

**Question for written answer E-001637/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Mathilde Androuët (ID)

Subject: The problem of the power of the lobbies in the legislative process

Criticism of the European institutions' lack of transparency is growing, particularly concerning the power lobbies wield in decision-making processes. Lobbyists are well represented in groups of experts formed by the Commission during the crucial preparation stage of a new law or regulation. Forty years ago, there were fewer than 1 000 lobbyists in Brussels. Now there are officially 20 000, mostly representing commercial interests. In 1995, Parliament established a register of lobbyists, followed in 2008 by the Commission. Both registers were merged to form a European Transparency Register in 2011. However, this register operates on a voluntary basis and the information it contains is incomplete and considered to be unreliable. Another practical and ethical problem relates to the career changes made by European Commissioners, since almost a third of them have joined industrial lobbies since 2010. Although any new appointment must be notified to the Commission, which has eighteen months in which to validate it, this period appears to be too short.

Does the Commission intend to take any further action concerning these particular issues?