

Guidance on the declaration, identification and management of interests by members of the Parliamentary Assembly

EXPLANATORY NOTE¹

1. General

1. Under paragraph 17 of the Code of Conduct for members of the Parliamentary Assembly, PACE members are required to complete and submit a written declaration of interests at the opening of each annual session. The declaration is made in good faith, under the sole responsibility of the member concerned and in full knowledge of the Code of Conduct for members of the Parliamentary Assembly. It is certified true and correct.

2. In keeping with the general aim of strengthening the duty of integrity, accountability and transparency for Assembly members and respect for the general principles of behaviour which the Assembly expects of its members (paragraph 5 of the Code of Conduct), the system of submitting and publishing declarations of interests is designed to provide relevant information on any interest which, on account of its nature, scope or intensity, could reasonably be regarded as liable to influence or be seen as influencing members' actions, words or voting decisions, and which could help to identify any actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest in connection with the exercise of the parliamentary mandate in the Assembly.

3. The declaration of interests must not lead to any invasion of members' privacy. It should not deter them from becoming involved in any civil, political or parliamentary activities. The declaration of interests is not intended to prevent Assembly members from applying for or holding particular positions.

4. Under paragraphs 5.6, 17 and 18 of the Code of Conduct for members of the Parliamentary Assembly, PACE members are required to keep their declarations of interest updated and in particular to update them to add any specific roles that they may have within the Parliamentary Assembly. In relation to such roles, members are required to identify any interests relevant to those roles and to record how they would manage any perceived, potential or actual conflicts of interests with those roles.

2. Procedure

5. To simplify the procedure, declarations are made online (with the information being entered in an electronic form). Access to the application is personalised and protected. Each member has an individual account, the username for which is their private email address. Members' email addresses must remain valid and be retained for the duration of their term in the Assembly.

6. Some fields in the form are pre-filled (surname, first name, national delegation).

7. In the interests of transparency, declarations must be completed in one of the two official languages of the Council of Europe, English or French. The information given in the form must be in one of these languages. Only the names of enterprises, corporations, institutions, bodies, associations, etc. may be in the original language.

¹ Unanimously approved by the Committee on Rules, Ethics and Immunities on 27/01/2026.

When should the declaration of interests be submitted?

8. Each member of the Assembly is required to submit a declaration of interests annually, by the last day of February that year (2026 declarations of interests should be submitted by 28 February 2026 at the latest).

9. Assembly members' whose credentials are ratified during the session (during the year, following parliamentary elections or vacancies through death or resignation) are **required to submit a declaration of interests by the end of the month which follows the ratification of their delegation's credentials by the Assembly** (e.g. 31 May 2026 for new members whose credentials are ratified at the April session, 30 June 2026 for those whose credentials are ratified at the May meeting of the Standing Committee, etc.).

10. Members may update a declaration of interest at any time. Members are required to **update their declaration of interest within 30 days** if appointed:

- rapporteur, co-rapporteur, youth rapporteur or general rapporteur;
- President or Vice-President of the Assembly;
- chairperson or vice-chairperson of a committee, sub-committee, network, platform or alliance;
- to a role representing the Assembly or a committee.

Who shall submit a declaration of interests?

11. All members of the Assembly, whether representatives or substitutes, shall submit a declaration of interests. Any parliamentarian who is a member of the Assembly at the starting date of the annual declaration of interests' process is required to submit a declaration of interests as long as, on the date by which the declaration is to be submitted, he or she is still a member of the Assembly.

Who can I ask for advice on completing a declaration of interests?

12. Technical, practical or initial advice can be sought from the Rules Committee Secretariat at pace.declarations@coe.int. For more complex questions concerning the identification or management of a conflict of interest, advice can be sought from the Council of Europe's Ethics Officer [ethics@coe.int] or from the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly.

3. Content of the declaration of interests' form

13. The declaration of interests' form covers 10 categories of interests. The declaration of roles and interests must be such as to enable the extent of the influence exercised by an individual to be assessed and any possible conflict of interests identified and managed.

