

Resolution 2632 (2025)¹

Identifying and managing conflicts of interest in the Parliamentary Assembly

Parliamentary Assembly

1. Every parliament should have transparent and clear processes for identifying and managing conflicts of interest. Such systems are essential for maintaining the standards of objectivity and public service that the public expects from democratically elected politicians. Establishing, and maintaining, an adequate conflict-of-interest management system within the Parliamentary Assembly is vital for maintaining public trust in Europe's democratic institutions and ensuring the credibility of its actions.
2. The Assembly already has a well-established system for declaring interests, which has been further improved and developed in its [Resolution 2596 \(2025\)](#) "Respect for the rule of law and the fight against corruption within the Council of Europe". However, to further improve its integrity system, the Assembly considers that it could benefit from:
 - 2.1. improved definitions in the Code of conduct for members of the Parliamentary Assembly to help identify what constitutes a "conflict of interest" for the purposes of the Rules of Procedure and the code of conduct;
 - 2.2. clear guidance on identifying potential, perceived or actual conflicts of interest and on ways of managing conflicts of interest;
 - 2.3. a named person from whom members can seek confidential advice to assist them in identifying and managing conflicts of interest;
 - 2.4. efforts to simplify the language of the code of conduct, in particular to avoid repetition in the general principles and the rules of conduct.
3. It is important that members of the Assembly be given sufficiently clear information and support when declaring their interests, and when identifying and managing potential, perceived or actual conflicts of interest. Practical guidance notes, tailored to the Assembly's context and regularly updated, on making declarations of interest and on identifying and managing conflicts of interest, are a key tool in this respect.
4. In line with best practice in managing conflicts of interest, it is appropriate to designate a person to whom members can go for confidential advice based on expertise in identifying potential, perceived or actual conflicts of interest and how to react to or manage such situations. It nonetheless remains the responsibility of members to declare their interests and to appropriately resolve any situation regarding a conflict of interest. The Assembly considers that the Council of Europe Ethics Officer has the relevant expertise, suitability, independence and availability for this role. The advice given should be specifically tailored to the context of parliamentarians exercising their functions within the Assembly.
5. In light of the above, the Assembly amends the Code of conduct for members of the Parliamentary Assembly (contained in Appendix II to the Rules of Procedure) as follows:
 - 5.1. delete paragraph 9;

1. *Text adopted by the Standing Committee, acting on behalf of the Assembly, on 21 November 2025 (see [Doc. 16287](#), report of the Committee on Rules, Ethics and Immunities, rapporteur: Mr Sergiy Vlasenko).*



- 5.2. after paragraph 21, insert the following new provision:

“Managing conflicts of interest

21.1. For the purposes of this code, the following definitions shall apply:

21.1.1. a personal “interest” is something that could lead to a personal advantage to oneself or one’s close connections. The interest can arise in relation to one’s occupation, finances, business interests, relationships (family and friends), liabilities or other interests;

21.1.2. “close connections” include one’s household and close friends and family members;

21.1.3. a “conflict of interest” can be potential, perceived or actual. It is a situation where a person has a personal interest which is such as to influence or appear to influence the impartial and objective performance of their duties.

21.2. In their declaration of interests, a member shall identify any potential, perceived or actual conflicts of interest between their personal interests and the public interest in the work of the Assembly. In doing so, special regard should be paid to that member’s particular roles within the Assembly (e.g. President or Vice-President of the Assembly; chairperson or vice-chairperson of a committee, sub-committee, network, platform, alliance or political group; rapporteur (including co-rapporteur, general rapporteur and youth rapporteur) or member of an ad hoc committee for the observation of elections). A separate entry shall be included in their declaration identifying any potential, perceived or actual conflicts of interest for each role within the Assembly.

21.3. Once a potential, perceived or actual conflict of interest has been identified, a member shall set out in their declaration of interests the remedial steps that will be taken to avoid that conflict unduly affecting their work in the Assembly. Remedial steps can include, for example:

- disclosure;*
- third-party involvement;*
- stepping back or recusal;*
- refusal;*
- avoidance.*

21.4. Advice may be sought from the Council of Europe Ethics Officer, who can provide confidential advice to members, tailored to the context of parliamentarians exercising their functions within the Assembly, to assist them in identifying and managing potential conflicts of interest. Advice may also be sought from the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly, who is responsible for the application of the code of conduct. It remains the responsibility of the members to declare any interests and to identify and appropriately resolve any conflicts of interest. Conflicts of interest should be resolved in favour of the public interest and must be disclosed.”;

- 5.3. replace paragraph 22.1.1 with the following:

“obligation to update their declaration of interests in order to declare any interests relevant to that role, to identify any potential, perceived or actual conflicts of interest and to record how any such conflicts will be managed;”;

- 5.4. replace paragraph 40.1.1 with the following:

“obligation to update their declaration of interests in order to declare any interests relevant to that role, to identify any potential, perceived or actual conflicts of interest and to record how any such conflicts will be managed;”.

6. The Assembly decides to modify the guidelines on the observation of elections by the Parliamentary Assembly (contained in Appendix XIII to the Rules of Procedure) by replacing paragraph 20 with the following:

“All candidates for membership of an ad hoc committee, at the time of putting forward their candidacy, shall make a written declaration of interests in connection with the country concerned by an election observation; this declaration shall be added to their declaration of interests published on the Assembly website and shall identify any conflicts of interest (as defined in the Code of conduct for members of the Parliamentary Assembly) and any remedial steps taken in relation to those interests and the work of the ad hoc committee for the observation of elections. Political groups shall not submit the candidatures of members with unmanaged conflicts of interest in respect of a particular country.”

7. The Assembly decides that the amendments to the Rules of Procedure set out in this Resolution shall enter into force at the opening of its January 2026 part-session.