



2020/2133(INI)

11.9.2020

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

for the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

on strengthening transparency and integrity in the EU institutions by setting up
an independent EU ethics body
(2020/2133(INI))

Rapporteur for opinion: Derk Jan Eppink

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs calls on the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Recalls its resolution of 16 January 2020 on institutions and bodies of the Economic and Monetary Union: preventing post-public employment conflicts of interest¹;
2. Highlights that post-public employment and ‘revolving door’ conflict of interest situations are recurring concerns that, if unaddressed, could jeopardise the enforcement of high ethical standards in the EU institutions and agencies, thus compromising their integrity and damaging citizens’ trust in them;
3. Points out that the inherent complexities in financial regulatory policies and the information asymmetries between financial market players and public officials may make the financial sector particularly susceptible to regulatory capture;
4. Calls for a strengthening of the existing regulatory and enforcement framework for both pre-public and post-public employment conflicts of interest, in order to establish appropriate boundaries between the public sector and the private and non-profit sectors; welcomes in this regard the work done by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the European Court of Auditors and the European Ombudsman;
5. Recommends empowering the European Anti-Fraud Office or the European Ombudsman with the responsibility to carry out oversight of conflicts of interest, revolving doors and lobby transparency for EU institutions and agencies;
6. Recognises the need to strike a delicate balance between regulating conflicts of interest, respecting the individual right to economic freedom, and maintaining a dynamic labour market with mobility between the public sector and the private and non-profit sectors;
7. Is of the view that any prohibition of a professional move should be justified on a case-by-case basis, and might, where appropriate, require a temporary allowance to be granted during a cooling-off period, until the new job is taken up.

¹ Texts adopted, P9_TA(2020)0017).