

# **The EU Transparency Register & Lobbying Regulation: increasing transparency and setting common rules**

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# Presentation outline

**1. Transparency: why & what?**

**2. The Brussels lobbying landscape**

**3. EU Transparency Register**

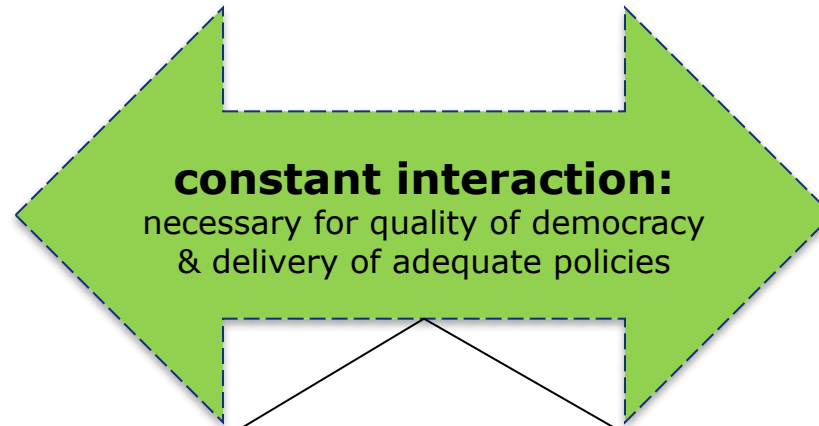
**4. Conclusion: challenges & reflections**



# Transparency: why & what?



## EU institutions



NGOs  
business  
consultancies  
trade associations  
think-tanks  
...

formal  
consultation  
processes

informal  
lobbying

P  
R  
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S

Transparency

Integrity

Equality of access



## improper or excessive lobbying

*breaking the laws, unfair competition, undue influence, privileged access*



## Transparency

allows for public monitoring & greater accountability

Access to documents

Lobby registers

Disclosure of details of meetings of top decision-makers

## Integrity

applying high ethical standards

Codes of Conduct for civil servants

Measures to reduce risk of "revolving door"

Codes of Ethics for lobbyists

Self-regulation by lobbyists' associations

## Equality of access

= fairness

Open communication channels with stakeholders

Consultation and public participation mechanisms

Expert/advisory group composition & policies

**A DECISION-MAKING PROCESS designed around these principles should:**

- Increase confidence in decision-making process
- Improve quality of decisions overall



# Why transparency?

transparency >  
scrutiny >  
accountability >  
legitimacy of law-making



**gaining citizens' trust**



**participation**

High standards of transparency are part of the **legitimacy of any modern administration**. The European public is entitled to expect **efficient, accountable and service-minded public institutions** and that the power and resources entrusted to political and public bodies are handled with care and never abused for personal gain.

*Source: Green Paper European Transparency Initiative, COM(2006) 194 final*





## **TEU: TITLE II – PROVISIONS ON DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES**

### ***Article 10***

3. **Every citizen shall have the right to participate in the democratic life of the Union.** Decisions shall be taken as **openly** and as closely as possible to the citizen.

### ***Article 11***

1. The institutions shall, by appropriate means, **give citizens and representative associations the opportunity to make known and publicly exchange their views in all areas of Union action.**
2. The institutions shall maintain an **open, transparent and regular dialogue with representative associations and civil society.**
3. The European Commission shall carry out **broad consultations with parties concerned** in order to ensure that the Union's actions are coherent and transparent.

# The Brussels lobbying landscape





# Definition of 'lobbying' (1/2)

The scope of the Register covers **all activities** "carried out with the objective of *directly* or *indirectly influencing the formulation or implementation of policy and the decision-making processes of the EU institutions*, irrespective of where they are undertaken and irrespective of the channel or medium of communication used..."

*Source: Paragraph 7, Interinstitutional Agreement 2014*

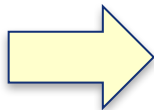


# The Brussels lobbying landscape

## How many lobbyists? NO precise numbers but:

- > 3,000 interest groups (industry, corporations, trade unions, associations, public affairs consultancies, law firms, NGOs, etc...)
- Some 15,000 people employed in the sector but not all are professional lobbyists
- Over 11,700 entities registered in Transparency Register but not all Brussels-based and Register not exhaustive
- ~ 7,200 accredited lobbyists to the European Parliament
- + non-accredited lobbyists

Total **turnover** of sector: > 1bln €



*Growing number & sector  
Greater professionalisation*



# The EU Transparency Register





## Transparency and the EU

Citizens can, and indeed should, expect the EU decision-making process to be as transparent and open as possible. The more open the process is, the easier it is to ensure balanced representation and avoid undue pressure and illegitimate or privileged access to information or to decision-makers. Transparency is also a key part of encouraging European citizens to participate more actively in the democratic life of the EU.

