

Madam, Sir

Submission on your Green Paper

[http://www.pmc.gov.au/consultation/elect\\_reform/index.cfm#guidelines](http://www.pmc.gov.au/consultation/elect_reform/index.cfm#guidelines)

(1) Donations to political parties should not exceed \$50-100 per month per person. Contraventions should be punishable.

Reason: such small donations can be considered as sympathy contributions to a party, similar to donations to charity organisations. Any larger amounts are deemed to be given with the intention to influence the policies or actions of a party. Such large donations would be in conflict with the democratic principle 1 man = 1 vote, (not \$1 = 1 vote)

Let us take as an example the strict German Political Parties Act (in English)

<http://www.iuscomp.org/gla/statutes/ParteienG.htm>

(an easy-to-read description of party financing is at the site of the Lower House (Bundestag)

[http://www.bundestag.de/htdocs\\_e/datab/finance/finance\\_1.html](http://www.bundestag.de/htdocs_e/datab/finance/finance_1.html) )

which stipulates in clause 25 (1) sub clause 6 that parties are not entitled to accept:

***6. Donations which are clearly made in the expectation of some specific economic or political advantage.***

Yet, the Christian Democratic Union found itself embroiled in this secret cash donation scandal, best described at the time by BBC:

Thursday, 17 February, 2000

**German sleaze: The story so far**

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/590558.stm>

(2) Parties should be publicly funded so that they are accountable not to those giving large donations but to the tax-payer=voter. Such funds should be calculated on the basis of primary votes obtained by parties at the last election. Statement of accounts would have to be submitted annually. Expenditure for election campaigns should also be limited.

(3) It is now quite common that parties implement policies after an election that were not part of the program presented during the election. The reason could of course be large corporate donations which changed the original intentions. So it is very important that large donations be banned.

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