Dear Mr Sheppard,

We have not yet received your feedback on the below email. Should you have any changes to make to the ‘compte-rendu’ of the meeting with Vice President Šefčovič, could you please send them to us by Friday 28 June COB.

Do not hesitate in contacting if you have any issues or questions.

Best regards,

WICKHAM CATHERINE
Assistant to the Head of Unit

European Commission
Secretariat General
Unit B5 - Transparency

BERL 05/335
B-1049 Brussels/Belgium
+32 2 298 78 51
catherine.wickham@ec.europa.eu

---

From: WICKHAM Catherine (SG) On Behalf Of LEGRIS Gerard (SG)
Sent: Sunday, June 23, 2013 1:10 PM
To: [Redacted] Philip Sheppard
Cc: SG TRANSPARENCY REGISTER CONTACT; LEGRIS Gerard (SG); WICKHAM Catherine (SG)
Subject: IPRA - Compte rendu - Meeting 5 June 2012 Transparency Register

Dear Mr Sheppard,

We wish to thank you again for your attendance to the stakeholders meeting on Wednesday 5 June with Vice President Šefčovič.

To produce the "compte rendu" of the meeting, the joint secretariat has summarised your answers to the 3 questions:

1. What is, from your perspective, the overall net balance sheet of the Transparency Register? Both in terms of meeting its objectives (wide coverage, proportionate, informative, etc.) and in terms of how it compares to other similar regulatory system in the world.
2. What would be your agenda for change? Why and how? (referring to the various issues identified above)

3. 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.

Should you wish to correct, adjust our record of your views, please feel free to do so by sending this to me within the next five working days. I need to remind you though that this should only be a digest of your comments.

Should you wish to table a more developed argumentaire in complement, you are welcome to do so and it will be appended to the minutes of the meeting.

These documents will be published on the website, as part of the preparatory work for the review, and will be inserted in the file of all members of the EP-COM working group on the Transparency Register Review.

Best regards,

Gérard LEGRIS
Coordinator EP-COM common secretariat of the Transparency register.
Chef d'unité "Transparence"

Commission européenne
Secrétariat général
SGB5 - Berlaymont 5/340
B-1049 Bruxelles/Belgique
+32 2 299 94 06
gerard.legris@ec.europa.eu

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/secretariat_general/index_fr.htm
Dear Ms Wickham,

Many thanks for following up, it is greatly appreciated!

I had small additions to the minutes. I put some things in comments to at least let you and your colleagues know the thinking behind.

Lastly, we also wanted to add that we support the two objectives of both Transparency and to compliance with laws and ethics in order, for example, to avoid excessive pressure or illegitimate access to information and policy-makers.

The steering group asked me to express regrets that some stakeholders only want to focus on Transparency.

I hope this is fine for you.

Best,

European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)
Rue de Trèves, 49-51, 1040 Brussels

This email arises from the European Public Health Alliance which has received funding from the European Union, in the framework of the Health Programme. Sole responsibility for this email lies with EPHA and the Executive Agency is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

On 27 June 2013 17:14, <Catherine.WICKHAM@ec.europa.eu> wrote:

Dear ,

We have not yet received your feedback on the below email. Should you have any changes to make to the 'compte-rendu' of the meeting with Vice President Šefčovič, could you please send them to us by Friday 28 June COB.

Do not hesitate in contacting if you have any issues or questions.

Best regards,

WICKHAM CATHERINE
Assistant to the Head of Unit
From: WICKHAM Catherine (SG) On Behalf Of LEGRIS Gerard (SG)
Sent: Sunday, June 23, 2013 1:04 PM
To: 
Cc: SG TRANSPARENCY REGISTER CONTACT; LEGRIS Gerard (SG); WICKHAM Catherine (SG)
Subject: CSCG - Compte rendu - Meeting 5 June 2012 Transparency Register

Dear [Name],

We wish to thank you again for your attendance to the stakeholders meeting on Wednesday 5 June with Vice President Šefčovič.

To produce the "compte rendu" of the meeting, the joint secretariat has summarised your answers to the 3 questions:

1. What is, from your perspective, the overall net balance sheet of the Transparency Register? Both in terms of meeting its objectives (wide coverage, proportionate, informative, etc.) and in terms of how it compares to other similar regulatory system in the world.

2. What would be your agenda for change? Why and how? (referring to the various issues identified above)

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Coordinator EP-COM common secretariat of the Transparency register.
Chef d'unité "Transparence"

Commission européenne
Secrétariat général
SGB5 - Berlaymont 5/340
B-1049 Bruxelles/Belgique
Meeting Transparency Register – Stakeholders

Date: 05 June 2013

Contributors: CSCG (NGOs)

Represented by: [Redacted]

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.

CSCG considers that there has been considerable improvement compared to the time when there were two separate registers and welcomes efforts from both the Commission and the Parliament to bring the Council on board, which had not happened in the past. It is positive to have an increase in the number of registrations but CSCG would like to see more quality. Members are concerned that comparison with national level or international initiatives should not be an argument to introduce more ambitious rules at the EU level, might lead to inaction, as in the EU little regulation exists.

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

- The bandwidths and the thresholds for financial declarations.

This should be lowered to 10 000 EUR in order to get a more accurate picture of lobbying activities. CSCG agrees with ALTER EU's propositions and in particular, they feel that a future review process should be foreseen for the Transparency Register, again in consultation with its stakeholders, and to ensure that a mandatory lobby register is introduced.

CSCG feels that there should be an obligation for organisations hosting events in the EP and members of expert groups to be registered in the TR. It also recommends the inclusion of activities provided for in the treaties under the scope of the TR, for example trade unions foreseen under Social Dialogue.

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.

CSCG co-operated with ALTER EU to draw up stricter guidelines for NGOs. To actively take part in the review process, which members thank Commissioner Sefcovic and the Joint Register for organising.
Dear Mr. Legris,

Thank you for your email.

Firstly, I have a short question: In addition to the stakeholder meetings, will the review process include any general-public consultations?

Secondly, concerning our more developed “argumentaire”, we would like to have our blog post on this topic appended to the meeting minutes. Cf.: http://www.transparencyinternational.eu/2013/05/a-quick-reply-to-getting-it-right-on-transparency/

Lastly, concerning the record of our views, we would like to make some minor adjustments. As you will see in the document attached, the changes made have been kept brief so as to remain a “digest” of our comments.

Mr. Patz and Ms. McMenamin are at your disposal for any necessary follow-up.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Respectfully,

Olivier RTD Lewis
EU Policy Officer
Transparency International
Liaison Office to the EU
Rue Breydel 40, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium
+32 (0)2 23 58 654
F. +32 (0)2 23 58 610
E. olewis@transparency.org

www.transparencyinternational.eu
Twitter | Blog | Facebook
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3. 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.

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Best regards,

Gérard LEGRIS
Coordinator EP-COM common secretariat of the Transparency register.
Chef d'unité "Transparence"

Commission européenne
Secrétariat général
SGBS - Berlaymont 5/340
B-1049 Bruxelles/Belgique
+32 2 299 94 06
gerard.legris@ec.europa.eu

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/secretariat_general/index_fr.htm
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.

Lobbying is a legitimate exercise and TI supports levelling playing for all lobbyists. As of now, those who do not register have an unfair comparative advantage. (Our position regarding technical improvements to the TR is available on our website.)

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

TI’s main message is that the TR should give information about who is interacting with which institution: "who, when and how", i.e. more details about the lobbying activity itself. More focus should therefore be put on 1) the potential for a legislative footprint (to function like a bibliography), and 2) on meetings between officials and interest representatives.

TI supports a mandatory register, and in the meantime the TR should be made quasi-mandatory. Rules of procedure of the institutions and rules on consultation processes should be updated accordingly. The role of MEPs is different to that of EC officials, and there is a differentiation between the actors involved in interest representation (citizens/journalists/lobbyists/lawyers). These differentiations need to be better taken into account, i.e. rules should be different depending on the officials in question (in particular, whether they are from the Parliament or the Commission) and depending on the registrants concerned (e.g. whether they are acting as citizens, lobbyists or lawyers).

An incentive for registration in the TR could be to automatically pre-register those lobbyists (and their organisations) who sign the entry form at the entrance of EU buildings. Making this data public (while removing any sensitive private data, such as passport numbers or citizenships) would increase transparency and would create an incentive for these persons to complete the registration process online.

TI would welcome a legal opinion outlining the institutions' position regarding the possibility of a mandatory register. TI would also be interested to know the precise objectives of the TR, and what indicators will be used to review the TR.

TI would like to see the Council and the ECB joining the Transparency Register.

Within the Transparency Register, links should be provided between organisations to show which organisation is associated (membership, contractual relationship, informal alliance) by whatever means with other organisation on the register. This will allow the public and EU officials to understand when EU policy-making is influenced through several channels used by the same people/organisations.
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.

