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## Press release: European Parliament to end secret lobby meetings

Alessandro · Thursday, January 31st, 2019

*Brussels, 31 January 2019* – Today, the European Parliament voted in favour of MEPs publishing their meetings with lobbyists. This is the first mandatory lobby transparency measure to apply to EU parliamentarians and a huge step forward for transparency.

*“Transparency needs to be a cornerstone of EU policy making, so we are glad to see that the Parliament has delivered concrete results today,”* said Vitor Teixeira, Policy Officer at Transparency International EU. *“This is a strong signal ahead of the European elections that the Parliament is serious about being transparent about the influence of lobbyists.”*

The European Commission, which has been publishing its meetings since 2014, should now accept this as a good signal from the Parliament and use it to reignite the negotiations on the mandatory lobby register. In recent months these negotiations hit a stalemate and the Commission warned it would stop the discussions if there was no meaningful commitment by either the Parliament or the Council.

*“We now urgently need to resume the negotiations for the mandatory lobby register to adopt it before the elections,”* continued Mr Teixeira. *“We now need a similar signal from the governments of member states in the Council to bring about more transparency on which lobbyists are influencing decisions.”*

Although the vote was ultimately successful, it was not an easy fight. Centre-right members of the European People’s Party (EPP) requested that the ballot was held in secret – thereby omitting which MEPs voted against. Nonetheless, the result achieved today is a big accomplishment.

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