



The World Bank
INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATION
INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT U.S.A.
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

2121 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W. Phone: (202) 458-2919
Washington, D.C. 20433 Fax: (202) 473 5758
E-mail: EGasolramos@ifc.org

Survey on Transparency in Belarus

Definitions of common terms used in this questionnaire:

- *MPs*: members of the lower house/chamber of the national/federal parliament.
- *Financial disclosure laws*: laws that require MPs to disclose their assets and liabilities.
- *Business activities' disclosure laws*: laws that require MPs to disclose secondary employment and business activities in the private sector, such as membership in a company's board of directors, or being an officer or advisor in a company.
- *Family members' individual interests*: Business activities and assets and liabilities owned separately by the MP's family, such as non-marital assets. We only consider assets and interests owned independently by an MP's family member, assets jointly owned are not considered.
- *Post-tenure agreements*: employment agreements and/or business transactions that an MP enters into after completing his parliamentary term, such as an agreement to work for a certain company after completing their parliamentary term.

**[Belarus]****Lower House of Parliament – [House of Representatives - Палата представителей]****PART 1: DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS**

If your country requires Members of Parliament (MPs) in the lower house to disclose their financial and/or business interests, please use the blank disclosure form to supplement the law when completing this section.

Disclosure requirement and frequency	TA 2009	Your answer
1. Are MPs required to disclose during their mandate their:		
Financial assets and liabilities?	Yes	[]
Business activities (secondary employment, positions in private firms)?	Yes	[]
2. When are MPs required to submit a disclosure form?		
Upon taking and leaving office	No	[]
Upon taking office	Yes	[]
Annually	Yes	[]
Once every X years (please specify how often)	No	[]
3. Are MPs required to disclose <u>changes</u> in financial assets or business activities prior to disclosure deadline (e.g., within 4 weeks of any change)?	No	[]
<p>Applicable law(s) and comments:</p> <p>1. Law on the Civil Service, 2003, Art. 23 (3) (as of 2006 amendment). It is the main law. The MPs have the status of civil servants (Art. 7). The 2006 amendment introduced annual declarations (before - only upon taking office, Art. 23, old version). The amendment took place as part of enhanced anti-corruption efforts in the country (ratification of the UN Convention against corruption, adoption of a new Anti-Corruption Law). The amendment entered into force as of 25 November 2006 and was for the first time implemented for submission of 2006 calendar year declarations on March 1, 2007.</p> <p>2. Law on the Declaration of Income, Assets and Sources of Income, 2003 Art. 6¹ (2006). It is a tax law. It has implementing acts (Council of Ministers Decisions No. 641 and 951). It establishes the procedure of submission of declarations, which is special for the civil servants, including MPs. The MPs use the same form as ordinary citizens. However, while the ordinary citizens do not submit it unless their income is beyond certain level, the MPs submit mandatory annual declaration. While the ordinary citizens submit the form to the tax authorities, the MPs submit it to the Human Resources Department of the Parliament.</p> <p>3. Anti-Corruption Law (Act No. 163-5 of 20 July 2006 « On Fighting Corruption»), Art. 19, paragraph 1. This law provided ground for 2006 amendment to the Laws on the Civil Service and on the Declaration of Income, Assets and Sources of Income, i.e. to the introduction of annual declarations.</p> <p>4. Law on the Status of MPs, 1998, Art. 7.</p>		
The law(s) identified above is (are) the applicable one(s):		[]
If NO, please cite the applicable law(s): []		
Your Comments:		
[]		

