

Amendment 1

Anna Bonfrisco, Aurélia Beigneux, Jaak Madison, Harald Vilimsky, Nicolaus Fest
on behalf of the ID Group

Report**A9-0215/2023****Vladimír Bilčík, Nathalie Loiseau**

Recommendations for reform of the European Parliament's rules on transparency, integrity, accountability and anti-corruption
(2023/2034(INI))

Motion for a resolution**Recital A***Motion for a resolution*

A. whereas ongoing investigations led by the Belgian authorities have uncovered suspicions of an extremely worrying system of corruption, money laundering and participation in a criminal organisation involving, to date, three sitting Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and one former MEP as well as one accredited parliamentary assistant (APA); whereas these suspicions relate to influence from Qatar and Morocco; whereas there are allegations that other states, such as Mauritania, may also be involved;

Amendment

A. whereas ongoing investigations led by the Belgian authorities have uncovered suspicions of an extremely worrying system of corruption, money laundering and participation in a criminal organisation involving, to date, three sitting Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and one former MEP as well as one accredited parliamentary assistant (APA), ***all from the S&D Group***; whereas these suspicions relate to influence from Qatar and Morocco; whereas there are allegations that other states, such as Mauritania, may also be involved; ***whereas no other scandal has ever reflected as badly on the public image of the EU***;

Or. en

5.7.2023

A9-0215/2

Amendment 2

Anna Bonfrisco, Aurélia Beigneux, Jaak Madison, Harald Vilimsky, Nicolaus Fest
on behalf of the ID Group

Report

A9-0215/2023

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(2023/2034(INI))

Motion for a resolution

Recital F a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Fa. whereas Parliament should adopt best practices on transparency, ethics and accountability to ascertain responsibility at the political level and to adopt the appropriate sanctions; whereas the lack of respect for the role of all political groups in the decision-making process is part of the problem, since a fully effective system of checks and balances is not guaranteed;

Or. en

5.7.2023

A9-0215/3

Amendment 3

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Motion for a resolution

Recital I

Motion for a resolution

I. whereas countries such as Qatar, Morocco, China, Russia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Serbia and Türkiye have invested heavily in lobbying efforts in Brussels; whereas certain extremist organisations from Qatar and Türkiye have requested European funds;

Amendment

I. whereas countries such as Qatar, Morocco, China, Russia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Serbia and Türkiye have invested heavily in lobbying efforts in Brussels; whereas certain extremist organisations from Qatar and Türkiye have requested European funds; ***whereas Qatar has regularly been identified as a state that finances the spread of radical ideology and extremist Islamic organisations; whereas Qatar Charity has financed 140 mosques and other projects, including 47 in Italy and 22 in France alone;***

Or. en

5.7.2023

A9-0215/4

Amendment 4

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Motion for a resolution

Recital AD

Motion for a resolution

AD. whereas interest representatives, such as lobbying and consultancy agencies, foundations, NGOs and think tanks, must be subject to scrutiny, due diligence and transparency rules, in particular with regard to financing, with proportional criteria and non-cumbersome procedures, in particular for small entities and small NGOs;

Amendment

AD. whereas interest representatives, such as lobbying and consultancy agencies, foundations, NGOs and think tanks, must be subject to scrutiny, due diligence and transparency rules, in particular with regard to financing, with proportional criteria and non-cumbersome procedures, in particular for small entities and small NGOs; ***whereas NGOs were allegedly used in this case as vectors of foreign interference in the European parliamentary process;***

Or. en

Amendment 5

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Motion for a resolution**Paragraph 1***Motion for a resolution*

1. Denounces, in the strongest terms, the alleged attempts by Qatar and Morocco to influence MEPs, former MEPs and Parliament staff through acts of corruption, which constitute serious foreign interference in the EU's democratic processes; reiterates its deep shock at and condemnation of the alleged acts of corruption, money laundering and participation in a criminal organisation by three MEPs, one former MEP and one APA in exchange for influence over Parliament's decisions; states that it has zero tolerance for corruption in any shape and form; underlines that the suspected criminal behaviour and intentions of the MEPs and APA under investigation are not representative of Parliament as a whole, since a very large majority of MEPs comply with current rules and the measures in place to enforce them and are fully committed to serving on behalf of EU citizens;

Amendment

1. Denounces, in the strongest terms, the alleged attempts by Qatar and Morocco to influence MEPs, former MEPs and Parliament staff through acts of corruption, which constitute serious foreign interference in the EU's democratic processes; reiterates its deep shock at and condemnation of the alleged acts of corruption, money laundering and participation in a criminal organisation by three MEPs, one former MEP and one **APA, all from the S&D Group**, in exchange for influence over Parliament's decisions; states that it has zero tolerance for corruption in any shape and form; underlines that the suspected criminal behaviour and intentions of the MEPs and APA under investigation are not representative of Parliament as a whole, since a very large majority of MEPs comply with current rules and the measures in place to enforce them and are fully committed to serving on behalf of EU citizens; **reiterates the need to immediately establish a new committee of inquiry, pursuant to Rule 208, to ascertain political responsibility, evaluate which dossiers may have been compromised as a result of this foreign interference and democratic manipulation, verify the exact role of NGOs and other interest**

*representatives under the guise of human
rights defenders and decide how to
remedy these problems;*

