Lobbying at EU level: Parliament hosts conference on mandatory transparency register

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Article

An upgrade of the EU lobbyist register is in the works after the European Commission launched a public consultation on switching from voluntary to mandatory registration for anyone interested in speaking to EU institutions to influence their work. EP Vice-President Sylvie Guillaume holds a debate with experts together with Commission's First Vice-President Frans Timmermans on 2 May at 15.00 CET in Parliament's premises in Brussels. Follow it online and watch our video to learn more.

The European Transparency Register was set up in 2011 after the Commission and Parliament agreed to have a joint register instead of the separate ones they had had earlier. Registration is currently voluntary, but the number of registrants has been picking up steadily in recent years. There are now more than 9,000 organisations on the list with about 1,000 new entries per year.

The transparency of EU decision-making has been an important issue for the Parliament. "On many occasions, Parliament has called for a mandatory register of lobbyists. We are also happy that the Commission now shares Parliament's position and we are determined to go ahead together and ensure that the Council plays its part as well," said EP Vice-President Guillaume ahead of the public debate.

The Commission launched a public consultation on a mandatory system in March and stakeholders are invited to share their views by 1 June. The Commission's move followed up on the pledge made by Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker at the start of his term to pursue more transparency and to propose a mandatory lobby register to Parliament and Council.

Follow the conference in the European Parliament on our website on Monday from 15.00 CET.

Find out more

- Watch the conference live on Monday 2 May from 15.00 CET: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ep-live/en/other-events/schedule
- Draft programme of the conference: http://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/public/openFile.do?fileName=draftProgramme.pdf
- Transparency register: http://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/public/homePage.do?redir=false&locale=en
- Video about the transparency register: http://www.europarltv.europa.eu/en/player.aspx?pid=19e378f8-9ac2-46ce-a894-a5f500bce727
- Briefing: EU transparency register: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2016/581950/EPRS_BRI(2016)581950_EN.pdf
- Commission launches consultation on transparency register: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-462_en.htm

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