**1.1. DISCLOSURE OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES**

Report of Assets and Liabilities	TA2009	Your answer
4. Are MPs required to disclose the following assets and liabilities:		
Personal residence	Yes	[]
<i>Details: Disclosure of exact location vs. monetary value</i>		
○ Value <i>and</i> exact location of the property	Yes	[]
○ Exact location	No	[]
○ Total value without the exact location	No	[]
○ Not specified	No	[]
Non-financial, non-movable assets (e.g., other real estate)	Yes	[]
<i>Details: Disclosure of exact location vs. monetary value</i>		
○ Value <i>and</i> exact location of the property	Yes	[]
○ Exact location	No	[]
○ Total value without the exact location	No	[]
○ Not specified	No	[]
Non-financial, movable assets (e.g., jewelry, vehicles)		[]
<i>Details: Disclosure of description vs. monetary value</i>	Yes	
○ Value <i>and</i> description of the asset	Yes	[]
○ Description of the asset	No	[]
○ Total value without descriptions	No	[]
○ Not specified	No	[]
Stock holdings and other securities	Yes	[]
<i>Details: Disclosure of name vs. monetary value</i>		
○ Value of stock <i>and</i> name of company in which they hold stocks	Yes	[]
○ Name of company in which they hold stock	No	[]
○ Total value of stock, without the name of the company	No	[]
○ Not specified	No	[]
<i>Details: Disclosure of all vs. certain types of stocks</i>		
○ All stock ownership	Yes	[]
○ Stock ownership in certain types of companies (e.g., in specific industries, in companies where the state is a partial owner)	No	[]
○ Stock above a certain threshold	No	[]
▪ Please specify the threshold	N/A	[]
Interest-bearing financial investments (e.g., bonds, savings accounts)	Yes	[]
○ Value of investment <i>and</i> name of company in which investment is held	Yes	[]
○ Name of company in which investment is held	No	[]
○ Total value of investment, without the name of the company	No	[]
○ Not specified	No	[]
Liabilities (e.g., loans, credits, mortgages)	Yes	[]
○ Name of lender <i>and</i> value of liability	Yes	[]
○ Name of lender only	No	[]
○ Total value of liability, without the name of the lender	No	[]
○ Not specified	No	[]
Applicable law(s) and comments:		
Income and Property Disclosure Form (current version - approved by the Council of Ministers)		



decision No. 952 of July 29, 2006, as amended by Council of Ministers decision No. 1782 of December 19, 2007).

Note: the first form was approved by the CoM decision No. 641 of 2003, adopted in implementation of the Law on the Declaration of Income, Assets and Sources of Income, 2003. Its applicability to the MPs was stated in paragraph 1 of the Council of Ministers Decision No. 952 of 29 July 2006 (which is an amendment to the Decision No. 641). CoM decision No. 1782 amended the form and placed it as an annex to the decision No. 952.

This form is standard for ordinary citizens as well as the civil servants.

In Belarus, ordinary citizens submit the declaration form only if their income is above certain threshold. The civil servants have to submit it annually regardless of their income.

In 2003, the obligation was introduced for the civil servants to submit it upon taking office. Since 2006, they have to submit the same form annually. (Cf Law on the Civil Service, Art. 23, new and old versions).

Note also that the Council of Ministers Decision No. 641 had actually established two forms: Income and Property Declaration Form (1) and Sources of Income Declaration Form (2). The former applies to the MPs while the latter is a form that needs to be submitted to the tax authorities by citizens making transactions above certain value, in order to justify the resources involved in the transaction. It is not relevant for the purposes of this study.

The law(s) identified above is (are) the applicable one(s):

[]

If NO, please cite the applicable law(s): []

Your Comments:

[]

1.2. DISCLOSURE OF BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

In the questions below, please answer “yes” only if there is an *explicit* requirement to disclose specific items.

