

Transparency International welcomes joint European Parliament and Commission lobby register

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In light of tomorrow's vote of the European Parliament on the lobby register (Casini Report), Transparency International (TI) welcomes the new 'Transparency Register' as another step in the right direction. However, it strongly encourages the inter-institutional Working Group to take further steps to enhance the transparency and integrity of the work of lobbyists at the EU level.

For now, it is important that European Parliament and Commission make the new register operational as quickly as possible. As soon as the register is operational, all persons and organisations falling into its scope (Annex 1 of the Agreement between Parliament and Commission) should be encouraged to register, to provide correct and up-to-date information and to respect the ethical rules set out in the register's Code of Conduct (Annex 3).

In the long term, a fully-fledged mandatory register should be established that would also include the Council and other institutions and agencies of the European Union.

Jana Mittermaier, Head of the TI EU Liaison Office, commented, "A vote in favour of the proposed register would be an important milestone in creating greater transparency around EU lobbying activities. It should be implemented without delay. It will only be effective however if it is used properly and in the spirit of the code of conduct that accompanies it. The new register will be a test of the commitment of all parties involved in lobbying to greater openness".

For more information, please contact:

Jana Mittermaier

Head of Office
TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL
Liaison Office to the EU
Rue Breydel 40
B-1040 Brussels (Belgium)

Phone: +32223 58 621
GSM: +475893835
Fax: +3222358610

Email: jmittermaier@transparency.org
Twitter: http://twitter.com/ti_eu
Blog: <http://europeblog.transparency.org>
Website: <http://www.transparencyinternational.eu>