

**Question for written answer E-000408/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Susy De Martini (ECR)

Subject: Explanations of the meetings and financial relations between the Commission and interest groups during the preparatory stage of the Tobacco Products Directive

On 11 May 2011 the European Commission and Parliament adopted the Interinstitutional Agreement on the establishment of a transparency register for organisations, legal persons and self-employed individuals engaged in EU policymaking and policy implementation, which instituted a code of conduct for such registrants.

During the negotiation proceedings on the Commission's proposed revision of the Tobacco Products Directive (COM(2012)0788, 19.12.2012), which was later passed by the European Parliament in plenary session on 8 October 2013, news emerged that the standards of transparency had not been observed in the handling of the meetings with the interest groups.

Can the Commission let us know:

1. While the meetings with representatives of the tobacco industry have been documented and made public, does it consider that the same can be said of the meetings with the NGOs against tobacco and the representatives of the pharmaceutical companies?
2. What consequences are provided for breach of the transparency standards?
3. Does it consider that discrimination can be alleged to exist in the tobacco industry's access to meetings with the Commission?
4. Can it supply further details of the sources of finance of the NGOs which define themselves as supporters of the campaign against tobacco and which - from information in our possession - seem to receive financial support not only from the Commission itself, but also from various companies in the pharmaceutical industry?
5. Can it supply data on the number of meetings held between the Commission and the representatives of the tobacco industry in the period 2009-2013?
6. Can it supply data on the number of meetings held between the Commission and the pharmaceutical industry in the period 2009-2013?