Report of income, secondary employment, and business activities	TA 2009	Your answer
5. Are MPs required to disclose the <u>value</u> of their current income?	Yes	[]
6. Are MPs required to disclose <u>all</u> sources of income?	Yes	[]
○ Only some categories of income (i.e. paid secondary employment)	No	
7. Are MPs required to disclose <u>unpaid</u> secondary employment?	No	[]
8. Are MPs required to disclose if they hold the following positions in publicly traded or privately owned companies:		
Membership in boards of directors ?	No	[]
○ All types of board membership	No	[]
○ In certain types of companies (e.g., in specific industries)	No	[]
○ Only if the position is paid	No	[]
Positions as officers (e.g., CEO, CFO)?	No	[]
○ All types of companies	No	[]
○ In certain types of companies (e.g., in specific industries)	No	[]
○ Only if the position is paid	No	[]
Positions as advisors (e.g., financial, legal, auditor)?	No	[]
○ All types of advisory work	No	[]



<input type="radio"/> In certain types of companies (e.g., in specific industries)	No	[]
<input type="radio"/> Only if the position is paid	No	[]
Applicable law(s) and comments: 1. Anti-Corruption Law (Act No. 163-5 of 20 July 2006 « On Fighting Corruption”), Art. 17. 2. Law on the Status of MPs, 1998, Art. 6. 3. Income and Property Disclosure Form (approved by the CoM decision No. 952, as amended by CoM decision No. 1782). ¹ The MPs are prohibited from outside paid employment except for teaching, scientific and creative activities. In practice, an MP can continue to practice medicine, be an artist, many teach at Universities on hourly or part-time contracts. The authorized activities and income received from them have to be declared.		
The law(s) identified above is (are) the applicable one(s):		[]
<i>If NO, please cite the applicable law(s): []</i>		
Your Comments: []		

1.3. EXPENSES DISCLOSURE

Report on Expenses Disclosure	TA 2009	Your answer
8i. Are MPs required to disclose any kind of expenses?	No	[]
Applicable law(s) and comments: The regulations are silent on this matter.		
The law(s) identified above is (are) the applicable one(s):		[]
<i>If NO, please cite the applicable law(s): []</i>		
Contributor's Comments: []		

1.4. FAMILY MEMBERS' DISCLOSURE

Report of family members' interests	TA 2009	Your answer
9. Are MPs required to disclose their family members' <u>independently owned</u> interests (as opposed to joint assets or interests)?	Yes	[]
10. Which family members are covered by the disclosure requirement?		
<input type="radio"/> Spouse	Yes	[]
<input type="radio"/> Dependent children	Yes	[]
<input type="radio"/> Other, please specify	Yes	[]
11. Are family members required to complete the same disclosure form as MPs?	Yes	[]
Applicable law(s) and comments: 1. Law on the Civil Service, Art. 23(3).		



2. Law on Declaration of Income, Assets and Sources of Income, Art. 6 ¹ . 3. Anti-Corruption Law (Act No. 163-5 of 20 July 2006 “On Fighting Corruption”), Art. 19, paragraph 1. 4. Income and Property Disclosure Form (approved by the CoM decision No. 952, as amended by CoM decision No. 1782) The criterion for family members is “joint household”: spouse and other close relatives who reside together and share the same household have to be in the MP’s declaration.	
The law(s) identified above is (are) the applicable one(s):	[]
If NO, please cite the applicable law(s): []	
Your Comments: []	

What did you use to complete the sections above?	TA 2009	Your answer
Blank disclosure form	Yes	[]
Laws	Yes	[]
Applicable law(s) and comments: 1. Constitution the Republic of Belarus of 1994. 2. Anti-Corruption Law (Act No. 163-5 of 20 July 2006 “On Fighting Corruption”). 3. Law on the Status of MPs, 1997. 4. Law on the Civil Service, 2003. 5. Law on Declaration of Income, Assets and Sources of Income, 2003. 6. Income and Property Disclosure Form (approved by the CoM decision No. 952, as amended by CoM decision No. 1782)		
Comments: []		

1.5. PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF MPS’ DISCLOSURE FORMS

Public Availability of MPs’ Disclosure Forms	TA 2009	Your answer
12. By law, are filled out disclosure forms accessible by the public?	No	[]
13. In practice, does the public have access to the filled out disclosure forms?	No	[]
At a registrar where the public can request forms in person	No	[]
On the internet	No	[]
○ Please specify the address	N/A	[]
Disclosures can be obtained from other sources	No	[]
○ Please specify the source	N/A	[]
14. Are filled out disclosure forms only available to the public under certain conditions?	No	[]
With the express consent of the MP	No	[]



