

# CONSERVATIVES IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT POLICY ON TRANSPARENCY REGARDING LOBBYING

## 1. DEFINITIONS

### 1.1 Lobbyist:

A “lobbyist” is any individual who represents an organisation which seeks to influence currently or in the future:<sup>1</sup>

- the formulation, modification or adoption of European Union legislation;
- the formulation, modification or adoption of any programme, policy, or position of the European Commission or European Parliament;
- the administration or execution of a European Union programme or policy (including the negotiation, award, or administration of a contract, grant, loan, permit, or licence); or
- the nomination or confirmation of a person for a position subject to confirmation or approval - either individually or with others - by the European Parliament.

Such 'organisations' shall include inter alia:<sup>2</sup>

- professional consultancies/law firms such as public affairs consultancies, independent public affairs consultants, or other similar bodies;
- companies, professional associations, trade associations, trade unions or other similar organisation;
- NGO/think-tank organisations or associations, including pressure groups, charitable/non-profit making bodies or coalitions, or other similar organisations;
- academic or religious bodies or associations, or other similar organisations.

This list is not limited to the organisations registered in the voluntary Register of Interests representation established by the European institutions.

It is not relevant whether a lobbyist works directly or indirectly for the organisation represented, or provides the service for payment or not.

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<sup>1</sup> Based on the US Congress definition

<sup>2</sup> Based on the categories listed in the EU Register of Interests

## **1.2 Lobbying Contact:**

The term “lobbying contact” means any formal, pre-arranged meeting between a lobbyist and a Conservative Member of the European Parliament with regard to any of the activities listed above.

## **2. HOSPITALITY & GIFTS OFFERED BY LOBBYISTS**

### **2.1 Hospitality**

Hospitality, where this is of a value greater than £100, will be listed in the Register of Members’ Interests.

### **2.1 Gifts**

Gifts with a value of more than £25 will not be accepted from lobbyists.

## **3. RECORD OF LOBBYING CONTACT**

### **3.1 Reporting**

Conservative Members of the European Parliament shall publish online on a six monthly basis a list of all lobbying contacts during the period.

This list shall give the date and context of a lobbying contact.

In the circumstance of an organisation being represented by another professional agency - such as a consultant or lawyer - the report shall list both the name of the employer and the name of organisation being represented.

### **3.2 Exceptions**

The term “lobbying contact” does not include communication that is:<sup>3</sup>

- with a public official acting in the public official’s official capacity;
- with a representative of a media organization if the purpose of the communication is gathering and disseminating news and information to the public;
- made in a speech that is distributed and made available to the public, or through radio, television, cable television, or other medium of mass communication;
- with an individual acting on behalf of a government of a foreign country or a foreign political party;

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<sup>3</sup> Based on the US Congress model

- a request for a meeting, a request for the status of an action, or any other similar administrative request, if the request does not include an attempt to influence a Member;
- comments given before a committee, subcommittee, or other recognised meeting of the European Parliament, or submitted for inclusion in the public record of a hearing conducted by such committee, subcommittee, or meeting;
- not possible to report without disclosing information, the unauthorized disclosure of which is prohibited by law;
- made on behalf of an individual with regard to that individual's benefits, employment, or other personal matters involving only that individual;
- occurred during the course of religious activity undertaken by the member for reasons of personal belief such as attending a church service or engaging in pastoral conversation;
- potentially harmful to the public interest or to an individual - such as whistle-blowing.

The provision of this code will take effect on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010.

Timothy Kirkhope MEP  
 Leader of the Delegation

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**COMPLIANCE**

MEPs will provide details of Lobbying contacts to the Chairman of the Delegation of Conservative MEPs on a monthly basis, or as agreed, in a format prescribed by the Chairman of the Delegation.

The Chairman of the Delegation will oversee the implementation of this Policy and for information regarding Lobbying contacts to be collated and published on a six monthly basis in accordance with paragraph 3.1 of this Policy by all Conservative MEPs.

The Delegation of Conservative MEPs is committed to high standards of propriety in public life. Non-adherence with the provisions of this Code, including the provision of regular information on Lobbying contacts, may be subject to disciplinary measures by the Chairman of the Delegation.