The transparency register has been set up to answer core questions such as what interests are being pursued, by whom and with what budgets. The system is operated jointly by the European Parliament and the European Commission.

[Search the register](#)[Register your organisation](#)[Update your registration](#)

### In the spotlight

#### Latest registrants:

Name:	Registration date:
German Wood Council (Deutscher Holz...	28/05/2018
Rada Gospodarcza Strefy Wolnego Słowa	28/05/2018
European Women Alliance	28/05/2018
Eszter Kantor	28/05/2018
SESVanderHave	28/05/2018

[More](#)

#### News:

[Negotiations on the Commission proposal for an Interinstitutional Agreement on a mandatory Transparency Register](#)

It has come to our attention that private companies are writing to the registrants of the Transparency Register in order to sell their services. The Transparency Register Secretariat understands that it is neither

### Statistics

On 29/05/2018, there are 11785 registrants in the register.

#### They are from the following (sub)sections:

<a href="#">+ I - Professional consultancies/law firms/self-employed consultants</a>	1,286
<a href="#">+ II - In-house lobbyists and trade/business/professional associations</a>	5,816
<a href="#">+ III - Non-governmental organisations</a>	3,121
<a href="#">+ IV - Think tanks, research and academic institutions</a>	918
<a href="#">+ V - Organisations representing churches and religious communities</a>	50
<a href="#">+ VI - Organisations representing local, regional and municipal authorities, other public or mixed entities, etc.</a>	594

# Who is in the Register?

## Statistics for the Transparency Register

The Register provides statistical information on registrants per Section and Subsection.

Download the latest statistics: [PDF file](#)

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# Main components of the Register

## Website

Registration/update of entries

Search

Guidelines

Links to further resources

## Code of Conduct

Set of ethical principles & rules governing relations between lobbyists & the EU institutions

## Alerts & complaints mechanism

Allows the triggering of an investigation in case of a suspected violation of the Code by a registered entity



# Code of Conduct (extract...)

In their relations with the EU Institutions and their Members, officials and other staff, registrants shall:

- (a) always **identify themselves** by name and, by registration number, if applicable, and by the entity or entities they work for or represent; declare the interests, objectives or aims they promote and, where applicable, specify the clients or members whom they represent;
- (b) **not obtain or try to obtain information or decisions dishonestly** or by use of **undue pressure** or inappropriate behaviour;
- (d) ensure that, to the best of their knowledge, **information**, which they provide upon registration, and subsequently in the framework of their activities covered by the register, is **complete, up-to-date and not misleading**; accept that all information provided is subject to review and agree to co-operate with administrative requests for complementary information and updates;
- (e) **not sell to third parties copies of documents** obtained from EU institutions;
- (g) **not induce Members of the institutions of the EU**, officials or other staff of the European Union, or assistants or trainees of those Members, to contravene the rules and standards of behaviour applicable to them;



# What don't we ask for?

address



revenue



salaries



costs



names



clients



membership



dossiers





# Unique features of the EU Transparency Register

- Biggest Lobby Register in the world
- Unparalleled diversity & intensity of the Brussels lobbying scene
- Broad definition of 'influencing'
- Registrants are bound by a Code of Conduct
- Access to decision-makers & premises is conditional upon registration
- Managed by small team of officials from Parliament & Commission
- Website available in 21 official EU languages
- Complex IT system underpins the Register



## **Conclusion: challenges & reflections**



Moving to a  
mandatory regime

Complexity of  
"Public Affairs" sector

# challenges

Improving quality of data

Promoting visibility & use of  
the Register



# Reflections on the role of PACE & its members



- ✓ Join the Transparency Register if you are interacting with the EU institutions
- ✓ Drive excellence and higher standards for the Public Affairs sector
- ✓ Lobby your national government for a strong participation of Council in the new mandatory Transparency Register
- ✓ Share information on national developments & good practices
- ✓ Live up to your commitment to *bring a solid contribution to a more transparent process of adopting public policies across Europe within frameworks which will consolidate the participative democracy within Member States*



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



**Contact the Joint Transparency Register Secretariat (JTRS):**

<http://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister>

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