As of now the register's proper functioning depends on the good-will of interest representatives. TI believes that moving to a mandatory process would allow the register to reach our common goals in a more effective manner, as organisations interested in influencing EU policies would have to register and to abide by the rules.
From: WICKHAM Catherine (SG)
Sent: Friday 28 June 2013 9:52
To: SG TRANSPARENCY REGISTER CONTACT; LEGRIS Gerard (SG)
Subject: FW: Reminder: IPRA - Compte rendu - Meeting 5 June 2012
Transparency Register
Attachments: EC summary IPRA comments 6-2013.doc

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Pour info

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, June 28, 2013 9:45 AM
To: WICKHAM Catherine (SG)
Subject: RE: Reminder: IPRA - Compte rendu - Meeting 5 June 2012 Transparency Register

Catherine,
thanks for the reminder.
I attach a moderate edit

Philip

Philip Sheppard
IPRA
Meeting Transparency Register – Stakeholders

Date: 05 June 2013

Contributors: IPRA (majority of members European)

Represented by: Mr Philip Sheppard

---

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.

According to the study of Aberdeen Business School, the Transparency Register is a success - IPRA would agree, a majority of actors are now registered. The review should now concentrate on introducing marginal improvements. There is an urgency to getting the Council on board, essentially because rules being introduced on the MS level are incompatible and there will be a strong need for harmonisation. The US system, was created for a different political system, is too burdensome for Brussels practices, and would entail high costs for the organisations concerned. The TR and its Code of Conduct is an exercise of transparency, not ethics-behaviour and this objective must not get lost under other ambitions.

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

IPRA favours a voluntary register.

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.

IPRA's members are on board. Most effective action to promote the register must take place within the institutions to promote its use by officials/ MEPs and Commissioners.
Dear Gerard,

Sorry for the very late reply but I can confirm all the quotes are perfectly correct.

Best regards,

Bernd

Bernd Dittmann  
Managing Director  
BDI/BDA The German Business Representation  
Rue du Commerce 31  
B-1000 Brussels  
Tel: +32 2 792 1002  
Fax: +32 2 792 1010  
www.bdi.eu

Von: Catherine.WICKHAM@ec.europa.eu [mailto:Catherine.WICKHAM@ec.europa.eu]  
Im Auftrag von  
Gerard.LeGRIS@ec.europa.eu  
An: Dittmann, Bernd  
Cc: c.feustel@businesseurope.eu; m.beyrer@businesseurope.eu; SG-TRANSPARENCY-REGISTER-CONTACT@ec.europa.eu; Gerard.LeGRIS@ec.europa.eu; Catherine.WICKHAM@ec.europa.eu  
Jetreff: BUSINESSEUROPE - Compte rendu - Meeting 5 June 2012 Transparency Register

Dear Mr Bernd,

We wish to thank you again for your attendance to the stakeholders meeting on Wednesday 5 June with Vice President Šefčovič.

To produce the "compte rendu" of the meeting, the joint secretariat has summarised your answers to the 3 questions:

1. What is, from your perspective, the overall net balance sheet of the Transparency Register? Both in terms of meeting its objectives (wide coverage, proportionate, informative, etc.) and in terms of how it compares to other similar regulatory system in the world.

2. What would be your agenda for change? Why and how? (referring to the various issues identified above)

3. 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.
Should you wish to correct, adjust our record of your views, please feel free to do so by sending this to me within the next five working days. I need to remind you though that this should only be a digest of your comments.

Should you wish to table a more developed argumentaire in complement, you are welcome to do so and it will be appended to the minutes of the meeting.

These documents will be published on the website, as part of the preparatory work for the review, and will be inserted in the file of all members of the EP-COM working group on the Transparency Register Review.

Best regards,

Gérard LEGRIS
Coordinator EP-COM common secretariat of the Transparency register.
Chef d'unité "Transparence"

Commission européenne
Secrétariat général
SGB5 - Berlaymont 5/340
B-1049 Bruxelles/Belgique
+32 2 299 94 06
gerard.legris@ec.europa.eu

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/secretariat_general/index_fr.htm
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.

So far, the Transparency Register has been a success. BE also agrees that civil society should be emphasised. Business Europe, which represents the corporate sector and trade associations has had specific problems with financial reporting requirements. Initial scepticism from the business sector has improved a lot. The uncertainties related to financial reporting have improved, thanks to guidelines issued etc, but we will need even more clarity if the requirement to register becomes stricter or obligatory.

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

- A compulsory vs. a voluntary register.

  - As long as the register is voluntary, Business Europe can live with current financial reporting requirements. If the register becomes mandatory, we will need more precise rules.

  - The USA is very different from the EU in terms of volume and culture (link to campaign funding) of lobbying, so it is difficult to compare the two systems (in terms of a mandatory registration).

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.

We will try to increase adherence from our members. (MT to check current rate of registration)
Invitation - Technical meeting (BusinessEurope).txt
From: WICKHAM Catherine (SG) on behalf of LEGRIS Gerard (SG)
Sent: Friday 14 December 2012 16:03
To: 'ph.debuck@business-europe.eu'
Cc: LEGRIS Gerard (SG); SG TRANSPARENCY REGISTER CONTACT; TRANSPARENCY-REGISTER (EP)
Subject: Invitation - Transparency Register Annual Report 2012 and 2013 review -
Technical meeting for Stakeholders (BusinessEurope)

Ares(2012)1496820
Brussels, 14 December 2012

Dear Mr de Buck,

Please find enclosed an invitation to the Transparency Register Annual Report 2012 and 2013 review -

Best regards,

Gérard LEGRIS
Coordinator EP-COM common secretariat of the Transparency register.
Chef d'unité "Transparence"

Commission européenne
Secrétariat général
SGB5 - Berlaymont 5/341
B-1049 Bruxelles/Belgique
+32 2 299 94 06
gerard.legris@ec.europa.eu

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/secretariat_general/index_fr.htm
Dear Mr de Buck,

As you might already know, Vice-President Wieland and Vice-President Šefčovič have released the first annual report on the Transparency register produced by the Secretary Generals of our two institutions.

I am happy to enclose a copy of the report with this invitation for your information in case you have not yet read it. I also want to further express my gratitude to those organisations that contributed to the public consultation that preceded the production of the annual report.

The review of the Transparency Register outlined in the interinstitutional agreement will start next year. In order to prepare their own discussions on the issue Vice-Presidents Wieland and Šefčovič would like to have the opportunity to discuss the main findings of the report, as well as the various issues that could be examined in the context of the review, with the umbrella organisations from each section of the register, including your own organisation. They consider that it should be done in a meeting with all of the organisations at once, rather than through a series of bilateral meetings. This will help to foster a mutual understanding of the viewpoints, dimensions and implications of the questions at stake. This is vital to ensure a meaningful discussion. This meeting is to be held in February.

Ahead of this meeting the Vice-Presidents have asked me to hold a preparatory session with your organisations in order to provide you with an initial analysis of our operations and to identify and define the issues that will then form the basis of the talks to be held at a political level.

With this in mind I am happy to invite you to attend such a meeting with me, and a number of our colleagues from the Joint Secretariat of the Transparency Register, on 15 January next from 10h30-12h30, in room A1E-3 of the European Parliament. This meeting is opened to a maximum of two peoples to represent your organisation including yourself or your substitute.

Please inform me (gerard.legris@ec.europa.eu) of the name of the two representatives from your organisation who will attend the meeting of 15 January before close of business on Tuesday 8 January.
If your representatives already have accreditation to access the European Parliament they will be able to reach the room on their own. If this is not the case please indicate this in your answer and provide their details including: names, e-mail address and mobile phone number so a colleague from the European Parliament can contact them and arrange for their admission in the building.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the preparatory session and the meeting in February with our Vice Presidents.

Gérard Legris
Coordinator of the EP-COM joint secretariat of the Transparency Register
Head of Unit Transparency

Attachments: List of the organisations invited to participate.
Invitation - Technical meeting (CSCG).txt

From:  WICKHAM Catherine (SG) on behalf of LEGRIS Gerard (SG)
Sent:  Friday, 14 December 2012 16:19
To:  
Cc:  LEGRIS Gerard (SG); SG TRANSPARENCY REGISTER CONTACT; TRANSPARENCY-REGISTER (EP)
Subject:  Invitation - Transparency Register Annual Report 2012 and 2013 review - Technical meeting for Stakeholders (Civil Society Contact Group)

Ares(2012)1496820
Brussels, 14 December 2012

Dear [Redacted]


Best regards,

Gérard LEGRIS
Coordinator EP-COM common secretariat of the Transparency register.
Chef d'unité "Transparence"

Commission européenne
Secrétariat général
SGB5 - Berlaymont 5/341
B-1049 Bruxelles/Belgique
+32 2 299 94 06
gerard.legris@ec.europa.eu

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/secretariat_general/index_fr.htm
Dear [Name],

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I am looking forward to seeing you at the preparatory session and the meeting in February with our Vice Presidents.

