

Europäische Kommission
Generalsekretariat
Transparency, Relations with Stakeholders
and External Organisations – SGE 3
200, rue de la Loi
1049 Brüssel
Belgien

Berlin, 2008-02-14
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Consultation on a Code of Conduct for Interest Representatives

Dear Sir/Madam,

we would like to thank you for inviting the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Politikberatung (degepol) to participate in the consultation process on an EU code of conduct for lobbyists.

We very much welcome the Commission's initiative to regulate lobbying activities in Brussels to increase the transparency in this profession.

We hope that the impulse resulting from this European initiative will send strong signals for similar action in Germany and we would like to contribute to the effort to ensure that this will be the case. Such regulations are of great importance and are long overdue.

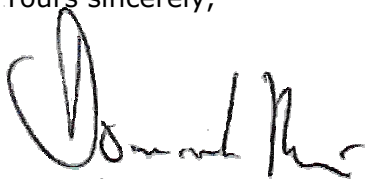
The text provided by you finds our approval. Our own code of conduct (http://www.degepol.de/eng/degepol/basic_documents/code_of_conduct/) goes further than the Commission's document in some aspects and we would like to present these to you for your consideration.

Openness, transparency, truthfulness, and integrity alongside discretion, respect and the strict separation of professional activity and political positions, mandates and functions are all part of our basic principles. Moreover, the de'ge'pol code of conduct prohibits financial incentives, discrimination and disrepute to the occupation.

Furthermore, we would like to make you aware of the regulations of the German Council for Public Relations (DRPR) on PR in the Public Sphere/Lobbying (<http://www.drpr-online.de/statische/itemshowone.php4?id=15>) which, in our view, represents the most comprehensive document on this issue.

In this context, we would like to reiterate our recommendation to install a DRPR-like board at the European level: since such an organ does not yet exist at this level – unlike in many member states, many of whom possess such bodies – we would suggest that the registered interest groups appoint a “transparency council” from its own ranks which would carry out voluntary self-regulation and penalise infringements to the code of conduct.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dominik Meier', written in a cursive style.

Dominik Meier
Chairman