

Ethics in Modern Parliamentarism

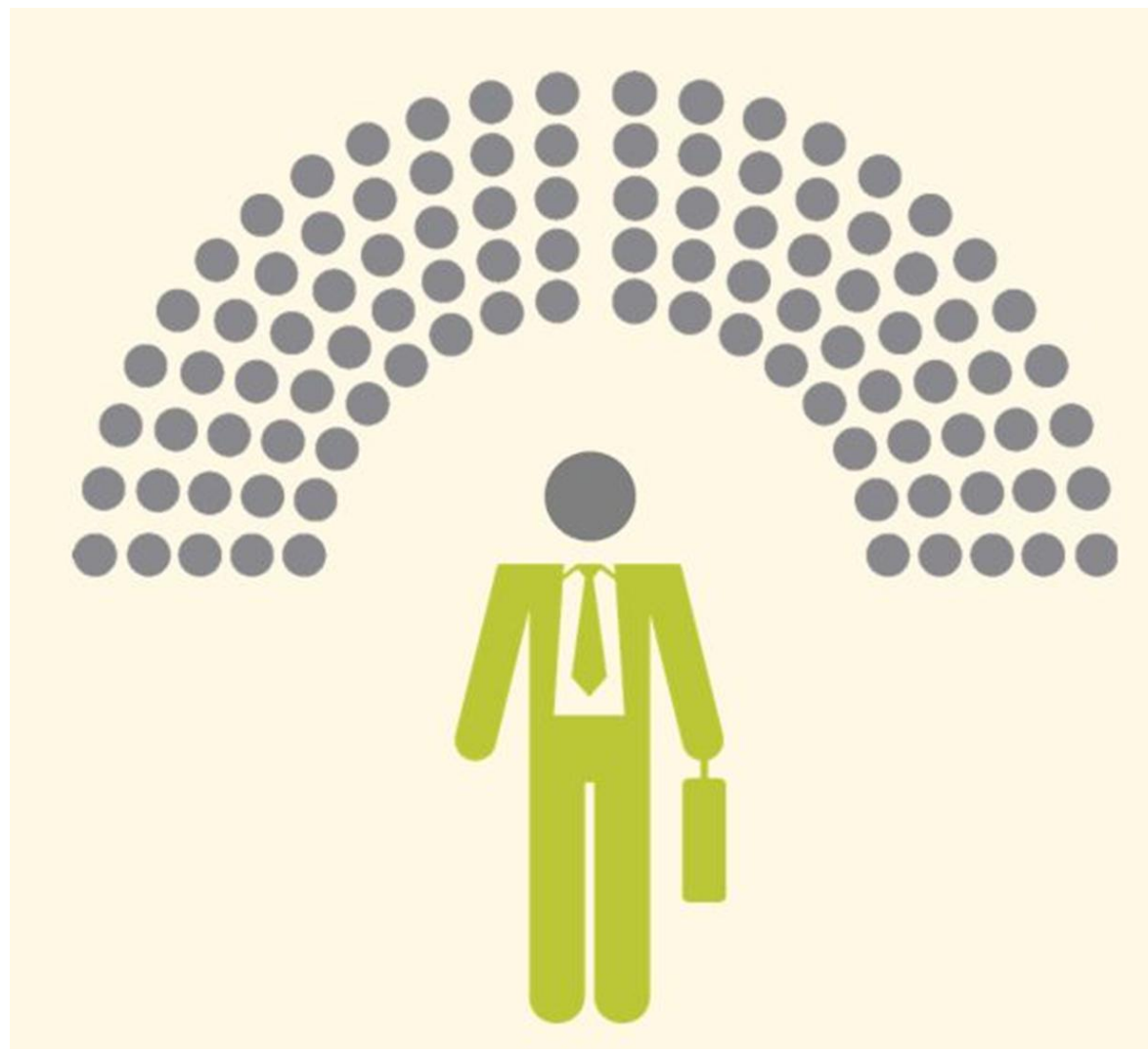
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