



Council of the European Union
General Secretariat
The Secretary-General

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ALTER-EU Steering Committee
Alliance for Lobby Transparency and Ethics Regulation
Mundo-B (4th floor)
Rue d'Edimbourg 26
1050 Brussels

Dear Members of the ALTER-EU steering committee,

On behalf of President Tusk, I would like to thank you for your letter concerning the Joint Transparency Register. I appreciate very much your input and fully agree with you that transparency related to lobbying is very important.

The different aspects of the Joint Transparency Register were discussed in the Council during the Irish, the Greek and the Italian Presidency until the Commission announced, in its work programme for 2015, a new proposal for an inter-institutional agreement on a mandatory Transparency Register¹. Its aim would be to enhance openness and accountability by making the Transparency Register mandatory for all interest representatives seeking to influence policy making in any of the three institutions.

Since that announcement, the Council has been awaiting information from the Commission on the legal and practical modalities of a future mandatory regime covering lobbying activities directed at the three main institutions.

In its work programme for 2016², the Commission has confirmed its intention to publish a proposal for an inter-institutional agreement with the European Parliament and the Council on a mandatory Transparency Register. We look forward to this proposal, which would allow the Council to resume work on this issue. The proposal would also serve as a key input for the transparency policy of the General Secretariat of the Council.

Yours faithfully,


Jeppe TRANHOLM-MIKKELSEN

¹ Strasbourg, 16.12.2014 COM(2014) 910 final

² Strasbourg, 27.10.2015 COM(2015) 610 final