

3.4.1.

RULES ON THE TRANSPARENCY OBLIGATIONS OF INTERGROUPS AND UNOFFICIAL GROUPINGS

BUREAU DECISION

OF 22 APRIL 2024

THE BUREAU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT,

- having regard to Rules 35 and 36 of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament,
- (1) whereas individual Members may form intergroups or unofficial groupings for the purpose of holding informal exchanges of views on specific issues across different political groups and of promoting contact with civil society; whereas they are subject to transparency obligations and may not engage in activities which might result in confusion with the official activities of Parliament or of its bodies,
- (2) whereas, in addition to those transparency obligations, the Bureau Decision of 12 June 2023 on rules governing the participation of interest representatives in events held on Parliament's premises applies to meetings and events of intergroups and unofficial groupings,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Obligations to declare support as regards intergroups and unofficial groupings

Intergroups and Chairs of, or Members participating in, unofficial groupings shall be required to declare all direct and indirect support, including in cash or in kind, received by or on behalf of the intergroup or unofficial grouping as well as the identity of the third party providing that support.

Article 2

Declarations of support received by intergroups

1. Each intergroup established in accordance with Parliament's internal rules¹ shall submit on an annual basis a declaration of support.
2. Submitting the declaration shall be the individual responsibility of every office-holder in the intergroup. The office-holders shall decide which of them will submit the declaration on behalf of the intergroup. That office-holder shall be required to declare any support, including in cash or in kind, which would have had to be declared pursuant to Annex I to Parliament's Rules of Procedure if it had been offered to the Members as individuals.

¹ Decision of the Conference of President of 16 December 1999.

3. The annual declarations of support received by the intergroups shall be submitted using the form available in the e-Portal for Members as set out in Annex I to this Decision.
4. The competent service shall keep, on behalf of the Quaestors, the register of the intergroups and of their declarations of support. The documents on that register shall be published online on the dedicated Parliament webpage.
5. Before accepting and publishing a declaration of support received, the competent service shall carry out a plausibility check of the declaration. If it is apparent from information in the public domain that the declaration may be incomplete, it may request any additional information required, or invite the relevant office-holder to revise the declaration before it is published.

Article 3

Declarations of support received on behalf of unofficial groupings

1. Chairs of, or any Members participating in, unofficial groupings shall be required to declare any support, including in cash or in kind, in accordance with Rule 36(4) of the Rules of Procedure. A declaration shall be made every time there is a change in the support received.
2. The initial and updated declarations of support received shall be submitted by the Chair or the participating members through their declaration of private interests using the form available in the e-Portal for Members as set out in Annex I (F) to the Implementing Measures for the Code of Conduct for Members of the European Parliament regarding Integrity and Transparency (Decision of the Bureau of 16 October 2023).
3. The competent service shall keep, on behalf of the Quaestors, the register of the declarations of support submitted on behalf of the unofficial grouping. The documents on that register shall be published online.
4. Before accepting and publishing a declaration of support received, the competent service shall carry out a plausibility check of the declaration. If it is apparent from information in the public domain that the declaration may be incomplete, it may request any additional information required, or invite the Chair or the participating Member to revise the declaration before it is published.

Article 4

Quaestor responsible

The Quaestors shall appoint from among their midst one Quaestor who shall be responsible, on their behalf, for monitoring compliance with Rules 35 and 36 of the Rules of Procedure as well as with these rules.

Article 5

Ban on using Parliament's facilities

1. In case of a breach of the obligations laid down in Rules 35(2), (4) and (5), and Rule 36(2), (3), (4) and (5), the Quaestors may decide to impose a ban on an intergroup or an unofficial grouping on using Parliament's facilities, for a period which may not exceed the remainder of the parliamentary term. The decision of the Quaestors shall be final.

This ban on using Parliament's facilities is without prejudice to the possible penalties to individual Members under Rule 183 of the Rules of Procedure for failure to comply with the obligations laid down in Rules 35 and 36 of the Rules of Procedure.

2. When considering a possible breach under paragraph 1, the Quaestors shall invite the Member or Members concerned to a hearing or to submit written observations.

Article 6
Entry into force

This Decision shall enter into force on 16 July 2024.

Annex I

DECLARATION

Pursuant to Rule 35 of the European Parliament's Rules of Procedure

I, the undersigned,

Surname:

Forename:

in my capacity as chair office holder of the intergroup

.....

hereby declare that, in connection with the political activities of the intergroup, I have received the following outside support:

(a) financial:

provided by *

(b) in terms of staff:

provided by *

(c) in terms of material:

provided by *

* Indicate the third parties from whom support has been received.

Any other information