

[Important legal notice](#)

English (en) ▾

[EUROPA](#) > [European Commission](#) > [Commissioners](#) > [Siim Kallas](#)

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[Welcome](#)

[Profile](#)

[Cabinet](#)

[Portfolio responsibilities](#)

[Priorities and Key Issues](#)

[Speeches](#)

[Press/Media](#)

[Related sites](#)

## What is the Transparency Initiative?

The purpose of this corner is to give a small overview on the Transparency Initiative – an idea, which among other goals aims to increase openness and accessibility of EU institutions, raise awareness over the use of the EU budget and make the Union's institutions more accountable to the public. The site will be constantly updated as the debate progresses, providing you with fresh information on the outcomes of the debates and future plans.

This Commission is committed to delivering effective policies in the general European interest, to reconnect Europe with its citizens and close both the physical and mental gap that makes it difficult for people to understand what Europe does and why it matters. It is against this background, that I introduced the idea of a European Transparency initiative in a speech held in Nottingham in response to calls from both public and private bodies from various fields of expertise. The aim is simple: to look at how we can make Europe to speak for itself through greater openness and more effective tools.

Improved transparency cannot bridge the divide on its own. But if, through our actions we can show to European leaders, businesses, civil society and citizens that we are making policies in an open and inclusive way, that their institutions are better managed and that they can see where their taxes are going, we will be moving in the right direction.

### Feedback

So far, the feedback from interested parties (lobbyists, NGO's, other institutions) has been supportive and positive. Favourable comments inside the EU institutions include the European Ombudsman and members of the European Parliament.

### Selected links

#### Information already available/ legislation in place

- [Regulation 1049/2001 on access to documents](#)
- [Code of Good Administrative Behaviour](#)
- [Communication from the Commission \[PDF\]](#)  
“Towards a reinforced culture of consultation and dialogue - General principles and minimum standards for consultation of interested parties by the Commission”
- [list of expert groups advising the Commission](#)
- [web page on the execution of the budget](#)
- [OLAF anti-fraud free phone](#)

#### Practices

- [Danish example of disclosing information on recipients of EU supports](#)
- example of a lobbyists code of conduct in EU:
  - [SEAP](#)
  - [EPACA](#)
  - [Association of Accredited Lobbyists to the European Parliament](#)

## Next steps

The first step of the initiative is to create a debate on different issues as diverse as disclosure of recipients of EU money, open lobbying and personal integrity rules of EU staff etc, in order to see what further steps could be taken in these areas.

The College held an orientation debate on 18th May, and has decided to set up an inter-service programming group under the auspices of the Commissioners' Group for Communication and Strategic Planning, to carry on a preparatory work of the European Transparency Initiative. The provisional roadmap foresees a stocktaking of existing initiatives and policies in June and July, followed by identification of possible new and alternative options for change later this summer. On the bases of this work a working document will be drafted to be examined by the College in October. Subject to the decision of the Commission, a Green Paper could then be drafted and adopted later this year, which will serve as a base for the public debate – organised in the form of a Round Table open to all interested parties. Depending on the outcome of the consultations, the Commission may then take further action in the future.

## Background

- [Speech in Nottingham](#)

If you have any feedback or comments, you're [welcome to share it with us](#).

Last update: 03/06/2005

(AALEP)

- [Association Francaise des Conseils en Lobbying](#)
- [Lobby regulation in US and Canada - >> More](#)

## Other related reports

- [Report by the Dutch Court of Auditors, which highlights the difficulties of keeping track on how Member States use the EU funds](#)
- [Links to Transparency International and Corporate Europe Observatory\(a lobby-wach\), who highlight the need for greater regulation of lobbyist](#)
- [Report by the European Parliaments on the role of European industrial associations in the determination of the Union's policies \(2002/2264\(INI\)\)](#)
- [Link to Civil Society website](#)