Sections A, B and C

14. The three sections – A, B and C – cover various professional situations:

- section A: remunerated activities, employment positions and offices exercised or held in the public or private sector, whether as an employee, liberal professional or self-employed person, including parliamentary mandates and local elective offices;
- section B: activities, employment positions, offices and mandates, remunerated or otherwise, exercised or held in the governing bodies of corporations, enterprises or institutions, public or private;
- section C: managerial, operational or administrative activities or offices, remunerated or otherwise, exercised or held in non-commercial institutions or bodies such as NGOs, associations, foundations, clubs, trade unions, religious institutions, mutual associations, etc., public or private.

Which occupations, employment positions, activities, offices and mandates must be declared?

15. Members must disclose any occupations, employment positions, activities, offices and mandates, remunerated or otherwise, exercised or held in the public sector or on behalf of any natural or legal person governed by private law, whether in their own country or abroad. Where applicable, they should also specify that they are pensioners or unemployed.

16. Members are required to declare any occupations, employment positions, activities, offices or mandates exercised or held at the time of submitting their declaration, and also any exercised or held during the two calendar years preceding the current year of office in the PACE, indicating the date on which these activities or offices ended, where applicable. For the 2026 declaration, members will have to provide the information for the years 2026, 2025 and 2024.

17. Members are required to declare any occupations, employment positions, activities, offices or mandates exercised or held on a permanent, regular, intermittent or occasional basis.

18. Members are required to indicate the name of the enterprise, corporation, institution, body, organisation, association, etc. Members should give the full name and not the acronym or abbreviation, if any.

19. Members should declare national parliamentary mandates (MP, senator, national councillor, member of parliament, etc.), as well as specific parliamentary offices or roles held within their national parliament or within the context of their national parliamentary mandate. This could include, for example, as chairperson of a committee or sub-committee, speaker, president or vice-president of the national parliament or a chamber, member of a committee, leader of a political group.

20. Members must also declare local parliamentary mandates (mayor, member or chair of a local or regional council, etc.).

How should the amount of income and remuneration be declared?

21. Members should declare the annual amounts of income and remuneration for each activity pursued:

- the income and remuneration to be declared are the declarant's last **known** income, actually earned in the calendar year, whether this income is taxable or non-taxable, and whether the tax year in the declarant's country coincides with the calendar year or not. For the 2026 declaration, only the income and remuneration in 2025 and 2024 will have to be declared, since the 2026 income for the activities listed under A, B and C is not known;
- the declared amount should be the gross figure before tax and deductions (in particular in the case of fees);
- income and remuneration should be declared for each individual year, and not by aggregating income earned from the same activity over 2 years (when submitting their 2026 declaration, members should show their earnings for 2024 and 2025 separately);
- donations made by members to another natural or legal person, including an association, shall not be deducted from the amount declared;
- the income and remuneration declared can be rounded (to the nearest ten euros for amounts less than or equal to 1 000 euros, to the nearest hundred euros for amounts less than or equal to 10 000 euros, and to the nearest thousand euros for amounts greater than 10 000 euros);
- members need only indicate the amount of income and remuneration if the activity, employment position, office or mandate in question is **remunerated**. If no amount is specified, the activity will be deemed to be unpaid (except for the parliamentary mandate);
- income relating to simple shareholdings needs not be declared, unless the shareholder has a specific office or mandate in the company, more than 10% of shares, or voting rights.

22. With regard to the declaration of income and allowances related to national and local parliamentary mandates, parliamentarians do not need to declare:

- their parliamentary salary;
- parliamentary allowances (related to the material functioning of the parliamentarian's office, overheads and the employment of staff);
- the amount of the special allowances related to the exercise of specific parliamentary duties (speaker of the assembly; chairperson, deputy chairperson or secretary of a committee; quaestor; chairperson or deputy chairperson of a group, rapporteur, etc.).

23. Where a regulatory duty of confidentiality applies to certain professions (e.g. lawyers), members are not required to give the names of their clients.

