



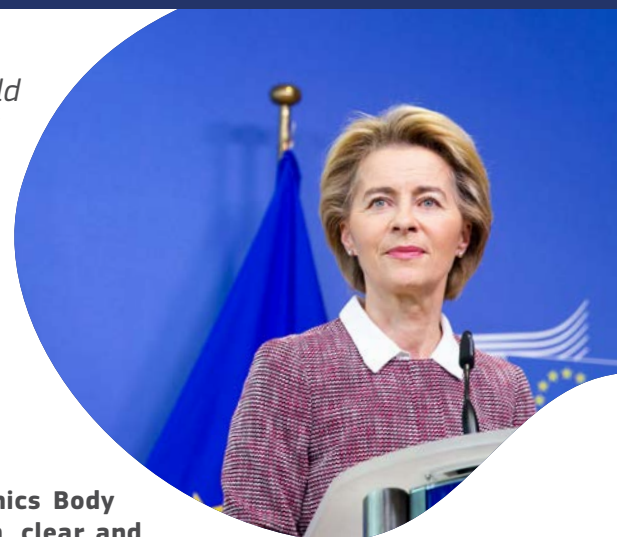
The EU Ethics Body : common ethical standards for all EU institutions

#EUDemocracy

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"If Europeans are to have faith in our Union, its institutions should be open and beyond reproach on ethics, transparency and integrity. I will support the creation of an independent ethics body common to all EU institutions. I will engage and work closely with the other institutions to make this happen."

President von der Leyen, [Political Guidelines](#)



1 What is the Ethics Body?

- **Following informal discussions with all EU institutions, the Ethics Body is the Commission's proposal to create the first set of common, clear and transparent ethical standards for the EU institutions and bodies.**
- **It will also be the first formal mechanism for coordination and exchange of views among institutions in ethical matters**
- **The Body will help avoid unnecessary differences among the institutions' standards, and help promote a common culture of ethics and transparency, clarity and publicity**

Participants:



European Commission



European Parliament



European Council
Council of the European Union



European Central Bank



European Court of Auditors



Economic and Social Committee



Committee of the Regions



Court of Justice of the European Union



Upon request,
the European Investment Bank
and other bodies

2 What does it do?



Develop minimum standards for all members (political appointees) of EU institutions and bodies, for example:

- Acceptance of gifts, hospitality or travel, and of awards, decorations, prizes or honours
- Transparency, in particular for meetings with interest representatives and their publication
- Interests and assets to be declared
- Side or external activities, and post-mandate activities of former members
- Mechanisms to implement the common framework in each institution, including compliance monitoring and follow-up if there are breaches
- Publicity on how each institution applies the standards



Exchange of views among institutions, allowing them to:

- Learn and benefit from each others' experience
- Reach a common view and update standards as necessary



Establish a common ethics culture for all members of EU institutions:

- Clarify what is acceptable and what is not
- More transparency in the institutions
- Make it clear to everyone inside and outside the institutions what members can and cannot do, and what the institutions do to ensure that the rules are properly applied

3 What does it NOT do?

Deal with individual investigations and enquiries



In criminal cases it is the job of:

- European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO)
- National police + judicial authorities



In non-criminal cases it is the job of:

- European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF)
- Ombudsman

4 What is the composition of the Body?

- A **Chair**, rotating annually amongst participating institutions
- One member from each **participating institution**
- Five **independent** experts chosen by the participating institutions

5 What comes next?



The Commission will invite all EU institutions and advisory bodies to a meeting in Brussels in July to start the dialogue and negotiations

