

**Case examples of possible situations where there is a conflict of interests**  
(Discussed and approved at the sitting of the Committee on 29 May 2017)

<b>Facts</b>	<b>Code of conduct</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
<p><b>Paying for the expenses of “off-site” sitting</b></p> <p>A committee of the Riigikogu is having its sitting on a new shuttle ferry using LNG as fuel that has just started service on the route Tallinn–Helsinki–Tallinn. Issues relating to gas market and shipping will be discussed. A legal person in private law, that is connected with the sector, proposes to pay for the tickets of the committee members and also the rent expenses of the premises necessary for holding the sitting.</p>	<p align="center"><b>Must not be accepted</b></p>	<p>The covering of the costs is linked to the official duties of a member of the Riigikogu and crosses the boundaries of common courtesy. This benefit may be defined as income from a corrupt practice.</p>
<p><b>Paying for the expenses of “off-site” sitting</b></p> <p>A committee of the Riigikogu is having a two-day off-site sitting in East Virumaa. They go from Tallinn to Sillamäe by train that has a special wagon for holding meetings. During the ride, the issues relating to railways, that belong to the sphere of activity of the committee, are discussed. A legal person in private law that is connected with the sector proposes to pay the expenses of renting the wagon for meetings and also hotel expenses.</p>	<p align="center"><b>Must not be accepted</b></p>	<p>The covering of the costs is linked to the official duties of a member of the Riigikogu and crosses the boundaries of common courtesy. This benefit may be defined as income from a corrupt practice.</p>

<p><b>Covering of expenses relating to travel abroad</b></p> <p>On the initiative the Estonian Waste Management Association, a trip to Ireland is organised to get information about waste management under free market conditions. The delegation is formed of representatives of the Estonian Waste Management Association and local governments, and members of the committee of the Riigikogu dealing with the issue. A private company dealing with waste management in Estonia offers to cover the expenses of the members of the Riigikogu relating to the trip abroad (plane tickets, accommodation, food).</p>	<p><b>Must not be accepted</b></p>	<p>The covering of the costs is linked to the official duties of a member of the Riigikogu and crosses the boundaries of common courtesy. This benefit may be defined as income from a corrupt practice.</p>
<p><b>Discussion of a Bill in a Riigikogu committee</b></p> <p>A committee is discussing the Electricity Market Bill. The partner of the chairperson of the committee is the chair of the board of a state company. If the amendment enters into force, it may bring along increase of the revenues of the state company.</p>	<p><b>The committee is informed of the circumstances described</b></p>	<p>This may give rise to suspicions relating to the personal material interests of the chairperson of the committee with regards to the company chaired by their partner. The statement of the member of the committee shall be recorded in the minutes.</p> <p>It is recommended that in such cases the chairperson of the committee would not be in the role of the leader of the proceedings on the bill.</p> <p>As laws are legislation of general application, there is no legal obligation to withdraw oneself, but the best solution would be to withdraw from the discussions.</p>

<p><b>Gift from an high-ranking foreign visitor to the President of the Riigikogu</b></p> <p>During a visit to Estonia, a member of the House of Representatives of the United States visits the Riigikogu. At the meeting, the President of the Riigikogu is presented a Tiffany tray with the guest's autograph.</p>	<p><b>May be accepted</b></p>	<p>It is a gift to a collective body, which is a recognised form of courtesy in diplomacy and international relations. The Board of the Riigikogu decides how to keep and exhibit the gift.</p>
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<p><b>Deciding the expediency of conducting parliamentary control over the activities of a ministry in a committee</b></p> <p>A committee of the Riigikogu is discussing an application by a citizen, which requests conducting parliamentary control over the activities of a ministry in relation to lease contracts signed with a private company. A member of the committee was connected with entering into contracts in the same area in a former job.</p>	<p><b>Member of the committee informs the committee of their earlier activities and withdraws from the discussions</b></p>	<p>Members of the Riigikogu should avoid situations where their impartiality may come under doubt.</p> <p>It is possible that the member of the Riigikogu is not considered impartial due to their earlier activities.</p> <p>The statement of the member of the committee is recorded in the minutes.</p> <p>Possible similar cases in committees should be dealt with and assessed individually.</p>
<p><b>Member of the Riigikogu participates in an advertising clip of a furniture manufacturer</b></p> <p>A member of the Riigikogu participates in an advertising clip of an Estonian furniture manufacturer. At the same time, he or she is a member of the committee that deals with the bills regulating the industry.</p>	<p><b>Participation in advertising clips causing conflict of interests should be avoided</b></p>	<p>Members of the Riigikogu should avoid situations where their impartiality may come under doubt and which may leave impression of serving private interests.</p>