EU OPEN DATA DAYS

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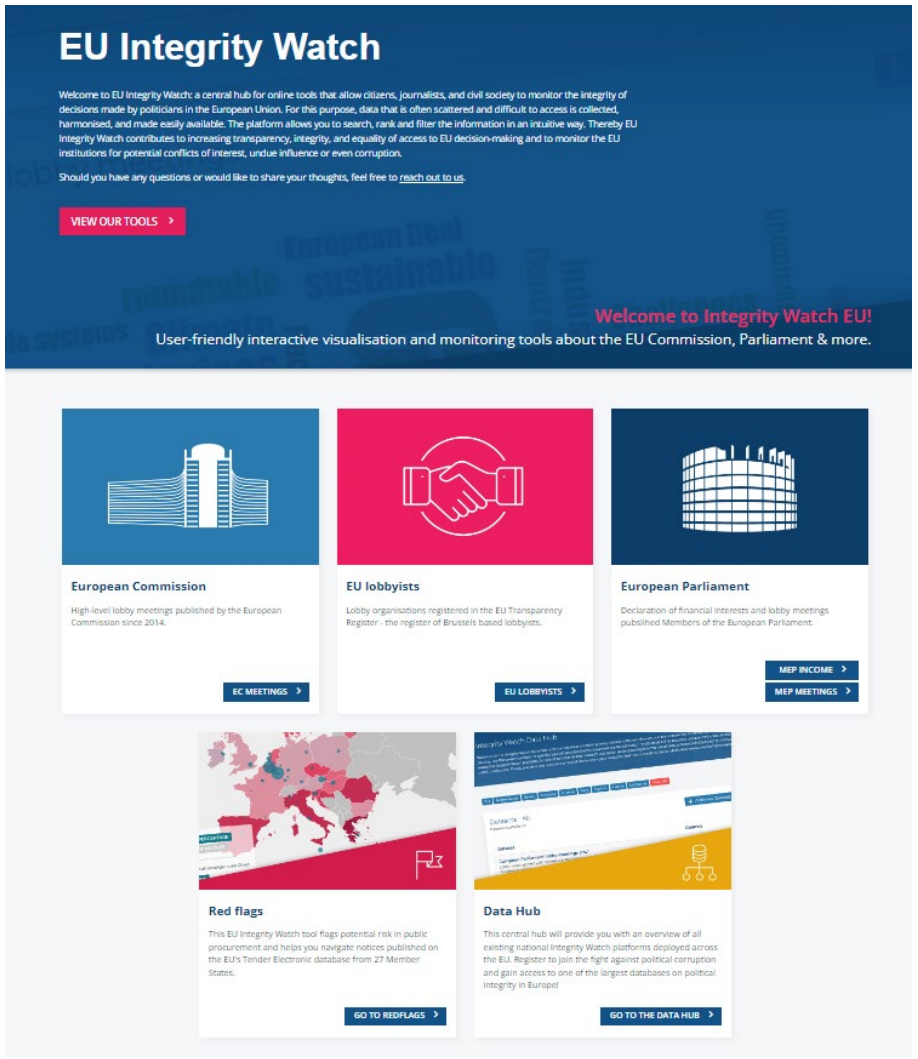
TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL EU

