

Transparency in European Public Affairs - Regulations and best practice –

THE TRANSPARENCY REGISTER

Public Affairs Council (PAC) Event

9 JUNE 2022

Marie Thiel, DG Presidency, European Parliament



THREE INSTITUTIONS – ONE REGISTER



The IIA on a mandatory transparency register between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission is in force since **1 July 2021**.





Transparency Register

English (en)



EUROPA > Transparency Register

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The European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission are open and transparent in their regular dialogue with interest representatives and civil society.

The three institutions are working together to ensure and promote transparent and ethical interest representation.

The Transparency Register is a tool to allow European citizens to see what interests are being represented at Union level and on whose behalf, as well as the financial and human resources dedicated to these activities.



[Search the register](#)



[Register your organisation](#)



[Update your registration](#)

In the spotlight

Latest registrants:

Name:	Registration date:
FS	08/12/2021
ELPUENTE@CUBA e.V.	19/09/2021
Collegio Professionale Europeo Esperti T...	19/09/2021
Wreless Connect Ltd.	19/09/2021
Instituto Misionero de Biodiversidad	17/09/2021
International Organisation to Preserve H...	17/09/2021
Council of the Baltic Sea States	17/09/2021

Statistics

On 08/06/2022, there are 12358 registrants in the register.

See the [Statistics](#) page for more details.

KEY FEATURES

- **Tripartite register:**
 - Council joins (LOBBYING OF COUNCIL)
 - Institutions commit to adopt internal measures to promote ethical and transparent interest representation (DYNAMIC)
 - Co-financing (SHARED RESPONSIBILITY)
- **Register *de facto* mandatory:** introduction of *conditionality principle*
- Broadened and clearer **scope of lobbying**
- **Two-layer governance** (Management Board + Secretariat)
- Simplified and improved administrative procedures
- Open to the participation of other institutional actors at Union level
- Stronger annual reporting & political review



WHAT IS INTEREST REPRESENTATION (lobbying)? Article 3



Any activity carried out

(by interest representatives)

**with the objective of
influencing**

the formulation or implementation of
policy or legislation

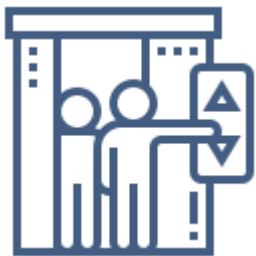
or the decision-making processes of the
EU institutions.



...AND WHAT IS **NOT**? Article 4(1)



- ✓ representing clients in **legal proceedings**
- ✓ advising members/clients on **compliance**
- ✓ submissions based on EU **contracts/grants**
- ✓ participating in **social dialogue** (Article 152 TFEU)
- ✓ responding to direct and specific **requests for factual information/data/expertise**
- ✓ talking to MEPs as an **individual citizen**
- ✓ **spontaneous encounters**



MANDATORY REGISTRATION

Article 5

Examples of conditionality measures

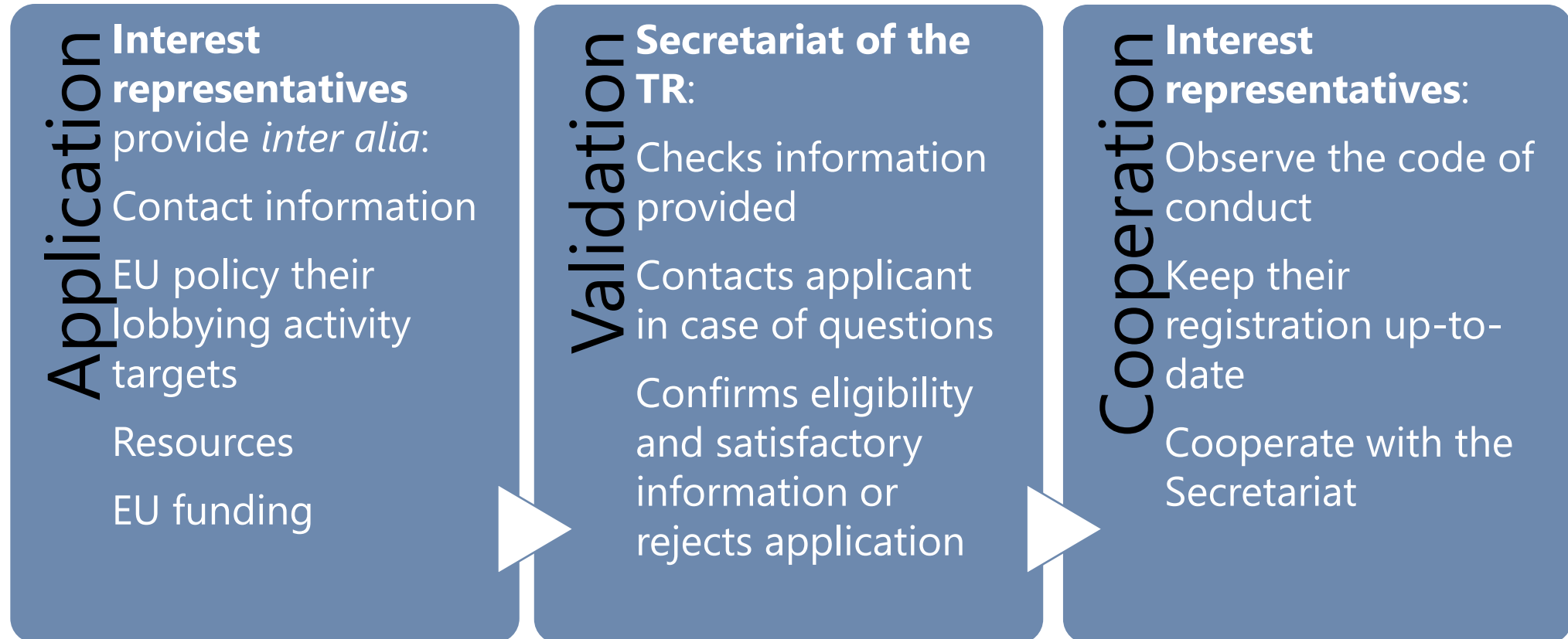
- Meeting Members of the Commission, their Cabinet members and DGs of the Commission
- Access to Parliament's and Council's premises
- Speaking at Parliament Committee meetings
- Meeting Council Presidency (Permanent Representative and Deputy)
- Membership of Commission's expert groups
- ...

