

Statement by Denmark

- Denmark welcomes the conclusion of the Agreement establishing an Interinstitutional Body for Ethical Standards with the aim of contributing to promoting a common culture of ethics and transparency, specifically by developing common minimum standards for the conduct of members of institutions and advisory bodies and by creating a space for exchange of best practices on the matter.
- Denmark recalls that, according to Article 16(2) TEU, the Council consists of a representative of each Member State at ministerial level who may commit their government. There is no legal basis in the Treaties allowing the Council to establish a harmonized set of ethical standards for Member States' representatives in the Council. Therefore, Member State representatives cannot be subject to the ethical standards to be developed by the Interinstitutional Ethics Body.
- Denmark's representatives are subject to national rules, standards and practices on ethical behaviour, including when exercising their functions as both member and Presidency of the Council.
- Denmark firmly underlines that EU citizens must be able to trust that any person exercising a mandate in a Union institution or advisory body is bound by strong transparent rules securing high ethical standards of public office, regardless of their particular status.
- Denmark agrees to convey information on the common minimum standards when developed by the Body to its relevant national authorities for information purposes.
- In support of and commitment to a common EU culture of ethics, Denmark commits to making information publicly available on its national rules, standards and practices on ethical behaviour for the members of its government relevant for the exercise of their responsibilities as Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Once the Body's website is operational, Denmark's national rules will also be publicly available there during the Danish Presidency as well as in the period preceding and the following six months.

While waiting for the agreement to fully enter into force, the Danish Presidency wishes to respect and support the spirit of the agreement to the fullest by already providing transparency regarding the Danish ethical standards applicable to Danish government members – despite not yet being obliged to do so.