

Code of Conduct for ECPM

January 2024

Introduction

The European Christian Political Movement (ECPM) is a European political party made up of members of (European) Parliament and political parties from multiple European countries. ECPM's political vision reflects that of our member parties, while we do not subscribe to any particular mainstream political ideology. ECPM 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 ECPM members use as reference our foundational documents: the Identity Declaration and the Political Program.

Article 1

Purpose

The purpose of the code is to present the set of core values shared in ECPM 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 ECPM 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 ECPM, 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 ECPM representatives in all aspects of their public life. It does not seek to regulate what the representatives do in their purely private and personal lives. The obligations set out in this Code are complementary to the other ECPM documents such as the ECPM Identity Declaration, the ECPM statutes and the internal regulations.

The Code applies to persons acting in the name of the ECPM members as defined in Article 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 of the ECPM Statutes, namely:

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

Where applicable, the Code applies as well to:

- Board members of the ECPM
- Staff members of the ECPM
- Members of the Advisory Council
- Board members of ECPYouth.

Article 3

Core values

ECPM 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**

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

b. **Selflessness**

ECPM 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**

ECPM 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**

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

e. **Respect and responsibility**

ECPM 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

ECPM 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. ECPM politicians also avoid any conflict of interest with family members and/or with close friends.

Article 5

Careful handling of data and information

ECPM representatives carefully handle information available to them due to 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

ECPM 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

ECPM 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.

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

Article 8

Reimbursements and expenses claims

ECPM 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

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

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

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

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

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

ECPM 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. ECPM representatives refrain from aggressiveness and violence towards political opponents.

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

ECPM 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.

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

ECPM 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 ECPM representatives is acting contrary to what the Code of Conduct provides, the General Director of ECPM will address the suspected representative or a direct manager of the suspected representative about the matter.

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

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