



**Alliance for Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Regulation  
ALTER-EU**

**Fact sheet**

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## **How successful is the Commission's lobby register? Less than one-third of Brussels lobby organisations have registered**

28 October 2009 – The EU Commission's voluntary register for lobbyists has failed to significantly increase transparency in the sector, updated figures show, with less than one third of Brussels lobby organisations submitting details.

As of 28 October 2009, There were 2095 entries in the register. Just 759 of these have an address in Brussels. Back in 2000, the European Parliament estimated that there were 2,600 lobby firms and groups with offices in Brussels. This number is unlikely to have fallen significantly. This means that so far, **only 29.2% of the estimated 2600 Brussels lobbying organisations have registered.**

Analysis of the current entries by ALTER-EU (Alliance for Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Regulation), shows major gaps in coverage in key sectors, including lobbying consultancies and corporate EU affairs offices. The European Public Affairs Directory lists 165 **consultancies** in Brussels. Only 28 of these have joined the Commission's register, putting the compliance rate for this crucial category at **below 20%**. Of the 162 consultancies represented in **SEAP** only 69 are registered – **around 44%**. Of the 330 **companies** listed in the European Public Affairs Directory, just 115 feature in the Commission's register, that is **34.8%**.

In June 2009, a year after the register was launched, ALTER-EU published a detailed report highlighting the failures of the European Commission's "Register of Interest Representatives" and putting forward concrete proposals for improvement of the register.

The updated figures confirm the conclusions of the earlier ALTER-EU study, which showed that:

- think-tanks and law firms are boycotting the register;
- unclear financial disclosure requirements allow lobby groups to disguise the size of their lobbying effort, making it impossible to determine who the biggest spenders really are and what policies they are trying to influence;
- the lack of clear guidelines also means that the register is increasingly cluttered by organisations that play no role in lobbying the EU.

To download the June report, go to:

[www.alter-eu.org/en/publications/commissions-lobby-register-one-year-success-or-failure](http://www.alter-eu.org/en/publications/commissions-lobby-register-one-year-success-or-failure)

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**The Alliance for Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Regulation (ALTER-EU) is a coalition of** over 160 civil society groups, trade unions, academics and public affairs firms calling for: EU lobbying disclosure legislation; improved code of conduct for European Commission officials; the European Commission to terminate cases of privileged access and undue influence granted to corporate lobbyists. The call for "Ending corporate privileges and secrecy around lobbying in the European Union", the founding statement of the Alliance for Transparency and Ethics Regulation (ALTER-EU) and a list of signatories are available on [www.alter-eu.org](http://www.alter-eu.org)