Section D

24. The following should be declared in section D:

- any activities as consultant, expert, advisor, lecturer or lobbyist currently being pursued or pursued during the two calendar years preceding the current year of office in the PACE, and which have not already been declared in section A, B or C;
- any sponsored trip, mission or visit undertaken in the context of such activities;
- any missions conducted for the purpose of observing or in connection with elections during the two calendar years preceding the current year of office in the PACE and which were sponsored by or undertaken at the invitation of a government (other than your national government or parliament), interparliamentary, intergovernmental or governmental organisation, NGO, association or any other natural or legal person, other than missions undertaken for the PACE or another parliamentary assembly of a recognised international organisation (e.g. OSCE PA, NATO PA).

25. Members need only indicate the amount of income and remuneration if the activity, mandate or mission in question is remunerated. If no amount is specified, the activity will be deemed to be unpaid.

Section E

26. In Section E, members should indicate the names of any friendship groups, parliamentary clubs, interparliamentary relations groups or thematic parliamentary intergroups to which they belong, which they have joined or in which they are involved, and in what capacity (president, vice-president, secretary, member).

27. Members are required to declare any groups to which they belong at the time of submitting their declarations. They should also declare any groups to which they belonged in the past, if this could be relevant to their roles and work in the Assembly.

28. Any visits or missions undertaken in this connection should be declared in section H. Any gifts or benefits received in this connection should be declared in section G.

Section F

29. In section F, members should declare any support, whether financial or in terms of staff or material, granted over the previous calendar year in connection with the member's political and parliamentary activities by third parties, whether natural or legal persons, together with information about those persons' identity: financial support, sponsorship, donations and legacies, loans and credit agreements, support in kind if it is provided free of charge or at preferential rates (such as advisory, information or communication services; receptions and events; provision of staff; supply of office space or equipment).

30. Resources provided by the national parliament or the political party to which the member belongs (whether by the party organisation at national, local or constituency level) need not be declared.

31. Members must disclose the identity of the donor (name, position or capacity and address, and type of support). They do not have to indicate the amount or value of the support, or the dates when it was received.

Section G

32. Assembly members must not accept any gifts or benefits whose nature and/or value is not strictly within the bounds of parliamentary protocol or practices regarding hospitality (§ 14 of the code of conduct).

33. Any *gifts, benefits and hospitality* with a value in excess of €200 must be declared:

- any tangible item (comprising one or more elements) or invitation (tickets to shows, sporting or cultural events, subscriptions or discount cards, lunches or dinners) received from third parties – a foreign government, public authority, private or public body, natural or legal person (enterprise, association, NGO, etc.) – whether national or foreign, including gifts received in connection with a mission abroad or the reception of foreign delegations in the context of inter-

state diplomatic or parliamentary relations, and which were accepted during the previous calendar year;

- in the case of invitations, members should also include the value of any invitations addressed to persons accompanying them (spouse, family member, parliamentary assistant, advisor, etc.);
- where the value is not known, e.g. in the case of a protocol gift, it is the responsibility of the PACE member to assess how much the gift or benefit is worth and to decide whether or not it needs to be declared. If in doubt, members are advised to declare the item in question.

34. Invitations to upcoming events (e.g. to a sporting or cultural event due to take place after the deadline for submitting declarations of interests) may be declared in advance.

35. Members must disclose the identity of the donor (name, position or capacity, and address) and the nature of the gift or benefit, including a description and the date when it was received. They do not have to indicate the value of the gift.

36. The following need not be declared, regardless of their value:

- gifts and benefits received from the member's spouse, family members or relatives, on a strictly private basis and which are unrelated to the parliamentary mandate;
- benefits related to the parliamentary mandate which are funded by the national parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly or another parliamentary assembly of a recognised international organisation (e.g. OSCE PA, NATO PA), on condition that these benefits are expressly mentioned in the official programme of the meeting, visit or mission;
- benefits and hospitality in connection with a sponsored visit or trip declared in section H.

