

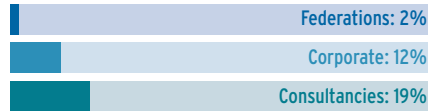
A FOCUS ON THE EUROPEAN TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE (ETI)

AT THE END OF LAST YEAR, EURACTIV CONDUCTED A SURVEY ON THE EUROPEAN TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE, TARGETING FEDERATIONS, CONSULTANCIES AND CORPORATE EU REPRESENTATIONS. ETI PROMOTES TRANSPARENCY IN LOBBYING ACTIVITIES, FEEDBACK ON THE APPLICATION OF THE MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR CONSULTATION AND THE DISCLOSURE OF BENEFICIARIES OF EU FUNDS. HERE ARE THE RESULTS.

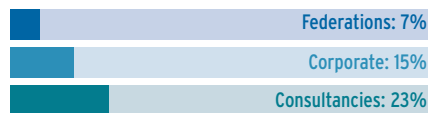


What is your personal view of the ETI?

A new risk of receiving abusive complaints of risk of excessive exposure of misuse of data:



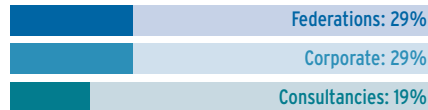
Unnecessary burden:



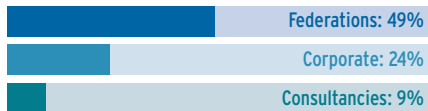
Necessary but requests too much data:



A balanced scheme:



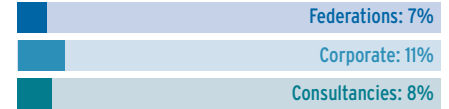
I don't know enough to have an opinion:



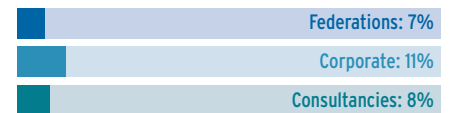
Some respondents found it remarkable how 'lenient' it is for trade associations to register to ETI as opposed to consultancies and even NGOs

What do you personally predict will happen to the ETI after the review of the register in mid-2009?

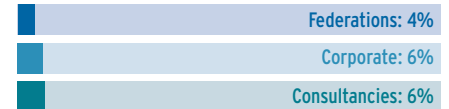
An inter institutional register, mandatory:



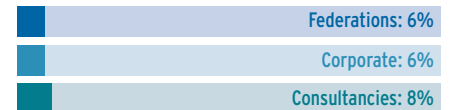
An inter institutional register, optional:



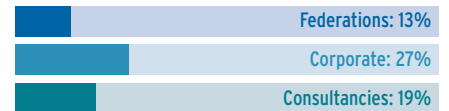
Even more data requests, mandatory:



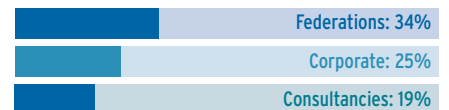
Even more data requests, optional:



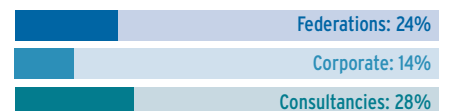
Similar scheme, mandatory:



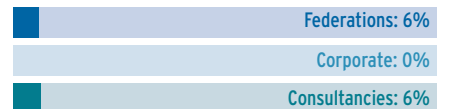
Similar scheme, still optional:



Maintained but simplified:



Abandoned all together:



What is your organisation's general attitude toward transparency/disclosure?

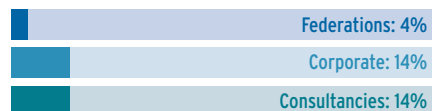
Interested in being transparent:



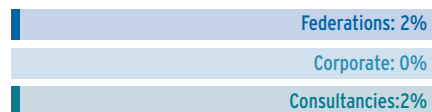
We support full transparency:



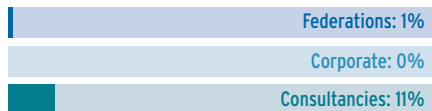
We support limited transparency:



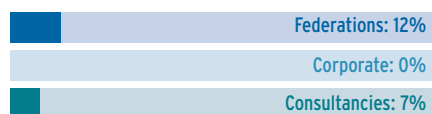
Eager to remain private:



We question its utility:



No opinion:



DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER REMARKS ABOUT THE ETI AND THE COMMISSION LOBBYIST REGISTER?

FEDERATIONS

- + It is remarkable how 'lenient' it is for trade associations (and corporates) as opposed to consultancies and even NGOs.
- + Lack of incentives for organisations to register so likely to fail.

Do you think your organisation is more or less transparent than other companies in your industry?

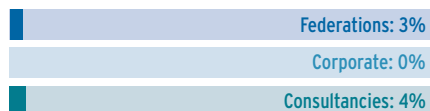
More:



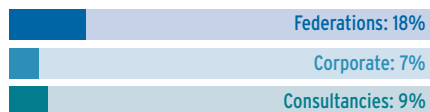
Average:



Less:



No opinion:



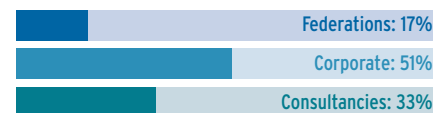
- + It is unacceptable that NGO's do not have to disclose their funding.
- + It is only useful to be continued if all NGOs are covered and clearly indicate the government funds they receive.

CONSULTANCIES

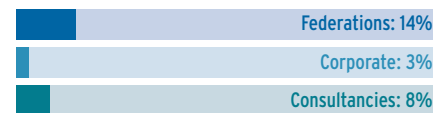
- + We have to ask ourselves very seriously whether this initiative REALLY helps to provide more transparency than before? If we are to 'regulate' lobbying, we should all be opting for one register across the EU institutions, for all actors.
- + Should be clearer that it does not apply for individual public affairs matters where even the Commission is intent on protecting data!
- + The register is a complete mess for now!
- + Simple registration should suffice.
- + It is the Facebook approach to trying to find the truth about an individual/body. Make it 'voluntary' in order to avoid compliance monitoring costs, but still wield your 'rubber stamp power' to force

Regarding the ETI and especially the Commission's lobbyist register, what actions has your organisation taken?

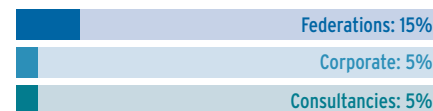
Yes, we already use it:



We are planning to use it in 2009



We will likely use it in 2010 or later



We have no plan to use it



- the registrants into answering multiple dubious questions.
- + ETI code of conduct is not correct in asking lobbyists to provide 'unbiased' information - clearer reference needed to the acceptance of codes of the profession (like the SEAP code).
- + Have not had time to really look into it. Not a priority for us. However, we do not like the idea of having our financial figures made public. As we are a very small consultancy firm, with the financial information requested by the lobbyist register.
- + Business is not a lobbyist.

EurActiv brings together professionals with experience in EU affairs, journalism, information and communication as well as Internet technology. The full version of this survey can be found at: www.euractiv.com/29/images/European%20Transparency%20Initiative%20Survey%202009.pdf