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Integrity Watch EU – fostering transparency and accountability through open data

19 – 20 MARCH 2025

EU INTEGRITY WATCH: ENHANCING INTEGRITY THROUGH CIVIC MONITORING

The screenshot shows the EU Integrity Watch website. At the top, there is a dark blue header with the title "EU Integrity Watch" and a welcome message. Below the header, there are five main content cards: "European Commission", "EU lobbyists", "European Parliament", "Red flags", and "Data Hub". Each card has a representative icon and a brief description of the data provided. At the bottom of the page, there is a navigation bar with the text "EU OPEN DATA DAYS".

EU Integrity Watch

Welcome to EU Integrity Watch: a central hub for online tools that allow citizens, journalists, and civil society to monitor the integrity of decisions made by politicians in the European Union. For this purpose, data that is often scattered and difficult to access is collected, harmonised, and made easily available. The platform allows you to search, rank and filter the information in an intuitive way. Thereby EU Integrity Watch contributes to increasing transparency, integrity, and equality of access to EU decision-making and to monitor the EU institutions for potential conflicts of interest, undue influence or even corruption.

Should you have any questions or would like to share your thoughts, feel free to [reach out to us](#).

[VIEW OUR TOOLS >](#)

Welcome to Integrity Watch EU!
User-friendly interactive visualisation and monitoring tools about the EU Commission, Parliament & more.

European Commission

High-level lobby meetings published by the European Commission since 2014.

[EC MEETINGS >](#)

EU lobbyists

Lobby organisations registered in the EU Transparency Register - the register of Brussels based lobbyists.

[EU LOBBYISTS >](#)

European Parliament

Declaration of financial interests and lobby meetings published Members of the European Parliament.

[MEP INCOME >](#)
[MEP MEETINGS >](#)

Red flags

This EU Integrity Watch tool flags potential risk in public procurement and helps you navigate notices published on the EU's Tender Electronic database from 27 Member States.

[GO TO REDFLAGS >](#)

Data Hub

This central hub will provide you with an overview of all existing national Integrity Watch platforms deployed across the EU. Register to join the fight against political corruption and gain access to one of the largest databases on political integrity in Europe.

[GO TO THE DATA HUB >](#)

EU OPEN DATA DAYS

- Empowers citizens, journalists, civil society to enhance EU political integrity.
- Provides interactive databases on Commission & MEP lobby meetings, EU lobbyists and MEP side incomes in a **user-friendly format** in the form of dynamic graphs, tables and text.
- **>20k users per year**, hundreds of media stories, academic research & civil society engagement.
- Significant legislative & data-governance **impact**

THE INTEGRITY WATCH ECOSYSTEM

- IW Platforms deployed in **16 EU Member States & 2 EU institutions (EC & EP) + UK**
- **>70 datasets** cleaned, parsed and analysed on **asset and income declarations, political finance & lobbying + EU public procurement database (TED)**
- **IW 3.0 project: 7 risk monitoring tools**
- **6 platforms** planned in **Western Balkans & Turkey**
- IW Datahub: data.integritywatch.eu



● Available ● Planned



This project is funded by the European Union's Internal Security Fund – Police

INTEGRITY WATCH AS A TOOL FOR DATA-DRIVEN ADVOCACY

1. Integrity Watch EU **raises awareness** among citizens, journalists, academia and policy-making on TI's positions on lobby transparency, prevention of conflicts of interests and fraud in EU public procurement.
2. Data analysis highlights gaps and best practices in rules governing ethics in public life, leading to **targeted advocacy recommendations**.
3. Collecting and providing hard to reach data pushes public institutions to adopt **better open data standards** in the field of political integrity.