Section H

37. Members are required to declare the following in section H:

- any trip or visit undertaken during the previous calendar year, at the invitation, in full or in part, of a third party – foreign government, public authority, private or public body, natural or legal person (enterprise, association, NGO, political party, etc.) – and where the travel, accommodation or subsistence expenses were not paid in full – either directly or through reimbursement – by the PACE member personally, by their national parliament, by their national government, by the PACE or another parliamentary assembly of a recognised international organisation (e.g. OSCE PA, NATO PA) or by the Council of Europe;
- trips and visits organised by political parties or political groups in parliaments;
- any sponsored trips, missions or visits, including missions conducted for the purpose of observing or in connection with elections, any benefits or hospitality conferred during a sponsored visit or trip which were not declared in sections D or G;
- the participation of persons accompanying the PACE member (spouse, family member, parliamentary assistant, advisor, etc.) whose expenses were covered on the same terms and conditions;
- any trip or visit whose dates are known in advance may be declared beforehand.

38. Trip or visit means any travel undertaken in the course of a member's parliamentary duties, for professional purposes or for personal or family reasons.

39. Members must disclose the identity of the donor (name, position or capacity, and address) and the nature of the expenses covered, including a description of the benefit and the date and place when it was accepted. They are not required to indicate the amount of these expenses or their value, but they may do so if they wish.

40. The following need not be declared:

- any travel undertaken for strictly personal or family reasons if the costs are borne by the PACE member (or their family) personally; PACE members have a duty, however, to ensure that such trips do not give rise to potential conflicts of interest;
- any visit or trip undertaken in connection with official missions in the exercise of their national or European parliamentary mandate, for the national parliament to which the member belongs,

their national government, PACE or another parliamentary assembly of a recognised international organisation.

Section I

41. In the section entitled “Miscellaneous”, members are required to declare any interest which does not clearly fall into one of the categories listed and which the member wishes to mention because it might reasonably be considered to cast doubt on the independent, impartial and objective exercise of their mandate and be seen as likely to influence the member’s actions, words or voting decisions – including in relation to any specific role that the member may hold within the Assembly.

Section J

42. In this section, members are required to disclose any material, financial, economic, commercial or other interests, whether professional or personal, which they consider relevant, and which concern their “close connections”, and which, in their opinion, might influence, or might be perceived as potentially influencing, the performance of their parliamentary duties.

43. “Close connections” includes one’s household, and close friends and family members - i.e. partner (spouse, civil partner or cohabiting partner), family (the children, parents, grandchildren, grandparents, siblings, uncles, aunts, nephews and nieces of the member or the member’s partner), close friends, staff, advisors or parliamentary assistants. It also covers other people whose proximity to the member is such that it might influence the performance of their duties in the Parliamentary Assembly.

44. Members must specify the capacity of the individual concerned and their relationship to themselves. They must also indicate the nature of the interest considered to be relevant and include a description of it (e.g. professional activity, existence of a managerial position in a private or public enterprise, NGO or association, etc.).

45. In order to avoid any undue interference with individuals’ privacy, members can choose not to disclose the person’s identity (name of the spouse, civil partner or cohabiting partner, other family members, or staff). Data subjects shall be informed and give their consent.

Section K - Which roles are covered by Section K?

46. Section K is reserved for members with specific roles within the Assembly:

- **Bureaux roles:** This includes President or Vice-President of the Assembly; chairperson or vice-chairperson of a committee, sub-committee, network, platform or alliance; chairperson of a political group. Members must indicate the full title of their role (e.g. President of the Assembly; first vice-chairperson of the Monitoring Committee; chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Artificial Intelligence; chairperson of the [Name of the political Group]). A separate paragraph and consideration is required for each bureau role.
- **Rapporteur roles:** This includes rapporteur, co-rapporteur, general rapporteur or youth rapporteur. Members must indicate the full title of their role (e.g. rapporteur in [name of Committee] on [title of report]; co-rapporteur in the Monitoring Committee on [name of country]; general rapporteur in [name of Committee] on [name of general rapporteurship]; youth rapporteur in [name of Committee]). A separate paragraph is required in Section K for each rapporteur role.
- **Representative roles:** Members must specify the representative role (e.g. representative of [name of committee OR the Assembly OR the President] to [name of institution e.g. the Venice Commission, GRECO]). A separate entry is required for each representative role.