Other	No	[]
○ Please specify	N/A	[]
15. Does the <u>law</u> specify that only a summary of the disclosure is accessible by the public?	No	[]
16. <u>In practice</u>, does the public have access to the entire disclosure, as opposed to a summary?	No	[]
<p>Applicable law(s) and comments:</p> <p>1. Anti-Corruption Law (Act No. 163-5 of 20 July 2006 “On Fighting Corruption”), Art. 19 (paragraph 3).</p> <p>2. Council of Ministers Decision No. 952 of 29 July 2006 (which is an amendment to the Decision No. 641 that had established the form) – Rules on verification and storage of income and property declarations, Art. 10.</p> <p>The content of the forms constitutes professional secret and is kept confidential. However, the forms submitted to the Election Committee before the elections may be published under the Elections Law, if so decided by the Election Committee. For the purposes of the study, we do not consider such cases.</p>		
The law(s) identified above is (are) the applicable one(s):	[]	
<i>If NO, please cite the applicable law(s): []</i>		
Your Comments:		
[]		

PART 2: RESTRICTIONS ON DOING BUSINESS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR

In some countries, disclosure of business interests is not required, but there are restrictions on doing business in the private sector. Such provisions may be found in the constitution, election laws, standing orders of the parliament, anticorruption laws, conflict of interest or incompatibility laws, and ethics laws among others. Please consider all of the above sources of law to answer the questions.

Restrictions on business activities	TA 2009	Your answer
17. During tenure, are MPs prohibited from all <u>paid</u> employment?	Yes ¹	[]
18. During tenure, are MPs prohibited from the following activities in the private sector:		
Owning stock of private companies?	Yes	[]
○ Do MPs have to place their stockholding into a trust fund for the duration of their term in office	Yes ¹	[]
○ Are MPs restricted from owning certain types of stocks (e.g., in certain industries)	No	[]
○ Are MPs restricted from owning stocks above a certain threshold	No	[]
▪ Please specify threshold	No	[]
Being members of boards of directors in publicly traded or privately-owned companies?	Yes	[]
○ In <i>all</i> types of publicly traded or privately owned company	Yes	[]
○ In certain types of companies (e.g., in specific industries)	No	[]
○ Are there restrictions on being a member of boards of directors only if the position is paid	No	[]



Being officers (CEO, CFO) in publicly traded or privately owned companies?	Yes	[]
○ In <i>all</i> types of publicly traded or privately owned company	Yes	[]
○ In certain types of companies (e.g., in specific industries)	No	[]
○ Are there restrictions on being an officer only if the position is paid	No	[]
Being an advisor to publicly traded or privately owned companies (e.g., financial, legal, auditor)?	No	[]
○ In <i>all</i> types of publicly traded or privately owned company	No	[]
○ In certain types of companies (e.g., in specific industries)	No	[]
○ Are there restrictions on being an advisor only if the position is paid	No	[]
19. Are there other restrictions on activities in the private sector?	No	[]
20. Can restrictions on business activities in the private sector be lifted by a third party, such as the Speaker of the Parliament or the Comptroller?	No	[]
<p>Applicable law(s) and comments:</p> <p>1. Anti-Corruption Law (Act No. 163-5 of 20 July 2006 “On Fighting Corruption”, Art. 17. The MPs are prohibited from outside paid employment except for teaching, scientific and creative activities (Art. 17, paragraph 1). These include medicine, art, teaching at Universities on hourly or part-time contracts.</p> <p>2. Law on the Status of MPs, Art. 6 and 8(4). According to Art. 8, an MP’s refusal to leave his previous activities within 3 months after taking the office is a ground for his dismissal. HR Department of the Parliament informed us that there have been no cases of non-compliance.</p> <p>¹The stocks have to be entrusted to the Belarus Bank for the term of office (Art. 17, paragraph 3).</p>		
The law(s) identified above is (are) the applicable one(s):		[]
<i>If NO, please cite the applicable law(s):</i> []		
Your Comments:		
[]		

PART 3: DOING BUSINESS WITH THE GOVERNMENT

Provisions regulating doing business with the government may be found in the constitution, standing orders of the parliament, or public procurement laws. Please consider all these laws when answering this section.

