



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 8 March 2012

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**PE-L 12
INST 191**

COVER NOTE

from:	Mr Rainer WIELAND, Vice-President of the European Parliament and Mr Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ, Vice-President of the European Commission
received:	7 March 2012
to:	Mr N. WAMMEN, Chairman of General Affairs Council
Subject:	Transparency register

Delegations will find attached the abovementioned letter dated 14 February 2012 with reference ARES (2011) 178298.



Brussels, 14 FEB. 2012
ARES (2011) 178238

Dear Minister,

The Common Transparency Register of the European Parliament and European Commission has now been operational for seven months and we are pleased to report that the transition from the Parliament and Commission registers of interest representatives to this new inter-institutional register has been very smooth.

The new Common Register has attracted over 3600 entities and is growing by around 130 new registrants per week.

In this short span of time, the Common Register has become a respected model for furthering transparency and we are now ready to respond to the Council's interest, as expressed earlier this year, in discussing practical arrangements for the participation of the Council in the system.

You will find attached to that end a document which could serve as a basis for discussion about practical arrangements to be agreed between the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council on the Common Transparency Register.

We would be happy to hold a first exchange of views with you on this possible approach, ahead of subsequent discussions which could be launched within the appropriate forum of the Council.

We are both looking forward to such an opportunity to update you on recent developments with the register as well as to discuss the Council's possible participation.

Rainer WIELAND
Vice-President
European Parliament

Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ
Vice-President
European Commission

Annex: Draft practical arrangement

Mr Nicolai WAMMEN
Chairman of the General Affairs Council
Council of the European Union
Rue de la Loi, 175
B - 1048 BRUSSELS

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Annex

Draft practical arrangement between the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission on the Transparency Register

The Council has declared an interest in having a role in the Joint EP-COM Transparency Register (TR) and wishes to evaluate the implications of such a role. In order to facilitate this evaluation, the following practical arrangement is proposed:

The Council will be invited to designate an observer within its Secretariat General to attend the weekly meetings of the Joint Transparency Register Secretariat (JTRS) as referred to in point 21 of the inter-institutional agreement (IIA).

This aim will be to familiarise the observer with the management and the operations of the Transparency Register system, including issues such as:

- Policy issues & guidelines;*
- IT issues;*
- Operations (statistics, quality checks, helpdesk);*
- Common Secretariat issues;*
- Awareness raising (communication, external & internal contacts);*
- Trends and practices in interest representation, advocacy & lobbying;*
- Preparation and drafting of the annual report.*

The participation of the observer from the Council will contribute to identifying and examining the issues which have potential implications for the Council's functioning, image, etc, as well as those concerning more directly Member States, for example, i.a. issues about registration of local authorities (Point 13 of the IIA).

The degree of Council participation could be adjusted depending on the content and the interest of the different issues for the Council. For example, no direct active participation from the observer will be foreseen at this stage as regards the complaints and sanctions instrument.

It is understood that this phase is transitory and has the aim of preparing the Council for a decision on the possibility of more direct involvement and participation in the system, an invitation which remains open from both the European Parliament and the Commission.

A tripartite meeting at political level will be scheduled after a few months in order to review the functioning of this arrangement and to decide on possible next steps.