47. Members must update their declarations of interest to include each role that they hold within the Assembly that is covered by Section K.

When must the declaration of interest be updated in respect of the roles in Section K?

48. Members must update their declarations of interest (i) by the deadline for submitting the annual declaration of interests or, (ii) if appointed after the January part-session, within 7 calendar days of being appointed.

Identifying interests relevant for a specific role covered by Section K

49. Members must declare all interests that could be relevant to that role. If there are additional interests, those must be added to the declaration form.

50. Members must identify, in Section K, for each role, any relevant interests. If in doubt, members should declare an interest as relevant. Many relevant interests could enhance that member's contribution (e.g. relevant professional experience). The existence of a relevant interest is thus not inherently problematic as long as it is properly managed.

51. A "relevant interest" is something that could lead to a personal advantage to oneself or one's close connections.² The interest can arise in relation to one's occupation, finances, business interests, relationships (family and friends), liabilities or other interests. A perceived lack of the necessary objectivity to perform the role would also be a relevant interest. A "conflict of interest" can be actual, perceived or potential. 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.

52. For example, a member from country X would not be perceived as having the necessary objectivity to undertake a role as rapporteur, co-rapporteur or for election observation in relation to country X. Therefore, for those roles, being a member of parliament from that country would need to be identified as a relevant interest.

53. Members may seek confidential advice from the Council of Europe Ethics Officer (ethics@coe.int) or the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly if they are unsure whether an interest ought to be declared and identified as a relevant interest in relation to a given role. However, members remain personally responsible for declaring, identifying and resolving conflicts of interest, which must always be settled in favour of the public interest and disclosed appropriately.

Managing interests relevant for a specific role in Section K

54. Once a relevant interest has been identified, the member must specify, in the free text in Section K, what remedial steps they will take to manage that relevant interest in their work. Typical conflict of interest management techniques relevant to this process could be, for example:

- **Disclosure.** For some interests, transparently disclosing interests and conflicts is sufficient to manage concerns in relation to a relevant interest. For example, relevant professional expertise can enhance the work of the Assembly and is unlikely to give rise to a problematic conflict of interest, but it would be appropriate to disclose it as a relevant interest.
- **Third-party involvement.** For some interests the involvement of others can give sufficient reassurance – this could be the case for example in the case of a co-rapporteur or in relation to membership of a committee, depending on the specific facts and interests.
- **Recusal.** For example, a committee chairperson could specify that if a topic relating to his or her country of origin, or specific interests were on the agenda, the chairperson would recuse themselves and the vice-chairperson would be asked to chair that agenda item.
- **Refusal or Avoidance.** For example, a member could give up a certain relevant interest or decline an Assembly role in order to avoid a conflict of interests. This could be the case, for example, as concerns the chair of an interparliamentary friendship group who wishes to have a significant role in the Parliamentary Assembly in relation to that country (e.g. co-rapporteur or chairperson or vice-chairperson of a committee focussing specifically on a given country or on a conflict relevant to that country).

² "Close connections" includes one's household, and close friends and family members. It covers all the people in respect of whom relevant interests should be declared under Section K i.e. partner (spouse, civil partner or cohabiting partner), family (the children, parents, grandchildren, grandparents, siblings, uncles, aunts, nephews and nieces of the member or the member's partner), close friends, staff, advisors or parliamentary assistants. It also covers other people whose proximity to the member is such that it might influence the performance of their duties in the Parliamentary Assembly.

Examples of relevant interests and how they might be managed

55. In the Appendix to this Guidance, in table form, are some indicative examples of relevant interests and how they might be managed.

Election observation roles

56. For a role as a member of an ad hoc committee for the observation of elections, separate declarations will continue to be made for 2026 and must be completed before the political group submits the member's candidacy. These completed forms will be published on the PACE website alongside the annual declaration of interests. The intention is that for 2027, the revised declaration form will additionally incorporate election observation roles.

4. Publication and retention

57. Declarations of interests must be validated on the terms and conditions set out in this note. They will be posted on the Assembly website under the personal profile of the member concerned.