Doing business with the government	TA 2009	Your answer
21. Are MPs required to disclose doing business with the government?		
Are MPs required to disclose signing contracts with the government (e.g., through participation in privatizations, state- led auctions, contract provisions)?	No	[]
○ Contracts in which they participate <u>directly</u> by themselves	No	
○ <u>indirectly</u> through third parties related to them or where they are involved	No	
○ With <u>all</u> government agencies	No	[]



○ Only with <u>certain</u> agencies (e.g., only if the contract is with parliament) or under certain conditions	No	[]
22. Are MPs prohibited from doing business with the government?		
Are MPs restricted from signing contracts with the government (e.g., through participation in privatizations, state-led auctions or where an MP provides services or goods to the government directly or via third parties)?	Yes	[]
○ With <i>all</i> government agencies	Yes	[]
○ Only with certain agencies (e.g., if the contract is with parliament) or under certain conditions	No	[]
23. Can restrictions on business relations with the government be lifted by a third party, such as the Speaker of the Parliament or the Comptroller?	No	[]
Applicable law(s) and comments: 1. Anti-Corruption Law (Act No. 163-5 of 20 July 2006 « On Fighting Corruption»), Art. 17, paragraph 1. 2. Law on the Status of MPs, Art. 6 and 8 (4).		
Your Comments / Any missing laws?: []		

PART 4: OTHER RESTRICTIONS AND DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS

Restrictions on holding two public offices	TA 2009	Your answer
24. Do MPs face restrictions on holding another public office during tenure (e.g., being a mayor or a judge at the same time as being an MP)?	Yes	[]
Applicable law(s) and comments: 1. Constitution of the Republic of Belarus of 1994, Art. 92 (paragraph 4). 2. Law on the Status of the MPs, Art. 1 (paragraph 5). A Member of the House cannot simultaneously be member of a local Council of deputies, President or judge. He (she) CAN BE member of the Government.		
The law(s) identified above is (are) the applicable one(s):		[]
<i>If NO, please cite the applicable law(s):</i> []		
Your Comments: []		
Voting Rules	TA 2009	Your answer
25. Disclosure on voting – Do MPs have to disclose the existence of a personal interest before voting in Parliament?	No	[]
○ Upon disclosing the existence of a personal interest, are MPs allowed to vote?	N/A	[]
26. Restrictions on voting – Does the law prohibit the MP from voting in Parliament on matters in which he has a personal interest, without <i>explicitly</i> requiring the MP to disclose that interest?	No	[]
Applicable law(s) and comments: Standing Orders of the Belarus Parliament 2005, chapter 10“Voting rules and decision making” does not contain any provisions on disclosure or restrictions in voting.		



