

The European Solar Thermal Electricity Association (ESTELA) is a non-profit industry association representing members from Europe and Mediterranean regions to promote solar thermal electricity. ESTELA has been working closely with the European institutions since its establishment in 2007. Thus, ESTELA follows strictly the rules on Code of Conduct as laid down in Annex 3 of the 2014 Interinstitutional Agreement¹ on the Transparency Register set out for companies, organisations and individuals who are in relations with the EU Institutions.

In our relations with EU institutions and Member States, ESTELA shall:

- a. always identify ourselves by the entity or entities we work for or represent; declare the interests, objectives or aims we promote and, where applicable, specify the members whom we represent;
- b. not obtain or try to obtain information or decisions dishonestly or by use of undue pressure or inappropriate behaviour;
- c. not claim any formal relationship with the European Union or any of its institutions in our dealings with third parties, or misrepresent the effect of registration in such a way as to mislead third parties or officials or other staff of the European Union, or use the logos of EU institutions without express authorisation;
- d. not sell to third parties copies of documents obtained from EU institutions;
- e. in general, respect, and avoid any obstruction to the implementation and application of, all rules, codes and good governance practices established by EU institutions;
- f. not induce Members of the institutions of the European Union, officials or other staff of the European Union, or assistants or trainees of those Members, to contravene the rules and standards of behaviour applicable to them;
- g. if employing former officials or other staff of the European Union, or assistants or trainees of Members of EU institutions, respect the obligation of such employees to abide by the rules and confidentiality requirements which apply to them;
- h. obtain the prior consent of the Member or Members of the European Parliament concerned as regards any contractual relationship with, or employment of, any individual within a Member's designated entourage;
- i. observe any rules laid down on the rights and responsibilities of former Members of the European Parliament and the European Commission;
- j. inform whomever we represent of our obligations towards the EU institutions.

¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L .2014.277.01.0011.01.ENG>

Apart from these, ESTELA agrees to strengthen efforts to counter bribery and corruption on the basis of a zero-tolerance policy towards bribery. This code of conduct refers to the PACI principles as laid down in the World Economic forum agreement 'Partnering against Corruption – Principles for countering Bribery'. All members of ESTELA adhere to these principles.

This adherence is expressed by signing this document on behalf of the respective member company.

- a. Each member will respect the Code of Conduct and abide to them whenever doing business. Each member will either implement anti-bribery and anti-corruption practices corresponding to these Principles or use them to benchmark and improve existing programs. Each member is however free to apply stricter principles for its own organization.
- b. Any information shared within the activities of the association which has not been clearly marked or was not clearly declared by the issuer for public divulgement, cannot to be shared with third parties or to the public domain without prior approval of the owner of such information.
- c. If a member obtains knowledge about an actual or potential infringement of the Principles by another member (which shall include any of its employees), it will take appropriate steps such as communicating this knowledge to the other member to give it the opportunity to deal with such (alleged) infringement.
- d. The members will meet at least once a year and review the experience with the Principles and consider any changes which occurred in the meantime or which are desirable. The cooperation of the members and any possible exchange of information between the members in connection with this agreement is limited to the scope of this Code.
- e. In the event that a member asserts that a material breach has occurred it may request the expulsion of the member which breached the Code (the 'Defaulting Party'). If the occurrence of a material breach is contested by the affected member, either member may at any time submit the dispute to the Executive Committee (ExCom). The ExCom then decides if a material breach has occurred and if the member will be expelled.
- f. The Expulsion of the Defaulting member shall continue unless the Defaulting member can prove that it has remedied the failures in its internal procedures and ensures that further transgressions will not occur.
- g. The right to expel the Defaulting Party shall be the sole and exclusive remedy for the other members regarding the material breach of the code.
- h. All disputes in connection with this initiative, which cannot be settled between the members, shall be submitted to the ExCom. The ruling of the ExCom shall be final and binding upon the members.
- i. This initiative shall be governed by the substantive laws of Belgium.

Brussels, 22 Jan 2018