DENMARK (FIFTH SESSION)

Information requested from State parties in relation to public sector legislative and administrative measures, including measures to enhance transparency in the funding of candidatures for elected public office and, where applicable the funding of political parties (arts. 5 and 7)

In connection with the accession to the Convention it was considered that the obligations of the Convention concerning general preventive measures were already satisfied in the applicable Danish administrative legislation, including in the provisions of the Danish Public Administration Act and the Civil Servant Act. As regards the employment of employees in the public sector the fundamental principle is that employment, promotion etc. is based on qualifications and experience. Vacancies are as a general rule filled following a public notice of the vacant position. The public notice can however be omitted, if the position requires theoretical and/or practical training which can only be acquired at the work place in question. The public notice of the vacancy must inter alia include the job title, the area and type of employment and educational/training requirements for the position.

The Danish Public Administration Act applies to all branches of the public sector in cases where a decision is or will be made. The Danish Public Administration Act thus also applies to employment situations.

The refusal of an application for a job is a decision within the meaning of the Danish Public Administration Act which – if it is made in writing – must contain a justification for the refusal, see the Danish Public Administration Act, par. 22. The justification for the refusal must include the main decisive factors for filling the position, see the Danish Public Administration Act, par. 24.
With respect to the prevention of conflicts of interest reference is made to Part 2 of the Danish Act on Access to Public Administration Files which contain provisions concerning the impartiality of public employees. Regarding municipal council members the Act governing municipalities par. 14 applies. The principle of the above mentioned provisions is that a person is excluded from participating in a case, if the case contains elements which lead to doubt as to the impartiality of the person in question.

Transparency in the administration is ensured inter alia by the provisions on access to documents in the Public Administration Act. According to par. 4 of the Public Administration Act as a starting point everyone is entitled to access to documents received or created by an administrative authority in the context of administrative proceedings relating to that administrative authority.

The Parliamentary Election Act and the Local and Regional Governments Election Act regulate respectively general elections, referenda and local elections. The provisions are designed to ensure free, direct and secret elections and contain inter alia rules on nomination of candidates.

Regarding the financing of political parties detailed rules on the publication of financial statements of political parties are set out in the Grants to Political Parties Act. If a party within the financial year has received one or more contributions from the same private contributor which exceed 20,000 DKK, the name and address of the contributor must be included in the financial statement. Moreover, the financial statement must include information on the total sum of any anonymous contributions and information on any anonymous contribution exceeding 20,000 DKK.