Lobby Reform: Who Is In the Lead?

The U.S. or E.U.
Purposes of US 1995 LDA: Transparency

- Reduce corruption
- Inform lawmakers of the interests attempting to influence them
- Increase public confidence in government
- “To tell the public who is being paid how much to lobby whom on what”
- HLOGA 2007 – Added ethics rules for lobbyists
Early Lobbying Regulatory Regimes in Europe

- Germany – 1951
- European Parliament – 1996
- Georgia – 1998
- Lithuania – 2001
- Hungary – 2006 (repealed in 2011)
- Macedonia – 2008 (never implemented)

Objective: Access
Public Perceives a Problem with Lobbying?

Public Perceives Problem?
- Not inappropriate
- Never
- Rare
- Occasional
- Frequent

Frequency
- 100
- 80
- 60
- 40
- 20
- 0

14 81 88
Mandatory or Voluntary Disclosure?

- Mandatory: 61.4%
- Voluntary: 18.5%
- Neutral: 14.8%
- NA: 5.3%
Joint Parliament-Commission Transparency Registry

• New Focus: Transparency
• Still Structured According to Early Regimes:
  1. Voluntary, but Incentives to Register Are Quite Strong
  2. Hall Pass System
  3. Limited Financial Disclosures
• Good On-Line Disclosure
  http://europa.eu/transparency-register/
Strong Transparency Lobby Laws Gaining Ground in Europe

- Joint Parliament-Commission Registry (debating moving to a mandatory system in 2016)
- Slovenia – Mandatory registration
  Financial disclosure
  Data is publicly available
- Austria – Mandatory registration
  Financial disclosure
  Lobbying contacts
  Internet access