used by terrorists or criminals. Only members who have complied with their obligation to publish this information shall have their mandate validated. Vote of appointment to the Commission: the Treaty on European Union does not authorize a separate vote on each candidate Commissioner but the European Parliament wishes to assess candidate Commissioners in greater depth. In order to solve this dilemma, the EVANS report proposes a compromise solution to reconcile the views of the European Parliament and the Commission on votes of appointment to the Commission. At present, the European Parliament approves or rejects the Commission appointed at the end of the appointment debate. The amendment to Article 33 (4) of the Rules of Procedure makes provision for the vote of appointment to be postponed by the European Parliament to the following sitting in order to give it time to address reservations raised during the debate.?

Transparency and Members' financial interests (Annex I of the EP Rules of Procedure)

The European Parliament referred the report by Mr Jean-Thomas NORDMANN (ELDR, F) on transparency and the financial interests of the Community back to committee.

Transparency and Members' financial interests (Annex I of the EP Rules of Procedure)

The committee adopted the second draft report by Mr Jean-Thomas NORDMANN by 10 votes to 2 with 3 abstentions. The new measures should supplement the implementing provisions of article 9 of the Rules of Procedure, as contained in Annex I of the Rules, and have been largely based on the conclusions of the COT working group which was set up by the Conference of Presidents last January. Public register of payments and gifts: At the time of election, each MEP should personally make known the precise details relating to: - his or her professional activities and any other office or paid activity; - support in the form of finance, material or personnel provided by third parties, which is in addition to the resources which the European Parliament provides to an MEP within the scope of his or her political mandate. The identity of the donor must be made known. Members forbade themselves from receiving any other gift or donation in the exercise of their mandate. These declarations must be updated annually. The register must be open to the public. The Bureau of the European Parliament may periodically draw up a list of particulars which, in its opinion, have to be declared in the register. Financial declarations: On the subject of

financial declarations, the report states that, in anticipation of a set of common rules for MEPs, which will replace the various national regulations currently in force, Members of the European Parliament shall be subject to the obligations which are prescribed for them under the legislation of the Member State in which they were elected. Mr NORDMANN asked for his first report to be referred back to committee in January 1996, following the rejection in plenary of the report by Mr Glyn FORD (PSE, UK) on lobbying.?

Transparency and Members' financial interests (Annex I of the EP Rules of Procedure)

The rapporteur, Mr Nordmann (ELDR, F), said that a reform of the regulation concerning the matter in question required an absolute majority of 314 votes and for this reason he urged the Members of Parliament not to abstain. He also touched on the problems that had been encountered before being able to arrive at a general form of wording in his report, which was designed to reconcile radically different parliamentary cultures. On behalf of the Liberal Group, Mr Nordmann then took up this idea by adding that there had been a desire to avoid an inquisitorial procedure and to be guided instead by a spirit of transparency and trust. Mr GIL ROBLES GIL DELGADO (EPP, E) gave his full support to the Nordmann and Ford reports, which in their entirety formed a framework regulation and represented the first step in the right direction. Mr METTEN (PSE, NL) wanted to see lobbyists submit an annual report on their activities in the EU institutions before their entry passes were renewed. He also called for greater transparency regarding the financial position of joint parliamentary groups. While supporting the Ford and Nordmann reports Mrs AELVOET (Greens, B) regretted that Parliament was not taking further action, as the 13 Member States had no rules governing the financial interests of Members; a code of conduct should therefore be introduced at European level during the current legislative period. Mr FABRE-AUBRESPY (EDN, F) stressed that Parliament had to keep its independence and that refusing to accept gifts was primarily a matter of ethics.

Transparency and Members' financial interests (Annex I of the EP Rules of Procedure)

In adopting the report by Mr Jean-Thomas NORDMANN (ELDR, F) on transparency and the financial interests of Members of the European Parliament, the EP amended Annex I of its rules of procedure together with Article 9. The new measures were largely based on the conclusions of the COT working group which was set up by the Conference of Presidents the previous January and which recommended that at the time of election each MEP should personally make known the precise details relating to: - his or her professional activities and any other office or paid activity; - support in the form of finance, material or personnel provided by third parties, which is in addition to the resources which the European Parliament provides to an MEP within the scope of his or her political mandate. In this case the identity of the donor must be made known. Members banned themselves from receiving any other gift or donation in the exercise of their mandate. These declarations must be published annually and Members must be personally responsible for them. The register of declarations must also be open to the public. The Bureau of the European Parliament may periodically draw up a list of particulars which, in its opinion, have to be declared in the register. On the subject of financial declarations, the report states that in anticipation of a set of common rules for MEPs, which will replace the various national regulations currently in force, Members of the European Parliament shall be subject to the obligations which are prescribed to them under the legislation of the Member State in which they were elected. ?