Or. en

5.7.2023

A9-0215/6

Amendment 6

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Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 1 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

1a. Condemns, in this context, Parliament's refusal as early as January 2023 to establish a committee of inquiry to investigate the political responsibility in Parliament in connection with the suspicions of corruption involving Qatar; highlights that the Committee of Inquiry to investigate the use of Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware was set up while investigations and legal proceedings were being conducted in some Member States;

Or. en

5.7.2023

A9-0215/7

Amendment 7

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Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 6

Motion for a resolution

6. Calls for a rapid conclusion of the revision of the Code of Conduct for MEPs with a view to introducing rules on whistleblowers that are in step with the European standards set in the Whistleblower Directive; considers it essential to amend Article 3 of the Code of Conduct for MEPs in order to clarify the rules on conflicts of interests and MEPs' obligations to resolve them; requests that Article 4 of the Code of Conduct for MEPs be amended in order to introduce additional requirements for information in Members' declarations of financial interests; reiterates its opinion that a declaration of assets by MEPs before and after their term of office would provide additional safeguards in the fight against corruption, following the good practices of many Member States; believes that asset declarations should be accessible only to the relevant authorities, without prejudice to national regulations;

Amendment

6. Calls for a rapid conclusion of the revision of the Code of Conduct for MEPs with a view to introducing rules on whistleblowers that are in step with the European standards set in the Whistleblower Directive; considers it essential to amend Article 3 of the Code of Conduct for MEPs in order to clarify the rules on conflicts of interests and MEPs' obligations to resolve them; requests that Article 4 of the Code of Conduct for MEPs be amended in order to introduce additional requirements for information in Members' declarations of financial interests; reiterates its opinion that a declaration of assets by MEPs before and after their term of office would provide additional safeguards in the fight against corruption, following the good practices of many Member States; believes that asset declarations should be accessible only to the relevant authorities, without prejudice to national regulations; ***calls for the Code of Conduct for MEPs to be revised to include an obligation to declare all nationalities held by an MEP, as nationality is of undeniable importance in making different political choices;***

Or. en

5.7.2023

A9-0215/8

Amendment 8

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Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 49

Motion for a resolution

49. Calls for the comprehensive financial screening of all interest groups, NGOs and consultancies before they are listed in the Transparency Register, and for a review of all interest representatives currently registered; requests that these organisations also be transparent about the composition of their governing bodies and declare compliance with the relevant legal obligations, particularly financing and accounting obligations; calls for any consulting agencies wishing to register to be transparent about their client structure; requests that a clear legal definition of 'interest representatives' and 'NGO status' be drawn up, which would apply to all organisations wishing to be listed in the Transparency Register and become eligible to receive EU funding; underlines that NGOs that receive money from third parties that are not required to be listed in the Transparency Register must disclose the sources of their funding by providing the same information as all regular registrants;

Amendment

49. Calls for the comprehensive financial screening of all interest groups, NGOs and consultancies before they are listed in the Transparency Register and for ***the mandatory publishing of the existing contractual agreements with the Commission, as well as the*** review of all interest representatives currently registered; requests that these organisations also be transparent about the composition of their governing bodies and declare compliance with the relevant legal obligations, particularly financing and accounting obligations; calls for any consulting agencies wishing to register to be transparent about their client structure; requests that a clear legal definition of 'interest representatives' and 'NGO status' be drawn up, which would apply to all organisations wishing to be listed in the Transparency Register and become eligible to receive EU funding; underlines that NGOs that receive money from third parties that are not required to be listed in the Transparency Register must disclose the sources of their funding by providing the same information as all regular registrants, ***including for becoming or remaining eligible for EU public funds;***

Or. en

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5.7.2023

A9-0215/9

Amendment 9

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Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 50

Motion for a resolution

50. ***Notes that as part of the recent corruption*** scandal, the work of two NGOs was misused to finance illegal activities and influence Parliament's decision-making on behalf of third parties;

Amendment

50. ***Recalls that unregulated NGOs have played a significant role in the 'Qatargate' scandal, as the work of two NGOs was misused to finance illegal activities and influence Parliament's decision-making on behalf of third parties; calls for a review of the current rules for NGOs, in particular those related to governance, the budget, anti-money-laundering, foreign influence and persons of significant control, with the aim of increasing their transparency and accountability; calls on the Commission to study whether broadening the scope of anti-money laundering rules, particularly by including NGOs, would have prevented these events from taking place; strongly affirms that under no circumstances should NGOs or any other stakeholder substitute for MEPs in making political decisions;***

Or. en

5.7.2023

A9-0215/10

Amendment 10

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Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 53

Motion for a resolution

53. Is worried by the interference of Islamist organisations inspired by foreign states;

Amendment

53. Is worried by the interference of Islamist organisations inspired by foreign states; ***deeply deplores the fact that the EU institutions have, on several occasions, been involved in promoting Islamist organisations through communication campaigns or conferences, as recently demonstrated by the participation of FEMYSO, an association close to the Muslim Brotherhood, at the 2023 European Youth Event; stresses that this Parliament should focus on scrutinising any long-standing ties, including those that date to before the events of 'Qatargate', of a certain political area of this chamber with some third countries, as well as whether and in what ways undue influence has actually been exercised in the past;***

Or. en