



President Donald Tusk
European Council
Rue de la Loi 175
B-1048 Bruxelles
Belgique

Brussels, 28th September 2015

Dear President Tusk

As you will know, since 1 December 2014 the Commission has been implementing a policy to ban EU commissioners, cabinet members or directors-general at the Commission from meeting with lobbyists who have not signed-up to the EU lobby transparency register. Furthermore, all lobby meetings held by those individuals now are reported proactively online by the Commission.

The Alliance for Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Regulation (ALTER-EU) recognises that these two policies represent an important step forward to promote lobby transparency at the EU level.

We urge you to introduce a similar policy for your office to only meet with lobbyists who have joined the EU transparency register, and to publish a list of lobby meetings and events attended by you, members of your office, and the general secretariat.

These policies would help to significantly boost the transparency and accountability of the work of your office, and could be implemented without prejudicing future Council decision making on whether to join the EU transparency register.

We note that while the European Council and Council have policies on access to documents and the publishing of agendas and minutes of public meetings, unfortunately neither institution has yet to have any specific policy on lobby transparency.

ALTER-EU considers transparency around lobbying to be vital as a way to enable citizens to find out which lobbyists are meeting which decision-makers and on which topic, and to hold them accountable. Ultimately, we would like to see EU lobby transparency both broadened and deepened with the introduction of a high-quality, legally-binding transparency register which covers the Commission, Parliament and the Council, European Council and permanent representations.

We would be pleased to further discuss these issues with you or a member of your cabinet at the earliest opportunity and we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

ALTER-EU steering committee:

Helen Darbshire [Access Info Europe](#)
Paul de Clerck [Friends of the Earth Europe](#)
William Dinan [SpinWatch](#)
Olivier Hoedeman [Corporate Europe Observatory](#)

Nina Katzemich [LobbyControl](#)
Jorgo Riss [Greenpeace European Unit](#)
Yuklan Wong [European Federation of Journalists](#)

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