

ADDRESSING INTEGRITY IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

10 NOVEMBER 2017, GRECO, PRAGUE

Carl Dolan, Transparency International EU

PARLIAMENTS – A PR DISASTER



Figure 2: Perceptions of corruption levels for different institutions and groups

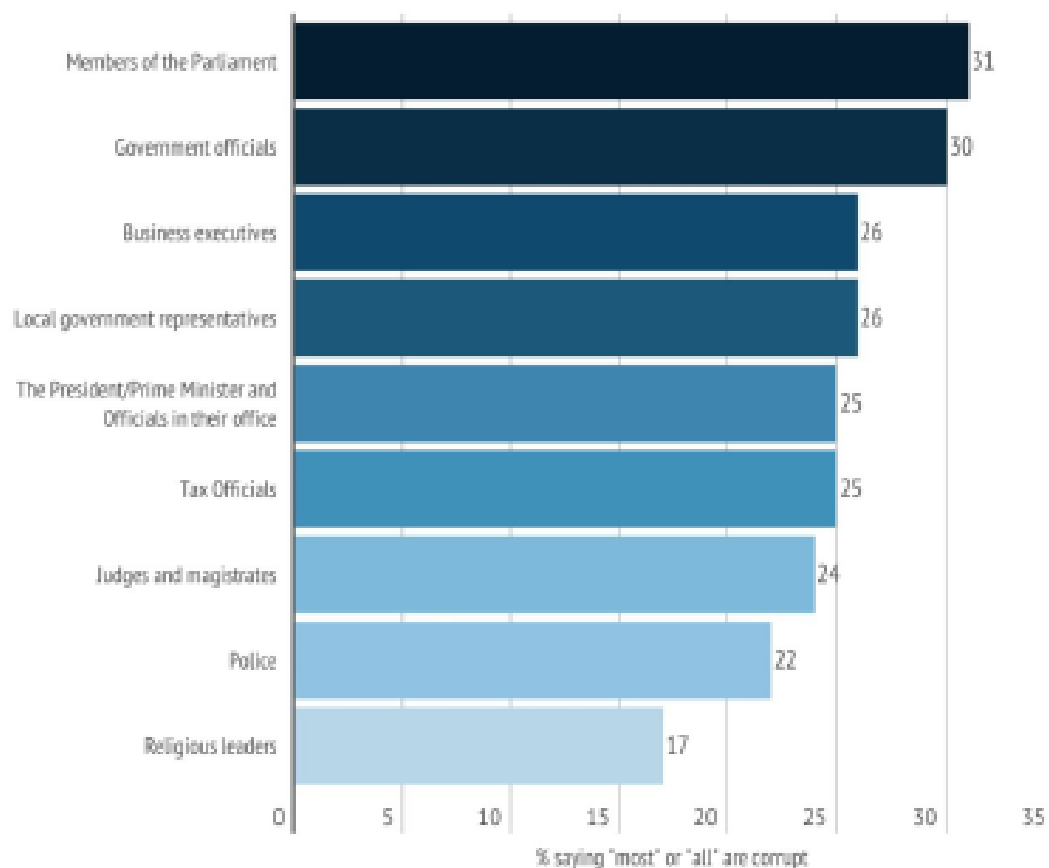
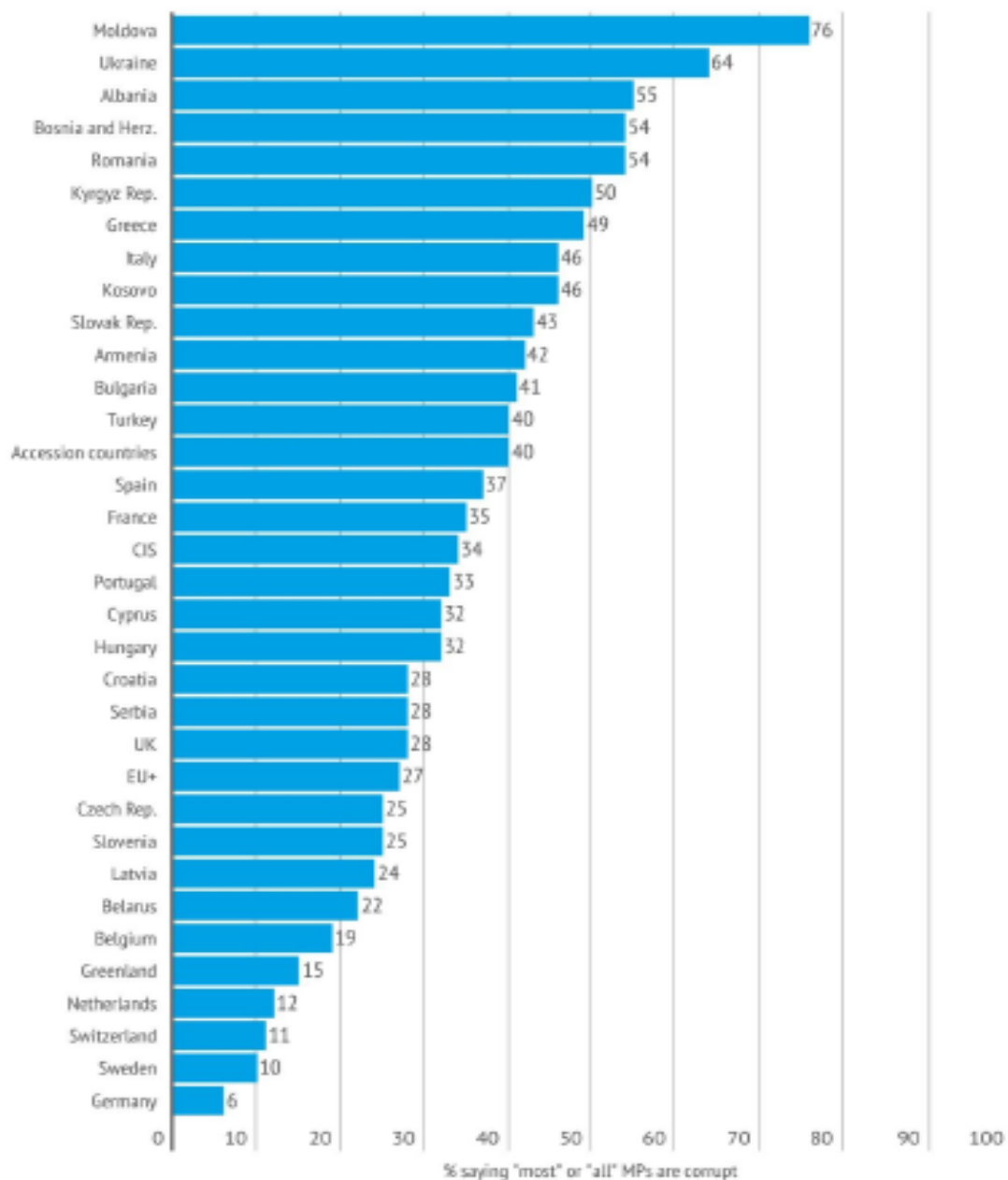


