



## **SEAP welcomes Parliament vote on Transparency**

### **Plenary session votes for publication of meetings with lobbyists**

January 31<sup>st</sup>

Today the European Parliament adopted an amendment which will oblige rapporteurs (draftspersons), shadow rapporteurs and Committee Chairpersons to publicly disclose their meetings with public affairs representatives. The amendment to the report by Richard Corbett MEP from the Constitutional Affairs Committee is to improve transparency in Parliamentarians dealings with lobbyists and is normal practice in the European Commission for officials.

Today's vote means the Parliament will improve its transparency position before concluding talks with the Council and European Commission on the new Inter-Institutional Agreement (IIA) on a Mandatory Transparency Register. This Agreement is meant to upgrade transparency obligations for government officials, elected representatives and public affairs professionals.

It will now be up to the European Institutions to determine whether enough progress on all sides has been made to warrant concluding the IIA before the end of the European Parliament mandate in May.

"This is a step in the right direction for lobbying transparency in the Parliament. We would have preferred it extended to only meeting with registered lobbyists, but this proved a step to far. We do hope this is the beginning of a journey towards more lobbying transparency and therefore welcome the outcome of this vote" stated Wes Himes, President of SEAP.

The European Commission tabled the proposed IIA in September 2016. Deliberations between the European Commission and the Council have had little success with the Council only willing to make Council Secretariat staff restricted to meetings with registered lobbyists and Permanent Representation offices only willing to make such a condition voluntary.

"It is now up to the institutions to decide whether enough progress has been made on the IIA to warrant its adoption. We look forward to next steps".

END

For comments, please contact

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Background:

IIA - <http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/1/2016/EN/1-2016-627-EN-F1-1.PDF>

AFCO report - <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+REPORT+A8-2018-0462+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>