

**Professor Danuta Hübner**

**“A new era of ethics”**

**Amendments to Parliament’s Rules of Procedure with a view to strengthening  
integrity, independence and accountability**

**Plenary Session of the European Parliament**

**Strasbourg, 11 September 2023**

Madam President, let me start by strongly agreeing with President Roberta Metsola that the transparency of our actions as the institution and the individual Members is crucial to regain citizens’ trust. We are about to vote on the outcome of the work in AFCO regarding changes to the rules of procedure and, again, I share the views of our President, who said that she wanted to go further, but the new rules will also serve as a deterrent.

And as a member of the Advisory Committee, I would like to support the proposal of AFCO regarding more detailed rules on some aspects of the work of the Advisory Committee. The committee has always believed in the importance of preventing rather than punishing. We were convinced about the need to revise the Code of Conduct for Members to increase the clarity of the rules and precision of the contents on the ethics and transparency obligations impending upon Members. We were also in favour of changing the title of the code to go beyond the focus on financial interests.

And, to conclude, let me also inform you that the Advisory Committee has always had, since 2010, the right to invite outside experts with independent advice when assessing cases of alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct while keeping full confidentiality. And this, I believe, is important.