

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”.

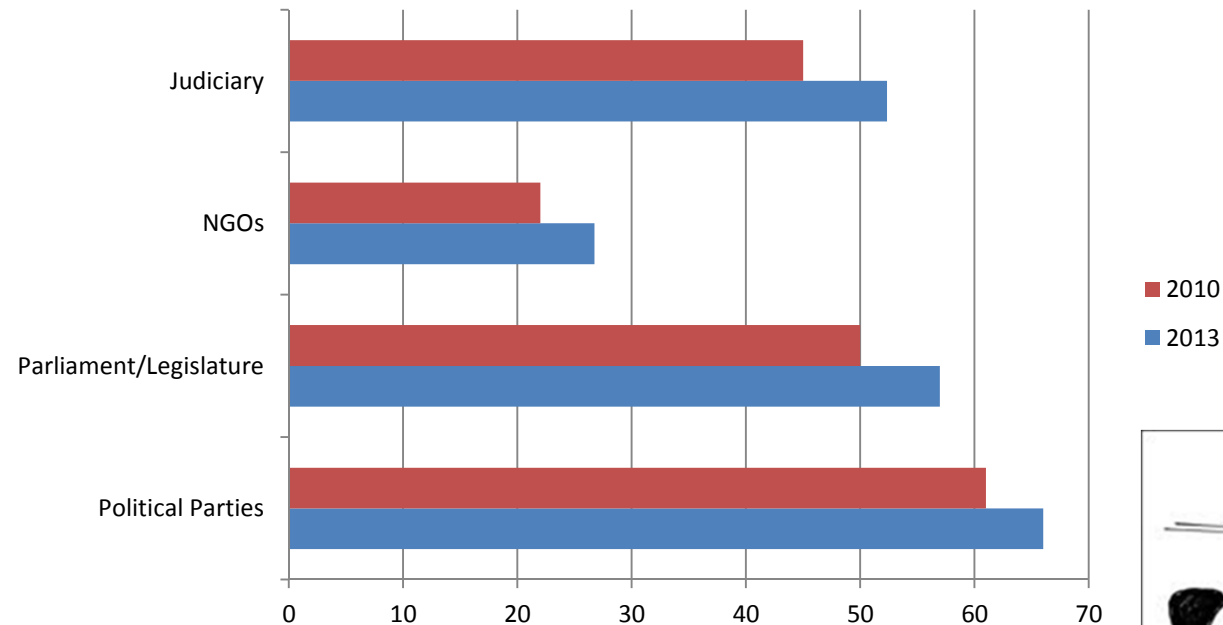
(Istanbul Document, 1999)

“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."

Codes of Conduct in the OSCE



The European Parliament introduced codes of conduct in 2011

Additionally seven participating States are currently engaged in developing codes of conduct for national Parliaments



Benefits of introducing ethical standards and codes of conduct



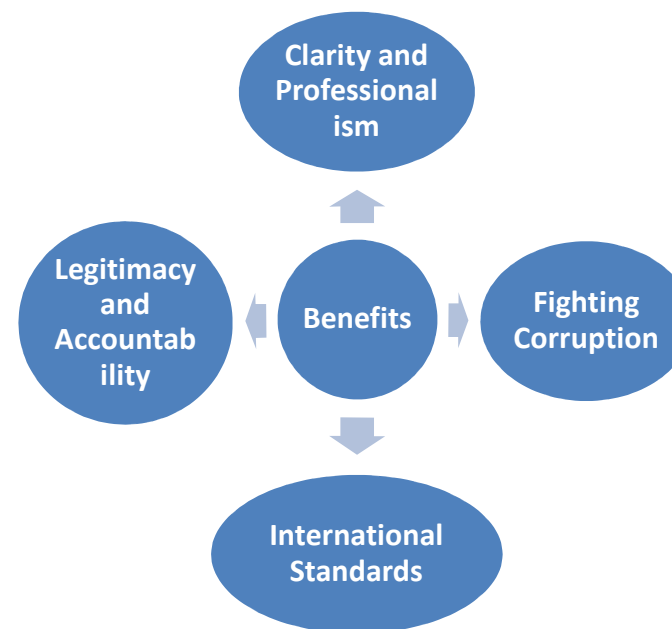
Implement and respect international standards and norms.

Strengthen accountability and trust.

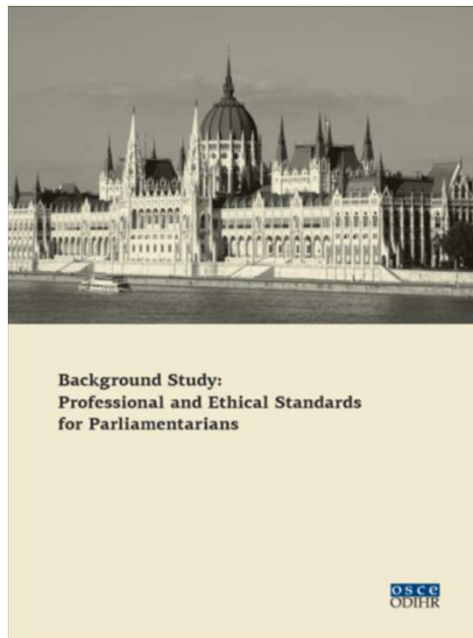
Professionalize politics

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



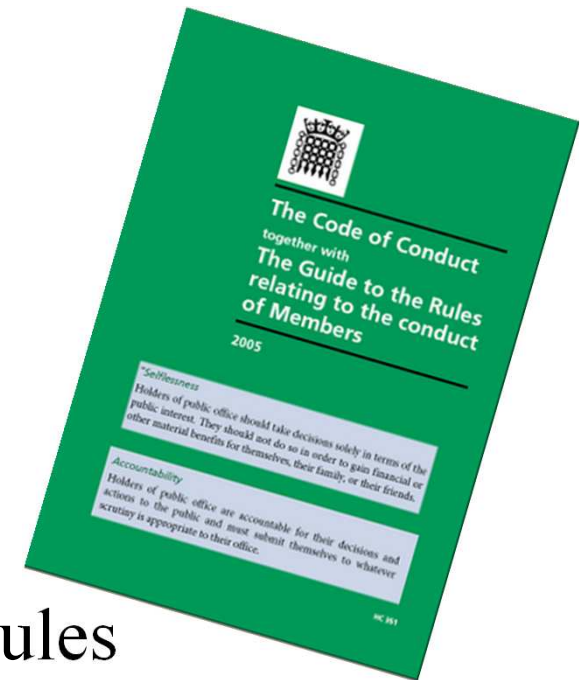
- The ODIHR *Background Study: Professional and Ethical Standards for Parliamentarians* - comprehensive publication analysing how to set professional and ethical standards for Members of Parliament and regulate their conduct.
- Upon request ODIHR supports the development of codes of conduct in a number 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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