

**Question for written answer E-014291/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Tania González Peñas (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Lobbies and officials

Brussels has become a world capital of lobbying, second only to Washington. This is undoubtedly due to the perception that lobbyists are likely to further the interests of those who finance them, interests that are frequently at odds with those of the majority of the population of Europe. The Commission has taken a number of measures to regulate lobbying so as to provide a degree of transparency with a view to reassuring citizens who are increasingly alarmed by this phenomenon.

However, there are still many cases of conflicts of interest not only involving ex-commissioners and MEPs. The lobbies target those who actively participate in the legislative process, in particular senior Commission officials.

The transparency programme will leave many conflicts of interest undisclosed. In this context, does the Commission agree that the transparency programme does not go far enough and that it should be improved as soon as possible, given the intense lobbying in the EU institutions?

Will it consider extending the transparency programme to include all European officials concerned, clearly specifying what relations they may have with lobbyists and recording the nature of these relations in a public register?