

## INVITATION FOR ALTER-EU WORKSHOP

# Corporate influence on EU-legislation - the Commission's experts groups

*At the end of 2010, the European Commission quietly adopted new rules governing its 1,000+ advisory bodies without any public announcement let alone consultation. These 'expert groups' are powerful bodies whose recommendations often determine the shape of EU legislation.*

*ALTER-EU has criticised the lack of ambition in the Commission's reforms, and concludes that commercial lobbyists, be it as industry representatives or in a 'personal capacity', still dominate a large number of these advisory groups in critical policy areas, while other interests are poorly represented. Furthermore much about the functioning of these powerful groups – when, where and how often they meet, and what is discussed – remains unclear.*

*Members of the European Parliament from all political groups have urged an overhaul of the regulations for expert groups. ALTER-EU believes the time is right for civil society groups to come together and demand that the Commission ensures balanced representation and transparency.*

**When:** Wednesday, May 11 – 15h00 to 18h00

**Where:** Mundo-B, 26, rue d'Edimbourg – Conference Room

**Who:** *Opening remarks:*

- **Yiorgos Vassalos**, researcher ALTER-EU / Corporate Europe Observatory.

*Speakers:*

- **Monique Goyens**, director general BEUC;
- **Joël Decaillon**, deputy general secretary ETUC;
- **Ronny Patz**, EU-liaison officer Transparency International;
- **Gérard Choplin**, policy officer, European Coordination Via Campesina.

Simultaneous translation in English and French will be available.

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