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Coordinator of the EP-COM joint secretariat of the Transparency Register
Head of Unit Transparency

Attachments: List of the organisations invited to participate.
From: WICKHAM Catherine (SG) on behalf of LEGRIS Gerard (SG)  
Sent: Friday 14 December 2012 16:21  
To:  
Cc:  
Subject: Invitation - Transparency Register Annual Report 2012 and 2013 review - Technical meeting for Stakeholders (Eurocities)

Ares(2012)1496820  
Brussels, 14 December 2012

Dear [REDACTED],


Best regards,

Gérard LEGRIS  
Coordinator EP-COM common secretariat of the Transparency register.  
Chef d'unité "Transparence"

Commission européenne  
Secrétariat général  
SGS5 - Berlaymont 5/341  
B-1049 Bruxelles/Belgique  
+32 2 299 94 06  
gerard.legris@ec.europa.eu

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/secretariat_general/index_fr.htm  

Page 1
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Best regards,

Gérard Legris
Coordinator of the EP-COM joint secretariat of the Transparency Register
Head of Unit Transparency

Attachments: List of the organisations invited to participate.
Invitation - Technical meeting (IPRA).txt

From: WICKHAM Catherine (SG) on behalf of LEGRIS Gerard (SG)
Sent: Friday 14 December 2012 16:00
To: 'CEO@IPRA.ORG'; LEGRIS Gerard (SG); SG TRANSPARENCY REGISTER CONTACT;
TRANSPARENCY-REGISTER (EP)
Cc: 'CEO@IPRA.ORG'; LEGRIS Gerard (SG); SG TRANSPARENCY REGISTER CONTACT;
TRANSPARENCY-REGISTER (EP)
Subject: Invitation - Transparency Register Annual Report 2012 and 2013 review -
Technical meeting for Stakeholders (IPRA)

Ares(2012)1496820
Brussels, 14 December 2012

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Best regards,

Gérard LEGRIS
Coordinator EP-COM common secretariat of the Transparency register.
Chef d'unité "Transparence"

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Secrétariat général
SGB5 - Berlaymont 5/341
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gerard.legris@ec.europa.eu

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/secretariat_general/index_fr.htm
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With this in mind I am happy to invite you to attend such a meeting with me, and a number of our colleagues from the Joint Secretariat of the Transparency Register, on 15 January next from 10h30-12h30, in room A1E- 3 of the European Parliament. This meeting is opened to a maximum of two peoples to represent your organisation including yourself or your substitute.
Please inform me (gerard.legris@ec.europa.eu) of the name of the two representatives from your organisation who will attend the meeting of 15 January before close of business on Tuesday 8 January.

If your representatives already have accreditation to access the European Parliament they will be able to reach the room on their own. If this is not the case please indicate this in your answer and provide their details including: names, e-mail address and mobile phone number so a colleague from the European Parliament can contact them and arrange for their admission in the building.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the preparatory session and the meeting in February with our Vice Presidents.

Regard,

Gérard Legris
Coordinator of the EP-COM joint secretariat of the Transparency Register
Head of Unit Transparency

Attachments: List of the organisations invited to participate.
Invitation - Technical meeting (SEAP).txt

From: WICKHAM Catherine (SG) on behalf of LEGRIS Gerard (SG)
Sent: Friday 14 December 2012 15:55
To: 'president@seap.be'
CC: LEGRIS Gerard (SG); SG TRANSPARENCY REGISTER CONTACT; TRANSPARENCY-REGISTER (EP)
Subject: Invitation - Transparency Register Annual Report 2012 and 2013 review - Technical meeting for Stakeholders (SEAP)

Ares(2012)1496820
Brussels, 14 December 2012

Dear Ms Felicianonio,


Best regards,

Gérard LEGRIS
Coordinator EP-COM common secretariat of the Transparency register.
Chef d’unité "Transparence"

Commission européenne
Secrétariat général
SGB5 - Berlaymont 5/341
B-1049 Bruxelles/Belgique
+32 2 299 94 06
gerard.legris@ec.europa.eu

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/secretariat_general/index_fr.htm
Dear Ms Di Felicianonio,

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The Transparency Register is operated by the European Parliament and the European Commission. The "Joint Secretariat" is staffed by officials from both institutions.

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Gérard Legris
Coordinator of the EP-COM joint secretariat of the Transparency Register
Head of Unit Transparency

Attachments: List of the organisations invited to participate.
From: WICKHAM Catherine (SG) on behalf of LEGRIS Gerard (SG)  
Sent: Friday 14 December 2012 16:22  
To: jmittermaier@transparency.org  
Cc: LEGRIS Gerard (SG); SG TRANSPARENCY REGISTER CONTACT; TRANSPARENCY-REGISTER (EP)  
Subject: Invitation - Transparency Register Annual Report 2012 and 2013 review - Technical meeting for Stakeholders (Transparency International) 

Ares(2012)1496820  
Brussels, 14 December 2012  

Dear Ms Mittermaier,  


Best regards,  

Gérard LEGRIS  
Coordinator EP-COM common secretariat of the Transparency register.  
Chef d'unité "Transparence"  
Commission européenne  
Secrétariat général  
SGB5 – Berlaymont 5/341  
B-1049 Bruxelles/Belgique  
+32 2 299 94 06  
gerard.legris@ec.europa.eu  

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/secretariat_general/index_fr.htm  
Dear Ms Mittermaier,

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Regards,

Gérard Legris
Coordinator of the EP-COM joint secretariat of the Transparency Register
Head of Unit Transparency

Attachments: List of the organisations invited to participate.
Dear Mr Resch,

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Coordinator of the EP-COM joint secretariat of the Transparency Register
Head of Unit Transparency

Attachments: List of the organisations invited to participate.
Annual Report on the operations of the Transparency Register
2012

Presented by the Secretaries General
of the European Parliament and the European Commission
to

European Parliament Vice President Rainer Wieland
and
European Commission Vice President Maroš Šefčovič

As laid down in Article 27 of the Inter Institutional Agreement (IIA) on the Transparency Register, this annual report accounts for the operations of the European Transparency Register (TR), launched on 23 June 2011 as a joint instrument for the European Parliament and European Commission, during its first year of existence. The report:

- Presents the activities undertaken during the first year by the Joint Transparency Register Secretariat (JTRS).
- Analyses the results of the public consultation held on operations of the TR.
- Identifies the main issues emerging from this consultation as well as from the experience of the first year of operations.

Although the substance of this report, as well as the input from the consultation, can be seen as the first building block, a separate exercise or "review" is foreseen by the IIA, which should take place no later than two years after its launch.

This is why the part III of this report - drawing on the public consultation, the first year of experience and contacts made with stakeholders - outlines a number of issues, including policy issues, to be considered in the context of the review exercise, before the Parliament and the Commission can reach their conclusions next year.
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Acronyms used throughout the report:
EP = European Parliament
EC = European Commission
EU = European Union
FTE = Full-time equivalent
FTS = Financial Transparency System
GSC = General Secretariat of the Council
IIA = Inter Institutional Agreement
IT = Information Technology
JTRS = Joint Transparency Register Secretariat
MEP = Member of the European Parliament
NGO = Non Governmental Organisation
TFEU = Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union
TR or "the register" = Transparency Register
TRBO = Transparency Register Back Office
Executive Summary

1. The Transparency Register (TR), jointly run by the European Parliament (EP) and the European Commission (EC), currently provides European citizens with information about more than 5,400 organisations engaged in activities seeking to influence the EU policy and decision making process, all bound by a common code of conduct.

2. In this first year of operation of the new joint scheme much time and energy was devoted to solving technical issues and bringing ad-hoc support and help to users through the TR helpdesk function.

Thus the objectives of the first year, pursued by the Joint Transparency Register Secretariat (JTRS), have been deliberately pragmatic and tailored to the resources available both in the EP and the EC services. Those objectives have been:

- Ensuring the smooth switch over of registered organisations from the previous dual EP and EC schemes to the new common TR.
- Launching and operating the technological platform; solving IT problems as they arose.
- Developing and complementing the system with an EP accreditation request module for access rights to EP buildings.
- Providing and complementing guidelines for users on the implementation of the IIA, as the need arose based on stakeholder feedback.
- Handling complaints.
- Pursuing dialogue with the Council to discuss practicalities of its possible future participation in the scheme.
- Testing and developing methodologies for quality checks of declarations in the TR.

3. These operational objectives have been achieved to a satisfactory degree. Indeed, the platform works well; the switch-over has been successful; the online accreditation request module has been opened and, despite some initial difficulties, communication between EP and EC IT systems is now operational; three successive waves of guidelines have been issued; complaints have been handled; the Council has made a further step by designating observers to take part in the JTRS meetings; the methodology for quality checks has been set up and the checks are now being progressively developed. In addition, an online public consultation was held on the operations of the TR during July-August 2012, in order to gain more in-depth feedback from users on these issues.