58. A member's declaration will be removed from the Assembly website after five years and deleted. In the case of an allegation of a violation of the code of conduct, a declaration may be retained for the purposes of any eventual investigation into a breach of the code of conduct.

5. Correcting bona fide errors and making substantive changes

59. Any member wishing to correct or amend a declaration that has already been published for the current year may edit the content of their declaration. The new version of the declaration will be published according to the usual procedure.

6. Verification and consequences of a failure to complete a declaration of interests

60. No ex-ante checks are carried out to verify the content of the declarations submitted or the accuracy of the information provided. Once the deadline for submission has passed, the Secretariat checks whether the declarations of interests have been submitted on time and compiles a list of any members who have not submitted a declaration. This list is made public on the Assembly's website.

61. In accordance with §19 of the code of conduct, any member who has failed or refused to submit a declaration, knowingly or negligently failed to declare a relevant interest or submitted an untruthful declaration will automatically be deprived of the right to be appointed or to continue to hold any of the specific roles, including:

- Bureaux roles (President or Vice-President of the Assembly; chairperson or vice-chairperson of a committee, sub-committee, network, platform or alliance; chairperson of a political group).
- Rapporteur roles (rapporteur, co-rapporteur, general rapporteur or youth rapporteur).
- Election observation roles.
- Representative roles.

62. This prohibition ceases two months after the submission of that member's declaration for that year.

63. Any member who has not submitted an annual declaration of interests for the relevant year must, if intervening in a debate, start their intervention with an oral declaration of interests (§ 20 of the code of conduct). A failure to submit a declaration or interests or a failure to declare a relevant interests is a breach of the Code of conduct.

7. Interpretation of provisions

64. In accordance with paragraph 4 of the Code of Conduct for members of the Parliamentary Assembly, the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly is responsible for providing guidance on all matters covered by this explanatory note on the implementation of members' duty to submit a declaration of interests.

8. Support and information

65. For any request for information on the contents of the declarations, a clarification on the information to provide, or on the procedure to follow, members are invited to contact by email: pace.declarations@coe.int. For any technical problem, members may contact: pace.apps@coe.int.

APPENDIX: EXAMPLES FOR IDENTIFYING AND MANAGING RELEVANT INTERESTS

Interest	Likelihood of conflict	Potential remedial action
A parliamentarian who is a former police officer seeks appointment as rapporteur on law enforcement matters.	No actual conflict, unless very specific circumstances apply (e.g. if looking into a matter where the rapporteur is a close contact of those involved in matters under investigation). Any perceived conflict can normally be addressed through transparency in the declaration.	Transparency – i.e. declare past expertise and experience; declare any close contacts (if applicable) relevant to any matters that are the focus of the report. Only in rare circumstances would further remedial action be required – to be discussed with the Ethics Officer and the Secretariat.
A parliamentarian who is a lawyer or judge is appointed as rapporteur on a report relating to the profession of lawyer, or to the functioning of the justice system.	No actual conflict, unless very specific circumstances apply (e.g. if the report covers a case or matter that they were previously involved in as a lawyer or judge). Any perceived conflict can normally be addressed through transparency in the declaration.	Transparency – i.e. declare past expertise and experience; declare involvement in any related cases or matters; declare any close contacts (if applicable) relevant to any matters that are the focus of the report. Only in rare circumstances would further remedial action be required – to be discussed with the Ethics Officer and the Secretariat.
A member who is a medical professional seeks appointment as a rapporteur for a report relating to healthcare, in general, or a report within their specific field of medical expertise.	No actual conflict, unless very specific circumstances apply (e.g. if the report involves promoting a particular institution in which the individual has a professional or business interest). Any perceived conflict can normally be addressed through transparency in the declaration.	Transparency – i.e. declare past expertise and experience; declare any relevant professional or business interests; declare any close contacts (if applicable) relevant to any matters that are the focus of the report. Only in rare circumstances would further remedial action be required – to be discussed with the Ethics Officer and the Secretariat.
A member who has significant financial interests (whether controlling shares, or adviser) in a company advising on artificial intelligence seeks appointment as chairperson of the sub-committee on artificial intelligence.	There is a potential conflict of interest depending on the topic covered in sub-committee meetings. Perceived conflicts can normally be addressed through transparency in the declaration, as well as recusal if certain topics arise on	Transparency – i.e. declare business and financial interests; and any relevant close contacts. In the interests of full transparency, it could be necessary to do this both in the written declaration and orally when relevant matters arise in the work of the sub-committee. Recusal should be practised if particular topics so require – i.e. the sub-committee chairperson would stand aside to let the first vice-chairperson take the chair for those items – in order to demonstrate objectivity (even if the conflict was only potential or perceived).

