

Matters EU

PACE Berlin 2014

Philip Sheppard
Vice President SEAP



What's next



1. A reminder about SEAP
2. EU Transparency update

1. Society of European Affairs Professionals



Vision



To advance the European affairs profession so that it will contribute to ever better policy outcomes

Mission of SEAP



With respect to European affairs professionals:

- to be the trust mark of the profession by setting and promoting standards of ethical conduct
- to provide networking on issues of common interest.

With respect to the EU institutions:

- to represent the interests of the profession to the EU institutions
- to be recognized as an essential partner by the EU institutions.

With respect to the public:

- to improve the understanding of the role of European affairs professionals in the policy process.

Our activities



- SEAP code – ensures SEAP members are compliant
- Discussion with the European Parliament on access and passes
- Discussion with the Commission Sec Gen and EP on the Transparency Register – lobbying for improvements
- Informational meetings and events

2. Transparency Register



Timeline



- **2005** start of proposal and consultations
- **2007** SEAP, EPACA, IPRA give a set of principles to Commission to help write their code
- **2008** ETI launched
- **2011** Transparency Register / revised Code
- **2013** New guidelines
- **2014** Review by EP

The EU Register

[Register Now](#)

- Voluntary for organisations and individuals
- Listing interests and / or clients
- Disclosure on resources allocated to lobbying
- Disclosure on sources of public funding
- Registry is publicly accessible
- Implies acceptance of EC/EP or another code
- Complaint-based suspension or exclusion

Codes and Codes



1. TR code is about transparency
2. SEAP code is about conduct
3. SEAP and TR code differ by 9 articles

SEAP guidelines



- Resources for direct lobbying (finance and staff)
- No double counting
- Mention if consultants or associations used
- Exclude VAT
- Indicate adherence to the SEAP code
- Err on the side of generosity

TR review: SEAP



1. Remain voluntary
Legal issues and practical issues otherwise
2. A challenge question
Every MEP and Commission official should ask the question; “Are you Registered?”
And if the answer is no then ask; “Why not?”
3. Officials and MEPs attending third party conferences
Officials and MEPs only attend conferences organised by those on the Register
4. Holding an event in the European Parliament buildings
Reserved only for those on the Register.
5. Participation in Commission Expert and Consultative Groups
Reserved only for those on the Register.

TR review: EP



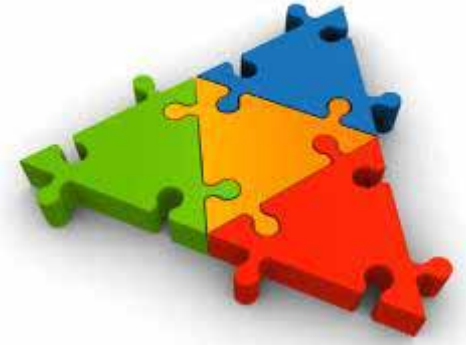
1. Mandatory register
2. 75% of business and 60% of NGOs.
3. Incentives such as:
 - access to Parliament and help in contacting MEPs
 - easier authorisation to organise events
 - facilitated comms. including through mailing lists
 - participation as speakers in committee hearings
 - better chances of getting patronage for events.

TR review: EP



- Little mention of national initiatives and coherence

In summary



- Case for lobbying is won but issues remain
- Self-regulation and a strong code is key
- Cooperation with EU institutions is key
- National coherence

Any questions?



Philip Sheppard
Vice President SEAP
www.seap.be