4. Having achieved the objectives set for the first year of operation, the EU institutions involved in the scheme, in addition to pursuing these operational tasks on a daily basis, should now set further objectives for the second year of operation. These objectives could include issues emerging from the stakeholders' consultation and other contacts made, which can be summarised as follows:

- Improve the quality of the content of the TR, by enforcing strict compliance with the rules by registrants.
- Now that the switch-over has been completed, seek continuing expansion of the number of registrations through further external information and communication efforts.
- Extend use of the scheme by staff and Members in both institutions, by providing them with guidelines on the TR, as well as training schemes and encourage other EU bodies, offices and agencies to use it. The scheme will only reach its full efficiency if Members and staff of the institutions share responsibility for promoting its use in their contacts and interaction with third party organisations.

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1 5431 as of 22 October 2012.
Part I: Transparency Register: Birth, Work and State of Play

1.1. Introduction: What is the common Transparency Register?

The Transparency Register (TR) is a voluntary scheme, supported by a public interactive tool, set up by the European Parliament (EP) and the European Commission (EC) to add transparency to the EU decision-making process, providing citizens and persons working in the institutions with information about organisations participating in EU policy-making.

In conformity with the participatory democracy principles enshrined in Article 11 TEU, EU institutions are open to contributions from citizens, representative associations and civil society. The TR provides citizens with a "one-stop shop" to help them exercise their right to know who may be seeking to influence the preparation of decisions on various levels. Registrants can now enter and update information about their organisations in one place. Through this simplified registration process, registered entities commit themselves to respect a single code of conduct covering fulfilment of legal requirements and ethical principles. Since its origin, an open invitation has been extended to the Council to join this scheme and to all other bodies of the Union to use it as a reference instrument.

Registered entities provide the most essential information about themselves: relevant EU legislation monitored, estimate of their financial effort mobilised in this field, head office, persons involved, membership or clients, as well as the amount of EU funding they received.

The TR underlines the importance of creating a level playing field and therefore does not highlight or stigmatise any specific category of interest representatives. This differentiates it from other similar systems in place. All categories are expected to register: whether on an individual basis when acting as an independent, or as an organisation, providing only that the activities under consideration fall within the scope of the TR and are in line with the provisions of the Inter Institutional Agreement (IIA) and Article 11 TEU. Thus, eligible organisations range from NGOs to professional & trade associations, companies, public affairs consultancies, trade unions, think tanks, law firms, etc. To respect the diversity and identity of all actors involved, registrants can choose to register within six wide categories.

Specific exceptions have been laid down, however, to clarify which actors are not concerned; notably public authorities, diplomatic missions to the EU, political parties, churches and religious communities, or regional entities as such (although the structures that are created to represent them at EU-level may well be covered by the scope of the TR).

The TR, housed on the EC's europa portal, is available online. As of 22 October 2012, it includes 5431 organisations, with all information readily available to the public eye. The number of registrants has steadily increased ever since its launch, attesting to the growing reputation of this scheme. The website provides weekly statistics about registrants, a search tool to browse registrations, alphabetic lists of registrants and a possibility to request accreditation for access rights to EP buildings. The list of all persons who have acquired

3 This includes activities such as: lobbying, advocacy, interest representation, public affairs, government relations etc.
such accreditation - over 3,100 by October 2012 - is provided on the website. Web access statistics indicate an average of 7,000 "unique visitors"\(^5\) per month for the TR website.

The TR should not only progressively become a reference directory for EU public office holders and staff, as well as for those active in seeking to influence EU legislation, but it is also intended as a valuable search tool for EU citizens, interested in following decision-making on the EU level.

Although the TR scheme is not immune to criticism (as reflected in the part dedicated to the public consultation), in particular from organisations actively engaged in campaigns aiming at promoting further transparency from the public authorities, it has been generally welcomed by all categories of stakeholders as a "new positive development in the overall framework of transparency at the EU level."\(^6\)

Timeline of events:

- On 23 June 2011, the **Inter Institutional Agreement (IIA) between the EP and the EC on a common Transparency Register**, was signed in the EP plenary by EP President, Jerzy Buzek and EC Vice President Maroš Šefčovič. At the signing, the Council - through the Hungarian Presidency - made a unilateral statement declaring that it was ready to consider having a role in the TR. For the first time, these three EU institutions were united in their public pledge to improve the transparency of EU legislation via a joint register for interest representatives.

- On 1 July 2011, the JTRS started its work.

- In March 2012, a new electronic system for requesting EP accreditation was made available through the TR and the Transparency Register Back Office (TRBO) application. This replaced the previous paper-based accreditation request procedure and ensures that only those registered in the TR can request access rights to EP buildings.

- As of 7 June 2012 an observer from the General Secretariat of the Council (GSC) has participated in the JTRS' weekly meetings with a view to familiarize the GSC with the management of the operations of the TR system.

- 8 June-31 August 2012 a **public consultation** on the operations of the TR was held on the EC website "Your Voice in Europe" for registrants and non-registrants. Altogether, 253 participations were recorded.

- On 23 June 2012, the **former EC register for interest representatives** (set up in 2008) was closed, after a one-year transition period. Nearly all registrants chose to be included in the new TR, which celebrated its 1st birthday with 5,150 registrants.

- In October 2012, the **1st annual report of the operations of the TR** is submitted by the Secretaries-General of the EP and the EC to the responsible Vice-Presidents of both institutions.

- By June 2013 a **review process of the TR** will be engaged, as a two-year follow up to its entry into operation (Art 30 of the IIA).

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\(^5\) Unique visitor is the uniquely identified client viewing a page within a defined time period. A unique visitor is counted once in the considered period whereas the visitor can have made several visits. See details in annex II.

\(^6\) Extract from Transparency International’s EU office recommendation on the annual report on the operation of the TR:

1.2. The work of the Joint Transparency Register Secretariat (JTRS)

1.2.1. The context

The JTRS is a new and innovative work format within EU’s institutions, consisting of staff from two separate institutions. It is made up of a team of officials from the EP’s DG Presidency (Transparency Unit) and EC’s Secretariat General (Transparency Unit) and operates under the coordination of the Head of the Transparency Unit in the Secretariat-General of the European Commission. The JTRS meets on a weekly basis and, since June 2012, the Council Secretariat has sent observers to take part in these meetings.

Although no detailed tracking of staff time has been made for this specific activity, it is estimated that, excluding IT maintenance and development as well as EP accreditation procedures, the equivalent of four full-time staff (two per institution) are mobilised at any one time to carry out the work associated with the scheme.

According to the IIA, its task "includes the implementation of measures to contribute to the quality of the content of the register”, namely dealing with complaints, alerts and random quality checks. The JTRS is responsible for the everyday running and management of the TR, and also for communication activities to raise awareness both internally and externally to the EU institutions.

A constant stream of communication takes place between the JTRS and a wide variety of stakeholders. A large number of questions are responded to by the JTRS helpdesk, via email or telephone, giving it direct contact with users. On a weekly basis, the helpdesk will respond to, on average, 30 phone calls and 100 emails from users, which includes both quality check procedures and EP accreditation issues.

1.2.2. Changes to the EP accreditation procedures

The EP has made registration on the TR a precondition for facilitated access to its buildings. This applies to all individuals working or representing an organisation eligible for inclusion in the TR, thereby making the TR quasi-mandatory. Much progress has been made relative to the former system of accreditation. The following points include the major changes and advantages of the new system:

- In March 2012 an online system for requesting access to the EP was introduced via the TR website thanks to a back office application called Transparency Register Back Office (TRBO). This has facilitated the process for requesting access to the EP buildings.
- A specific reception desk has been provided (EP Simone Veil entrance) for TR registrants with EP access authorisation.
- Requests are introduced and approved or rejected online within 72 hours, compared to the average 4-6 weeks previously.
- An email confirmation is automatically sent to applicants informing them of the status of their application.

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7 Since the launching of the TR, this position has been filled by M. Gérard LEGRIS.
8 See footnote 2.
9 SG-TRANSPARENCY-REGISTER-CONTACT@ec.europa.eu (EC) & Trans-Register@europarl.europa.eu (EP).
Applications to renew access authorisation can be submitted up to two months prior to the expiry date so that there is no hiatus between the two periods of authorised access. The TR Accreditation unit has an email helpdesk for specific enquiries\textsuperscript{10}. The names of persons accredited for access to the EP are publicly available through the TR website. Whereas the EP had initially set a limit of ten individuals who could register for access from any single organisation, this upper limit has been dropped. There is however currently a requirement that no more than four accredited individuals from the same organisation may have access to EP premises \textit{at the same time}.

Further improvements will include the option to order daily access passes in advance online.