Figure 3: Perceptions of corruption levels for members of parliament

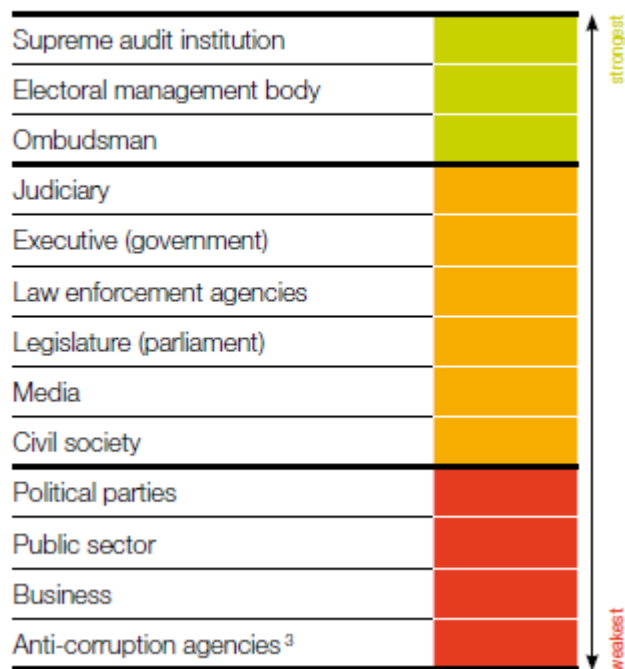
Results by country and region.