	the agenda of the sub-committee.	Best practice is to have clarity as to when and how to deploy such remedial action so that it is clear to all involved the circumstances in which the chairperson would recuse themselves. This can be discussed with the Ethics Officer and/or the Secretariat.
<p>A member from a country involved in a conflict, seeks a role that could touch on matters relating to that conflict.</p> <p>e.g. a member from Armenia seeks to be appointed as rapporteur for a report relating to Nagorno-Karabakh.</p> <p>e.g. a Ukrainian member seeks to be appointed rapporteur on a report relating to the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine.</p>	There is a potential, perceived and likely actual risk of a lack of objectivity required for the role due to the members relevant interests.	It could depend on the exact circumstances, and the first step in any analysis is transparency - to declare any interests and to seek advice (e.g. from the CoE Ethics Officer and the secretariat). However, bearing in mind the duties on a rapporteur of objectivity and neutrality, it seems unlikely that such a rapporteur could be considered to be sufficiently objective and neutral so as to fulfil the condition of §44 of the code of conduct and to remove all risks of criticism. The appointment of such a rapporteur therefore could risk undermining the reputation of the Assembly in respect of that report.
<p>A member seeking appointment for a country-specific report (e.g. in the Monitoring Committee) or on an ad hoc committee for the observation of elections in a given country, where they or a family member has close ties to the country. For example:</p> <p>e.g. A member whose wife has a representative role on behalf of Türkiye seeks appointment as co-rapporteur for Türkiye in the Monitoring Committee.</p>	There is a potential, perceived and perhaps an actual conflict of interests.	It could depend on the exact circumstances, and the first step in any conflict analysis is transparency - to declare any interests and to seek advice (e.g. from the CoE Ethics Officer and the secretariat). However, bearing in mind the duties on a rapporteur of objectivity and neutrality, for example, it seems unlikely that such a rapporteur could be considered to be sufficiently objective so as to fulfil the conditions of §44 of the code of conduct and to remove all risks of criticism. The appointment of such a rapporteur therefore could risk undermining the reputation of the Assembly in respect of that report.
<p>A member whose partner is Serbian is seeks appointment as co-rapporteur in respect of Serbia in the Monitoring Committee.</p>	There is a potential or perceived conflict of interest, which can be largely managed through transparency.	<p>Transparency – i.e. declare the nationality of the partner and any relevant links.</p> <p>Only in specific circumstances (e.g. if the partner and/or close connections have specific politically active positions in Serbia) would further remedial action be required – to be discussed with the Ethics Officer and the Secretariat.</p>