Integrity Watch EU – fostering transparency and accountability through open data

19 – 20 MARCH 2025

EU INTEGRITY WATCH: ENHANCING INTEGRITY THROUGH CIVIC MONITORING



- **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**

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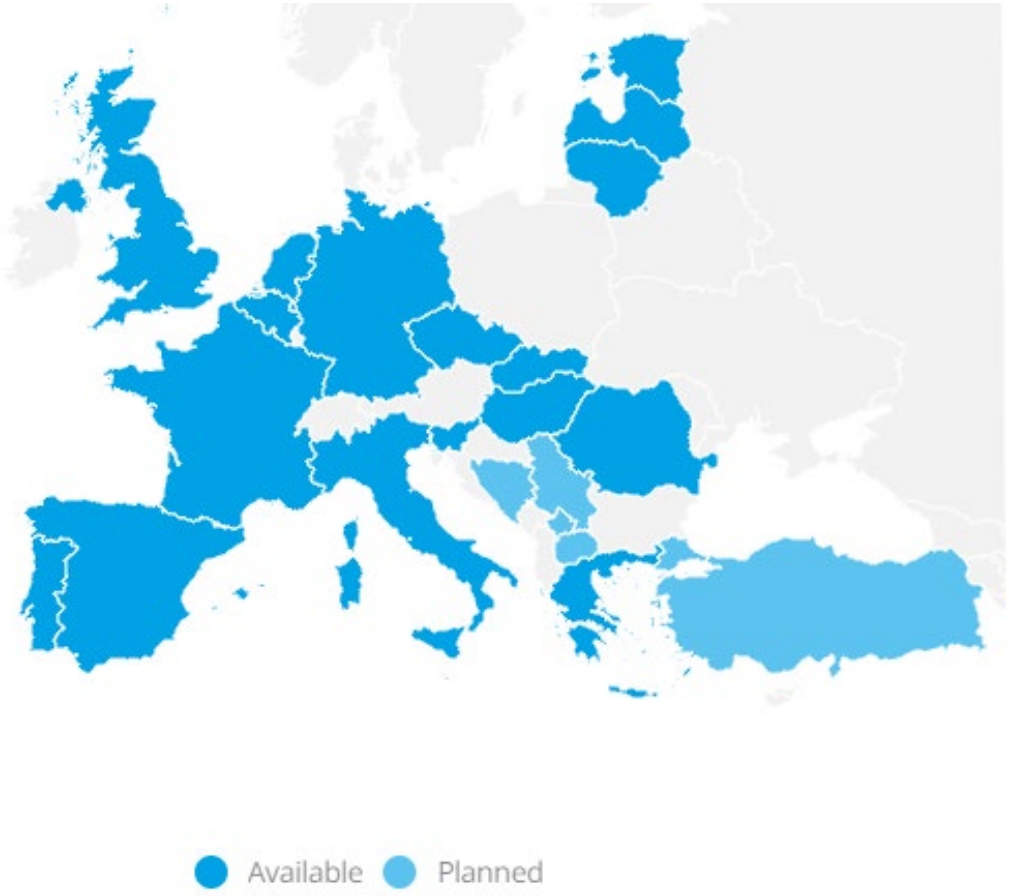
THE INTEGRITY WATCH ECOSYSTEM

- 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**



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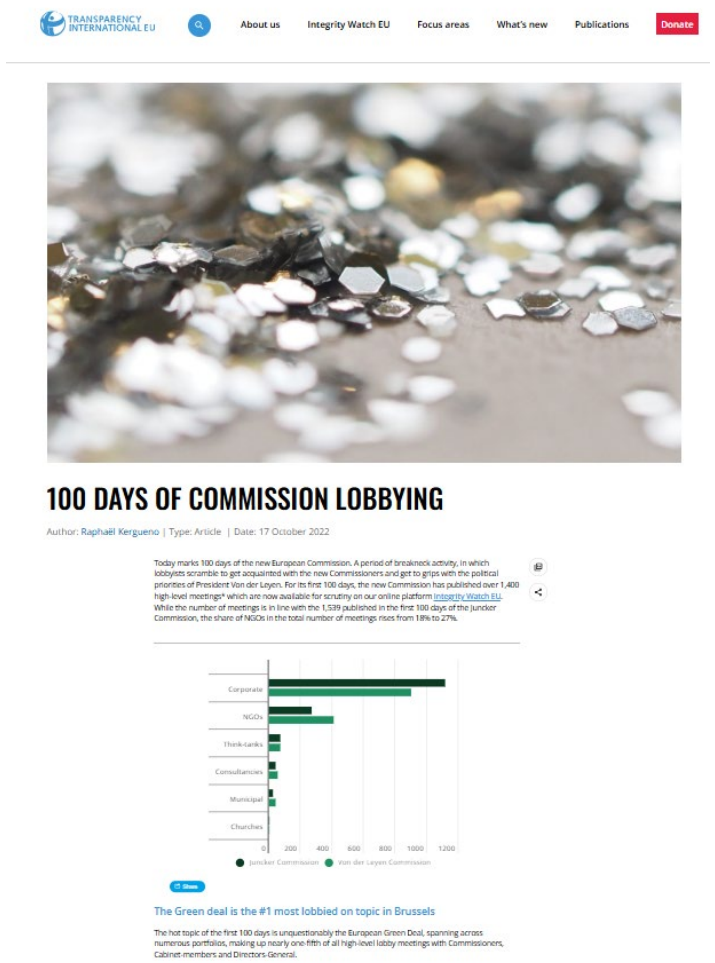
INTEGRITY WATCH AS A TOOL FOR DATA-DRIVEN ADVOCACY

