



Parliamentary Project Support Division
Division de soutien de projets parlementaires

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"ELECTED BODIES: TRANSPARENCY OF FUNCTIONING AND ACCOUNTABILITY"

Hosted by the Grand National Assembly of Turkey

in Istanbul

(Venue : Hotel Hilton Bosphorus, Ballroom)

on 26-27 March 2015

Organised by the

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

and with the participation of the

Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking Countries (TURKPA)

DRAFT PROGRAMME

1. Objective

The main aim of this seminar is to raise awareness among MPs on available tools to increase effectiveness of functioning of elected representatives institutions

2. Participants

Members of national parliaments of Albania, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” and Turkey as well as members of the Rules Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

3. Languages

English, Russian, Turkish

4. Facilitators

GRECO- Venice Commission

5. DRAFT PROGRAMME

26 March

13.30 **OFFICIAL OPENING SESSION**

Mr Haluk Koç, Chairperson of the PACE Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, member of the Parliament of Turkey

Ms Ulker Guzel, Member of Turkish Parliament, on behalf of TURKPA

14:00 – 17.00 **SESSION 1 : CODES OF CONDUCT FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS**

Chaired by Mr Haluk Koç, Chairperson of the PACE Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, member of the Parliament of Turkey

Introductory remarks by the General rapporteur (Mr Quentin Reed, Council of Europe anti-corruption expert)

Panellists: **Ms Heather Wood**, Registrar of Members' Financial Interests, Office of the UK Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, House of Commons

Followed by the discussion on national experiences with the opening presentation by:

Dr. Tudor-Alexandru Chiuariu, Former Chairperson of the Committee on Legal Affairs, Appointments, Discipline, Immunities and Validations of the Senate of Romania, Member of the Romanian national delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly

Recently, a number of parliaments in Europe have adopted or amended rules of conduct as a part of their efforts to increase transparency of functioning of parliamentary institutions and to consolidate the trust in democracy. The European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly have also stepped up to increase the integrity of their members by adopting their codes of conduct. These ethical rules are often seen as universal and as most desirable way of public servants conduct in a given society. They cover a large area and provide guidelines on how to act in a number of situations that concern, *inter alia*, transparency and access to information, due diligence in the accomplishment of tasks, declaration of gifts, and even the dress code. Though some of these principles are seen as universal, their interpretation in different countries may depend on cultural, historical or political context. A discussion on national specificities in applying these principles would allow clarifying and refining the regulatory approach that aims to better framework parliamentarians' behaviour.

27 March

9:30 – 12:30 **SESSION 2 : FUNDING OF POLITICAL PARTIES AND ELECTORAL CAMPAIGNS**

Chaired by Mr Ali Huseynli, member of the Azerbaijan delegation to PACE, the Chair of the Legal Affairs Committee of the Parliament of Azerbaijan

Panellists: **Mr Yves-Marie Doublet**, Deputy Director of the General Secretariat of the National Assembly, Expert for the Group of States against corruption (GRECO)

Prof. Ömer Faruk Gençkaya, Professor at Marmara University (Istanbul), member of the OSCE/ODIHR Core Group of Experts on Political Parties, expert to the Venice Commission, country evaluator for the GRECO

The conditions in which political parties exercise their activities make it necessary to have substantial financial resources to gain visibility and to obtain political support for their ideas. Therefore, the aim of the transparency standards established by Recommendation Rec(2003)4 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on Common Rules against Corruption in the Funding of Political Parties and Electoral Campaigns was to set a regulatory mechanism while taking these realities into account and empowering political parties to obtain sufficient resources to carry out their tasks and functions. Some interesting observations and example of best practices noted in various reports by Council of Europe Group against Corruption and by the Parliamentary Assembly could help in enhancing the transparency of political funding at a national level.

Concluding remarks by the General rapporteur