While in 2011 (under the old system) there were over 4,000 listed EP accreditations, current figures are now somewhat lower at 3,121. With a current average of 30 new accreditations per week, this figure is expected to continue rising. The original drop in numbers can be explained by a number of factors, including that representatives of regional authorities are not presently covered by the TR accreditation procedure, and that previously dormant registrations have been eliminated due to the new requirements of the TR.

\textbf{1.2.3. Co-operation between IT departments}

IT staff in both EU institutions have cooperated closely, essentially through the JTRS structure, in order to ensure the smooth running of a \textit{europa}-based website that can respond to the needs and requirements of both institutions and of the 5000 and above external users. The development of the TR website platform was fully completed in February 2012 and it is currently run on a maintenance budget; all costs, so far, are covered by the EC. Functional enhancements are being delivered progressively to respond to business needs such as an improved 'quality check' capacity and identification of suspected duplicate registrations.

The EP TRBO application was delivered into production in February 2012, enabling its Accreditation unit to manage and respond to new EP accreditation requests through the TR. Since then, a number of functional enhancements have been introduced in response to additional requirements resulting from the new application. The transfer of data from the EP legacy systems was completed in June 2012 and additional modifications to the application by the end of 2012 aim to ensure that the first renewal of access applications under the TRBO application can be completed without any significant technical problems. Once this has been achieved, corrective or continuous maintenance will be covered by EP's IT department (DG ITEC).

Development of the TR and the new online EP accreditation management module represents an innovative step in technical cooperation between the two EU institutions. It is the first time that this form of electronic information exchange between EP and EC information systems has been used. The learning curve has been steep, any 'teething problems' are being successfully resolved and overcome, and the end result should be a well-functioning system (as evidenced by the 77.63% of users who expressed satisfaction in the recent public consultation).

\textsuperscript{10} Trans-Register@europarl.europa.eu.
1.2.4. Awareness-raising (internal and external)

A series of transparency workshops have taken place for assistants of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to help familiarise them with the information tools provided by the TR. In these sessions, assistants are encouraged - where relevant - to use the TR to find more information about interest representatives their MEPs might be meeting, and to invite these representatives to apply for access rights to enter the EP of their own accord, via the TR. A presentation has also been foreseen for the departments (DGs) responsible for the administration of EP committees (DGs IPOL and EXPO).

General training modules for EC staff include references to transparency policy and the topic is frequently requested by visitor groups especially those coming from business and industry circles as well as from academic spheres.

Members of the JTRS have had a wide range of meetings with stakeholders and with non-registered entities throughout the year to discuss the operations and requirements of the TR. The coordinator of the JTRS has frequently delivered speeches and made presentations on invitation from trade and professional associations as well as NGOs’ horizontal associations. This has even included a number of public debates with citizens, as for example in the context of the Belgian launch of the documentary film *Brussels Business*, or with national bar associations, such as the international section of the *Brussels bar association*, or the *Barreau de Paris* for French lawyers.

### 1.3. Objectives & state of play of the Transparency Register

#### 1.3.1. State of play

It was not thought that all would be achieved during the first year of operation of this new scheme, and what has been achieved does not claim perfection. During this launch phase, much time and energy has been devoted to solving technical issues and bringing *ad-hoc* support and help to users through the TR helpdesk function. Thus the objectives pursued by the JTRS in the first year, have been deliberately modest and tailored to the resources available both in the EP and the EC services. Those objectives have been:

- Ensuring the smooth switch over of registered organisations from the previous dual EP and EC schemes to the new common TR.
- Launching and operating the technological platform; solving IT problems as they arose.
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These operational objectives have been achieved to a satisfactory degree. Indeed, the platform works well; the switch-over has been successful; the online accreditation request module has been opened and, despite some initial difficulties, communication between EP and Commission IT systems is now operational; three successive waves of guidelines have been issued; complaints have been handled; the Council has made a further step by
designating observers to take part in the JTRS' meetings\textsuperscript{11}; the methodology for quality checks has been set up and the checks are now being progressively developed.

In addition, an online public consultation was held on the operations of the TR from June through to August 2012, in order to gain more in-depth feedback from users on these issues.

As of 22 October 2012 there were 5431 registrants in the TR\textsuperscript{12} in total, of which almost half (48\%) have registered as Category II (In-house lobbyists and trade/professional associations) and about 28\% in Category III (NGOs).

Categories of registrants:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY OF REGISTRANT</th>
<th>NUMBER OF REGISTRANTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I - Professional consultancies/law firms/self-employed consultants</td>
<td>617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional consultancies</td>
<td>402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law firms</td>
<td>43</td>
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<tr>
<td>Self-employed consultants</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II - In-house lobbyists and trade/professional associations</td>
<td>2585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Companies &amp; groups</td>
<td>742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade, business &amp; professional associations</td>
<td>1,523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade unions</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other similar organisations</td>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III - Non-governmental organisations</td>
<td>1,540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV - Think tanks, research and academic institutions</td>
<td>373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Think tanks and research institutions</td>
<td>267</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academic institutions</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V - Organisations representing churches and religious communities</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI - Organisations representing local, regional and municipal authorities, other public or mixed entities, etc.</td>
<td>282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local, regional and municipal authorities (at sub-national level)</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other public or mixed entities, etc.</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.3.2. Monitoring and Enforcement

1.3.2.1. Quality checks

Article 21 of the IIA attributed to the JTRS the task of contributing to the quality of the content of the TR. An IT tool in the current database allows for producing random lists of organisation's entries to be checked as a routine process: administrative investigations are carried out if any inaccurate information is found in this way, and direct contact is made with the organisation concerned in order to resolve the issue.

The organisation is then required to update any incorrect entries, and provide any plausible explanation about the possible erroneous data within 10 working days. Should they not do

\textsuperscript{11} See footnote 2.

\textsuperscript{12} For more statistics and information about the evolution of registrants, please visit the TR website: http://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/public/consultation/statistics.do?locale=en&action=prepareView.
so, then their registration will be suspended by the JTRS. Once suspended, it is possible for a registrant to access its registration in order to modify it. However, the information is not publicly available on the TR website during this period. A delay of eight weeks is granted after suspension for the organisation to apply the necessary changes, before complete deletion of its registration. During this period, staff from the organisation with authorisation to access the EP can continue to enter its buildings.

Contact persons are always notified about these time limits and the relative change of status of their registration. Random quality checks can take between half an hour and two months depending on problems and issues to be resolved. Since March 2012, the JTRS has made over 400 quality checks, with an average of 15 checks per week. A number of complementary IT tools will be introduced in November 2012 to facilitate these checks and increase their efficiency.

An overview of quality checks:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March-September 2012</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Compliant</th>
<th>Non-compliant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Random checks</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Checks on alerts</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total checks</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-compliant cases</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ongoing cases</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closed cases</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with disbarment</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with update</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Random checks        | 100%  | 60% | 40%  |
| Checks on alerts     | 100%  | 15% | 85%  |

1.3.2.2. Complaints

On the basis of Articles 18 and 19 of the IIA, the JTRS has examined five formal complaints during the period under consideration. All of the five complaints received during the first year of operations relate to an alleged breach of paragraph (d) of the Code of Conduct signed by registrants: "Ensure that, to the best of their knowledge, information which they provide upon registration and subsequently in the framework of their activities within the scope of the register is complete, up-to-date and not misleading".

Paragraph 11 in Annex IV of the IIA provides that where information entered in the register is incorrect or incomplete the registrant will be requested to correct that information within eight weeks. In accordance with the IIA and in a similar procedure to that of quality checks, registrants are accorded 10 working days to respond to the complaint before being suspended from the TR for a period of eight weeks. At the end of this period, if no action is taken, the registrant is removed from the TR.

In the above cases no intentional breach of the code of conduct was established, rather these were all cases of incorrect registration (in the wrong section) or incomplete information (under-reporting of financial information), as a consequence of an inadequate comprehension of the relevant dispositions in the IIA.
When registrants concerned co-operated, the complaints were closed without further action. Only in one case did the registrant not provide the necessary information; the organisation was therefore removed from the TR.

During the first year no complaints were lodged about non-compliance with the code of conduct on other grounds. In addition to the above cases, three complaints have been received by the JTRS in September 2012.

1.3.2.3. Alerts

The above experience has led the JTRS to consider complaints relative to point d) of the Code of Conduct as "alerts", being the most common type of complaint, and where the mistake was found to be unintentional. Indeed, while the formal complaint mechanism is a necessary tool, it is clear that on an everyday basis, it is essential to use a lighter "alert mechanism" in order to react more quickly to rectify misinformation contained in the TR.

Therefore, the alert mechanism is a complementary tool to the random quality checks (see point 1.3.2.1. above) and becomes the second step of the monitoring procedure. On the third step of the monitoring procedure the JTRS deals with formal "complaints" about intentional breaches of the Code of Conduct by TR registrants.

