

## Code of conduct for communication partners<sup>1</sup>

### *Preamble*

The European Parliament informs the public about Parliament's role and its work and about the achievements of the European Union in general. It aims to provide citizens with high-quality information about Parliament's decisions so as to bring its work closer to them both locally and centrally. For this purpose, Parliament cooperates with a wide range of communication partners to promote citizens' understanding of the European legislative process and the role of the European Parliament and to foster democratic engagement in the European Union. Parliament's institutional communications do not support any specific political parties or members of the European Parliament.

### *Purpose of the code of conduct*

The purpose of this code of conduct is to set out minimum standards of conduct for communication partners. These principles apply to individuals and organisations, including their employees, volunteers, interns, affiliate entities and subcontractors, who should all be made aware of the code of conduct's provisions.

### *Minimum standards*

Communication partners undertake:

- to respect, and avoid obstructing the implementation and application of, the applicable provisions of EU, international or national law, notably:
  - the applicable obligations in the fields of environmental, social and labour law;
  - data protection law established by the [General Data Protection Regulation](#) and, where applicable, the [EU Institutions' Data Protection Regulation](#) setting forth the rules applicable to the processing of personal data by EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies;
  - intellectual property rights of the EU and of third parties, as well as the image rights of natural persons depicted in the communication material of the communication partners;
- to respect, and avoid obstructing the implementation and application of, the relevant publicly available rules, codes and guidelines established by the EU institutions, notably:
  - internal rules and procedures of the European Parliament;
  - the [terms of use of the European Parliament logo](#);
  - the applicable sectoral codes of conduct, such as the [code of conduct of the Transparency Register](#) and the [together.eu code of conduct](#);
- to respect the EU's values of human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. As set out in Article 2 of the [Treaty on European Union, these values are common to the Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail. No communication partner should undermine any of those values in their actions or communication and cannot be linked to any kind of organisation that don't abide to these values](#);
- to respect the rights, freedoms and principles set out in the [Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union](#).

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<sup>1</sup> Civil society organisations (CSOs) and other multiplier networks that have signed a partnership agreement with the European Parliament.

- to refrain from any action or behaviour which might reflect adversely upon this partnership and the reputation of the European Parliament. The European Parliament expects nothing less than the compliance with highest ethical and professional standards from its communication partners.
- to refrain from communicating or acting in a way that discriminates on the grounds of and/or is offensive with respect to appearance, race, ethnic origin, religion or belief, sex, culture or place of birth, disability, age or sexual orientation, as set out in Article 10 of the [Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#).
- to refrain from communicating or acting in a way that promotes, denigrates or seeks to influence positively or negatively a particular political party or candidate.

to refrain from communicating or acting in a way that it is provocative, incites violence against and/or harassment of other people, that provides pornographic content or links to pornographic material or websites; that promotes or facilitates illegal activities; or that is illegal, hateful or deliberately false or misleading.

In addition to the European Parliament's option of terminating the partnership according to Article 7 of the partnership agreement, in the event of a potential or actual breach of the code of conduct, Parliament reserves the right to report the matter externally, subject to the applicable data protection rules.

### **Contacts:**

#### **Transmission of information for reporting of alleged breaches of this code of conduct:**

*[Dir B: Financial Support to EPLOS unit functional mailbox or*

*Dir E: Civil Society Unit functional mailbox or Youth Outreach Unit functional mailbox, depending on the Directorate in charge of the partnership agreement in question]*