Examples of other transparency measures

- Publication of meetings with interest representatives
- Dedicated mailing lists, notifications about consultations, roadmaps and other activities
- ...



APPLICANTS / REGISTRANTS



FINANCIAL INFORMATION



- **Those promoting their own interests or those of their members** (e.g. companies and groups, trade and business associations) **disclose lobbying costs, incl. for hiring intermediaries**
- **Those that advance the interests of their clients** (e.g. law firms or public affairs consultancies) **disclose client revenue per client, incl. 3rd country government bodies**
- **Those not representing commercial interests** (e.g. civil society organisations, NGOs, charities, foundations, academic and research institutions, organisations representing churches etc.) **need to disclose sources of funding**

Annex II



MONITORING AND INVESTIGATIONS

- Observance of the code of conduct now treated as an eligibility criterion
- Own-initiative investigations or pursuant to a complaint alleging non-observance of CoC
- Secretariat can apply measures if ineligibility is due to non-observance
- Clear remedies for registrants:
 - Right of review of measures by the Management Board
 - Appeal of the Management Board decision to the CJEU/ complaint to the European Ombudsman

Annex I & III



Tips & Tricks when registering

Ideally your entry in the Register will be:

1. **Transparent** - clearly conveying the profile, composition, affiliation and goals of your organisation, in particular as regards activities in Brussels and involving contacts with EU institutions
2. **Relevant** - giving a clear account of your activities that fall within the scope of the Register
3. **Accurate** - providing the information requested under each heading in a clear, consistent, complete and accurate manner, and explaining in the 'complementary information' box where necessary
4. **Well-structured** - not too long, not too superficial; including links to further information where relevant
5. **Up-to-date** - updated regularly, especially as regards activities, contact details, clients and data on resources (financial and staff)

Stay connected! <https://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/public/homePage.do>



THE TRANSPARENCY WATCH

Voxeurop in English @VoxEurop · 3m

🔍 How much has lobbying by #GAFAM weighted on #EU's #DigitalServicesAct? Check out the data-driven investigation by @ostrocatt @sannasailer @hannekeslb. W/@EDJNet @ThierryBreton @vestager @corporateeurope @TI_EU @EP_SingleMarket #ddj

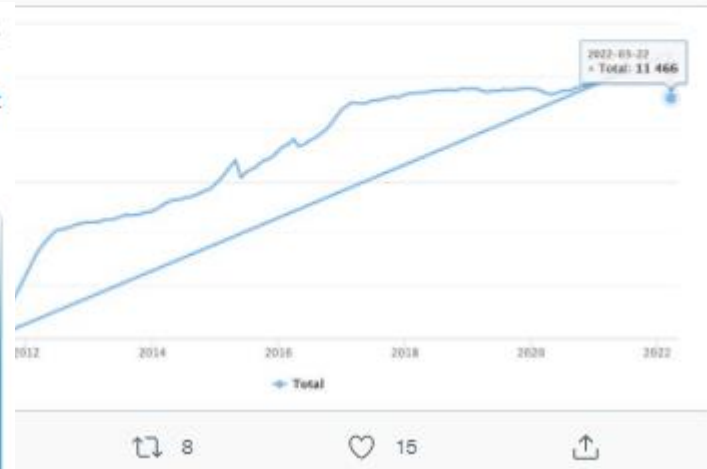


voxeurop.eu
Big Tech's lobby game in Europe - VoxEurop
The EU's Digital Services Act aimed to limit the power of social media and online platforms. Yet, it became a victory for the tech giants and ...

Jean Comte @JeanComte · 2d

In case you missed it, the number of lobbyists subscribed in the transparency register brutally dropped last week - from 13 500 to 11 500 !

[ec.europa.eu/transparencyre...](https://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister)



Willy De Backer @3eintelligence · 2h

Total chaos in EU Parliament over #Fitfor55 votes - thanks to the impressive lobbying by industry, this vote has become a war between the short-term capitalist-competitiveness interests and the defenders of the longterm livability of the planet @philippepochet @PaoloTomassetti

Zia Weise @ZiaWeise · 3h

Wow. Parliament votes down the ETS report.

[Show this thread](#)

Olivier Hoedeman @olivierhoedemani · Apr 11

The EU's lobby #transparency register requires "intergroups and unofficial groupings" like the "MEP Horse Group" to disclose their membership and financial information.

But the MEP Horse Group, chaired by MEP @hildevautmans, appears to be absent in the lobby register. **

4/4

Hilde Vautmans @hildevautmans

Yes! Eindelijk kan btw-tarief voor paarden in Europa worden verlaagd. Als voorzitter van de MEP Horse Group heb ik hier 🇪🇺 hard voor gepleit. Hopelijk zet 🇧🇪 nu ook stap naar werkelijke verlaging.

Lees hier mijn reactie & die van onze 🇧🇪paardensector



ef voor paarden in Europa • Hilde Vautmans
uceerde Ecofin "levende paardachtigen en het verlenen van
eldking tot levende paardachtigen" in de lijst van goederen en ...

222 - Twitter for iPhone