A member whose daughter owns property in Romania seeks appointment as co-rapporteur for Romania in the Monitoring Committee.	There is a potential or perceived conflict of interest, depending somewhat on the scale of the property interest, which can be largely managed through transparency.	<p>Transparency – i.e. declare the daughter's ownership of property and any other related risks.</p> <p>Only in rare circumstances (e.g. if there were efforts to link the daughter's property or business activities in Romania to the work of the report) would further remedial action be required – to be discussed with the Ethics Officer and the Secretariat. It would be important to avoid explicit or implicit links between the two interests, otherwise remedial action would need to be taken.</p>
A member whose son-in-law owns a business in Albania seeks appointment as co-rapporteur for Albania in the Monitoring Committee.	There is a potential or perceived conflict of interest, depending somewhat on the scale of the business interest, which can be largely managed through transparency.	<p>Transparency – i.e. declare the son-in-law's business interests and any other related risks.</p> <p>Only in rare circumstances (e.g. if there were efforts to link the son-in-law's business activities in Albania to the work of the report) would further remedial action be required – to be discussed with the Ethics Officer and the Secretariat. It would be important to avoid explicit or implicit links between the two interests, otherwise action would need to be taken.</p>
A member, whose husband is Polish, wishes to chair an ad hoc committee for election observation in Poland.	There is a potential or perceived conflict of interest, which can be largely managed through transparency.	<p>Transparency – i.e. declare the nationality of the husband/partner and any relevant links of the member and/or their close connections.</p> <p>Only in specific circumstances (e.g. if the husband/partner and/or close connections have specific politically active positions in Poland) would further remedial action be required – to be discussed with the Ethics Officer and the Secretariat.</p>
A member of Georgian origin who wishes to be part of an ad hoc committee for election observation in Georgia.	There is a potential, perceived and perhaps an actual conflict of interests.	<p>It could depend on the exact circumstances, and the extent of the links. The first step in any conflict analysis is transparency - to declare any interests and to seek advice (e.g. from the CoE Ethics Officer and the secretariat).</p> <p>However, bearing in mind the prohibition on members "observing elections in their own country" (§ 13 of the Guidelines on the Observation of elections by the Parliamentary Assembly) this prohibition should cover nationals and those with close ties, but not those who, for example, merely have a historic genealogical link to a country.</p> <p>The appointment of a member with close links could be seen to undermine the objectivity of a mission, and could therefore risk undermining the reputation of the Assembly in respect of that mission. Advice should be sought from the CoE Ethics Officer and/or the Secretariat.</p>
A French member who is a dual national of Moldova seeks appointment on an ad hoc committee for	There is a potential, perceived and perhaps an actual conflict of interests.	<p>The first step is transparency - to declare any interests and to seek advice (e.g. from the CoE Ethics Officer and the secretariat).</p> <p>However, bearing in mind the prohibition on members "observing elections in their own</p>

election observation in Moldova.		<p>country” (para 13 of the Guidelines on the Observation of elections by the Parliamentary Assembly) this prohibition should cover nationals and those with close ties, but not those who, for example, have a less direct link to a country.</p> <p>The appointment of a member who is a national of that country could be seen to undermine the objectivity of a mission, and could therefore risk undermining the reputation of the Assembly in respect of that mission. Advice should be sought from the CoE Ethics Officer and/or the Secretariat.</p>
A chairperson of a committee realises that a matter specific to their country of nationality arises in a discussion in committee.	There is a potential, perceived and perhaps an actual conflict of interests.	<p>Transparency is the always the first recourse - not only through the written declaration of interests, but also oral declarations in committee.</p> <p>If the matter relates solely to that chairperson’s country of nationality, then the correct approach is for the chairperson to recuse themselves for that item and to be replaced by the vice-chairperson. This is important to demonstrate objectivity (even if the conflict was only potential or perceived).</p> <p>Recusal could be particularly important (i) if the matter relates solely to that country; (ii) if the matter relates to a conflict (or post-conflict situation) concerning that country; or (iii) if the matter is highly politically controversial.</p> <p>A mere glancing reference to a given country, amongst others, and if the matter is not highly polemical, need not require recusal for that item.</p> <p>Guidance can be sought, as required, from the Council of Europe Ethics Officer and/or the Secretariat.</p>
A chairperson of a committee realises that a matter specific to their partner’s country of nationality arises in a debate.	There is a potential or perceived conflict of interest, which can be largely managed through transparency.	<p>Transparency – i.e. declare the nationality of the partner and any relevant links of the member and/or their close connections – ideally both in writing and orally if relevant matters arise.</p> <p>Only in specific circumstances (e.g. if the husband/partner and/or close connections have specific politically active positions in that country, or if the issue is highly polemical or related to a conflict) would further remedial action be required, such as recusal for that item.</p> <p>Guidance can be sought, as required, from the Council of Europe Ethics Officer and/or the Secretariat.</p>