Anti-Corruption Law and the Law on Civil Service do not have such provisions either.		
The law(s) identified above is (are) the applicable one(s):		[]
<i>If NO, please cite the applicable law(s): []</i>		
Your Comments: []		
Post-tenure Rules	TA 2009	Your answer
27. Disclosure of post-tenure agreements – Are MPs required to disclose post-tenure agreements (e.g., employment agreements and/or business transactions that they will enter after completing their parliamentary term)?	No	[]
28. Restrictions on post-tenure agreements – Are MPs restricted from working in certain positions for a given period of time following the end of their term in office?	No	[]
Applicable law(s) and comments: We were unable to find relevant provisions in the Constitution, Law on the Status of the MPs, the Standing Orders of the Parliament and the Anti-Corruption Law.		
The law(s) identified above is (are) the applicable one(s):		[]
<i>If NO, please cite the applicable law(s): []</i>		
Your Comments: []		
Rules on Gifts	TA 2009	Your answer
29. Disclosure on receiving gifts		
○ Are MPs required to disclose gifts they receive?	Yes	[]
○ Is this disclosure public?	No	[]
○ Are MPs required to disclose gifts above a certain value?	Yes	[]
▪ Please specify the value in local currency	5 basis amounts ¹	[]
30. Restrictions on receiving gifts		
○ Are MPs restricted from receiving gifts?	Yes	[]
○ Do MPs have to pay for gifts in order to keep them?	No	[]
○ Can MPs only receive gifts up to a certain value?	Yes	[]
▪ Please specify the value in local currency	5 basis amounts ¹	[]
Applicable law(s) and comments: 1. Anti-Corruption Law, Art. 21 (paragraph 1, sub-paragraphs 6 and 7). 2. Council of Ministers Decision No. 1271 of 7 October 2003 “On approval of the Rules of procedure and conditions of contracts with civil servants”. It is prohibited to receive gifts except souvenirs during official and protocol events. The gifts received in such circumstances are handed over to the Government if their value exceeds 5 basis amounts. It is also prohibited to accept invitation to tourist, recreation or other type of travel except from family, etc. ¹ 1 basis amount is 31000 Bielorussian rubles, 1 USD is 2145 Bielorussian rubles (true as of 8 Nov 2007).		



The law(s) identified above is (are) the applicable one(s):		[]
<i>If NO, please cite the applicable law(s): []</i>		
Your Comments: []		
Rules on Travel	TA2009	Your answer
31. Are MPs required to disclose their sponsored travel?	No	[]
<i>Details: Disclosure of identity of sponsor vs. monetary value</i>		
○ Value and identity of the sponsor	No	[]
○ Identity of the sponsor	No	[]
○ Total value without identity of the sponsor	No	[]
○ Not specified	No	[]
32. Is this disclosure publicly available?	No	[]
Applicable law(s) and comments: Please note this section was only filled according to the Blank Disclosure Form.		
Your Comments / Any missing laws?: []		

PART 5: DISCLOSURE REGISTRAR

This section requests information about the government agency which maintains the completed financial and business interest disclosure forms. The registrar may also check the completeness of the disclosure forms. The registrar may also publish the data on how many MPs complied/failed to comply with their obligation to disclose ("compliance data"). Note that the public availability of compliance data is different from the public availability of the actual disclosures, which is addressed in another section. This section inquires about the profile and activities of the registrar.

Existence and profile of registrar	TA 2009	Your answer
31i. Is there an agency in charge of maintaining the completed disclosure forms for MPs?	Yes	[]
Does the registrar check the forms for completion?	Yes	[]
What forms does the registrar keep?		
○ Financial assets and liabilities	Yes	[]
○ Business activities (secondary employment, positions in private firms)	Yes	[]
32i. In addition to maintaining disclosures of MPs, does the registrar maintain the disclosure forms of:		
Ministers?	No	[]
Judges?	No	[]
Civil servants?	No	[]
33. Profile of registrar		
	DB 2008	Your answer
Name	Human Resources Department of the House of Representatives	[]



Contact information	Minsk, Sovetskaya St., 11 (г. Минск, ул. Советская, дом 11) Tel: (+375) 17 222-36-20	[]
Website	http://www.house.gov.by/	[]
Applicable law(s) and comments: Council of Ministers Decision No. 952 of 29 July 2006 (which is an amendment to the Decision No. 641 that had established the form) – Rules on verification and storage of income and property declarations. The declarations are collected and kept by the Human Resources Department of the Parliament (and by HR departments of each governmental agency for other civil servants).		
The law(s) identified above is (are) the applicable one(s):		[]
If NO, please cite the applicable law(s): []		
Your Comments: []		

