

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 9 of the Law on Lobbying (“Official Gazette of RS” no. 87/18) and Article 15 of the Law on Anti-Corruption Agency (“Official Gazette of RS” nos. 97/08, 53/10, 66/11 - CC decision, 67/13 - CC decision, 112/13 - authentic interpretation and 8/15 - CC decision), the director of the Anti-Corruption Agency issues hereby

CODE OF CONDUCT OF LOBBYING PARTICIPANTS

Introductory provisions

Article 1

The Code of Conducts for Lobbying Participants (hereinafter referred to as: Code) regulates the ethical rules of a lobbyist, a legal entity engaged in lobbying, an unregistered lobbyist, lobbying client, or lobbied person (hereinafter referred to as: lobbying participants), which are based on the principle of integrity and values contained in the Law on Lobbying and other regulations.

The aim of the Code is to protect the public interest and to promote the profession of lobbying, in order to prevent corruption.

Article 2

All terms used in this Code concerning lobbying participants are prescribed by the Law on Lobbying.

All terms used in this Code are gender neutral.

Principle of integrity

Article 3

The principle of integrity within the meaning of the Law on Lobbying implies legality, transparency, liability, and ethics.

Legality

Article 4

Lobbying participants are required to comply with the Law on Lobbying and other regulations, as well as with the provisions of the Code.

Lobbyist, a legal entity engaged in lobbying or an unregistered lobbyist, in the lobbying process, should be aware of the regulations that may apply to their contacts with the lobbied person.

Transparency

Article 5

The transparency of the lobbying process should allow for their comprehensive control and monitoring of compliance with the law when lobbying, thereby contributing to citizens' confidence in the decision-making process.

Lobbying participants should behave transparently in their work, in accordance with the Law on Lobbying.

Lobbyist, a legal entity engaged in lobbying or an unregistered lobbyist should, during the first contact with the lobbied person in relation to lobbying, disclose their identity and identity of the lobbying client, as well as the name of the law, other regulation or general act for which they are lobbying and the clear intent of the lobbying.

Lobbied person should be informed in a timely manner if there is a termination of the business relationship, that is, termination of the lobbying agreement between the lobbyist, the unregistered lobbyist or the legal entity engaged in lobbying and the lobbying client.

Transparency implies that the information regarding lobbying is made publicly available by the public authority, in accordance with the law governing free access to information of public importance.

Liability

Article 6

Lobbying participants are required to avoid conflicts of interest that may arise from their personal, financial, professional, political or other relationships.

Lobbyist, a legal entity engaged in lobbying or an unregistered lobbyist should avoid any possible, apparent and actual conflict of interest, or bring the lobbied person into a conflict of interest with their behavior during the lobbying process.

In the event of a conflict of interest, a lobbyist, a legal entity engaged in lobbying or an unregistered lobbyist should, as soon as possible, inform the lobbied person, as well as consider the exemption from the lobbying procedure to the extent necessary.

Lobbyist, a legal entity engaged in lobbying or an unregistered lobbyist cannot represent the opposite interests of two or more lobbying clients.

Lobbied person, in the lobbying process, is obliged to comply with the regulations governing their rights and obligations regulating the conflict of interest, or to refrain from conduct in their own interest.

Lobbied person not covered by the regulations governing the conflict of interest is obliged to act in accordance with the provisions of the Code in possible conflicts of interest in the lobbying process.

Article 7

Lobbying participants should conduct lobbying without misusing information or presenting it in a way that is considered dishonest, deceptive or fraudulent.

Lobbying participants should present the information obtained during lobbying in an honest manner and regularly disclose accurate information, without misleading the public as well as other lobbying participants .

Lobbyist, a legal entity engaged in lobbying or an unregistered lobbyist should take all appropriate measures to ensure that the information provided and made available to the lobbied person is accurate, up-to-date and verifiable.

Lobbyist, a legal entity engaged in lobbying or an unregistered lobbyist should respect the confidentiality of information throughout the lobbying process and after its completion, in accordance with the law.

Article 8

Lobbyist, a legal entity engaged in lobbying or an unregistered lobbyist should strive for the highest standards of the profession, and in particular participate in continuing education and professional development programs related to compliance with laws, rules and ethical standards regarding lobbying and exchange or examples of good practice.

Article 9

Lobbied person shall be obliged to act with reasonable care for all lobbyists and must not on any grounds discriminate against them.

Lobbied person should always bear in mind the public opinion and pay due attention to the reactions of civil society organizations and citizens.

Ethics

Article 10

Lobbying participant shall be obliged to act honestly and fairly at every opportunity when communicating with other participants and the public, and should avoid any procedure or practice that would undoubtedly damage the reputation of any of the lobbying participants and public authorities.

Lobbyist, a legal entity engaged in lobbying or an unregistered lobbyist should maintain their reputation, the reputation of the lobbied person and the lobbying client, in accordance with ethical standards.

Lobbyist, a legal entity engaged in lobbying or an unregistered lobbyist should always contribute to the democratic process of passing laws, other regulations and general acts with their behavior in the lobbying process.

Lobbied person shall be obliged to refrain from any conduct that damages the reputation of the authorities and the reputation of the Republic of Serbia.

Article 11

Lobbyist, a legal entity engaged in lobbying or an unregistered lobbyist should only exert influence on the lobbied person by providing evidence, information and arguments to support the lobbyist's views regarding the purpose of lobbying.

Lobbyist, a legal entity engaged in lobbying or an unregistered lobbyist must not exercise any unauthorized or inappropriate influence on the lobbied person during the lobbying process.

Lobbyist, a legal entity engaged in lobbying or an unregistered lobbyist must neither offer nor give to the lobbied person, and the lobbied person must neither claim nor receive any material or other benefit during the lobbying process.

Lobbyist, a legal entity engaged in lobbying or an unregistered lobbyist should not expect preferential treatment based on a previous or existing relationship with a lobbied person, and lobbying participants should not abuse or exploit such relationships.

Lobbied person must not make promises about the outcome of lobbying, and a lobbyist, a legal entity engaged in lobbying or an unregistered lobbyist may not request information on the outcome of lobbying.

Article 12

There must be no financial material dependency between the lobbied person, on the one hand, and a lobbyist, a legal entity engaged in lobbying or an unregistered lobbyist, on the other.

All participants must refrain from soliciting donations (financial support, sponsorships, etc.) related to lobbying.

Compliance with the Code

Article 13

In cases not prescribed by the Code, lobbying participants are required to act in accordance with the provisions of the Code and to ensure the protection of the public interest.

Article 14

Violation of the provisions of the Code by a lobbyist and a legal entity engaged in lobbying related to the principle of integrity shall be the grounds for deletion from the

Register of lobbyists, the Register of legal entities engaged in lobbying and the Special records on foreign natural and legal persons engaged in lobbying in the territory of the Republic of Serbia.

Article 15

The Code shall enter into force eight days after its publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, and shall apply from August 14, 2019.

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DIRECTOR

Dragan Sikimić