

Questions for the preparation of the 2022 Rule of Law Report

Parliament

1. Can you update us on the proposed code of ethics for MPs? Is this still being discussed? Will this be adopted during the new legislature, and if so, do you have a timeline?

Concerning the Code of Ethics for members of the Chamber of Deputies, the proposed draft of the Code of Ethics for members of the Chamber of Deputies (Parliamentary Document 7067)¹ has not been approved until the end of the 8th electoral term of the Chamber of Deputies.

The information on the procedure of deliberation of the Code of Ethics during the former (8th) electoral term is accessible on the website of GRECO (Group of States against Corruption) of the Council of Europe, specifically in the Fourth evaluation rounds reports (see answers to the recommendation ii) regarding developments in the Czech Republic) which are accessible on: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/greco/evaluations/czech-republic>. Concerning the information about development since the mid of the year 2019, which yet have not been released on the GRECO website: The amendment of the Act on the Rules of Procedure of the Chamber of Deputies, that intended to include the authorization for the Chamber of Deputies to adopt a Code of Ethics, has not been approved. The draft of the Code of Ethics of a deputy of the Parliament was submitted for deliberation on 9 December 2020. The proposed draft had a form of a resolution of the Chamber of Deputies, which would apply only to the Chamber of Deputies electoral term in which the resolution was adopted (newly elected Chamber of Deputies would have a possibility to approve the Code of Ethics for the current electoral term). Until the end of the electoral term, the proposal of the Code of Ethics of a deputy of the Parliament has not been approved.

Since the beginning of the new 9th electoral term of the Chamber of Deputies on 22nd October 2021, no draft of the Code of Ethics for members of the Chamber of Deputies has been submitted. Similarly, it has not been submitted any draft of an amendment of the Act on the Rules of Procedure of the Chamber of Deputies that would tackle the issue. Until now, no activity (at least published one) in this regard such as a proposed timeline for adoption of the Code of Ethics has been noted. However, it is important to mention as well that the new electoral term began recently – for instance, the majority of committees of the Chamber of Deputies started to discuss the first legislative proposals in January.

Concerning the Code of Ethics of senators, the Senate does not dispose of the Code of Ethics of senators or similar type of document. There is no information about development in this issue such as preparation works or timeline of prospective adoption.

2. IF YES: could you outline what the main provisions of the code of ethics will be? Will it include provisions on conflict of interest as well as declarations of assets and gifts?

N/A

¹ Sněmovní dokument 7067: Návrh usnesení Poslanecké sněmovny, kterým se přijímá Etický kodex poslance Parlamentu České republiky. *Poslanecká sněmovna Parlamentu České republiky*. Accessible on: <https://www.psp.cz/sqw/text/orig2.sqw?idd=155550>