

Lobbying in Brussels:

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Characteristics of Public Affairs in Brussels

- A system that works
- Openness
- Transparency
- Evidence-based
- No campaign contributions
- Lots of stakeholders

Characteristics II

- Three legislative institutions – very different
 - Commission – European civil servants
 - Council – Member states
 - Parliament – Politicians
- Impact assessments
- Public consultations
- Responsibility

EU Public Affairs trends

- Politics as the solution
- More sophistication
- Compliance vs communications
- Specialisation
- Decision-making increasingly complex
- Credibility

Voluntary compliance and self-regulation

- European Public Affairs Consultancies' Association
- Code of conduct
- Professional Practices Panel
- Dispute resolution

Transparency Register

- Voluntary
- More than 6000 registrants
- Based on organisations
- All stakeholders
- Financial information
- Focus debate on transparency
- Does it change the way we work?

Recent developments

- Ongoing revision
- Working group
- Stakeholder consultations
- Mandatory register?
- Quasi-mandatory register?
- Increased incentives
- Minor improvements

Main debates

- Mandatory register
- Revolving doors
- Law firms
- Money
- Lobby scandals

Conclusions

- The system works
- Continued professionalisation
- Level playing-field is needed
- Mandatory register is the next step

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