

Meeting Transparency Register – Stakeholders

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Contributors: FAIB (277 associations)

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A. What is the overall balance sheet of the Transparency Register? Both in terms of meeting its own objectives (wide coverage, proportionate, informative, etc) and in terms of how it compares to other similar regulatory systems in the world.

FAIB supports the TR and hopes the Council joins in. Member States should also adhere to similar policies. FAIB has concerns relative to financial data provided in the TR being wrongly used as a reference by Belgian tax authorities, in particular the calculation of VAT status or "exemptions" with regard to "lobbying" activities. Some of its members have been badly affected.

B. What would be your agenda for change? Why and how?

FAIB support a voluntary register, with a more detailed **guidelines** ~~code of conduct~~ for two main reasons: the lack of a legal basis; and in the interest of democracy (everyone should have equal access to the institutions). However, FAIB favour the introduction of more incentives for those who register.

- **The bandwidths and thresholds for financial declarations.**

They feel that the 50 000 EUR per annum is too high for the lowest budget. Guidelines need to be improved and in particular need to address the distinction between NGOs and trade organisations.

FAIB suggest that accreditation possibilities to the EP should be extended to the other institutions, and that any accreditation of an individual should not give rise to the consideration of this individual as a "full-time" lobbyist in the TR.

C. How does your own organisation intend to contribute itself to help us achieve our common goals? Promotion within your members, a requirement for your own members, etc.

FAIB intends to communicate with its members relative to the ongoing review process and to inform them of any new rules in place as a result.