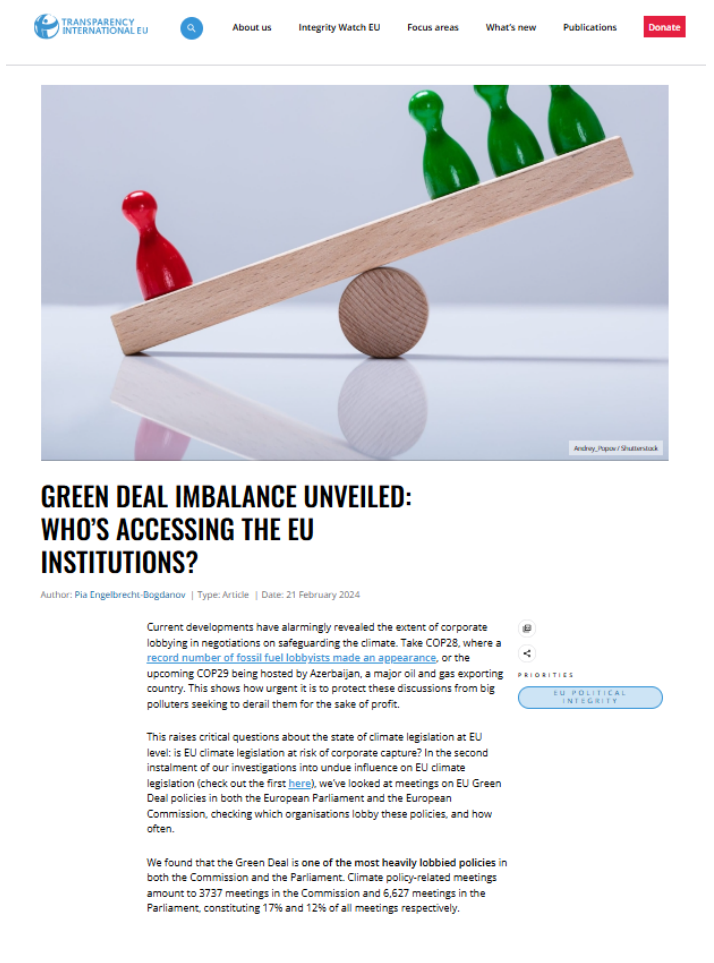
1. Integrity Watch EU **raises awareness** among citizens, journalists, academia and policy-making on TI's positions on lobby transparency, prevention of conflicts of interests and fraud in EU public procurement.

