Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

**Resolution 1736 (2010)**[1]
Final version

# Code of good practice in the field of political parties

Parliamentary Assembly

1. The quality of today's representative democracy largely depends on the functioning of political parties, in particular their internal organisation, transparency, funding and quality of their political programmes. A large part of the challenges that current democratic systems face coincide with those faced nowadays by political parties.

2. This is why in its Resolution 1546 (2007) on the code of good practice for political parties, after recalling its own previous work in this field, as well as relevant work carried out by the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) and the Council of Europe Forum for the Future of Democracy, the Parliamentary Assembly invited the Venice Commission to elaborate a code of good practice in the field of political parties which would take into account the elements and principles enumerated in its resolution.

3. The Assembly, therefore, welcomes the adoption of the Code of Good Practice in the field of Political Parties by the Venice Commission and endorses it. The new code, as requested by the Assembly, aims at reinforcing political parties' internal democracy and increasing their credibility in the eyes of citizens, thus contributing to the legitimacy of the democratic process and institutions as a whole and the development of democracy in Council of Europe member states.

4. Based on the experience of political parties in Council of Europe member states and taking into account both national legislation and practice in the field of regulation of activities of political parties and party statutes, the new Code of Good Practice in the field of Political Parties offers political parties a systematic repertoire of best practices in Europe. Additionally, it offers public authorities and courts a yardstick to assess the practice of parties. It also promotes democratic principles such as equality, dialogue, co-operation, transparency and the fight against corruption.

5. In the light of the above considerations and in accordance with the procedure followed for the Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters and for the Code of Good Practice on Referendums, the Assembly decides to forward the Code of Good Practice in the field of Political Parties to national delegations and parliaments and asks them to disseminate it among their political parties so that it can be applied in all Council of Europe member states.

1. *Text adopted by the Standing Committee,* acting on behalf of the Assembly on 21 May 2010 (see Doc. 12246, report of the Political Affairs Committee, rapporteur: Mr Agramunt Font de Mora).