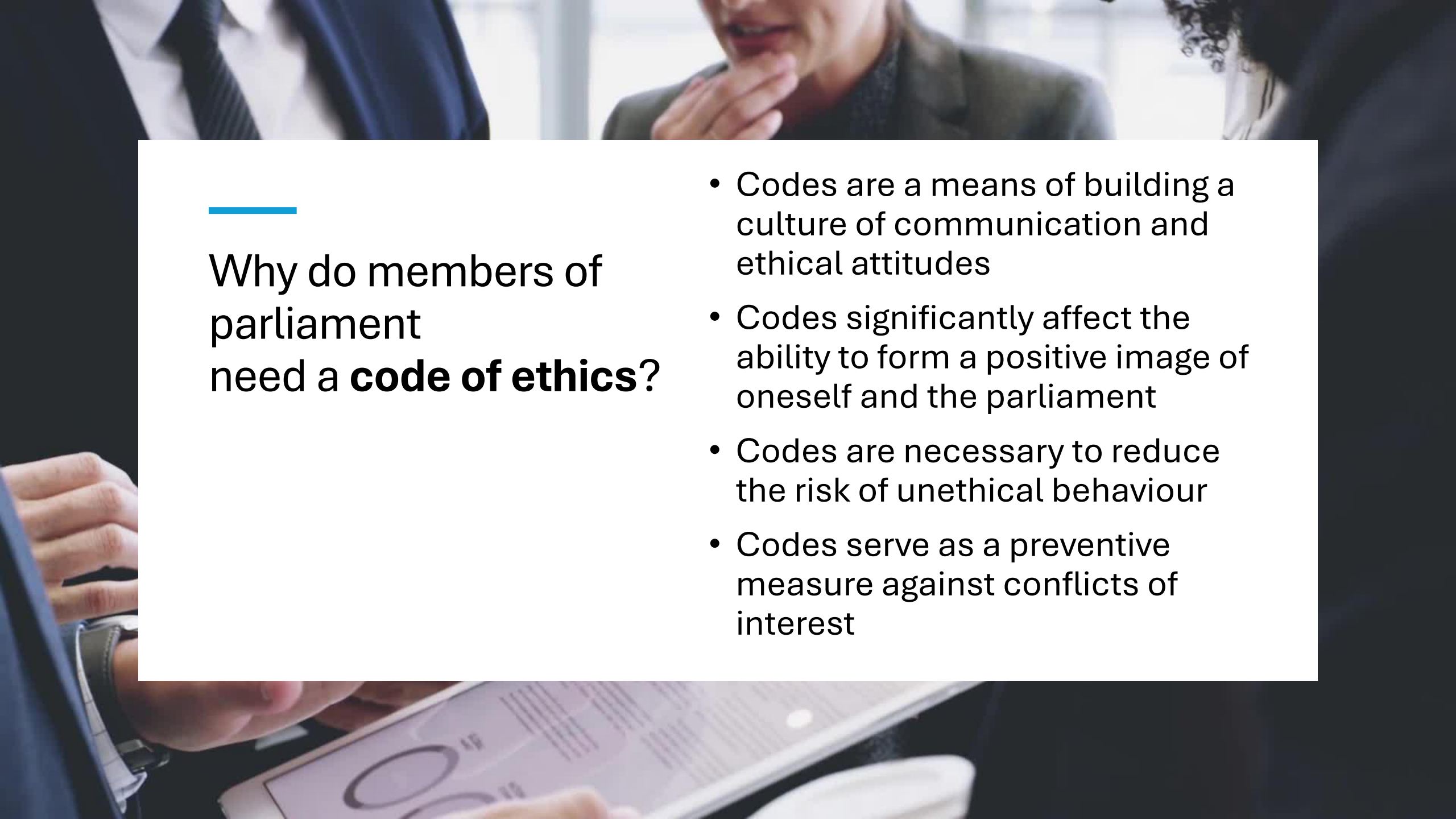
What does it mean to be a Member of the Saeima?

