

**“Democratic institutions and rules on transparency, integrity,
accountability and anti-corruption”
ING2/AFCO Hearing**

Tuesday 30 May 2023, 10.00 – 12.00

**List of related expertise published by the Policy Department for
Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs**

[Strengthening transparency and integrity via the new ‘Independent Ethics Body’](#)

This study, commissioned at the request of the AFCO Committee, provides an overview of transparency and integrity-related elements in the current EU setting, covering both substantive elements (including, in particular, conflict of interest and revolving-doors) as well as the body in charge of ethical control and guidance. Based on a comparison covering France, Ireland and Canada, this study proposes an ‘Independent Ethics Body’ (IEB) via a new interinstitutional agreement.

[Europeanising European Public Spheres](#)

This study, commissioned at the request of the AFCO Committee, provides a brief overview of the academic debates on Europeanisation as well as contestation and politicisation of the EU and European integration. Against this background, it focuses on the European public sphere(s), in particular those based on the media and parliaments. The study further discusses current reform proposals aiming to Europeanise the European elections and concludes with recommendations on increasing the legitimacy of the European Union.

[Institutions and foreign interferences](#)

This study, commissioned at the request of the AFCO Committee, assesses the EU responses to counter foreign interferences. It examines in particular the effectiveness of the EU action against foreign interferences in the 2019 European Parliament elections, the COVID-19 crisis and the issue of foreign donations to European political parties. The study concludes with specific policy recommendations to enhance the EU’s responses.

[The Effectiveness of Conflict of Interest Policies in the EU Member States](#)

This comparative study, commissioned at the request of the JURI Committee, analyses the effectiveness of relevant rules, policies and practices within Member States regarding conflict of interest for top political appointment (Head of Government, Ministers and other high-

ranking officials). The research highlights the theoretical and practical aspects of the notion of conflict of interest, giving some policy recommendations

[The impact of Pegasus on fundamental rights and democratic processes](#)

This study - commissioned at the request of the Committee of Inquiry to Investigate the Use of Pegasus and Equivalent Surveillance Spyware (PEGA) - analyses the impact of the use of Pegasus and similar spyware on Article 2 TEU values, on privacy and data protection, and on democratic processes in Member States.

[Openness, Transparency and the Right of Access to Documents in the EU](#)

Upon request of the PETI Committee, the Policy Department on Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs commissioned the present analysis, which examines the situation in relation to openness, transparency, access to documents and information in the EU. Case law and developments in the jurisprudence of the CJEU are examined, notably for legislative documents, documents relating to administrative proceedings, to Court proceedings, infringement proceedings and EU Pilot cases, protection of privacy and international relations. Current and future challenges, as well as conclusions and policy recommendations are set out, in order to ensure compliance with the Treaties and Charter of Fundamental Rights' requirements aimed at enhancing citizens' participation in the EU decision-making process, and consequently stronger accountability and democracy in the EU.

[EU Agencies and Conflicts of Interests](#)

This study, commissioned at the request of the Committee on Petitions, takes stock and assesses the existing rules and policies on conflicts of interests in EU agencies and examines whether, and/or how, scrutiny can be improved and whether there is a need to streamline and enhance the coherence of the various rules in place.

[Safety of journalists and the fighting of corruption in the EU](#)

Journalism and journalists face a growing range of threats, including violence and harassment; the misuse of defamation and other laws against them, and restrictive measures on freedom of information and expression adopted in response to the Covid-19 crisis. States must ensure a safe and favourable environment for journalists to perform their public watchdog function. This study, commissioned at the request of the LIBE Committee, examines the overall chilling effect of crimes and threats against journalists and explores various regulatory and other measures to counter them.

[Transparency, integrity and accountability in the EU institutions](#)

An internal briefing delivered by the policy department for the PETI committee.