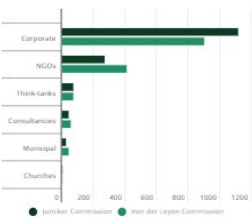
DATA-DRIVEN NARRATIVES TO RAISE AWARENESS



100 DAYS OF COMMISSION LOBBYING

Author: Raphaël Kergueno | Type: Article | Date: 17 October 2022

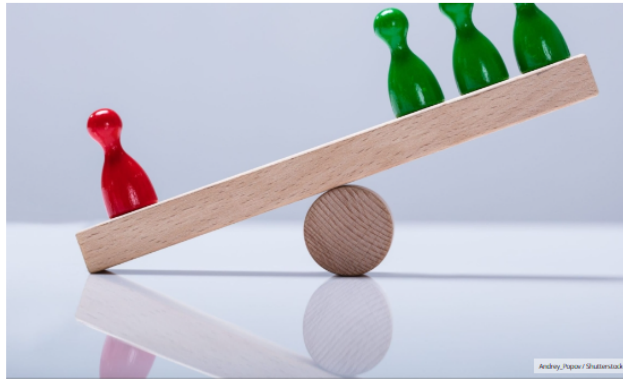
Today marks 100 days of the new European Commission. A period of breakneck activity, in which lobbyists scramble to get acquainted with the new Commissioners and get to grips with the political priorities of President von der Leyen. For its first 100 days, the new Commission has published over 1,400 high-level meetings* which are now available for scrutiny on our online platform [Integrity Watch EU](#). While the number of meetings is in line with the 1,539 published in the first 100 days of the Juncker Commission, the share of NGOs in the total number of meetings rises from 18% to 27%.



[View more](#)

The Green deal is the #1 most lobbied on topic in Brussels

The hot topic of the first 100 days is unquestionably the European Green Deal, spanning across numerous portfolios, making up nearly one-fifth of all high-level lobby meetings with Commissioners, Cabinet-members and Directors-General.



GREEN DEAL IMBALANCE UNVEILED: WHO'S ACCESSING THE EU INSTITUTIONS?

Author: Pia Engelbrecht-Bogdanov | Type: Article | Date: 21 February 2024

Current developments have alarmingly revealed the extent of corporate lobbying in negotiations on safeguarding the climate. Take COP28, where a [record number of fossil fuel lobbyists made an appearance](#), or the upcoming COP29 being hosted by Azerbaijan, a major oil and gas exporting country. This shows how urgent it is to protect these discussions from big polluters seeking to derail them for the sake of profit.

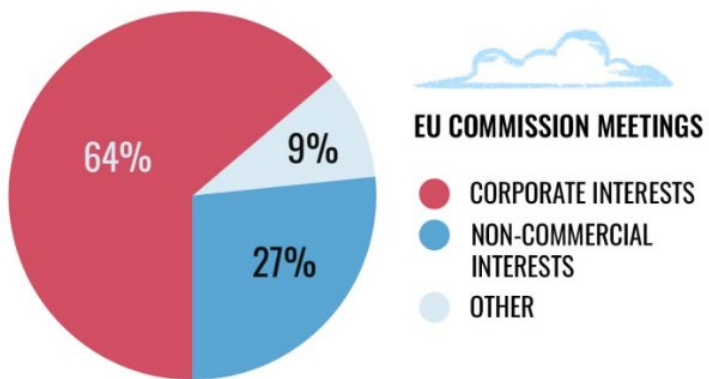
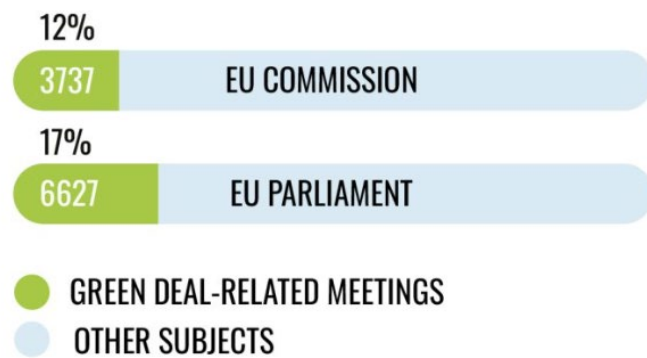
PRIORITIES
 EU POLITICAL INTEGRITY

This raises critical questions about the state of climate legislation at EU level: is EU climate legislation at risk of corporate capture? In the second instalment of our investigations into undue influence on EU climate legislation (check out the first [here](#)), we've looked at meetings on EU Green Deal policies in both the European Parliament and the European Commission, checking which organisations lobby these policies, and how often.