Activities of the registrar	TA 2009	Your answer
34. By law, does the registrar have to publish data on whether MPs complied/failed to comply with their obligation to disclose?	No	[]
Applicable law(s) and comments:		
Your Comments: []		
35. In practice, are compliance data available?	No	[]
What types of compliance data are available?		
○ General statistics (compliance rates or percentages)	No	[]
○ Publication of names of MPs who complied/did not comply	No	[]
With what frequency are compliance data reports published?		
○ On a regular basis (please specify how often)	No	[]
○ Other (please specify)	No	[]
What is the source of compliance data?		
○ Government website (please specify)	No	[]
○ Other (please specify)	No	[]
36. Are there penalties for failure to submit completed disclosure forms?	Yes	[]
○ Please specify what kind of penalties	Yes ¹	[]
Applicable law(s) and comments: ¹ There are severe sanctions for failure to submit disclosure forms (up to dismissal from office): 1. Anti-Corruption Law (Act No. 163-5 of 20 July 2006 « On Fighting Corruption»), Art. 19, paragraph 2; 2. Law on the Civil Service, Art. 33 (1.9). The HR Department in the Parliament Secretariat confirmed to us that there are no publicly available		



compliance data. They said that all MPs duly submit their forms and there are no cases of non-compliance because of these severe sanctions.	
The law(s) identified above is (are) the applicable one(s):	[]
<i>If NO, please cite the applicable law(s):</i> []	
Your Comments: []	

PART 6: DATA INTEGRITY BODY

This section asks you to provide information about whether the content of the filled out disclosure forms is routinely verified.

Existence and functions of a data integrity body/agency	TA 2009	Your answer
37. Is there a body/agency that is mandated by law to <u>routinely</u> check the content of the disclosure forms?	Yes	[]
Does the body/agency check the content of the forms:		
○ of all MPs?	Yes	[]
○ of a random sample of MPs?	No	[]
○ each submission period to verify that all information is accurate (e.g., by verifying the content against other records such as tax records, bank statements)?	No	[]
○ by comparing the content of the forms upon taking and leaving office to discover irregular increases?	Yes	[]
○ to ensure that MPs activities are not incompatible with their mandate?	Yes	[]
38. Does the body/agency check the content of the forms if there is a complaint?	No ¹	[]
<p>Applicable law(s) and comments:</p> <p>Council of Ministers Decision No. 952 of 29 July 2006 (which is an amendment to the Decision No. 641 that had established the form) – Rules on verification and storage of income and property declarations.</p> <p>See also Art. 23(4) of the Law on Declaration of Income, Assets and Sources of Income which says that “together with the declaration, the declarant MAY submit written comments to the data”. The Human Resources department of the Parliament is mandated to check the forms against the annex with salary and income certificates, if there is one. The standard situation is that an MP’s sole income is salary from the Parliament. In such case, no further verification is undertaken. In cases of other activities, valuable transactions, or in cases of doubt, “the Head or deputy head of the agency”(the Speaker) can decide on verifying the content, including requesting the relevant certificates, if no annex is attached, and initiating verification against tax records.</p> <p>¹We were told by the HR department that it never happened to them to receive a complaint from the public. They said that they would investigate a complaint if received, although by law they are not obliged to do so.</p>		
The law(s) identified above is (are) the applicable one(s):	[]	
<i>If NO, please cite the applicable law(s):</i> []		



Your Comments: []		
39. Details about the data integrity body		
	DB 2008	Your answer
Name	Human Resources Department of the House of Representatives	[]
Contact information	Minsk, Sovetskaya St., 11 (г. Минск, ул. Советская, дом 11) Tel: (+375) 17 222-36-20	[]
Website	http://www.house.gov.by/	[]
40. What forms does the body check?		
Financial assets and liabilities forms	Yes	[]
Business activities forms (secondary employment, positions in private firms)	Yes	[]
41. Does the agency check the disclosure forms of other government officials:		
Ministers?	No	[]
Judges?	No	[]
Civil servants?	Yes ¹	[]
Applicable law(s) and comments: The Human Resources Department of the House of Representatives checks the forms by the MPs and by Secretariat staff (who have the status of civil servants).		
The law(s) identified above is (are) the applicable one(s):		[]
<i>If NO, please cite the applicable law(s):</i> []		
Your Comments: []		

