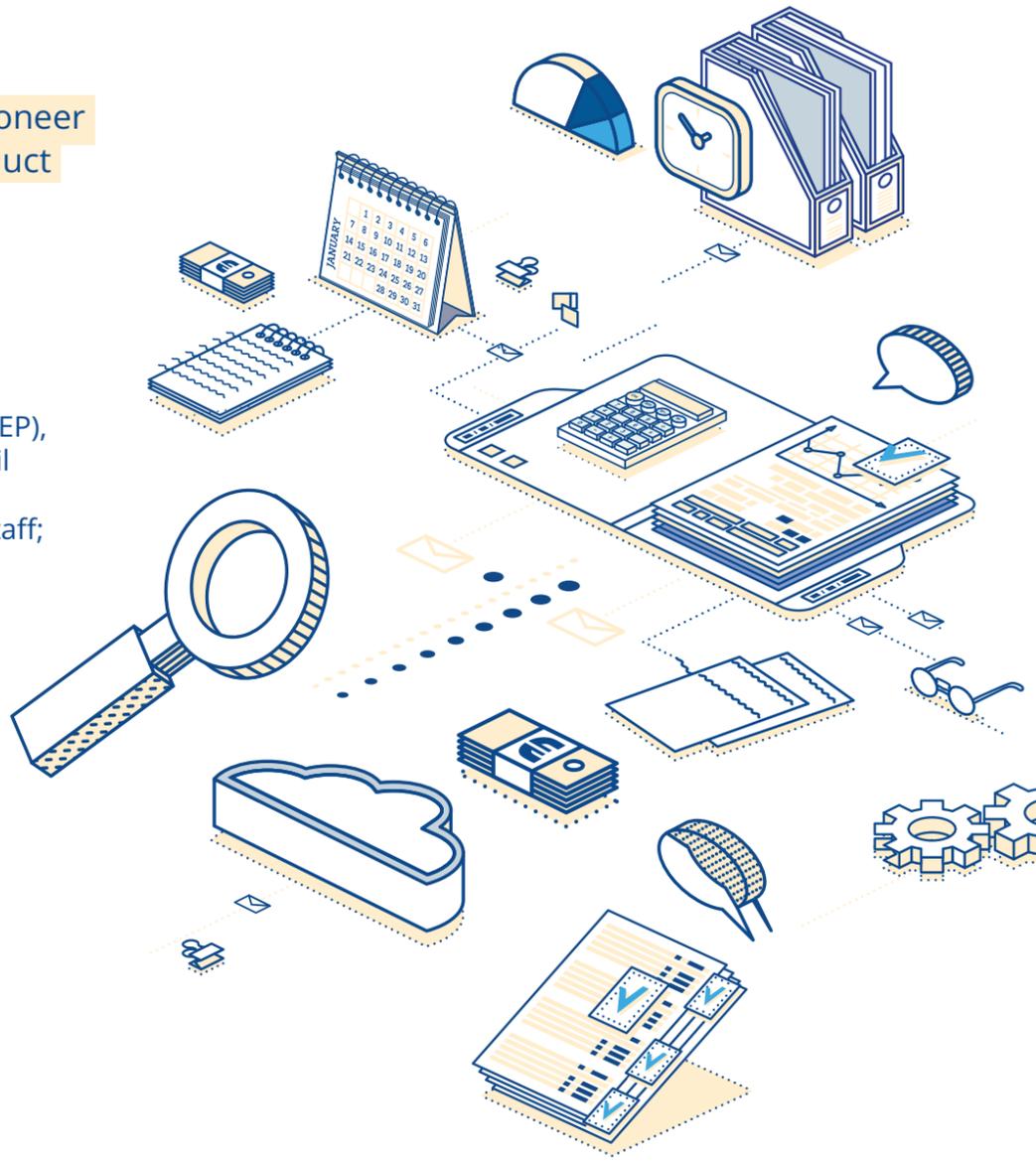


Transparency and anti-corruption measures in the European Parliament

#EBDGratik

Which instruments are in place and which are missing?

For years, the European Parliament has been a pioneer in questions of transparency and in codes of conduct



SINCE 2011



EU Transparency Register

- Public database of the European Parliament (EP), the Commission and - since 2021 - the Council
- Interest groups publish their goals, budget, staff; in return, they receive EP access badges and have access to the Commission



Transparency deficit

- Non-EU countries are so far not covered by the rules

SINCE 2019



Legislative footprint

- MEPs are obliged to declare all meetings with lobby groups if...
 - they are related to a legislative initiative
 - the MEPs are involved as (shadow) rapporteurs or committee chairs



Transparency deficit

- No comparable obligation for EP leaders (President, Vice-Presidents and political group chairs)



Monitoring and sanctioning

- EP President sets up an advisory committee of five MEPs appointed by her to investigate suspected cases
- The committee recommends to the President action and sanctions
- EP President takes decision on sanction



Transparency deficit

- For more independence, external experts should be involved
- Not only one person should elect the committee



Conditions of employment for EU officials incl. EP staff

- Regulates i.a. that sideline activities require approval and that the staff must declare business interests without delay
- No gifts costing more than 100 euros without prior approval



Code of Conduct for MEPs and sideline activities

- MEPs sign upon entering office that they will decide without self-interest and abide by the code of conduct
- No gifts costing more than 150 euros and safekeeping of all other gifts by the EP President
- Paid sideline activities are allowed, but...
 - should not be directly connected with the decision-making processes
 - MEPs have to publish all sideline activities on the EP website



Transparency deficit

- More than 25 violations of the Code of Conduct, but only one financial sanction
- There is no obligation to name clients if the sideline activity is labelled consulting

✓ Important to EM Germany

- Independent control:** As already proposed by the EP in 2021, establishment of an independent European Ethics Body, which controls conflicts of interest and rules of conduct for all EU institutions
- Improved transparency:** EP leaders should publish their appointments with interest groups
- No exceptions** EU third countries should also register in the EU Transparency Register
- Improving transparency in the Council:** Obligation to register in the Transparency Register should apply to all appointments with decision-makers from the Council