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Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

2007/2115(INI)

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DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

for the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

on Development of the framework for the activities of interest representatives
(lobbyists) in the European institutions
(2007/2115(INI))

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs calls on the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Recognizes the significant influence of lobbying on EU decision making and therefore the need for regulation;
2. Believes that only a mandatory register with financial disclosure for all lobbyists will be an efficient tool in helping to identify and assess the strength of the most important driving forces behind a given lobbying activity. The register must be linked to a code of ethical behaviour preferably common to all the EU institutions;
3. Believes that a step towards having one common register for all the EU institutions could be taken by making it mandatory for lobbyists to be in the European Commission's register in order to be able to access the premises of the European Parliament;
4. Calls for a public, searchable and downloadable online database containing all relevant information with cross-references to other possible databases of the EU institutions until a common database is in place;
5. Calls for a monitoring mechanism (i.e. the Quaestors or a Committee of senior MEPs) to scrutinise and assure the accuracy of the information in the register;
6. Believes that sanctions should apply to lobbyists who on several occasions have given unsatisfactory or false information;
7. Calls on the Conference of Presidents to publish a list of all existing intergroups (including members, meeting agendas and documents) on its website;
8. Calls upon its Bureau to review the rules covering the activities of lobbyists three years at the latest after they enter into force to evaluate if the changed system is achieving the necessary transparency on lobbyists' activities.