

As you know, during the recent elections 180 elected MEPs signed ALTER-EU's Politics for People pledge to “stand-up for citizens and democracy against the excessive lobbying influence of banks and big business” upon entering office: <http://www.alter-eu.org/politics-for-people-2014-eu-election-campaign>

In our view, it would be extremely useful if the proposed integrity intergroup were to include the following issues within its remit which are priority concerns for ALTER-EU.

Full lobby transparency:

For ALTER-EU, it is vital that there is a **mandatory lobby transparency system** which enables EU citizens to see who is influencing EU decision making, on which issues, on whose behalf, and with what budgets. We welcome Jean-Claude Juncker's recent commitment to propose a mandatory EU transparency register for the Commission, Parliament and Council. We believe that there will be a key role for the intergroup to ensure that this proposal is brought forward as quickly and as comprehensively as possible. In particular, close scrutiny will be required so as to ensure that the proposed register is wide-ranging in scope, does not contain loopholes, and learns lessons from the Canadian and US systems. The accompanying code of conduct for lobbyists should also be robust. If support for a joint mandatory lobby register is not possible from the Council, it would be important that there were strong MEP voices urging the Commission and Parliament to move ahead anyhow.

Ethics rules to tackle conflicts of interest:

ALTER-EU believes that the ethics and integrity rules for all EU institutions need upgrading. In particular, the **codes of conducts for MEPs** and for **commissioners need substantial reform**. We also consider that there is now ample evidence to show that current systems of supervision on existing codes do not work effectively and that there should be fully independent committees for each EU institution with the mandate to investigate and report publicly on conflicts of interest. **Revolving door rules** for all institutions also should be strengthened and in these times of change in the Council, Commission and Parliament, the integrity intergroup could provide a powerful voice for reform.

Expert groups:

In September 2012 the Commission made an agreement with the European Parliament to ensure that its expert groups would act in the public interest. This agreement included ensuring that expert groups would have no corporate dominance and no lobbyists acting in a 'personal capacity'. It also agreed that there would be public calls for new members with clear selection criteria as well as full transparency around the groups' activities. For ALTER-EU, too little progress has been made on this agreement and it is vital that the intergroup takes up this issue and helps ensure that there will be a full Commission review of expert group rules in 2015, incorporating the recommendations from the European Ombudsman's current inquiry.