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





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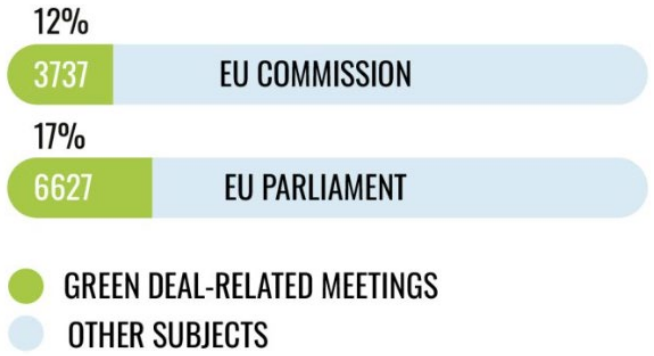
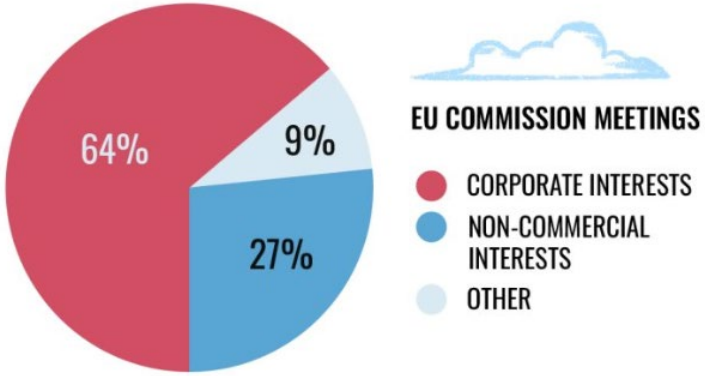
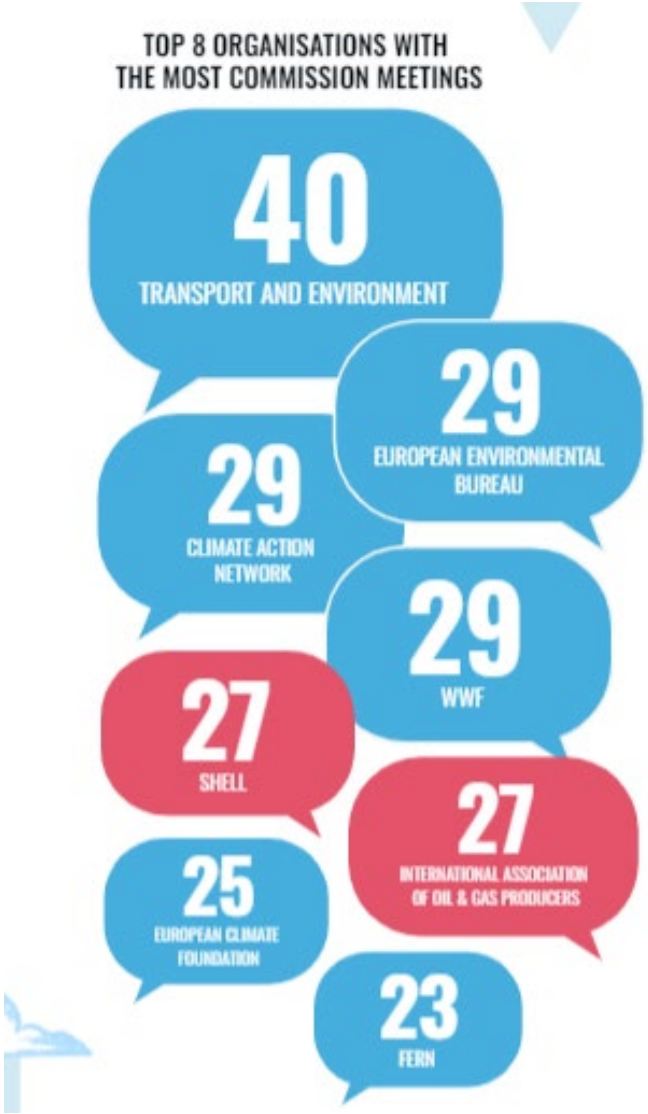
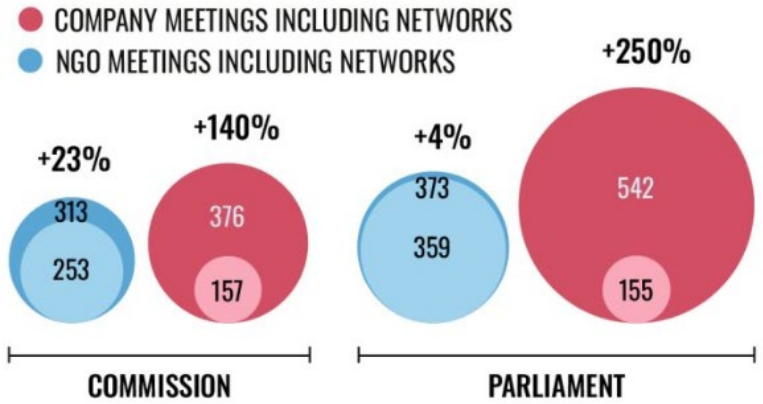
DATA-DRIVEN NARRATIVE EXAMPLE









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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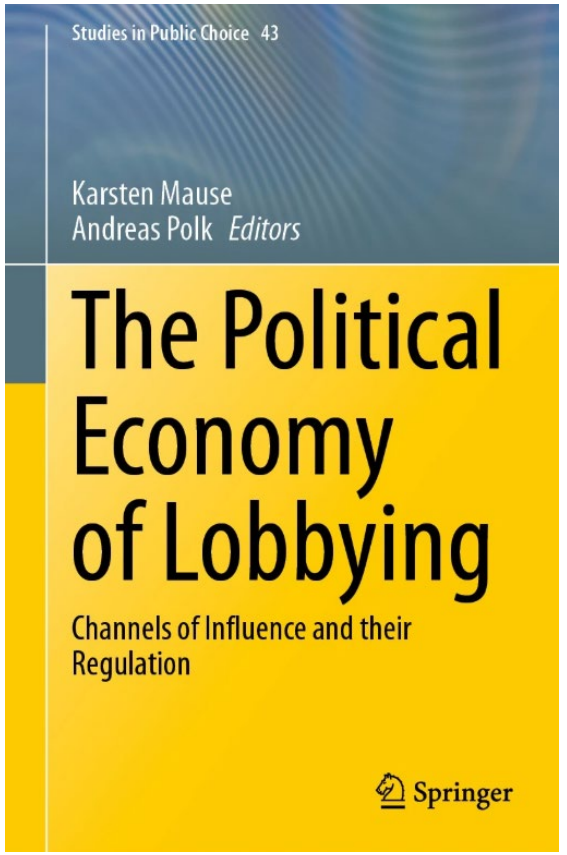
EU INTEGRITY WATCH: WHY DOES IT MATTER FOR DEMOCRACY ?