Understand and respond
to community needs

Special connection with
the public → trust →
***responsibility of the
Member of Parliament***

Stages of moral development according to L. Kohlberg

1.Pre-conventional	2. Conventional	3. Post-conventional
fear-based	habits of the environment	individual rational decision
focused on individual benefit	societal level	universal moral feelings



Why do members of parliament need a **code of ethics**?

- Codes are a means of building a culture of communication and ethical attitudes
- Codes significantly affect the ability to form a positive image of oneself and the parliament
- Codes are necessary to reduce the risk of unethical behaviour
- Codes serve as a preventive measure against conflicts of interest

Codes of ethics/good practices of the parliaments of the Baltic States

Good practice of members of the Estonian Riigikogu – basic principles of good practice

Code of Ethics for State Politicians of the Republic of Lithuania – a set of principles and rules for compliance

Code of Ethics for Members of the Latvian Saeima – a set of principles

Purpose of the Code/Good Practice

Estonia	Latvia	Lithuania
All members of the Riigikogu commit themselves to behaving in accordance with the Good Practice of Members of the Riigikogu.	To establish high standards of conduct and thus increase public trust in the Saeima.	Has the objective of implementing the constitutional principle that state institutions must serve the people, developing democratic management, increasing confidence of the society in state and municipal institutions, and promoting responsibility of state politicians and candidates for state politicians for their actions and accountability to the public.

Key principles

Estonia	Latvia	Lithuania
responsibility	integrity	respect for the individual and the state
honesty	dignity	justice, honesty
dignity	moral responsibility	transparency and openness
decency	decency	decency
		exemplary behaviour
		selflessness
		objectivity and responsibility

Behaviour in cases of potential conflicts of interest

Estonia	Latvia	Lithuania
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... 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.	A Member of Parliament shall not accept a private invitation and shall not participate in an event or avoid any situation if this may give rise to suspicions of a conflict of interest or a lowering of the prestige of the Saeima. A Member of Parliament does not allow a conflict of personal and state interests and avoids situations that may raise suspicions in society about the existence of such a conflict.	Avoid any apparent or real conflict of public and private interests, and, in the event of such conflict, undertake all the required measures to resolve them promptly and make them coincide with the public interests, and shall not use post or position seeking to influence the decision to be taken by another person, which might be beneficial for the politician or a person closely related to him/her.

Law "On Prevention of Conflict of Interest in the Activities of Public Officials"

Section 22. Behavioural (Ethical) Rules of Public Officials

- (1) Public officials shall act in conformity with the behavioural (ethical) codes approved in the relevant profession, field or sector.
- (2) A public official shall refuse the performance of the duties of office or the combining the office of the public official in all cases where due to ethical reasons the impartiality and neutrality of *his or her actions might be doubted*.

Sanctions

Rules of Procedure of the Saeima, Section 179(7)

(7) After establishing a violation of the Code of Ethics of a member of the Saeima, the Mandate, Ethics, and Submissions Committee shall take one of the following motivated decisions:

- 1) to give an oral warning to the member of the Saeima which is noted in the minutes of the Committee;
- 2) to give a written warning to the member of the Saeima;
- 3) to give a written warning to the member of the Saeima, notify this at a sitting of the Saeima and publish the decision of the Committee in the official gazette *Latvijas Vēstnesis*;
- 4) to propose that the Saeima does not allow the member of the Saeima to take floor at a sitting of the Saeima and draw up a relevant draft decision of the Saeima;
- 5) to propose that the Saeima excludes the member of the Saeima from one to six sittings of the Saeima and draw up a relevant draft decision of the Saeima.



Issues

- Attitude towards lobbyists
 - Prevention of conflict of interest
 - Attitude towards populism
 - Istanbul Convention
 - Reputational issues
 - The problem of sanctions
 - Consulting on ethical issues
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Thank you for attention!