

EN
E-004716/2018
Answer given by Mr Oettinger
on behalf of the European Commission
(18.12.2018)

All organisations carrying out activities with the objective of influencing the law-making and policy implementation process of the EU institutions are expected to sign up to the Transparency Register. All registrants commit to abide by a Code of Conduct in their relations with representatives of the EU institutions. Currently, approximately 600 think tanks and research bodies feature on the Transparency Register.

To the extent that think tanks receive funding from the EU budget they are bound by the requirements of the Financial Regulation applying to all beneficiaries. The Financial Regulation¹ provides a comprehensive framework of rules, including harmonised rules on transparency and control. Such rules extend to publication of calls for proposals and information on beneficiaries, unified periods for record keeping, payments against approval of deliverables and reports, etc. In order to receive EU funding, think tanks must fulfil all the selection (technical and financial) and award criteria of each specific call for proposals.

The Commission does not select recipients on the basis of their political opinions or points of views. Funding for think tanks follows the same strict rules and procedures as any other EU funding. The award of EU grants is subject to the principle of equal treatment and non-discrimination. This means all interested parties in the same situation must be treated in the same way. Any advantage, e.g. additional information, cannot be given to just one applicant only, but must be shared with all potential applicants.

All information on grants awarded by the EU can be accessed on the Europa website².

¹ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, OJ L 193, 30.07.2018, p. 1.

² http://ec.europa.eu/budget/fts/index_en.htm .