

GRECO ROUND TABLE

GENDER DIMENSIONS OF CORRUPTION

PARLIAMENTARIANS/POLITICS

OCTOBER 2015

PROF DR MELANIE SULLY

WWW.GO-GOVERNANCE.COM



QUESTIONNAIRE

- Information on gender of MPs on IPU and European Commission websites
- National, regional and local legislatures could publish quarterly updates
- The Council of Municipalities in Austria holds sole official information on Mayors and provides data on request

Definition problems - "holding a government position"

Senior position: age, length in office or high profile job - how is this defined?

Model answers or explanatory notes could assist conformity in





THE (INNER) POWER CIRCLE

- •For purposes of identifying and combating corruption the exercise of power and influence and money flow is the most relevant.
- •How to define high profile cabinet post or ministries where corruption could potentially be more of a problem?
- •How important are specific committee chairs etc. How often do committees meet. How many MPs are on how many committees;

media profile and access



GET THE WHOLE PICTURE

- •How are committee chairs/members (s)elected seniority, loyalty (unity) to party, merit (gender data on committees with eye on fields especially open to corruption eg sport?)
- •Ditto for cabinet posts ? What qualifications ? Transparency?
- Who is dependent on whom for promotion, reselection of mandate, speaking in plenary sessions
- Information on formal or informal connections, transparent or otherwise



CABINET - GOVERNMENT - MINISTRIES

- Percentage of the budget allocated to ministries?
- Transparency on studies commissioned by ministry
- So-called soft ministries working definition?



SCOPE OF QUESTIONNAIRE

Include those in decision-making process with access to information - often defined in rules (EU model)

- -special advisors (UK),
- -parliamentary staff,
- election officials where appointed by parties,
- •gender of donors to party coffers?

Do the donors hold political office and/or are they parliamentarians (dependency chain)



LOCAL - NATIONAL NETWORK

In some parliaments mayors can also be MPs. Gender data?

Who is more powerful a mayor with executive powers at local level or individual MP?

Mayors can be in office for decades on average vgl with MP



WORK IN PROGRESS

Not just the numbers game, how many women in government but what resources and scope have they at their disposal (this relates to corruption potential)



CODES OF CONDUCT

Useful would be information on whether codes of conduct exist either for parliamentarians or for government members;

Who can start an investigation into breach of codes? Who decides sanctions?

Whereas laws often cover conflicts of interest, grey areas lay open avenues for the creative



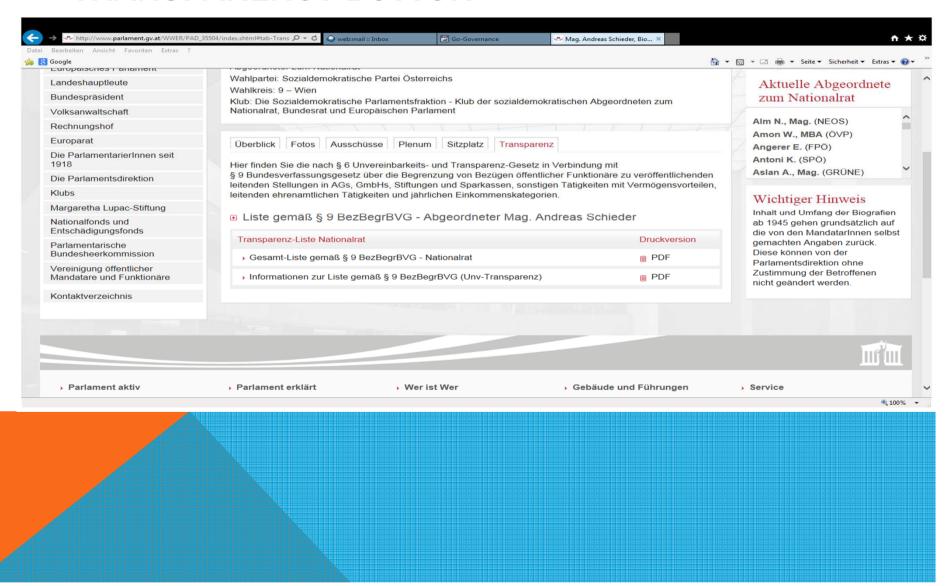
PARTY NETWORKS

- Employment of "relatives" (gender?) as parliamentary assistants – cases where MPs get round rules and employ relatives of fellow MPs (personal enrichment, favours, dependency?)
- Information available on other jobs of MPs, how much earned per month. In Austria over 10000 Euros per month no further details
- 9 of 183 in this category of whom one female (for year 2014)
- •Are outside jobs dependent/financed via party machines?
- •Can government members get outside jobs paid? Gender data?

See work of Austrian NGO "Meine Abgeordneten"

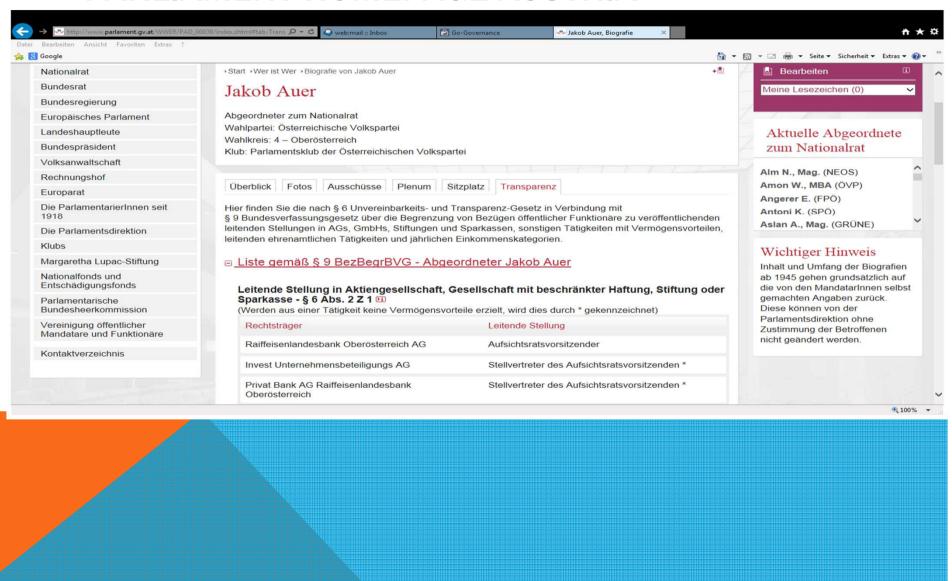


TRANSPARENCY BUTTON





PARLIAMENT HOMEPAGE AUSTRIA





"HERE TODAY - GONE TOMORROW"

- •What do cabinet/MPs do after— is there a party affiliated network (banks, interest groups) job waiting in the wings or are they thrown onto the job market to fend for themselves
- What if any help is given of financial nature by parliaments to ex MPs (UK)
- Gender dimension do predominantly male networks look after "own"?
- Data on post ministerial employment /MPs eg (international) consultants
- Definitions of honorary posts influence exercised in decision-making



CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Encourage parliaments at all levels to publish quarterly information on gender and politics
- Modify and extend questionnaire to define precisely power jobs and gender
- Include wider circle connected to MPs and Ministers eg consultants, party affiliated
- Encourage transparent definition of criteria for executive appointments
- Explore the network connections not only financial of MPs/Ministers
- Explore the safety net for ex politicians is there a gender imbalance
- Focus more specifically on corruption related offences, inquiries, results