



Statement on ethics rules and stakeholder engagement

Commission Directorate General Internal Market and Services (DG MARKT) deals with a large number of politically sensitive policy areas ranging from public procurement, intellectual property and services to rules on capital movements and companies, and the regulation of financial markets and financial institutions. In devising and enforcing EU-level regulation for these areas, it is key for DG MARKT staff to be in touch with all relevant stakeholders and conduct an open, transparent and inclusive policy making process, based on solid socio-economic analysis. Staff members of DG MARKT therefore regularly meet with stakeholders to understand their points of view and interests. We also conduct public consultations and hearings to involve all relevant parties to collect data and evidence to feed into the policy-making process.

To ensure that staff members of DG MARKT treat all stakeholders fairly and equally and to avoid any conflicts of interest in these contacts and in the exercise of their duties as public servants, staff members are bound by strict ethics provisions set out by the Staff Regulations of Officials and Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union.

Staff members of DG MARKT are obliged to pay particular attention to the compliance with such rules, as a way to safeguard their impartiality, independence and therefore act in the best interest of the European citizens. By maintaining high ethical standards, DG MARKT staff members ensure the legitimacy of Single Market policymaking and protect the Commission's interests and reputation.

It is important that stakeholders and citizens in contact with MARKT staff members are aware of the key ethics principles applicable to Commission staff.

Key ethics principles are those relating to the necessity to act with impartiality, loyalty, courtesy and circumspection.

To prevent any real, potential or apparent conflict of interest, Staff is subject, inter alia, to the obligation to:

- Declare any such conflict of interest (personal or family interest, important amount of shares in a given company affected by legislation proposed by the DG, or taking part in a procurement offer managed by the DG, etc.);
- Ask for authorisation for any outside activity (only of voluntary, or not-for-profit nature, all business activities not being allowed);
- Ask for authorisation for any outside activity after leaving the service, or while on leave on personal grounds;
- Ask for authorisation for the publication of a text or a speech on EU matters;
- Declare the professional activity of the spouse/partner;
- Refuse any gift of more than mere symbolic value;
- Refuse any hospitality offer of more than mere symbolic value, unless clearly part of work;
- Refuse invitations to events not clearly part of work.

More information:

- [Applicable ethics rules under Title II of the Staff Regulations \(Rights and Obligations of Officials\)](#)
- [Code of good administrative behaviour of the European Commission](#)
- [Financial Regulations applicable to the EU budget](#)