



Evropský parlament, Parlamento Europeo, Europisk parlament, Europa-Parlamentet, Europäisches Parlament, European Parliament, Európejský parlament, Európskeho Kongressu, European Parliament, Parlement européen, Parlamento na hlorpa, Eorópski parlament, Parlamento europeo, Eoropa-Parlaments, Eorópsa Parlamentas, Eorópski Parlament, Parlament Ewropejski, Eorópski Parlament, Parlament Eorópski, Parlamento Eorópski, Parlamentul European, Eorópski parlament, Eorópski parlament, Eorópski parlamentti, Eorópski parlamentti

Sylvie GUILLAUME

Vice-Présidente du Parlement européen

D 318879 10.11.2015

Mr Carl Dolan
Director, Transparency International
Ms Helen Darbshire
ALTER EU, c/o Transparency International

Rue de l'Industrie, 10
B-1000 Brussels

Dear Sir, Dear Madam,

Subject : Your letter regarding the EU Transparency Register
Our ref: **A(2015)010859**

Many thanks for your letter of 12 October 2015 in which you set out several priorities of The Alliance for Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Regulation in Europe (ALTER-EU) and Transparency International with regards to a mandatory EU register for interest representatives. On behalf of President SCHULZ, and as Vice-President responsible for the Transparency Register, I'm pleased to answer your concerns.

You are already aware that the European Commission, in its Work Programme 2016, mentioned that it will bring forward a proposal for an Inter-institutional Agreement on a mandatory transparency register for interest representatives seeking to influence policy making in the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission. The Commission is also intending to launch a public consultation you are advocating for, most likely by the end of the year. This will give you the opportunity to make known the wishes and requests outlined in your letter, not least where they go beyond the incentives associated with the current IIA.

As regards your remarks on the work of the Joint Transparency Register Secretariat, I should like to insist on the fact that its task of monitoring the quality of this voluntary database must comply with the parameters set out in the current IIA. If there is any room for improvement, you can rely on me to explore any possibility to do so.

Furthermore, you rightly recall that the European Parliament has repeatedly called for a legislative proposal. However, I cannot anticipate the outcome of ongoing preparations and negotiations on Parliament's own initiative report on the Transparency, integrity and accountability of the EU institutions (INI (2015) 2041), to be duly adopted in February 2016.

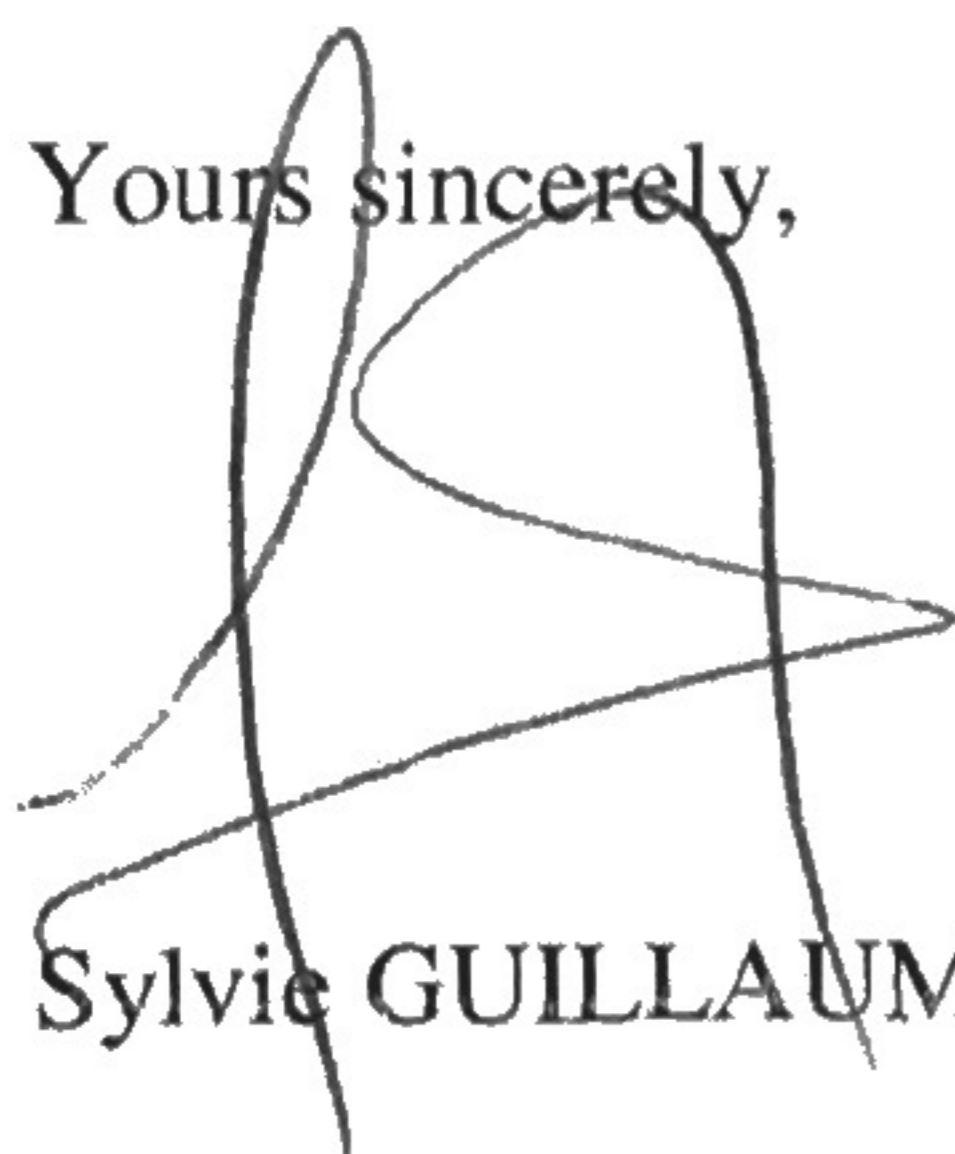
If my personal conviction remains strong on a compulsory Register, I also consider the legal obstacles (i.e. a regulation with unanimity to be reached) we need to cope with in order to achieve this objective. This is why I'm interested in supporting any other way available to us in order to improve the current situation

You already know the positive opinion I have on most of the suggestions you list in your letter; at the same time you can perfectly understand that I cannot anticipate what form these negotiations will take at this stage, without any proposal being put forward by the European Commission; but I am certain that the need for public debate will necessarily be taken into account.

In the meantime, together with our EP services, we are exploring additional incentives, amongst them any possibilities for changes of current rules regarding the organisation of events by outside bodies in our premises.

As Vice-President responsible for the Transparency Register, I remain open to meeting with you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a horizontal line and a vertical line that crosses it.

Sylvie GUILLAUME

Copy: Mr Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament