



CODE OF CONDUCT



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Introduction

The European Christian Political Party (ECP) is a European political party made up of members of (European) Parliament and political parties from multiple European countries.

ECP's political vision reflects that of our member parties, while we do not subscribe to any particular mainstream political ideology. ECP members are united by their Christian belief and identity based on the Bible.

The present code of conduct offers guidelines to our members inspired by Biblical principles, and not necessarily following a particular political ideology. Besides this code of conduct, the ECP members use as reference our foundational documents: the Identity Declaration and the Political Program.

Article 1

Purpose

The purpose of this code is to present the set of core values shared in ECP and the regulations that stem therefrom for the persons to which the code applies.

It is our hope that the current Code of Conduct will help:

- build a common understanding of what behaviour and attitudes the ECP wishes to promote or considers unacceptable;
- ensure the openness and accountability essential to the proper functioning of a European political party;
- protect and enhance the reputation of ECP, so that the public can have justifiable confidence in it;

- ensure that all persons this code applies to can speak and act without fear or favour;
- give clarity for members and the public about the rules of conduct which underpin these standards, which are expected of all members in undertaking their duties.

Article 2

Scope

The Code applies to ECPP representatives in all aspects of their public life. It does not seek to regulate what the representatives do in their private and personal lives. The obligations set out in this Code are complementary to the other ECPP documents such as the ECPP Identity Declaration, the ECPP statutes and the internal regulations.

The Code applies to persons acting in the name of the ECPP members as defined in the ECPP Statutes, namely:

- Member parties
- Non-EU member parties
- Individual members
- Organizations

Where applicable, the Code applies as well to:

- Board members of the ECPP
- Staff members of the ECPP
- Members of the Advisory Council
- Board members of ECPYouth

Article 3

Core values

ECPP representatives will act in their functions in accordance with the core values as presented in the Bible. At the foundation of all their actions rest the Ten Commandments and their summary made by Jesus: to love God with all your strength and your neighbor as yourself.

Then, the following principles are guiding:

a. Integrity

ECPP representatives are persons with integrity, meaning their words and actions are in accordance with, and reflective of, their beliefs. Their public behaviour shall not be contrary to the principles described in the Identity Declaration of ECPP to which they have agreed.

b. Selflessness

ECPP representatives are aware that they serve God and are seeking the common good. They act solely in the public interest and shall not seek to obtain financial benefits and/or other personal rewards in the course of their public mandate.

c. Honesty and accountability

ECPP representatives are honest and accountable for their actions. This means that they have the courage to admit mistakes and bear any consequences. They do not deliberately give false information, nor withhold the truth when asked, if in the public interest.

d. Transparency

ECPP representatives are transparent about their own actions, and they can justify them.

e. Respect and responsibility

ECPP representatives are respectful towards other people and have a strong sense of responsibility. They are open to hearing other opinions and, even if in disagreement, will not malign, demonize or mischaracterize others.

Article 4

Preventing conflicts of interest

ECPP representatives avoid favoring private-public partnerships which are in conflict with fair competition and can compromise their voting freedom. They ensure that the appearance of such favoritism is not associated with them. ECPP politicians also avoid any preferential treatment for their family members and/or for close friends.

Article 5

Careful handling of data and information

ECPP representatives carefully handle information available to them by virtue of their position.

They do not use this information for the benefit of their function, business, or personal relations. They do not share personal data or confidential information without permission. The GDPR has to be respected.

Article 6

Accepting gifts

ECPP politicians are reluctant to accept services and gifts. They always register accepted gifts and services in the appropriate register of the public body where they serve. Moreover, they must not solicit, accept or receive any financial benefit (direct or indirect) in exchange for influencing votes in the European or national parliaments.

Article 7

Administrative expenses and provisions

ECPP representatives are mindful in making administrative expenses charged to the public body where they serve.

They entrust the public body where they serve with their administrative expenditure only when:

- these arise out of the function, and
- serve the interest of that body, and
- will not be regarded as unreasonable.

ECPP representatives use public property or facilities solely for public purposes, in the exercise of their function.

Article 8

Administrative expenses and provisions

ECPP representatives abide by rules for expenses and claims which are

made for their functions and maintain full transparency on such matters.

They are careful in submitting expense claims. They do not make false declarations of costs, nor do they claim reimbursement for costs already reimbursed.

They are transparent about how they handle their administrative expenses.

Article 9

Campaigning, advertising and online activities

ECPP representatives apply ECPP's core values of integrity, respect, transparency and accountability to both their organic and paid online campaign activities and advertising.

ECPP representatives comply their (online) campaign activities with norms of decency and common sense.

ECPP representatives engage in an open and respectful political discourse even online.

ECPP representatives refrain from using, producing and disseminating falsified, fabricated, doxed or stolen information and deepfakes.

ECPP representatives carefully use information and data in their communications and advertising. When incorrect information was used in communications, ECPP representatives try to correct or take down the piece of communication as quickly as possible.

ECPP representatives may engage in fierce, passionate and critical debates with political opponents. However, political opponents are human beings created by God and therefore worthy of respect. ECPP representatives refrain from aggressiveness and violence towards political opponents.

ECPP representatives do not depict political opponents in a dehumanizing manner.

ECPP representatives are extremely careful with content intended for use in campaign activities and/or political advertising that is created by third parties and/or artificial intelligence systems.

ECPP representatives comply with transparency and advertisement policies of online platforms and provide faithful information in their respective processes of verification and authorization.

ECPP representatives maintain good cyber hygiene and protect themselves from cyber-attacks.

Article 10

Violation of the Code of Conduct

When there is a suspicion that one of the ECPP representatives is acting contrary to what the Code of Conduct provides, the Secretary General of ECPP will address the member/ representative about the matter.

When this does not lead to desired results or matters become more complicated, the ECPP Board can decide to take action.

Such a decision shall be given only after the board has requested advice from the Advisory Council. The ECPP Statutes provide further instruction on handling members who do not act in accordance with this code of conduct.



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