ANNEX I

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT REGARDING INTEGRITY AND TRANSPARENCY

Article 1

Guiding principles

In exercising their duties, Members of the European Parliament:

(a) are guided by and observe the following general principles of conduct: disinterest, integrity, openness, diligence, honesty, accountability and respect for Parliament's dignity and reputation,

(b) act solely in the public interest and refrain from obtaining or seeking to obtain any direct or indirect benefit or other reward.

Article 2

Main duties of Members

In exercising their duties, Members of the European Parliament shall:

(a) not enter into any agreement to act or vote in the interest of any other legal or natural person that would compromise their voting freedom, as enshrined in Article 6 of the Act of 20 September 1976 concerning the election of the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage and Article 2 of the Statute for Members of the European Parliament,

(b) not solicit, accept or receive any direct or indirect benefit or other reward, including in cash or in kind, in exchange for specific behaviour in the scope of the Member's parliamentary work, and shall consciously seek to avoid any situation which might imply bribery, corruption, or undue influence,

(c) not engage in paid lobbying activities directly linked to the Union decision-making process.

Article 3

Conflicts of interest

1. A conflict of interest exists where the exercise of the mandate of a Member of the European Parliament in the public interest may be improperly influenced for reasons involving his or her family, emotional life or economic interest, or any other direct or indirect private interest.

A conflict of interest does not exist where a Member benefits only as a member of the general public or of a broad class of persons.

2. Members shall make every reasonable effort to detect conflicts of interest.

A Member who becomes aware of having a conflict of interest shall immediately endeavour to

resolve it. If unable to resolve it, the Member shall make sure that the private interest concerned is declared in accordance with Article 4.

3. Without prejudice to paragraph 2, Members shall disclose, before speaking or voting in plenary or in one of Parliament's bodies, any conflict of interest in relation to the matter under consideration, where such conflict is not evident from the information declared pursuant to Article 4. Such disclosure shall be made orally by intervening in the sitting or meeting concerned.

4. Before taking up the office of Vice-President, Quaestor, Chair or Vice-Chair of a committee or delegation, the Member shall submit a declaration indicating whether or not he or she is aware of having a conflict of interest in relation to the responsibilities of that office.

If the Member is aware of having such a conflict of interest, he or she shall describe the conflict in that declaration. In that case, he or she may only take up the office if the respective body decides that the conflict of interest does not prevent the Member from exercising his or her mandate in the public interest.

When such a conflict of interest arises during the exercise of the office in question, the Member shall submit a declaration describing that conflict and shall refrain from exercising the responsibilities with regard to this situation of conflict, unless the respective body decides that the conflict of interest does not prevent the Member from exercising his or her mandate in the public interest.

5. A Member who is proposed as a rapporteur or shadow rapporteur or as a participant in an official delegation or in interinstitutional negotiations shall submit a declaration indicating whether or not he or she is aware of having a conflict of interest in relation to, respectively, the report or opinion or the delegation or negotiations in question. If the Member is aware of having such a conflict of interest, he or she shall describe the conflict in that declaration.

A Member who is proposed as rapporteur for several files with a similar subject matter may submit a general declaration covering all those files on a voluntary basis. If such a general declaration is not submitted, a declaration must be submitted for each individual file. Where a general declaration has been submitted and a conflict of interest arises for an individual file, a declaration must be submitted for that individual file.

In the case of reports on the verification of credentials of newly elected Members provided for in Rule 3(3) of the Rules of Procedure, the rapporteur must declare a conflict of interest with regard to the verification of his or her own credentials. This obligation is without prejudice to his or her obligation to declare other conflicts of interest.

Where the Member who has been proposed as a rapporteur declares that he or she has a conflict of interest, the respective committee may decide by a majority of the votes cast that the Member may nevertheless be appointed as a rapporteur on the ground that the conflict does not prevent the Member from exercising his or her mandate in the public interest.

Where the Member who has been proposed as a shadow rapporteur or as a participant in an official delegation or in interinstitutional negotiations declares that he or she has a conflict of interest, the respective political group may decide that the Member may nevertheless be designated as a shadow rapporteur or as a participant in an official delegation or in interinstitutional negotiations on the ground that the conflict does not prevent the Member from exercising his or her mandate in the public interest. The respective body may, however, oppose this designation by a majority of two thirds of the votes cast.

6. The Bureau shall draw up the form for the declarations mentioned in paragraphs 4 and 5 of this Article, pursuant to Article 12. Such declarations shall be published on Members' online page on Parliament's website.