

## **Good Practice of Members of the Riigikogu**

Aware of their responsibility in organising life in Estonia and in looking out for the common good;

Acknowledging their responsibility to the people as the holder of the supreme power, and accepting their obligation to act in public interest;

Considering the need to guarantee the trustworthiness of the national assembly;

Keeping in mind their oath of office and their rights and obligations arising from the Constitution,

All the members of the Riigikogu commit themselves to behaving in accordance with the Good Practice of Members of the Riigikogu:

- Members of the Riigikogu shall base their decisions on the interests of the people and the state.
- Members of the Riigikogu shall refrain from harming the reputation of Estonia and the Riigikogu.
- Members of the Riigikogu shall not accept tasks or make decisions that cast doubt on their integrity and call into question whether they are serving the interests of the people.
- Members of the Riigikogu shall avoid situations where the impartiality of their decisions may come under doubt and where they might appear to be serving private interests.
- Members of the Riigikogu shall refrain from accepting hospitality beyond the limits of the ordinary, which may cast doubt on their integrity, fairness and impartiality, and lead to a conflict between official duties and private interests.
- Members of the Riigikogu shall not accept gifts or services related to their work and beyond the limits of common courtesy and not based on the universally accepted customs of diplomacy or international relations, and not permitted as donations under the law.
- Members of the Riigikogu shall show respect for their colleagues and others, be polite and avoid using inappropriate language.
- Members of the Riigikogu shall use the resources of the state efficiently and purposefully, avoiding waste and unnecessary expenses.
- Members of the Riigikogu shall not allow private interests to influence their work. If a member of the Riigikogu has interests regarding a Bill that is being discussed or a resolution that is to be passed, and these interests are not reflected in their declaration of economic interests but may cast a doubt on their objectiveness, they shall disclose these interests before the debate.

- Members of the Riigikogu shall perform their duties as representatives of the people, and have clear and justifiable opinions.
- Members of the Riigikogu shape their opinions by considering, in the best possible way, the opinions of the interested parties as well as the impact of the decisions on the whole society. If need be, the names of the individuals involved in decision making are revealed.
- Members of the Riigikogu shall prepare themselves well for their work in the Riigikogu and keep abreast of new information, in order to be able to participate constructively in the discussions.
- Members of the Riigikogu shall explain the reasons behind their choices and decisions, and be reasonably accessible to explain the work of the parliament and their activities. Members of the Riigikogu shall not avoid replying to questions, except in cases where the questions concern confidential information or private life.
- Members of the Riigikogu shall not disclose confidential information that has been entrusted to them or use it for personal gain or for giving advantage to somebody.
- Members of the Riigikogu shall not make promises that are out of their competence.
- Members of the Riigikogu may ask the advice of the Anti-Corruption Committee of the Riigikogu in the field of expertise of the Committee. Other debatable issues are discussed by the members of the Riigikogu in their factions. The Select Committee shall also discuss cases in its field of expertise if a doubt has been raised whether a member of the Riigikogu has behaved in an appropriate manner and in respect of good practice.
- Members of the Riigikogu shall do everything in their power to behave according to the Good Practice of Members of the Riigikogu.