

Professional and Ethical Standards for Parliamentarians in OSCE Region



"Democracy, with its representative and pluralistic character, entails accountability to the electorate, the obligation of public authorities to comply with the law and justice administered impartially". (*Paris Document*, 1990)

"OSCE participating States pledge to promote good government practices and public integrity".

(Istanbul Document, 1999)

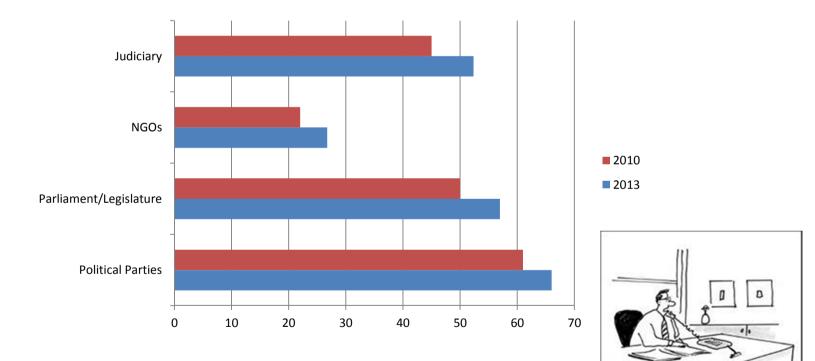
"The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly encourages the parliaments of the OSCE participating States to develop and publish rigorous standards of ethics and official conduct for parliamentarians and their staff".

(Brussels Declaration, 2006)



Perception of Corruption in National Parliaments in the OSCE Region

Parliaments in the OSCE region are perceived as the second most corrupt institution in a majority of OSCE participating States.



- The graph represents an average from 40 out of 57 OSCE participating States.
- % of people reporting the sector/institution being corrupt or extremely corrupt (source: 2013 Transparency International Global Corruption Index)

"If necessary, I can be ethical. Fortunately, it hasn't come to that."

Gia Bill

3/14

Codes of Conduct in the OSCE



1968 United States of A	merica Name: Co	USA, Senate Name: Code of Official Conduct of the Senate Format: Part of the Rules of Procedure		USA, House of Representatives Name: Code of Official Conduct of the House Format: Part of the Rules of Procedure	
1986 G e	ermany Name: Code	Germany, Bundestag Name: Code of Conduct for Members of the German Bundestag Format: Annex to the Rules of Procedure			
1995 Malta 1995 United K	Kingdom Parliamen Name: Cod of Represer	e of Ethics of Members of th	e House Name: Code d	ne House of Lords	
1996 United K	Kingdom Name: Code the Rules rel	United Kingdom, House of Commons Name: Code of Conduct and the Guide to the Rules relating to the conduct of Members Format: Resolution			
199	8 Poland Name: Rule	Poland, Sejm Name: Rules of Ethics for Deputies Format: Resolution			
2002	Ireland Name: Code Dail Eireann	Ireland, House of RepresentativesIreland, SenateName: Code of Conduct for Members ofName: Code of Conduct for Members ofDail Eireann other than office holdersSeanad Éireann other than office holdersFormat: Parliamentary motionFormat: Parliamentary motion			
2004 Georgia 2004	Canada Ca	pers of the Name: Co	House of Commons nflict of Interest Code for of the House of Commons		
	6 Latvia 6 Latvia 6 Latvia 8 Parliament of Lithuani Name: Code of Conduct for State Politicians	A Name: Code of	the Codes of co a x to	The European Parliament introduced codes of conduct in 2011 Additionally seven participating States are currently engaged in developing codes of conduct for national	
2011	Format: La		mbly Additionally are currer		

Assembly

Parliaments



Benefits of introducing ethical standards and codes of conduct



Implement and respect international standards and norms.

Strengthen accountability and trust.

Professionalize politics

Have all official rules explained in one place as guidance for MPs, media, and voters.

Fight corruption, conflicts of interest and abuse of office.





ODIHR's work on Parliamentary Ethics



Background Study: Professional and Ethical Standards for Parliamentarians

> OSCE ODIHR

- The ODIHR Background Study: Professional and Ethical Standards for Parliamentarians - comprehensive publication analysing how to set professional and ethical standards for Members of Parliament and regulate their conduct.
- Upon request ODIHR supports the development of codes of conduct in a number of participating States. (e.g. Estonia, Georgia, Sweden and Ukraine)
- ODIHR works on raising awareness among participating States on parliamentary ethical standards by promoting the Study and the expertise of ODIHR in this field. (e.g. Albania, Poland and Austria)
- Regional Study tours on Parliamentary Ethics in 2013 and 2014 for over 40 MPs from 14 OSCE participating States.
- ODIHR closely works with Field Operations to support participating States in developing codes of conduct.

Codes: How do they work?

- Establishing common values
- Setting rules
- Encouraging monitoring
- Sanctioning violations

Codes work best when...

- There is underlying consensus on the rules
- Peers monitor one another
- Breaches are punished by proportionate sanctions and by peers





Thank you for your attention!



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