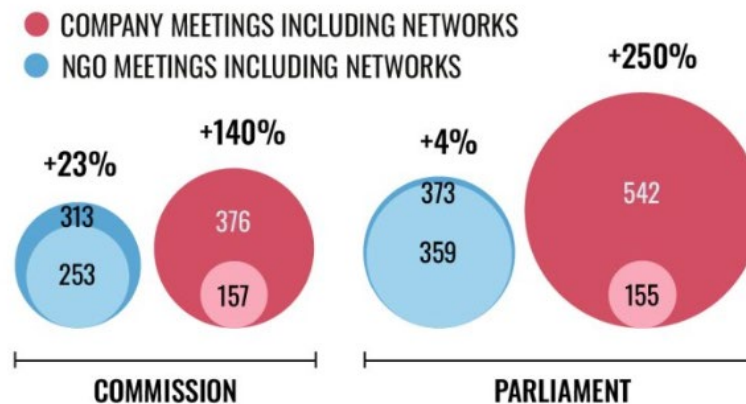
We found that the Green Deal is one of the most heavily lobbied policies in both the Commission and the Parliament. Climate policy-related meetings amount to 3737 meetings in the Commission and 6,627 meetings in the Parliament, constituting 17% and 12% of all meetings respectively.



DATA-DRIVEN NARRATIVE EXAMPLE



TOP 8 ORGANISATIONS WITH THE MOST COMMISSION MEETINGS



Key recommendations

1. Publish meetings of **all EC officials** involved in drafting legislation
2. Adopt rules & guidelines for **balanced stakeholder consultations**

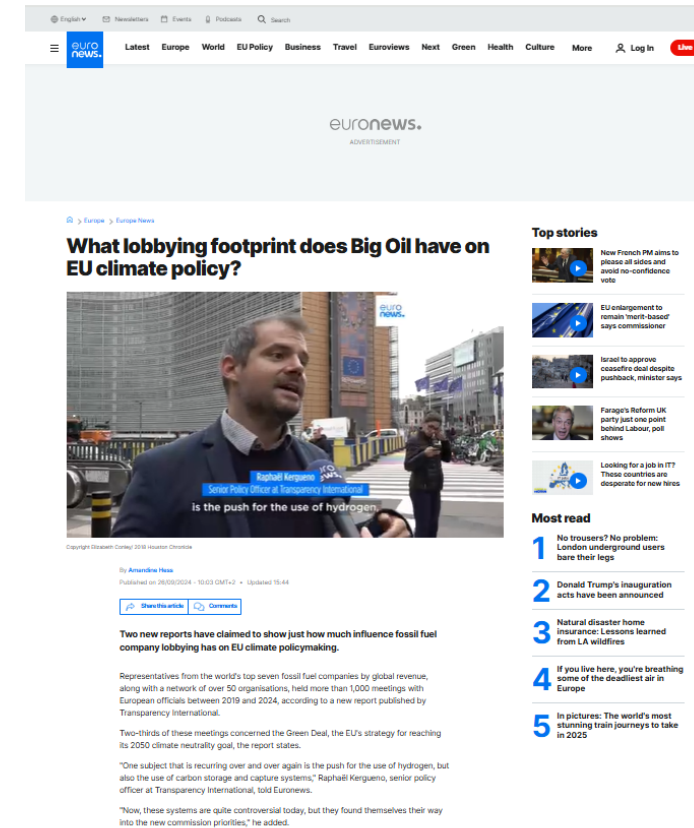
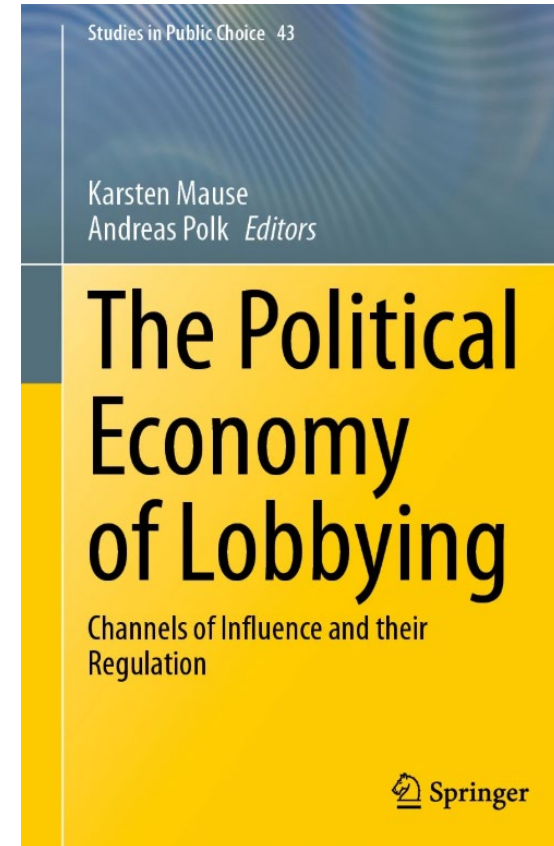
EU INTEGRITY WACTH: IMPACT ON COMMISSION LOBBYING DATA