Activities of the data integrity body/agency	TA 2009	Your answer
42. By law, is the body required to publish the results of checking the content of the forms?	No	[]
Applicable law(s) and comments:		
The law(s) identified above is (are) the applicable one(s):		[]
<i>If NO, please cite the applicable law(s):</i> []		
Your Comments: []		
43. In practice, are results of the integrity body's activities in relation to checking the content of disclosure forms available?	No ¹	[]
○ General statistics are published (e.g., the content of 10% the disclosure forms was checked)	No	[]
○ Other (please specify)	No	[]
How often are content checking results published?		
○ On a regular basis (please specify how often)	No	[]



○ Other (please specify)	No	[]
Where are content checking results published?		
○ Government website (please specify)	No	[]
○ Other (please specify)	No	[]
44. Are there penalties for submitting false information in the disclosures?	Yes	[]
○ Please specify what kind of penalties	Same as for failure to submit ¹	[]
Applicable law(s) and comments: There are severe sanctions for failure to submit disclosure forms (up to dismissal from office): 1. Anti-Corruption Law (Act No. 163-5 of 20 July 2006 « On Fighting Corruption»), Art. 19, paragraph 2; 2. Law on the Civil Service, Art. 33 (1.9). We checked with the Parliament secretariat that no results of checking the content of disclosure forms are publicly available. We were told by the Parliament secretariat that all MPs duly submit their forms and there have been no cases of non-compliance because of these severe sanctions.		
The law(s) identified above is (are) the applicable one(s):		[]
<i>If NO, please cite the applicable law(s): []</i>		
Your Comments: []		

PART 7: SALARY DATA

Please provide the base salary for MPs in your country		
Amount []		
Currency []		
Per (month/year) []		
Applicable law(s) and comments: As per Law on the Status of MPs, Art. 6, in detail Art. 32: salary same as ministers + reimbursement of expenses related to activities, the latter exempt of income tax + accommodation + transportation and other benefits.		
The law(s) identified above is (are) the applicable one(s):		[]
<i>If NO, please cite the applicable law(s): []</i>		
Your Comments: []		

**PART 8: REFORMS**

Reforms in laws on financial disclosure or business activities		
	Yes	No
Are you aware of any changes that occurred between January 2003 and now to the laws and regulations the will affect answers to this survey?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
If your answer is Yes , please briefly describe: 1) the goal of the reform [Fighting corruption] 2) its major characteristics [Adoption of a new Anti-Corruption Law and amendments to the Law on the Civil service, Law on Disclosure, adoption of relevant implementing acts] 3) the date the reform came into force [January 2007]		
Are you aware of any changes expected by June 1, 2008 to the laws and regulations that will affect answers to this survey?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If your answer is Yes , please briefly describe: disclosure form was changed Dec 19, 2007. the changes do not affect this survey. 1) the goal of the reform [] 2) its major characteristics [] 3) the date the reform will come into force []		

Thank you for confirming the responses in this questionnaire!

We appreciate your contribution to the Transparency and Accountability project.

Please return the completed survey to:

Elena Gasol Ramos
EGasolramos@ifc.org
 Phone: 1 202 458 2919

or
 Larisa Smirnova
lsmirnova@worldbank.org
 Phone: 202 473 0845

wb326868
<https://fpdkm.sharepointsite.com/doingbusiness/Europe and Central Asia/Belarus/Final Country Files/Belarus transparency survey oct 08 FINAL.doc>
 10/31/2008 5:35:00 PM