The alerts, both from internal and external sources, have been handled systematically as quality checks during the year and are therefore quantified within the total number of quality checks (see table in 1.3.2.1). All alerts and quality checks are dealt with in confidentiality with regards to the entities concerned.

Part II: Public consultation results & analysis of operations of the TR

2.1. Participants

A public consultation was held on the EC Your Voice in Europe website from 8 June to 31 August 2012 on the operations of the TR, and results helped to feed into this annual report. A total of 253 stakeholders took part\(^1\), 233 (92%) of which were registered organisations and 20 (8%) were non-registered organisations, of which the majority were law firms. It should be noted that a number of organisations\(^2\) have supplemented their online input with a written contribution to express their views in a more substantial way. This input has been taken into account and will also serve to feed the review process.

Thus, around 5% of the registered entities in the TR responded to the public consultation. Although this is not a very large proportion of all registrants, it is a level of response that can give clear enough indications as to the operation of the TR from a user's point of view. This is especially true since all major horizontal organisations present in Brussels responded to the public consultation, thereby reflecting their members' positions. Few non-registrants responded to the consultation, and therefore the JTRS will establish specific contact with such organisations in order to receive additional and ongoing feedback on their motivations for not registering, as part of the preparation of the review exercise.

Contributions by categories:

\(^1\) It is foreseen to publish online contributions tabled by the participants on the TR website.
\(^2\) Such contributions were received from: Transparency International, CCBE, Business Europe, Orgalime, Ordre des Barreaux Francophones et Germanophones de Belgique, ALTER EU & Civil Society Contact Group.
121 participations by trade/professional organisations (47%);
66 by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) (26%);
29 by professional consultancies/law firms/self-employed consultants (11%);
14 by organisations representing local, regional and municipal authorities, other public or mixed entities (5.5%);
10 by organisations having another status (not defined) (5%);
12 by think tanks, research and academic institutions (5%);
1 by an organisation representing churches and religious communities (0.5%).

Only 34% of the contributors have their head office in Belgium, but 66% have an office in Brussels. The distribution of contributions between categories clearly reflects the current balance in the TR\textsuperscript{15}, where numbers of registrants are strongest in category II, followed by III, then I, as defined in the IIA.

2.2. Summary of results

In the range of responses given, a vast majority of respondents declare they have registered in the TR primarily for the sake of transparency (92%). They also wish to interact with the EU institutions in a transparent and ethical way and believe that being registered reflects positively on their image (93%). Receiving a timely alert on either EC public consultations (76%) or roadmaps (69%), or being granted access to the EP (66%) appeared to be slightly less important considerations.

The TR is thus widely perceived as an important tool both for democratic principles, but also for image purposes. A number of horizontal organisations made reference to guidelines they had produced and issued to their members, in order to help with the registration procedure on the TR\textsuperscript{16}.

It shows that one of the main objectives of the voluntary register, which was to build up a significant critical mass of good-faith organisations providing information about themselves and accepting to be bound by a common Code of Conduct, is in the process of being fulfilled. This in turn, allows for public decision-makers and citizens' associations to draw their own conclusions on organisations that deliberately remain outside the TR.

The main consideration cited by non-registrants is that registration is not compulsory (34%) and that the practical benefits of registration are limited (30%), but at least a third of non-registered entities showed willingness to reconsider registering. A major concern for law firms seems to be the need to protect the anonymity of their clients; law firms also have difficulties with accepting sanctions for any breach of the code from the EU institutions - as judge and jury. Due to the independence of their profession, law firms feel that their professional representative associations should handle complaints regarding an alleged violation of conduct codes and decide relative sanctions on their account.

EP accreditation ranked as the fifth reason given for registration (66% of registered respondents). No major technical problems were underlined with the new online system, with an overwhelming 78% of registered respondents who had used it claiming to be satisfied. Most problems raised with accreditation were related to the former system, in place prior to March 2012. It is evident however from the input received that more clarity is

\textsuperscript{15} See table in 1.3.1.
\textsuperscript{16} These organisations were: Friends of the Earth Europe; ALTER-EU/ EU Civil Society Contact Group; SEAP and EFPIA.
needed for applicants on how to make an application for EP access, and the specific
documentation required for this application, as well as up-to-date applicable rules.

Over half of the respondents concerned want to see the restoration of annual passes for
interest group representatives, and a certain number of other issues were raised, such as the
waiting time at the EP entrance at rush hours. Finally, many respondents felt that a more
ecological way could be found for the issuing of daily access passes, which are made of
plastic and do not currently appear to be collected for recycling.

2.3. Specific observations made by respondents

While no technical difficulties were reported, almost 70% of registered respondents had
difficulties with providing the information required for registration. Of those experiencing
such difficulties, the two major problems were:

- Evaluating financial data (40%, or 29% of all registered respondents).
- Assessing the number of relevant staff for representation activities (29% or 20.5% of
  all registered respondents).

While guidelines provided on the TR website are considered to be clear or very clear by
77% of registered respondents, a considerable number made suggestions on how to improve
guidance. Results show that further guidance is necessary, especially in terms of financial
disclosure or staff active under the scope of the TR. Thus, the JTRS should continue to
collaborate closely with horizontal (representative) organisations to provide guidance for
registrants.

In general, 84% of respondents do not consider it useful to disclose more information than is
already required in the TR. This sentiment seems to run in parallel however, to a general
feeling that reporting requirements could be tightened in order to allow for comparisons
between categories and registrants. It would also seem that a major concern for current
registrants is that non-registered entities get the same treatment, vis-à-vis the EU
institutions, as those who are registered on the TR, thereby removing some of the incentive
for registration. An overwhelming majority of suggestions on possible improvements to the
TR related to how to increase advantages for those registered compared with non-
registrants.

On the policy level, recommendations were received mainly from NGOs, but also from
public affairs consultancies or horizontal organisations. A large majority of these suggested
increasing the level of information provided by registrants, or making the register
mandatory. However, none provides any indication on the actual – and legal – meaning of a
"mandatory register" in the EU context. Worth noting, is that while all NGOs contributing
on this issue support a move towards more transparency, public affairs consultancies also
seem to do so - albeit on the strict condition that any future tightening of requirements
should be made mandatory and applied equally to all interest group representatives. Public
affairs consultancies particularly seem to emphasise the need for creating a level playing
field between themselves and law firms, still widely absent from the TR.

Part III: Range of elements identified for a follow-up and wider context

3.1. Issues to be examined at administrative and/or technical level (No IIA impact)

Having achieved the objectives set for the first year of operation, the EU institutions
involved in the scheme, in addition to pursuing these operational tasks on a daily basis,
should now set further objectives for the second year of operation. These objectives could include the issues emerging from the stakeholders' consultation and other contacts made, which can be summarised as follows:

3.1.1. Priority issues emerging from the stakeholders' consultation and contacts

- Improve the quality of the content of the TR, enforcing strict compliance of the rules by registrants.
- Now that the switch-over has been completed, seek continuing expansion of the number of registrations through further external information and communication efforts.
- Ensure active use of the scheme by staff and Members in both institutions by providing them with guidelines on the TR, as well as training schemes and encourage other EU bodies, organs and agencies to use it. The scheme will only reach its full efficiency if Members and staff share responsibility for promoting its use it in their contacts and interaction with third party organisations.

3.1.2. Other issues to be examined

- Providing further clarifications and guidelines on:
  1. Appropriate choice of category (for example for not-for-profit entities such as trade or professional associations, registering in both categories II & III).
  2. Definitions of eligible activities and expenditures to be accounted for in the cost estimate and quantification of the number of staff involved in the eligible activities
  3. Inclusion of company CEOs in the estimated number of people engaged in eligible TR activities and the consequence for financial estimates.
  4. Consultancy employees acting on contractual basis as executives of trade or professional associations.
- Ensuring technical reliability of IT and introducing additional benefits to using the EP-related accreditation procedure.
- Enforcing the requirement to provide a list of specific activities pursued: consider that general formulas do not comply and require a list of legislative files and issues on which eligible activities were pursued.
- Consideration of measures to ensure the authenticity and objectives of entities registering in the TR who might otherwise bring the entire TR into disrepute.
- Bringing further precision to the handling of complaints. Establishing a possibility for entities concerned to present, in support of their answer, a memorandum produced by their professional organisations, in particular for regulated professions or organisations subject to a professional code of conduct.

3.2. Policy issues to be considered in the context of the review (possible impact on IIA)

- The possibility to envisage an ad-hoc, derogative and exceptional formula for category I entities claiming a need for client confidentiality, subject to the demonstration of concrete and non-hypothetical risks associated with the divulgation of these.