- **2014:** High-level lobby meetings (Commissioners, Cabinet members and Director-generals) made available **on 90+ page of EC website.**
- **2018:** High-level lobby meetings **published in e-pdfs** on individual entries of EU lobbyists on the Transparency Register in 2018 **directly generated from the EC database**
- **2022:** High-level lobby meetings published **in machine-readable formats** (.xml and .csv) on data.Europa.eu
- **2024:** lobby meetings of all managers made available + **minutes of meetings**

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EU INTEGRITY WATCH: WHY DOES IT MATTER FOR DEMOCRACY ?

- Data published on lobbying re-published on IW EU is used by **academia, investigative journalists, CSO's resulting in hundreds of articles & reports**
- **TI EU re-uses data** to look at lobbying footprint of certain categories of organisations (eg: fossil fuel orgs) and **draw recommendations based on empirical analysis**
- **Fosters greater understanding** on EU decision-making and creates a mechanism of accountability that **enhances citizen's trust.**
- **Open data** contributes to **open governance**



INTEGRITY WATCH.AI ? THE FUTURE OF OPEN DATA PLATFORMS

- IW EU continuously **evolving platform**: new datasets, functionalities, UI
- Open data challenge: **reuse not a priority**
 1. Lack of central registers
 2. No machine-readable formats
 3. No unique identifiers
- **Machine learning** to connect datasets, highlight patterns, enhance data-quality and more intuitive UX
- **Coming soon to IW EU**



INTEGRITY WATCH EU AT 10: A DECADE OF HOLDING THE EU TO ACCOUNT THROUGH OPEN DATA

Author: Raphaël Kergueno | Type: Article | Date: 24 October 2024

At Transparency International EU, we believe that citizens deserve to know who is informing the decisions their elected representatives are taking, making governments more accountable in the process. Not only does this mean that policymakers should publish who they're meeting, or whether they're taking up jobs on the side, but that this data should be easy to reach, and easy to use.

The EU had a patchy record on both counts, which is why we launched our flagship monitoring platform, [Integrity Watch EU](#), in 2014. From its inception, its aim has been clear: provide hard-to-reach data in a user-friendly visual format, to empower citizens, journalists and civil society organisations to directly monitor potential undue influence and conflicts of interest in the EU's institutions.

Integrity Watch began humbly. We provided a single portal that allowed users to track MEPs' outside incomes. This isn't for lack of ambition: this included the only data related transparency and integrity any EU institution provided at the time! When the Commission finally did [decide to publish the meetings](#) Commissioners, as well as Cabinet Members and Directors-General, had been taking with lobbyists, they were scattered across over 90 different pages on the Commission's website. When we refer to data being hard to reach, this is exactly what we mean. Integrity Watch EU was

integritywatch.eu

Thank you !

Transparency International EU

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