



Proposals for next-step measures to improve the EU lobby transparency register

While ALTER-EU and the Full lobby transparency now! campaign remain convinced that a legally-binding EU lobby register is essential to ensure both maximum registrations by EU lobbyists and the best possible quality lobby data, we also recognise that there is the need for immediate measures which can enhance the quality of the register and incentivise the unregistered to sign up in the short-term. In the past, the European Parliament made registration a pre-requisite for gaining an access pass; several years later, the Commission has now banned lobby meetings by unregistered lobbyists with the 300 or so most senior officials and commissioners. It is imperative to now build upon these measures; this document makes some proposals.

Joint measures

- All registrants suspended from the lobby register should be listed publicly, to make suspension or removal more of an obvious sanction
- More capacity and resources must be provided to the register secretariat so that they can implement more robust and effective monitoring and enforcement procedures, and to increase the number of random checks
- Provide the authority to the register secretariat to demand any lobbyist must provide proof of how their lobby turnover and / or costs have been calculated, when asked

European Commission

- Immediately extend the ban on meetings with unregistered lobbyists* to all Commission officials
- Ensure that only registered lobbyists participate in expert groups, advisory groups as well as market access groups
- Ensure that all Commission staff and commissioners only attend meetings and other events organised by registered lobbyists
- Ensure that the list of lobby meetings held by the Commission includes all lobbyists' registration numbers and is collated into one database

European Parliament

- MEPs, their staff and Parliament staff only meet with registered lobbyists
- Only registered lobbyists host events in the Parliament's premises, including those organised on their behalf by third parties such as lobby consultancies

- MEPs, their staff and Parliament staff only attend events and activities organised by registered lobbyists
- Only registered lobbyists are active in official Parliament intergroups and unofficial cross-party groups which organise events inside the Parliament

European Council, the Council, and member states

- Only registered lobbyists hold lobby meetings with President Donald Tusk, members of his Cabinet, and staff from the secretariat
- Only registered lobbyists meet with any member of the Permanent Representation holding the rotating presidency
- Staff from the European External Action Services, high-level representative Federica Mogherini and her Cabinet only meet with registered lobbyists
- We further consider that Permanent Representations should only meet with registered lobbyists on EU decision-making matters

We also consider that many of these proposals should be applied to EU executive agencies including EMA and EFSA

* Please note that we use the term 'unregistered lobbyist' in this document to indicate any individual or organisation carrying out EU level lobbying who should be registered in the EU lobby register according to the rules, but who is not currently signed-up.

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