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17 Decision adopted by EP vote, 11 May 2011: "Repeats, however, its call for the mandatory registration of all lobbyists on the TR and calls for the necessary steps to be taken in the framework of the forthcoming review process in order to prepare for a transition to mandatory" (P7_TA(2011)0222).
The possible replacement of the word "complaints" in the IIA by "alerts and complaints". The word "alert" could qualify any allegation questioning the validity of the information entered in the register, or alleged violation of the code of conduct not individually affecting the person making the claim. Whereas the word "complaint" could be applied to cases where the complainants fear direct harm to themselves or their organisation, deriving from the behaviour of the complained-about entity.

Clarification on category VI of the TR, as referred to in point 7 of the EP Decision mentioned above.

3.3. Putting the TR into context: regulating interest representation

3.3.1. The TR and international standards and practices

Through this new scheme, the EU institutions involved have joined the relatively few public authorities in the world (among others: the US, Canada, Australia), which have developed various systems to regulate interest representation, including lobbying, and provide more transparency in this area. Among these systems, the TR ranks among those offering the widest range of information to citizens, and is applicable to the widest playing field. It encompasses six categories of actors within its system, as described in annex 1 of the IIA. The TR is in line with international standards in this domain, such as the Recommendation of the OECD Council on Principles for Transparency and Integrity in Lobbying18.

3.3.2. Interest representation regulation in EU Member States

The JTRS observes EU Member States' activity and initiatives, as regards regulation of interest representation on the national level, purely for comparative purposes. Currently, some form of regulation exists in this domain in six of the EU Member States. Various mechanisms are used, as illustrated in the annexed comparison table19, drawn up by JTRS staff.

A recent increase in activity is visible in this area with Slovenia and Austria introducing legislation in 2011 and 2012 respectively, although Hungary revoked its previous legislation in 2011. Six other Member States are currently looking at the possibility of regulating interest representation (Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Italy and the UK). The UK and Ireland are both expected to introduce legislation in 2013, and have held public consultations on these proposals during 2012. In several of these cases the EU's TR scheme has been a useful reference for stakeholders or public authorities themselves.

3.3.3. Academic research and curricula

Although this report does not pretend to address this issue in detail, it should be noted that more and more academic work is undertaken by academic and research institutions on the topic of interest representation, lobbying practices and regulatory systems. This leads to a progressively better understanding of the phenomenon, as well as the emergence of several curricula dedicated to this field.

19See annex I. This table has been drawn up for pure research purposes and contains only indications on the type of systems in operation without pretending to provide full details. The JTRS welcomes any corrections, in case of inaccuracies.
## Annex I - Overview of Regulation of Interest representation in EU Member States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overview</th>
<th>DE(^{20})</th>
<th>FR(^{21})</th>
<th>LT(^{22})</th>
<th>AT(^{23})</th>
<th>PL(^{24})</th>
<th>SI(^{25})</th>
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<td>X</td>
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\(^{20}\) https://www.btg-bestsellerservice.de/pdf/80060000.pdf  
\(^{22}\) http://www.oecd.org/governance/fightingcorruptioninthepublicsector/38944200.pdf  
\(^{23}\) http://www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/VHG/XXIV/I/1_01465/index.shtml  
\(^{24}\) http://www.oecd.org/governance/fightingcorruptioninthepublicsector/38944200.pdf  
\(^{25}\) https://www.kpk-rs.si/upload/datoteke/ZintPK-ENG.pdf  

1 – Content of register by section
2 – Registration flow since June 2011
3 – Statistics for the Transparency Register as of 22 October 2012
4 – Breakdowns by subsection
5 – Quality checks sample (random and on alerts)
6 – Visits on the Transparency Register’s webpages

1 – Content of register by section

- Section I - Professional consultancies/law firms/self-employed consultants
- Section II - In-house lobbyists and trade/professional associations
- Section III - Non-governmental organisations
- Section IV - Think tanks, research and academic institutions
- Section V - Organisations representing churches and religious communities
- Section VI - Organisations representing local, regional and municipal authorities, other public or mixed entities, etc.
Transparency Register - Weekly Evolution of Registrations

- Professional consultancies/Law firms/self-employed consultants
- In-house lobbyists and trade/professional associations
- Non-governmental organisations
- Think tanks, research and academic institutions
- Organisations representing churches and religious communities
- Organisations representing local, regional and municipal authorities, other public or mixed entities, etc.
- Total
3 – Statistics for the Transparency Register as of 22 October 2012

On 22/10/12, there were 5431 registrants in the register. They are from the following (sub)cATEGORIES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I - Professional consultancies/law firms/self-employed consultants</th>
<th>617</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professional consultancies</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-governmental organisations, platforms and networks and similar</td>
<td>1,540</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IV - Think tanks, research and academic institutions</th>
<th>373</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Think tanks and research institutions</td>
<td>267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic institutions</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>V - Organisations representing churches and religious communities</th>
<th>34</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organisations representing churches and religious communities</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VI - Organisations representing local, regional and municipal</th>
<th>282</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>authorities, other public or mixed entities, etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local, regional and municipal authorities (at sub-national level)</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other public or mixed entities, etc.</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4 – Breakdowns by subsection

Section I: Professional consultancies/law firms/self-employed consultants

Section II: In-house lobbyists and trade/professional associations
5 – Quality checks sample (random and on alerts)

**Random quality checks**

- Correct entries: 80%
- Problematic entries: 20%

**Quality checks following alerts**

- Correct entries: 85%
- Problematic entries: 15%

**Status of problematic entries**

- Closed with update: 15%
- Ongoing: 34%
- Closed with disbarment: 51%
6 – Visits on the Transparency Register’s webpages

Yearly Dashboard
Transparency Register
(period: October 2011 - September 2012)

The histogram presents the number of unique visitors aggregated per month for the period ‘October 2011 - September 2012’.

A unique visitor is the uniquely identified client viewing pages within a defined time period (one day in this case). A unique visitor is counted once in the considered period whereas the visitor can have several visits. As identification is done on visitor PCs, the same visitor using more than one PC is counted more times.

Visits of the last 12 months

The histogram presents the number of visits aggregated per month for the period ‘October 2011 - September 2012’.

A visit is defined as a series of page requests from the same uniquely identified client.

The histogram presents the number of unique visitors aggregated per month for the period ‘October 2011 - September 2012’.

The unique visitor is the uniquely identified client viewing pages within a defined time period (one day in this case). A unique visitor is counted once in the considered period whereas the visitor can have several visits. As identification is done on visitor PCs, the same visitor using more than one PC is counted more times.

Invitation 2nd meeting _BusinessEurope.txt

From: WICKHAM Catherine (SG) on behalf of LEGRIS Gerard (SG)
Sent: Wednesday 23 January 2013 16:49
To: c.feustel@businesseurope.eu
Cc: 'ph.debuck@businesseurope.eu'; LEGRIS Gerard (SG); SG TRANSPARENCY REGISTER CONTACT; TRANSPARENCY-REGISTER (EP)
Subject: Invitation - 2nd meeting - Transparency Register Annual Report 2012 and 2013 review - Technical meeting for Stakeholders (Businesseurope)

Dear Mr Feustel,

It was decided at the Transparency Register Annual Report 2012 and 2013 review - Technical Meeting for Stakeholders on 15 January 2013 to hold a second meeting to further discuss the points on the agenda.

We would like to invite you on Tuesday 5 February from 14:15 to 16:30 in room A1E-3 of the European Parliament.

Please confirm your participation by Friday 25 January.

Furthermore, could you please send the questions you wish to raise on the EP accreditation system by Tuesday 29 January, this will allow our colleagues from the Parliament to prepare the useful information.

Best regards,

Gérard LEGRIS
Coordinator EP-COM common secretariat of the Transparency register.
Chef d'unité "Transparence"

Commission européenne
Secrétariat général
SGB5 - Berlaymont 5/341
B-1049 Bruxelles/Belgique
+32 2 299 94 06
gerard.legris@ec.europa.eu

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/secretariat_general/index_fr.htm

From: WICKHAM Catherine (SG) On Behalf Of LEGRIS Gerard (SG)
Sent: Friday, December 14, 2012 4:03 PM
To: 'ph.debuck@businesseurope.eu'
Cc: LEGRIS Gerard (SG); SG TRANSPARENCY REGISTER CONTACT; TRANSPARENCY-REGISTER (EP)
Subject: Invitation - Transparency Register Annual Report 2012 and 2013 review - Technical meeting for Stakeholders (Businesseurope)

Ares(2012)1496820
Brussels, 14 December 2012

Dear Mr de Buck,


Best regards,
Invitation 2nd meeting _BusinessEurope.txt

Gérard LEGRIS
Coordinator EP-COM common secretariat of the Transparency register.
Chef d'unité "Transparence"

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gerard.legris@ec.europa.eu

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/secretariat_general/index_fr.htm
Invitation 2nd meeting _CEEP.txt

From: WICKHAM Catherine (SG) on behalf of LEGRIS Gerard (SG)
Sent: Wednesday 23 January 2013 16:49
To: pazanne.dupont@ceep.eu
Cc: 'ralf.resch@ceep.eu'; 'valeria.ronzitti@ceep.eu'; LEGRIS Gerard (SG); SG
TRANSPARENCY REGISTER CONTACT; TRANSPARENCY-REGISTER (EP)
Subject: Invitation - 2nd meeting - Transparency Register Annual Report 2012 and
2013 review - Technical meeting for Stakeholders (CEEP)

Dear Ms Dupont,

It was decided at the Transparency Register Annual Report 2012 and 2013 review -
Technical Meeting for Stakeholders on 15 January 2013 to hold a second meeting to further discuss the
points on the agenda.

