

## **Recommendations of the Anti-Corruption Select Committee to the members of the Riigikogu for interaction with interest representatives**

When preparing these recommendations, the Anti-Corruption Select Committee was aware of the significant role of the Riigikogu in passing the decisions relating to interest groups, and proceeded from the wish to contribute to increasing the transparency of legislation and involving the interest groups in the legislative process on an equal basis.

The Anti-Corruption Select Committee has defined parliamentary lobbying on the basis of the definitions of GRECO, OECD and other international organisations. Parliamentary lobbying is the communication of a person with the parliament in the interests of a third person or themselves in order to influence legislation and the decisions of the legislator. A lobbyist may be a legal person who acts through a particular person, and sometimes also a natural person.

<b>DO</b>	<b>DON'T</b>
<p><b>1.</b> When meeting with interest representatives, check what interests they represent and who is funding them. Ask for further information, if needed. Lobbying can be done by representatives of a range of professions, including lawyers and consultants, who act in private, public or collective interests.</p>	<p><b>1.</b> Never overlook the motives of those who seek meetings or invite you to events.</p>
<p><b>2.</b> Request interest representatives to disclose, in writing and in advance, the purpose of the meeting, names of participants, the issue for discussion and any relevant background information.</p>	<p><b>2.</b> Do not accept invitations to meetings or events which could put the Riigikogu in a delicate situation.</p>
<p><b>3.</b> Before the discussion of a particular bill or a topic at the committee sitting, inform the members of the committee that you have been contacted by an interest representative, and ask it to be entered in the minutes of the committee sitting.</p> <p>Inform the chairperson of your faction of the meetings with interest representatives that are not related to the work of your committee.</p>	<p><b>3.</b> Do not interact with a particular interest representative without considering offering other groups a similar opportunity.</p>
<p><b>4.</b> Assess any risk of conflicts between your private interests and the public interest and how your interaction might be perceived.</p>	<p><b>4.</b> Do not share information you are not authorised to share, or misuse confidential information.</p>
<p><b>5.</b> Err on the side of caution. If in doubt, consult somebody, and if you decide to go ahead, add an explaining note to the documents.</p>	<p><b>5.</b> Never do or say anything which could be viewed as granting an interest representative preferential treatment.</p>
<p><b>6.</b> Invite interest representatives to substantiate statements or presentations in writing after meetings or telephone calls.</p>	<p><b>6.</b> Do not give the impression to an interest representative that any particular advice, idea or information could or will be decisive in</p>

	decision-making.
<b>7.</b> Maintain good record keeping habits, including recording the date and location of the meeting, names of participants and issues discussed.	<b>7.</b> Do not accept hospitality, invitations or benefits from an interest representative without careful thinking and considering whether it is in line with the applicable rules.
<b>8.</b> Report unacceptable lobbying practices to the Anti-Corruption Select Committee.	<b>8.</b> Do not accept gifts that cannot be unambiguously understood as common courtesy and are not in line with the applicable rules. <sup>1</sup>

These recommendations were adopted at the sitting of the Anti-Corruption Select Committee on 29 May 2017.

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<sup>1</sup> See § 4 of the Anti-corruption Act.