

# TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL EU OFFICE

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WEBINAR FOR THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL - LOBBYING

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# WHAT IS TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL

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## GLOBAL NGO FIGHTING CORRUPTION

- more than 100 National Chapters worldwide
- 26 chapters in 28 EU member states
- International Secretariat in Berlin
- EU Office in Brussels

*Corruption is the abuse of entrusted power for private gain*

# WHERE WE ARE



■ Countries and territories with a Transparency International chapter

(current as of November 2012)

Source: [eslforiskolars.wikispaces.com](http://eslforiskolars.wikispaces.com)

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# LOBBYING: FRAMING THE ISSUE

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# LOBBYING: DEFINITION



All organisations seeking to influence policymaking, policy implementation and/or decision-making in the EU institutions – whether **directly** or **indirectly** – must register.

Directly: direct contact with institutions

Indirectly: media, public opinion, events...

A word cloud on a dark blue background featuring various types of lobby groups. The words are arranged in a cross-like shape. The central word is 'organisations' in white. Other prominent words include 'consultancies' in white, 'companies' in light blue, 'NGOs' in light blue, 'associations' in white, 'religious' in orange, 'lawyers' in light blue, 'thinktanks' in orange, 'unions' in light blue, and 'groups' in light blue.

**associations**  
**NGOs**  
**organisations**  
**consultancies**  
**companies**  
**unions**  
**groups**  
**religious**  
**lawyers**  
**thinktanks**

**Brussels:**

**7945 Lobby Organisations**

**~15.000-30.000 Lobbyists**

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# LOBBYING IS NOT A PROBLEM...

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“Everyone shall have the right to **freedom of expression**; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds...”

*International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*

“Lobbying provides **useful information** and opinions to political representatives and public officials. It is not, therefore, a morally questionable activity, but **an important element of the democratic debate** and decision-making process.”

*Transparency International, 2009*

# UNDUE INFLUENCE: OUR DEFINITION



*...Undue influence occurs when particular individuals or groups gain an **unfair advantage over public decision-making at the expense of the public interest**. This can particularly occur when decision-making is **opaque**, when public officials or third parties **act unethically**, or when **access to political system** is skewed in favour of select interests...*



# FRAMING THE ISSUE



LACK OF TRANSPARENCY



UNETHICAL CONDUCT/  
LACK OF INTEGRITY



PRIVILEGED/UNEQUAL ACCESS TO DECISION-MAKERS

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# URGENCY OF REFORM

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- **Multiple scandals at EU and national level** feed perception that lobbying is associated with corruption.
- **60% of citizens** across Europe consider their country's government being run to a large extent or entirely by a few big interests (TI GCB, 2013)
- **8 out of 10 European companies** consider the links between business and politics being too close in their country and leading to corruption. (EU anti-corruption report, 2014)
- **4 out of 5 legislators, 90% of lobbyists** think inappropriate influence peddling takes place, and 1 in 3 legislators consider it a frequent problem. (OECD report, 2014)

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# TI RESEARCH ON EU LOBBYING

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# EU TRANSPARENCY REGISTER

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# TR'S KEY FEATURES



- Public website with all information
- Code of Conduct
- Alerts and complaints mechanism
- Guidelines
- Voluntary registration



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# GUIDELINES

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1. Transparent
2. Relevant
3. Accurate
4. Well-structured
5. Up-to-date
6. Approved

## 6 FEATURES OF A SATISFACTORY ENTRY IN THE REGISTER

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# WHAT'S NEW?

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**1 December 2014**

- Publication of contacts with lobbyists by Commissioners, Cabinets, DGs
- Only meeting with registered lobbyists

**27 January 2015**

- Revision of the TR, including new website
- Obligation to update information within 3 months (deadline 27 April 2015)

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# NEW FEATURES

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- Declaration of relevant indirect lobbying activities
- Participations in EU structures (expert groups...)
- Number of persons involved (paid or unpaid)
- Funding from EU Institutions



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# FULL LOBBY TRANSPARENCY

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## **Introduce the legislative footprint**

Full disclosure of Lobby influence on EU legislation

## **Make the Lobby Register mandatory**

Binding rules for lobby registration ensuring meaningful & timely information

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# DISCUSSION

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**QUESTIONS / COMMENTS?**

# THANKS FOR YOUR TIME



[www.transparencyinternational.eu](http://www.transparencyinternational.eu)

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