We would like to invite you on Tuesday 5 February from 14:15 to 16:30 in room
AIE-3 of the European
Parliament.

Please confirm your participation by Friday 25 January.

Furthermore, could you please send the questions you wish to raise on the EP
accreditation system by
Tuesday 29 January, this will allow our colleagues from the Parliament to
prepare the useful information.

Best regards,

Gérard LEGRIS
Coordinator EP-COM common secretariat of the Transparency register.
Chef d'unité "Transparence"

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B-1049 Bruxelles/Belgique
+32 2 299 94 06
gerard.legris@ec.europa.eu

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/secretariat_general/index_fr.htm

From: WICKHAM Catherine (SG) On Behalf Of LEGRIS Gerard (SG)
Sent: Friday, December 14, 2012 4:26 PM
To: 'ralf.resch@ceep.eu'
Cc: 'valeria.ronzitti@ceep.eu'; LEGRIS Gerard (SG); SG TRANSPARENCY REGISTER
CONTACT;
TRANSPARENCY-REGISTER (EP)
Subject: Invitation - Transparency Register Annual Report 2012 and 2013 review -
Technical
meeting for Stakeholders (AER)

Ares(2012)1496820
Brussels, 14 December 2012

Dear Mr Resch,

Please find enclosed an invitation to the Transparency Register Annual Report
2012 and 2013
review - Technical Meeting for Stakeholders on 15 January 2013.

Best regards,
Gérard LEGRIS
Coordinator EP-COM common secretariat of the Transparency register.
Chef d'unité "Transparence"

Commission européenne
Secrétariat général
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+32 2 299 94 06
gerard.legris@ec.europa.eu

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/secretariat_general/index_fr.htm
Invitation 2nd meeting _CSCG.txt

From: WICKHAM Catherine (SG) on behalf of LEGRIS Gerard (SG)
Sent: Wednesday, 23 January 2013 16:49
Cc: LEGRIS Gerard (SG); SG TRANSPARENCY REGISTER CONTACT; TRANSPARENCY-REGISTER (EP)
Subject: Invitation - 2nd meeting - Transparency Register Annual Report 2012 and 2013 review - Technical meeting for Stakeholders (Civil Society Contact Group)

Dear [Name],

It was decided at the Transparency Register Annual Report 2012 and 2013 review - Technical Meeting for Stakeholders on 15 January 2013 to hold a second meeting to further discuss the points on the agenda.

We would like to invite you on Tuesday 5 February from 14:15 to 16:30 in room AE-3 of the European Parliament.

Please confirm your participation by Friday 25 January.

Furthermore, could you please send the questions you wish to raise on the EP accreditation system by Tuesday 29 January, this will allow our colleagues from the Parliament to prepare the useful information.

Best regards,

Gérard LEGRIS
Coordinator EP-COM common secretariat of the Transparency Register.
Chef d'unité "Transparence"

Commission européenne
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B-1049 Bruxelles/Belgique
+32 2 299 94 06
gerard.legris@ec.europa.eu

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/secretariat_general/index_fr.htm

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From: WICKHAM Catherine (SG) On Behalf Of LEGRIS Gerard (SG)
Sent: Friday, December 14, 2012 4:19 PM
To: [Name]
Cc: LEGRIS Gerard (SG); SG TRANSPARENCY REGISTER CONTACT; TRANSPARENCY-REGISTER (EP)
Subject: Invitation - Transparency Register Annual Report 2012 and 2013 review - Technical meeting for Stakeholders (Civil Society Contact Group)

Ares(2012)1496820
Brussels, 14 December 2012

Dear [Name],


Best regards,
Invitation 2nd meeting _CSCG.txt

Gérard LEGRIS
Coordinator EP-COM common secretariat of the Transparency register.
Chef d'unité "Transparence"

Commission européenne
Secrétariat général
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+32 2 299 94 06
gerard.legris@ec.europa.eu

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/secretariat_general/index_fr.htm
Invitation 2nd meeting _IPRA.txt

From: WICKHAM Catherine (SG) on behalf of LEGRIS Gerard (SG)
Sent: Wednesday 23 January 2013 16:49
To: 'ceo@ipra.org'; LEGRIS Gerard (SG); SG TRANSPARENCY REGISTER CONTACT;
TRANSPARENCY-REGISTER (EP)
Subject: Invitation - 2nd meeting - Transparency Register Annual Report 2012 and 2013 review - Technical meeting for Stakeholders (IPRA)

Dear Mr Sheppard,

It was decided at the Transparency Register Annual Report 2012 and 2013 review - Technical Meeting for Stakeholders on 15 January 2013 to hold a second meeting to further discuss the points on the agenda.

We would like to invite you on Tuesday 5 February from 14:15 to 16:30 in room AIE-3 of the European Parliament.

Please confirm your participation by Friday 25 January.

Furthermore, could you please send the questions you wish to raise on the EP accreditation system by Tuesday 29 January, this will allow our colleagues from the Parliament to prepare the useful information.

Best regards,

Gérard LEGRIS
Coordinator EP-COM common secretariat of the Transparency register.
Chef d'unité "Transparence"

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SGB5 - Berlaymont 5/341
B-1049 Bruxelles/Belgique
+32 2 299 94 06
gerard.legris@ec.europa.eu

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/secretariat_general/index_fr.htm

From: WICKHAM Catherine (SG) On Behalf Of LEGRIS Gerard (SG)
Sent: Friday, December 14, 2012 4:00 PM
To: 
Cc: 'ceo@ipra.org'; LEGRIS Gerard (SG); SG TRANSPARENCY REGISTER CONTACT;
TRANSPARENCY-REGISTER (EP)
Subject: Invitation - Transparency Register Annual Report 2012 and 2013 review - Technical meeting for Stakeholders (IPRA)

Ares(2012)1496820
Brussels, 14 December 2012

Dear Mr Sheppard,


Best regards,
Invitation 2nd meeting _IPRA.txt

Gérard LEGRIS
Coordinator EP-COM common secretariat of the Transparency register.
Chefd'unité "Transparence"

Commission européenne
Secrétariat général
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+32 2 299 94 06
gerard.legris@ec.europa.eu

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/secretariat_general/index_fr.htm
From: WICKHAM Catherine (SG) on behalf of LEGRIS Gerard (SG)
Sent: Wednesday 23 January 2013 16:49
To: 'jmittermaier@transparency.org'; rpatz@transparency.org
Cc: LEGRIS Gerard (SG); SG TRANSPARENCY REGISTER CONTACT; TRANSPARENCY-REGISTER (EP)
Subject: Invitation - 2nd meeting - Transparency Register Annual Report 2012 and 2013 review - Technical meeting for Stakeholders (Transparency International)

Dear Ms Mittermaier,

Dear Mr Patz,

It was decided at the Transparency Register Annual Report 2012 and 2013 review - Technical Meeting for Stakeholders on 15 January 2013 to hold a second meeting to further discuss the points on the agenda.

We would like to invite you on Tuesday 5 February from 14:15 to 16:30 in room A1E-3 of the European Parliament.

Please confirm your participation by Friday 25 January.

Furthermore, could you please send the questions you wish to raise on the EP accreditation system by Tuesday 29 January, this will allow our colleagues from the Parliament to prepare the useful information.

Best regards,

Gérard LEGRIS
Coordinator EP-COM common secretariat of the Transparency register.
Chef d'unité "Transparence"

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+32 2 299 94 06
gerard.legris@ec.europa.eu

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/secretariat_general/index_fr.htm

From: WICKHAM Catherine (SG) On Behalf Of LEGRIS Gerard (SG)
Sent: Friday, December 14, 2012 4:22 PM
To: jmittermaier@transparency.org
Cc: LEGRIS Gerard (SG); SG TRANSPARENCY REGISTER CONTACT; TRANSPARENCY-REGISTER (EP)
Subject: Invitation - Transparency Register Annual Report 2012 and 2013 review - Technical meeting for Stakeholders (Transparency International)

Ares(2012)1496820
Brussels, 14 December 2012

Dear Ms Mittermaier,

Best regards,

Gérard LEGRIS
Coordinator EP-COM common secretariat of the Transparency register.
Chef d'unité "Transparence"

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SGB5 - Berlaymont 5/341
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http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/secrétariat_general/index_fr.htm