

Mr Florindo Gijón

Coordinator of the Secretariat of the EU Transparency Register

Justus Lipsius 00-50-HN-39

175 Rue de la Loi

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Belgium

Strasbourg, February 8 2024

Dear Coordinator of the Secretariat of the EU Transparency Register,

Dear Mr Florindo Gijón,

As ambassadors of the LobbyLeaks campaign, a joint initiative of Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO) and LobbyControl, we collectively reach out to the Management Board of the EU Transparency Register and the Coordinator of the Secretariat of the Transparency register, to invite you to a public meeting at the premises of the European Parliament.

The LobbyLeaks campaign started exactly one year ago to turn the spotlight on shady lobbying practices within the EU, fostering a culture of openness and accountability. One of the means is the introduction of the LobbyLeaks hotline, providing a space to submit tips and information on questionable lobbying practices.

It is clear that the initiative of LobbyLeaks much relies on the functioning of the Transparency Register as an institute. Indeed, in the first year of LobbyLeaks several complaints based on input to the hotline, have been filed with your secretariat, including on alleged astroturfing campaigns, omissions of disclosing financial interest and incorrect information in the register. We commend your efforts in investigating the complaints. However, while fully acknowledging the inherent complexities in navigating ambiguities, we must candidly acknowledge that we encountered challenges during the procedure, especially when it comes to the interpretation of relevant rules by the register and a lack of transparency of reporting about the outcome of the investigations.

When considering pivotal legislative files such as the DSA, AI Act, Packaging Directive and FitFor55 package, it is inevitable to acknowledge the significant lobbying pressure with dubious methods these acts have endured. Meanwhile, as we approach new elections, our focus must shift towards preventing excessive unbalanced lobbying and unacceptable lobbying methods on upcoming legislation and ensuring the integrity of our decision-making processes.

To this end, we kindly invite you to participate in such a meeting with Members of the European Parliament and Civil Society Organisations that we are organising at the European Parliament in either March or April 2024, depending on your availability. This gathering will serve to share insights gained through our collective experiences, and collaboratively explore practical solutions for addressing the aforementioned complexities and challenges.

We look forward to your positive response and hope that you can join us in this endeavour to strengthen the integrity of the lobbying landscape within the EU. Your commitment to openness and collaboration is invaluable, and we believe that together, we can make significant strides towards a more transparent and accountable European decision-making process.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Thijs Reuten	Irene Joveva	Stelios Kouloglou	Mohammed Chahim	Kim van Sparrentak
Cyrus Engerer	Petros Kokkalis	Rene Repasi	Manon Aubry	Marie Toussaint
Patrick Breyer	Martin Schirdewan	Lara Wolters	Pierre Larrouturou	Daniel Freund
Katalin Cseh	Paul Tang			

