

Meeting Transparency Register – Stakeholders

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Contributors: EPACA

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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.

EPACA is positively surprised about the Transparency Register's success so far. Whilst the Transparency Register has not particularly changed the general behaviour of lobbyists, it has increased the transparency of their activities in general.

EPACA recognises that developments are taking place on the national level and would welcome more harmonisation throughout Europe and an inclusion of the Council in the TR.

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

EPACA supports a mandatory system: both to provide a level playing field for interest representatives and to make sure that information provided is more consistent and can provide for broad comparisons between data. EPACA agrees with BUSINESS EUROPE that any strengthening of rules will require more precise guidelines on the part of the institutions. EPACA feels very strongly that until such a mandatory system is in place, incentives to registration should be strengthened, and in particular that EU officials should not participate to or attend events organised by non-registered entities. Alert emails received by the Commission on consultations are not considered an incentive. The EU needs to show its support for ethical & transparent lobbying by making commitments. Mechanisms for enforcement and follow up also need to be improved. EPACA would welcome increased participation of lawyers & law firms.

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.

EPACA promotes registration within its membership (39 of 42 are registered); and also promotes registration to its clients.