# Lobby Transparency in the EU
# State of play across Member States and EU Institutions

**28 January 2028**

**Conference on the regulation of lobbying Czechia**

Presented by

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# WHY DOES IT MATTER ?  LOBBYING AFFECTS US ALL

- All lobbyists are tarred with the same brush: no distinction between different types of actors.

- Every scandal impacts citizens' trust ! Need to protect public institutions from undue influence & malign actors



- Lobbying is part of the democratic-process: rules need to professionalise the activity

- Lobbying impacts our future: lobby transparency enhance collective-knowledge & helps holding decision-makers to account.

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# BEST PRACTICES IN FOR THE REGULATION OF LOBBYING

- Definition of lobbying should cover all organisations involved in targeting public decision-making both direct and indirectly.

- Public register providing key information (identification, resources, interests pursued, targeted legislations, connected orgs, public funding received.

- Enforceable Code of Conduct to prevent undue influence and promotes ethical lobbying

- Lobby footprint for transparency and accountability of public decision-making (meetings, activities)

- Best practices allow for consistent assessment of lobbying frameworks & level-playing field for lobby orgs & policymakers



#lobbyingtransparency

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR LOBBYING REGULATION**
Towards greater transparency, integrity and participation.

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# LOBBY REGULATION IN EU MEMBER STATES

- Only Finland, France, Germany, Ireland & EU institutions come close to TI standards → very different application of the rules.

- 14 EU Member States have incomplete framework. Key issue of definition and / or enforcement

- 8 EUMS have either voluntary requirements, no regulation or currently adopting / reforming rules (**incl. Czechia → mid-2025**)

- Patchwork of rules across the single market: difficult to track for cross-border entities → A/C directive first step



TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL FRANCE
Type d'organisation : Association

Inscription le 31/08/2017                                    Télécharger le fichier JSON

IDENTITÉ          ACTIONS          MOYENS

COORDONNÉES

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14 PASSAGE DUBAIL
75010 PARIS
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DIRIGEANTS
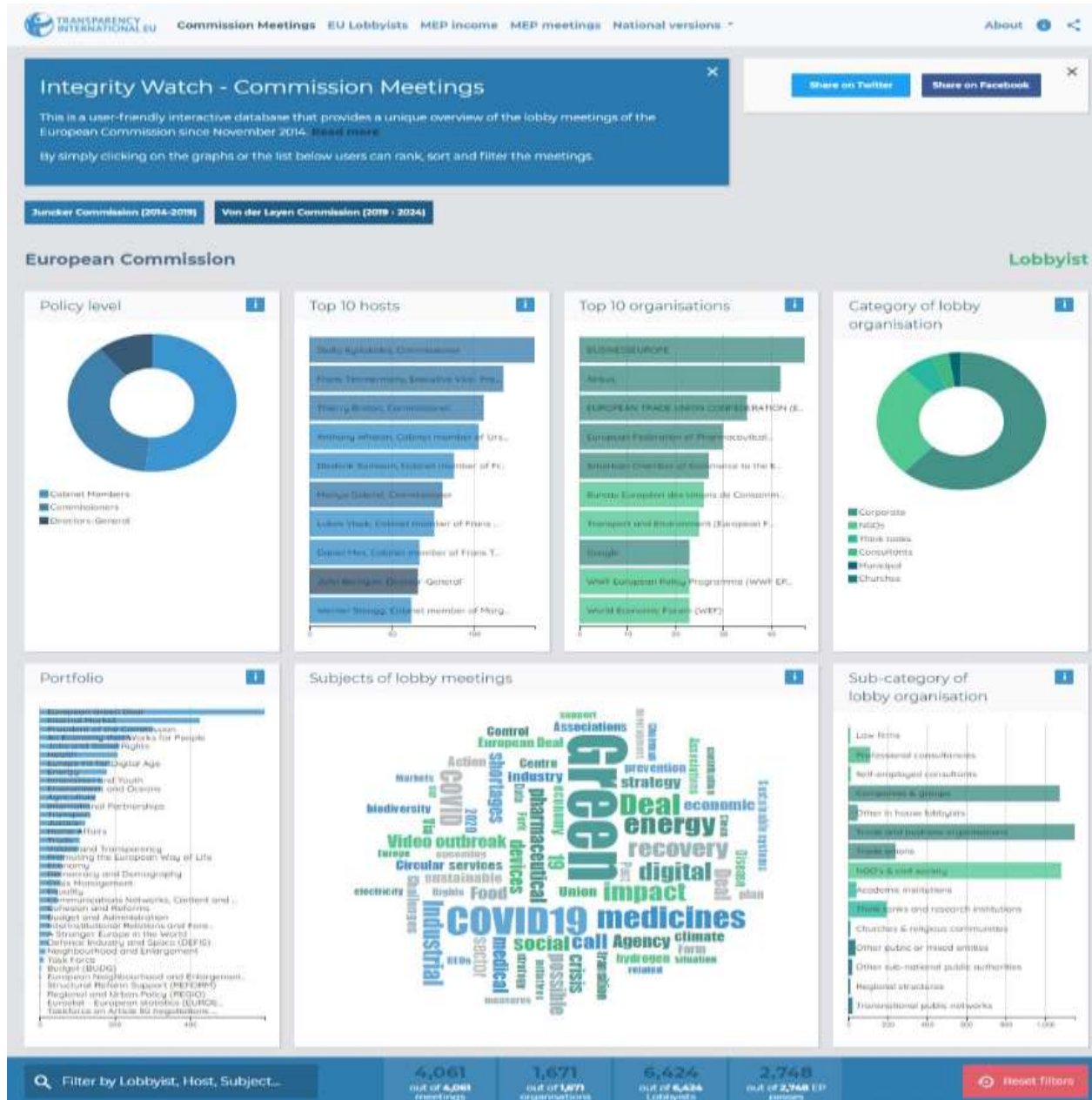Identité                              Fonctions exercées

