# Transparency International EU

The global coalition against corruption

## Strategy 2020: Empowered Citizens, an Accountable Europe

**Only a comprehensive ethics system, composed of transparency, accountability** and integrity mechanisms can ensure that political institutions, processes and policy-makers are effectively protected from undue influence.

**At the EU level, despite a number of promising reforms by the Juncker Commission**, the full spectrum of EU policy and decision-making remains opaque and unaccountable to citizens. The Council of the EU, for example, has made few concessions to transparency remaining apart from initiatives to improve lobby transparency. It also refuses to open its decision-making process to the public, going against decisions taken by the European Courts and calls by European Ombudsman, national parliaments and civil society organisations. As for the Commission and Parliament, their respective ethics bodies are unable to effectively deal with cases of conflict of interests or effectively tackle revolving door risks between public positions and private interests.

> Transparency International EU's assessment of political corruption risks in the EU institutions has shown that despite a sophisticated regulatory and institutional framework, crucial areas such as safeguards against conflicts of interest and transparency of lobbying leave much to be desired.

Caption – lorem ipsum dolor sit amet

**Addressing these and more fundamental accountability gaps in an effort to make** the Union more responsive to direct citizen input will require wide-ranging changes, including the EU's founding treaties.