



---

*Plenary sitting*

---

**B9-0154/2023**

14.2.2023

## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Commission

pursuant to Rule 132(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on following up on measures requested by Parliament to strengthen the  
integrity of the European institutions  
(2023/2571(RSP))

**Jan Olbrycht, Rainer Wieland**  
on behalf of the PPE Group

**European Parliament resolution on following up on measures requested by Parliament to strengthen the integrity of the European institutions (2023/2571(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Interinstitutional Agreement of 20 May 2021 between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on a mandatory transparency register<sup>1</sup>,
  - having regard to the Decision of the European Parliament of 28 September 2005 adopting the Statute for Members of the European Parliament (2005/684/EC, Euratom)<sup>2</sup>,
  - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas trust in the EU institutions' integrity and the rule of law is paramount for the functioning of European democracy; whereas public trust in the European Parliament has been shaken by allegations of foreign corruption, involving at least four current and former Members of the S&D Group as well as staff and non-governmental organisations (NGOs); whereas these revelations have led to greater public interest in the measures in place to guarantee the transparency, independence and accountability of Members of the European Parliament and in the other institutions' measures in this area;
- B. whereas an Interinstitutional Agreement between Parliament, the Council and the Commission on a mandatory transparency register entered into force on 20 May 2021; whereas the NGO 'Fight Impunity' had not been registered when the corruption allegations emerged;
- C. whereas a clear distinction needs to be made between criminal actions, breaches of institutional rules, and legal yet unethical behaviour;
1. Acknowledges that the corruption scandal allegedly involving current and former Members of the S&D Group as well as staff and NGOs underlines that Parliament's integrity needs to be protected and strengthened;
  2. Underlines that measures need to be taken to deter and detect foreign interference in the European institutions;
  3. Notes the law cannot prevent criminal behaviour by individual Members, former Members, staff or officials of the European Parliament or the other Europeans institutions; insists, however, that potential loopholes in the institutions' rules and procedures that facilitate unlawful behaviour need to be detected and closed;

---

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 207, 11.6.2021, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 262, 7.10.2005, p. 1.

4. Fully supports President Metsola's initiative to reform Parliament's rules and procedures and introduce further steps to deter criminal organisations from infiltrating and influencing Parliament's work;
5. Underlines that any measures taken have to be compatible with the freedom of mandate set out in Article 2 of the Decision of the European Parliament of 28 September 2005 adopting the Statute for Members of the European Parliament;
6. Points to the fact that all European institutions already have mechanisms in place that address transparency and accountability; highlights that these existing mechanisms and tools need to be reviewed and revised where appropriate, including with a view to detecting vulnerability to foreign interference;
7. Notes that in the case of the S&D Members and former Members under investigation, NGOs were allegedly used as vectors of foreign interference in European parliamentary democracy; calls for a review of the current rules for NGOs, in particular those related to governance, budget, foreign influence and persons of significant control, with the aim of increasing their transparency and accountability;
8. Underlines that NGOs receiving money from third parties that are not required to register in the Transparency Register must disclose the sources of their funding by providing the same information as all regular registrants; requests the immediate freezing of any public money to such NGOs if this information is not disclosed;
9. Calls for comprehensive financial pre-screening of NGOs before they are listed on the EU Transparency Register; insists that contractual agreements between the Commission and NGOs must be published, and requests that a clear legal definition of 'NGO status' be drawn up for application to all organisations wishing to register in the Transparency Register and become eligible to receive EU funding;
10. Believes that the existing ethical framework for Commissioners must be expanded in order to close existing legislative gaps, such as the absence of a Commissioners' statute; underlines that this process is closely linked with parliamentary scrutiny and oversight, and is therefore of the opinion that any such Commissioners' statute must be drawn up in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure; calls on the Commission to present a proposal for a Commissioners' statute as part of the package on the defence of European democracy;
11. Welcomes the extension of the responsibilities of the ING2 special committee, which will be renamed the Special Committee on Foreign Interference in all Democratic Processes in the European Union, including Disinformation, and the Strengthening of Integrity, Transparency and Accountability in the European Parliament, and will be tasked with identifying potential shortcomings in Parliament's rules on transparency, integrity, accountability and corruption, considering other medium- to longer-term measures and issuing recommendations for reforms, and building on Parliament's resolutions and the best practices of other parliaments and institutions, in close cooperation with the Committee on Constitutional Affairs and the Committee on Foreign Affairs;
12. Commits to guaranteeing adequate resources for the secretariat of the Transparency

Register to ensure that the entries on the lobbying activities of interest groups, lobbies and NGOs can be checked for accuracy and that lobbying becomes more transparent;

13. Reiterates that the scope of its urgency resolutions should be strictly observed in order to ensure proper scrutiny of third-party influence;
14. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.