# KEY TAKE AWAYS FROM THE EU FRAMEWORK

- TR Definition encompasses all actors involved, both through direct and indirect means, **improves coverage and information quality** → key information on 12k orgs including **unique ID**

- EU inst. apply different type of **conditionality principle = prior registration requirement**

- Publication of meetings : only Commission and Parliament **publish meetings consistently,** includes **most** officials incl. MEPs and assistants

- Lobbyists **incentives**: access badge to EP premises, co-hosting events, prior notification of consultations & legislative activities.

- TR **reporting challenge**: not the same financial data for non-profits and for profits orgs !

- **Enforcement challenge:** lack of resources to enforce Code of Conduct → ethics body?

- Full dataset made available in **machine-readable formats** on the European Commission open data portal (for TR & EC meetings only)





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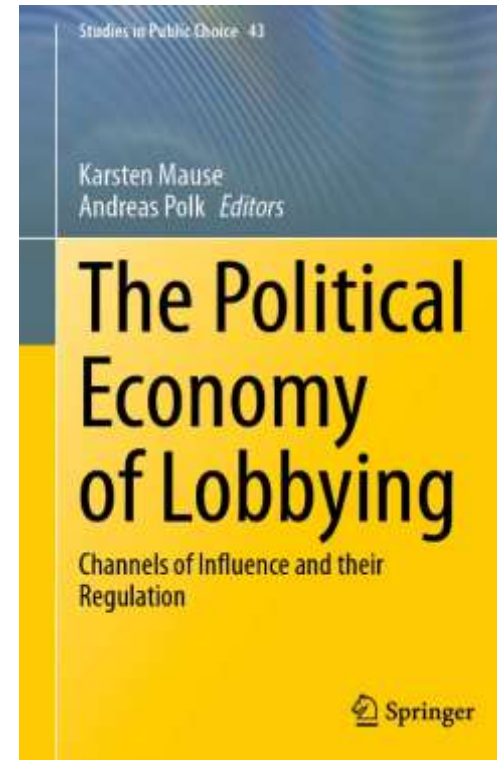# EU INTEGRITY WATCH: ENHANCING INTEGRITY THROUGH CIVIC MONITORING



- **Public good platform** to enhance EU civic monitoring.

- Provides interactive databases on Commission & MEP lobby meetings, EU lobbyists in a **user-friendly format** in the form of dynamic graphs, tables and text.

- Significant legislative & data-governance **impact**

- IW eco-system: 17 platform in Europe incl. **Integrity Watch CZ**

- Datahub: data.integritywatch.eu

# OPEN LOBBYING DATA FOR OPEN GOVERNANCE

- Data published on lobbying re-published on IW EU is used by **academia, investigative journalists, CSO's, lobbyists & EU institutions**

- **Stakeholders re-use data** to look at lobbying activities (eg: fossil fuel orgs) and **draw recommendations based on empirical analysis**

- **Fosters greater understanding** on decision-making and creates a mechanism of accountability that **enhances citizen's trust.**

- **Open lobbying data** contributes to **open governance**



Studies in Public Choice 43

Karsten Mause
Andreas Polk *Editors*

**The Political Economy of Lobbying**

Channels of Influence and their Regulation

Springer



100 DAYS OF COMMISSION LOBBYING

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# LOBBY TRANSPARENCY KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. a **general and uniformly applied definition of lobbyists across public institutions**, that captures all actors involved in influence decision-making process → prevents loopholes.

2. Adopt a **register of lobbyists,** published in open data format and **tied to enforceable Code of Conduct** → fosters transparency and ethical lobby practices

3. **Publish lobby meetings or lobbying activities** by all public officials involved in drafting legislation → foster understanding & accountability of the decision-making process

**Transparency international EU**

**integritywatch.eu**

Thank you !

**Transparency International EU**

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