AND REALITY?



HOW DO INSTITUTIONS IN EUROPE MEASURE UP??



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



'CASH FOR AMENDMENTS' (2012)



Ex-MEP to serve prison in 'cash-for-laws' scandal

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Tanja Milevska

Feb 3, 2014 (updated: Feb 5, 2014)



corruption_01.jpg

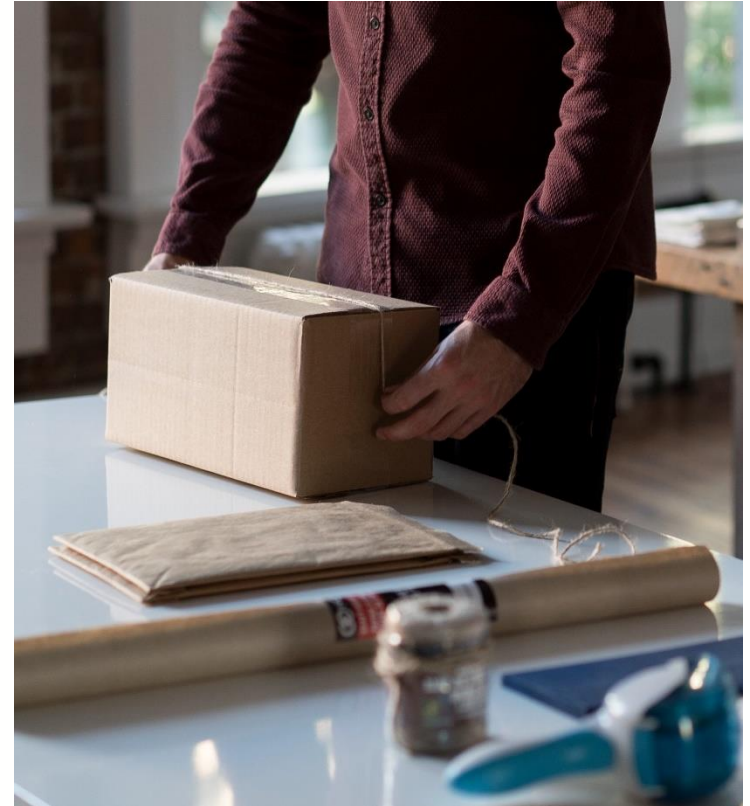
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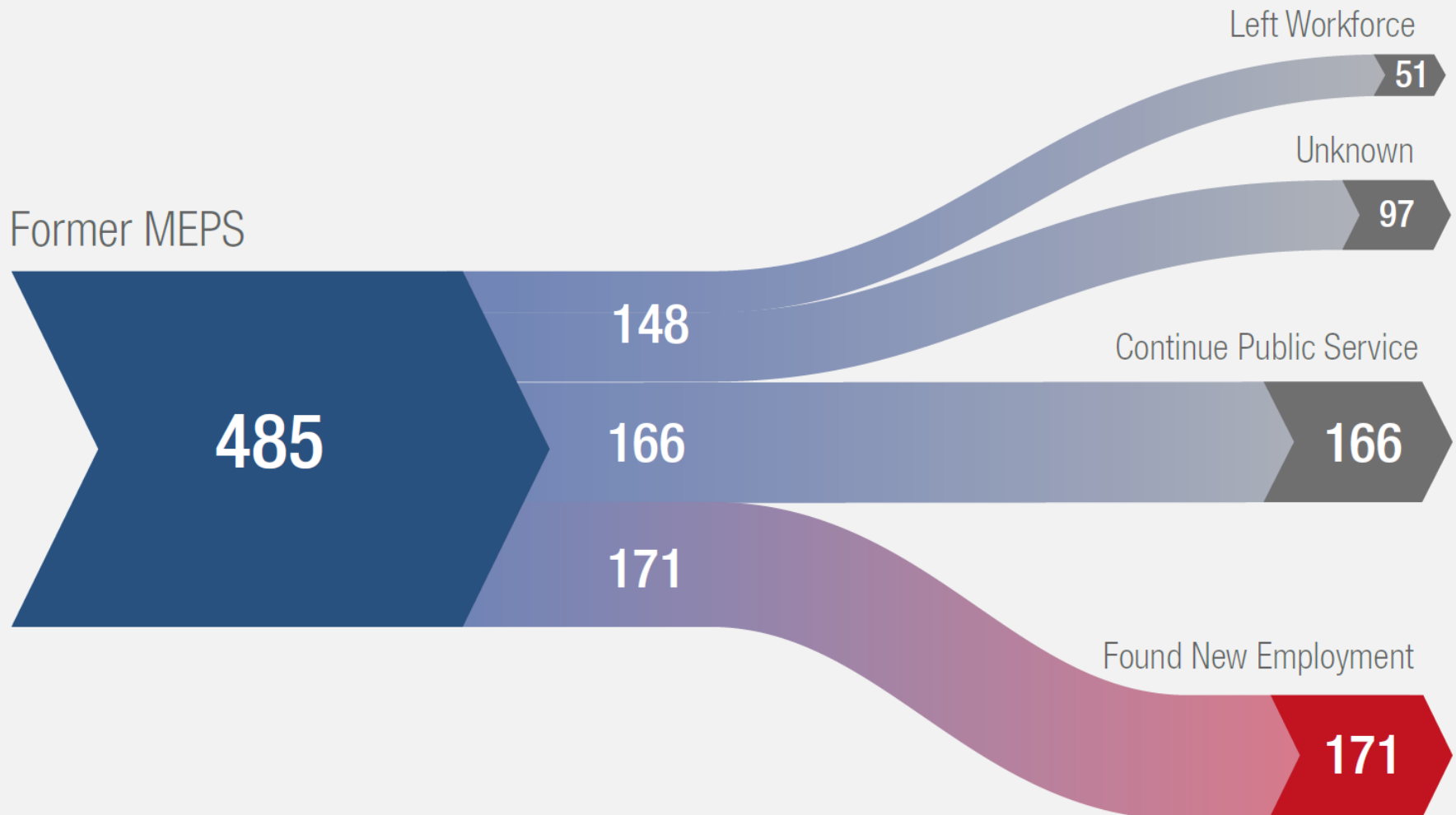
Former Slovenian MEP Zoran Thaler was sentenced last week to two and a half years in prison by a Ljubljana court following his involvement in the "cash-for-amendments" scandal from 2011, a