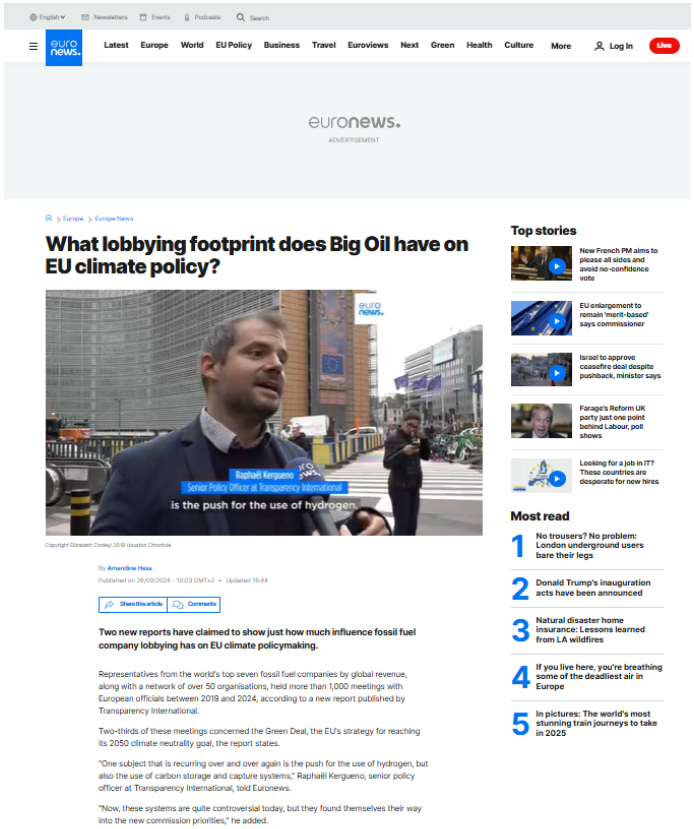
- Data published on lobbying re-published on IW EU is used by **academia, investigative journalists, CSO's resulting in hundreds of articles & reports**

- **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**





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INTEGRITY WATCH.AI ? THE FUTURE OF OPEN DATA PLATFORMS

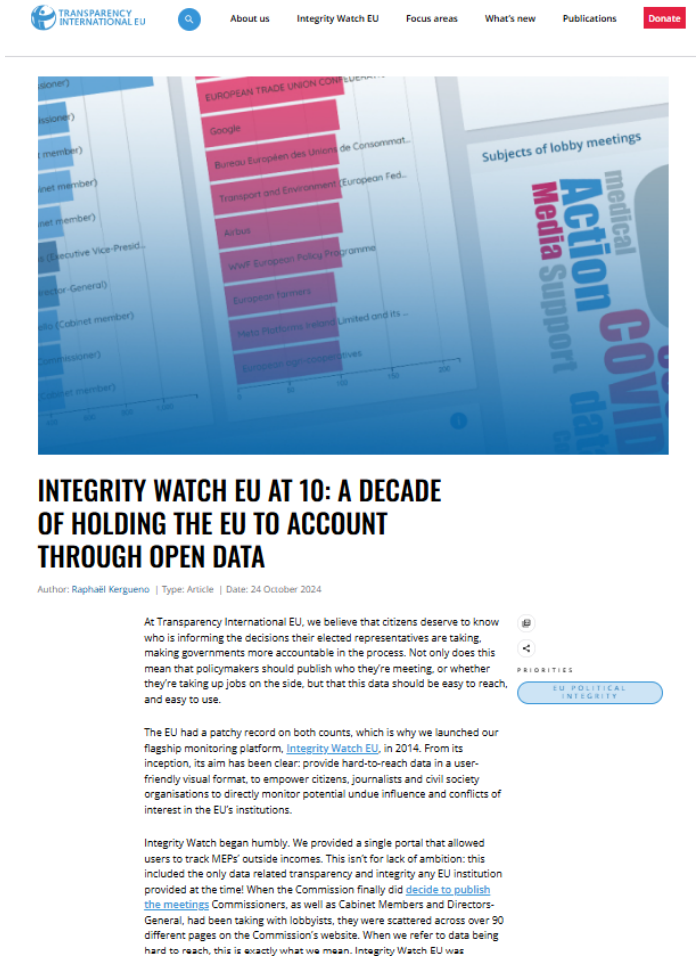
- IW EU continuously **evolving platform:** new datasets, functionalities, UI

- 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**



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Thank you !

Transparency International EU

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