



PACE

Public Affairs Community of Europe

PACE

Paris Conference

Transparency Interests Democracy

Lobbyist cry foul: Industry Wide Issues

- Lobbyists; meet people, present position papers, arrange meetings
- Lobbying is an activity, not a Profession
- Revolving door creates blur between (btwn) "Civil Servant" & "Private Professional"
- Conflict of Interest creates corruption
- In a democracy, the whole country is "lobbying" officials

Industry Wide Issues cont...

Transparency & Lobbying are misnomers;

- Lobbying - no difference btwn "good" & "bad", only the "good" exists. "Bad" is corruption, and not sector in our field. "Good" is the professional, accredited domain
- Lobbyist by profession fight against corruption, and WANT registration
- Decision makers should report who they meet, while not going overboard as done in Ireland

Speaker Overview

Day 1: 12 Speakers

France, Austria, Italy, Germany, Romania,
Sweden, Netherlands, Bulgaria, Cyprus,
OECD, SEAP, EPACA

(note: missing 5 scheduled speeches: Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, SEAP,
EPACA)

Thematic Overview

Registration - the field's fight for Legitimacy

"Those 'hide' [and say regulation isn't needed] do so for a reason"

Public Image - "Good" vs "Bad" Lobbying,
Scandals, and Self-Definition

"Lobbying is about information, not Money"

France

Only one person per company may registration,
no access cards required;
spirit of *government accessible by all, for all*

Government agencies are xenophobic
regarding outside advice, not wanted for
external influence or input. (Contradicting Positions)

None mentioned, nor found on google

Austria

Huge Scandal, vast political implications (2011)

4 tiers of Registration: Agencies, Companies, Trade Associations, Institutions of Social Partnership (IoSP).

Agencies / Companies have **heavy** bureaucratic responsibilities, IoSPs need only do so online. Up to 20k€ fine for failure to comply or misleading info

Austria cont...

Exemptions; where the problem lies

- Lawyers and MPs don't need to register
- 5% or less lobbying budget, don't need to register (making almost all major companies exempt)
- If no lobbyist are "employed" (in-house), no registration (lobbying is now out-sourced)
- Only Austrian companies must comply, or those who wish to deal with Austrian companies (ex: Brussels)

Public perception is not positive, main perpetrators untouched by reform, general will is anathetic/worn

Italy

Corruption is rife;

"heavy scandals are forgotten as quickly as their heated emotions"

"Lobbying" is done in the dark, multinationals have MPs bankrolled

Initially "using personal relations illegal", now only taking *advantage* of them and/or with money is

Italian parliament states regulating Lobbying would legalize political influencing & conflict of interests

Italy cont...

First, and only, registry found in the Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Forest; self-started initiative, optional. Great start, long road ahead

Known that lots of "bad money" is in politics, extremely poor perception due to such

Lobbying and Politics are inseparable in the public eye, for they aren't separate or recognized within the government's.

Germany

None mentioned, only 1 [found](#) via google

No national, state, or regional registration. One can voluntarily do so (no incentive/reason)

Registration seen as a threat to Free Mandat

Shallow understanding of "Transparency", met with mistrust

Few legal experts agree a registry would be constitutional

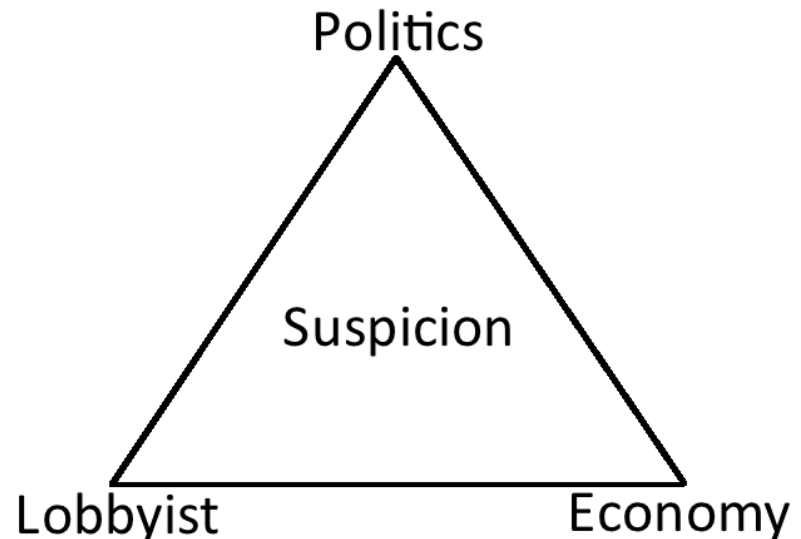
Germany cont...

"the Money is less important than the Politics"

Lobbyists are either "good" or "bad"; public perceived credibility places them in one/other.

(Lobbyist, unfortunately, don't have much)

A criminalizing mindset
for those in the
profession



Romania

Part of the Austria Scandal, 1 [RO EU minister](#) implicated

7 attempts at registration legislation, 2 got through, and have been stuck for 2 years

"Legal traffic of influence" = argument against

Not touched upon

(note: most of the time was spent on addressing industry wide issues)

Sweden

No registration, or legislation for such

Famous investigative journalist, posing as a client, probed lobbying firms to do illegal acts
-was dealt with well; firms either declined or asked for a meeting

Called for increased public interest, echoing France

Netherlands

Detailed "Classical" Lobbying; 3 Bs:
Booze, Bribes, Blondes

Reform through Registration

Outside-In:

Social Democrat MP introduced lobby-registration piece, was light on detail and unclear

National Court of Audit: a "legislative footprint", a great middle ground

Netherlands cont...

Inside-Out:

- Like Sweden, "fake company" asked Lobbyist to do illegal actions: **FAILED**
- The Lobbyist agreed, and got the provisions to the floor, and ultimately the bill passed
- Twist: the lobbyist in mention was part of the speaker's firm, and still is.

Question: is this a Victory (so few are corrupt) or a Failure (that such action took place)?

Bulgaria

No regulation, wishes for EU uniformization

MPs will not pass anything as it would mean they lose the chance to lobby themselves

(massive conflict of interest)

Big companies buy individual "lobbyist" (read: MPs)

"We are a lot like Italy... that is to say our MPs are very emotional"

No mention, Politics and Lobbying inseparable

Cyprus

No regulation, (according to the speaker) there are no other professional Lobbyiest besides her

Fiscal Crisis is causing reorganization

None, per say. Lobbyist doesn't exist as it is done by everyone

Wishes EU ethics / regulation was standard within member states, sentiment echoed by MANY.

The people were happy about government/"lobbyist", then the crisis hit.

OECD

Trust Deficit (TD) in government- found a direct correlation btwn TD & Corruption

TD btwn voters and politicians, no deficit btwn MPs

People want transparency, so do 81% of Lobbyists

Want of Transparency in Political Financing:

- Parliamentaries- 86%
- Lobbyist- 69%

(Note: sample size only 45 people, concerns raised by attendees of survey validity)

OECD cont...

Advocated for industry wide Code of Ethics;
preferred method of learning such would be a
workshop (56%)

To solve the "bad"
image of Lobbying,
all sides must be
addressed