2016 REFORMS: CORBETT REPORT



- No changes to ethics committee
- Prohibition of lobby jobs
- No discussion of revolving door





MEPs currently have no cooling-off period and can move straight into lobbying. Curiously, their own assistants face much stricter rules and a cooling-off period of up to two years.





TRANSPARENCY
INTERNATIONAL EU

The French High Authority sharply contrasts with the fragmented system of the EU, with its multiple ad-hoc committees in charge of ethics and integrity.



The MEP allowances regime lacks transparency and sufficient financial controls.

STAFF ALLOWANCE



- Increased transparency: publications of names
- No spending details/no descriptions of services
- Cases of irregularities and fraud
- 109 separate investigations in 2015



French Far-Right National Front President Marine Le Pen | Jean-Sebastien/Evrard/AFP/Getty

French police raid National Front office in MEP assistant probe

Investigation focuses on whether Parliament staffers did party political work.

GENERAL EXPENDITURE ALLOWANCE



- Meant for expenses related to parliamentary duties, such as office costs.
- € 4300 directly deposited to MEPs' bank accounts – personal by default
- Amounts to € 39 million per year
- Only fact we know: It's being spent
- No transparency. No controls. No Receipts



RECOMMENDATIONS



- Increase transparency and publication of details on staffing arrangements,
- Financial control mechanisms need to be put in place for the GEA, and increased for the staff allowance
- Additional resources for the parliamentary financial control units;
- Make MEP allowance spending information fully transparent and publish these details in open source format;

THANKS FOR YOUR TIME



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