

EU Civil Society Contact Group

Brussels 6 May 2008

Dear Member of European Parliament

Re: Improving Transparency on lobbyists' activities – Set the European Parliament as a champion!

Ahead of the vote on the STUBB/FRIEDRICH report on the development of the framework for the activities of interest representatives in the European institutions (2007/2115 (INI)), the Civil Society Contact Group calls on you as a representative of European citizens to act as champion for transparency of EU decision-making.

The draft resolution already contains the main elements to make this happen: mandatory registering for all lobbyists who try to influence the main EU institutions, containing the names of lobbyists, listing clients or funders and providing full financial disclosure on registered lobbying activities, supplemented by a common code of ethical behaviour for lobbyists and a mechanism of expulsion from the register.

However the resolution can be further strengthened by:

- Defining a benchmark for financial disclosure. **Amendment 15 proposes a precise benchmark for financial transparency.** But this is weakened by Amendment 7, which downplays the importance of financial disclosure and should be rejected.
- Adopting **Amendment 14, which calls on unethical lobbying practices to be made public.** The Civil Society Contact Group votes in favour of such a practice which would certainly add a useful sanction.
- Adopting **Amendments 16, 17, 18, which make precise demands to the European Commission to improve the transparency of its advisory groups and the practice of revolving doors.** The European Commission's number of advisory groups has spiralled upward in recent years. However advisors to the European Commission would remain untouched by the current proposal.
- Ensuring immediate improvements in the Parliament's own rules on lobbying: **Voting for Amendment 12 would make sure that the European Parliament improves its current rules of procedures.**

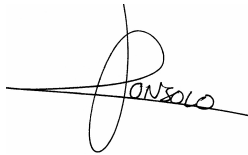
EU Civil Society Contact Group, c/o Social Platform, Square de Meeûs 18, 1050-Brussels, Belgium
T +32-2-511 17 11 • F +32-2-511 19 09 • www.act4europe.org • coordinator@act4europe.org

The CSCG brings together eight large European NGO platforms in the following fields: culture (Culture Action Europe), development (CONCORD), environment (Green 10), human rights (HRDN), lifelong learning (EUCIS-LLL), public health (EPHA), social (Social Platform) and women (EWL). Together we work to develop the dialogue between civil society organisations and the EU institutions as an essential part of strengthening participatory democracy.

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Europeans should feel confident that the EU decision-making process is transparent and does not give privileged access and undue influence to selected interests. Such confidence can best be built by making verifiable information on lobbying available to the public.

Yours sincerely,



Olivier Consolo
Director CONCORD



Roshan Di Puppo
Director Social Platform



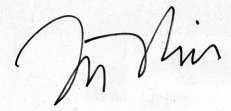
Ilona Kish
Secretary General EFAH



Kirsti Kolthoff
President EWL



Monika Kosinska
Secretary General EPHA



Jorgo Riss
Green10 Representative



Jean-Marc Roirant
President EUCIS-LLL



Liz Scurfield
HRDN Representative

VOTING LIST

Amendment #	Tabled by	Amending	The Civil Society Contact Group votes
6	EPP-DE	Paragraph 20	No
7	EPP-DE	Paragraph 23a new	No
12	Greens/ALE and GUE/NGL	Paragraph 13 a new	Yes
14	Greens/ALE and GUE/NGL	Paragraph 18	Yes
15	Greens/ALE and GUE/NGL	Paragraph 23	Yes
16	Greens/ALE, GUE/NGL, + Chris Davies, Andres Tarrand, Antonion De Blasio	Paragraph 23 a new	Yes
17	Greens/ALE, GUE/NGL, + Ch. Davies, A. Tarrand, A. De Blasio	Paragraph 23 b new	Yes
18	Greens/ALE, GUE/NGL, + Ch. Davies, A. Tarrand, A. De Blasio	Paragraph 23 c new	Yes

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