

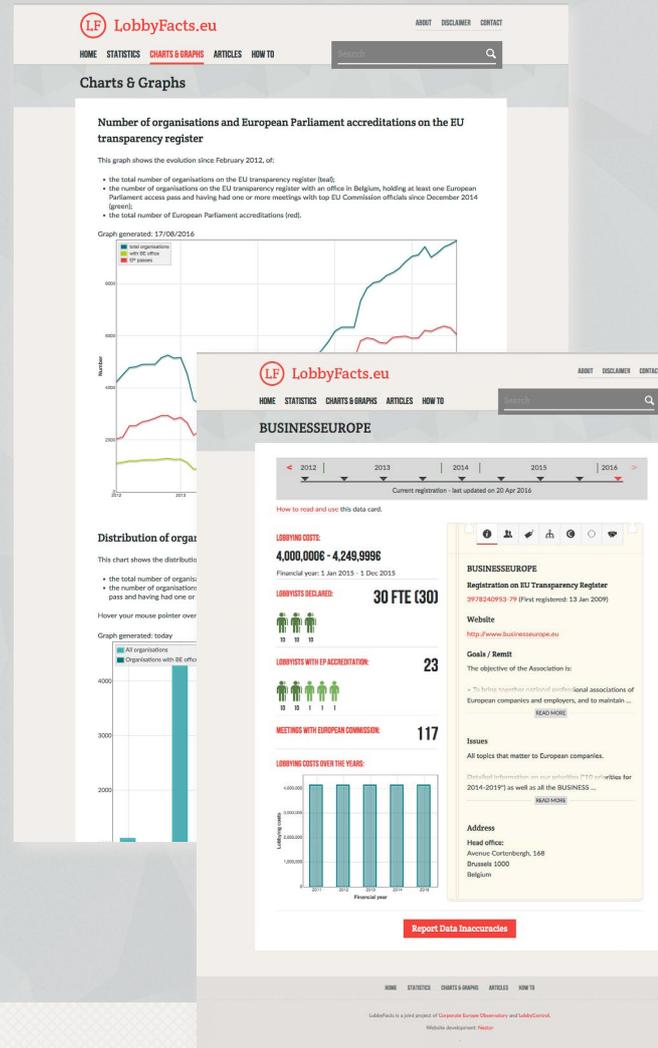
Welcome to [LobbyFacts.eu](http://LobbyFacts.eu) – the platform providing the essential data on lobbying in the European institutions. LobbyFacts provides handy tools to search, sort, compare and analyse official EU lobby data – from both present and past – to help journalists and researchers track lobbyists and their influence at the EU level.

Specifically, LobbyFacts.eu can help you to:

- Find up-to-date information on the lobby activities of all organisations in the official EU Transparency Register
- Create a history of lobbying for a particular organisation using information which is no longer publicly available on the official register website
- Track the rise and fall of the biggest companies, trade associations, or lobby consultancies in terms of their lobby spend and lobbyist numbers
- Find out who has held the most meetings with high-level Commission officials
- Filter-out inaccurate lobby data from searches and rankings
- Download searches into user-friendly data files

LobbyFacts.eu collates information from two official sources. Firstly, data is taken from the EU's Transparency Register which is the only official source for information on organisations lobbying the EU institutions. The LobbyFacts.eu database also contains historical EU lobby data going back to February 2012 – this is no longer available anywhere else.

Secondly, data on the Commission's high-level lobby meetings (of commissioners, their cabinet members and directors-general) are extracted from the Commission's website.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### How can I find the companies spending most on lobbying?

Go to [Statistics](#) and under category select 'Companies & groups'. You may choose a country to filter search results, then select today's date and click on 'Search'. Lobby data results can then be sorted by 'lobbying costs'.

### How can I find out about a company's lobby entries in previous years?

On the [LobbyFacts.eu](http://LobbyFacts.eu) website, you can find a company's data card by typing the company name into the search bar. At the top of each data card you will find a timeline with small arrowheads representing a revision of the respective company's entry in the lobby register. On the right-hand side, the red arrow head highlights the most recent change. By clicking on a triangle, you can see all the data that was registered at that time.

You can use this facility to track changes of a registrant's lobby spending, their number of Parliament access passes, changes in lobby issues, or other data over time. LobbyFacts.eu includes all data from the EU Transparency Register as of 17 February 2012. Some organisations update their registrations several times in one year. This can be because significant changes have occurred, or to rectify mistakes. Mistakes are common in the register (please see our disclaimer), and for some entries, registered lobby spend fluctuates massively between updates.



## Why would I want to filter out certain entries (registrants without a Brussels office, without European Parliament access passes or those who have not held high-level meetings with the European Commission)?

These are all indicators for significance in the world of EU lobbying, so choosing 'Yes' for one or more of these options when performing a search on the Statistics page will result in search results focusing on the most significant EU lobbyists. This is especially helpful as the EU Transparency Register from which we draw the data is littered with faulty entries. Too many organisations register their total budget and total staff instead of limiting the registration to their lobby spend and number of lobbyists. As a consequence, some entries are inflated and random organisations pop up at the top of rankings on lobby spend or numbers of lobbyists. At the same time, some major organisations under-declare their lobby spend or their lobbyist numbers, in order to give the impression that they carry out less lobbying than they actually do. The filters, while not perfect, are short-cuts to generate more accurate rankings. If you prefer to not use these filters, make sure the 'Either' options are selected.

## How can I find out about EU lobbyists from my country?

On the [Statistics](#) page you can search for registrants from any country, including any of the 28 EU member states. The result listings are based on the location of a registrant's head office. Alternatively, you can also perform a search, and then sort the selected data according to 'Head office in' on the [Statistics](#) page.

## Why are there two different figures for lobbyists - 'EP passes' and 'Lobbyists (FTE)' - and which is the best one to use?

The 'EP passes' figure refers to the number of accredited passholders for a given registrant and comes directly from the European Parliament's database. The 'Lobbyists FTE' figure refers to "full-time equivalents" and is automatically calculated by the register according to data provided by the registrants themselves. The 'EP passes' figure is an accurate reflection of all lobbyists with passes but may not be representative of all lobbyists an organisation actually has. The 'Lobbyists FTE' figure is self-declared by registrants, however, so may also not provide a full picture, as too many organisations under or over-declare their lobbyist numbers, providing a total number of their staff or members.

## What are Commission meetings and where does this data come from?

Since 1 December 2014, the European Commission provides online information about all meetings that commissioners, their cabinet members and directors-general have had with registrants. The meetings data on LobbyFacts.eu is extracted from those Commission webpages - LobbyFacts.eu then matches reported lobbyists with data from the official EU lobby register. The meetings data is available on the [Statistics](#) page, while the individual data card for each registrant also provides a full list of respective meetings held. LobbyFacts.eu updates the meetings data at least once every week. It is important to note, however, that a registrant may well have had other lobby meetings with lower-level officials in the Commission, but the published onlinedata covers elite officials only. Additionally, the data that the Commission publishes is not perfect: there are duplications, omissions, and delays. For example, a meeting attended by two separate officials can be reported twice, even though only one meeting was actually held, which can distort the figures. Still, in the view of LobbyFacts.eu, it is still a good indicator of lobby influence whether or not a registrant has met with the elite of the Commission.

> Please find more tips and tricks on how to get the best out of LobbyFacts.eu on our [How to](#) page.

## Disclaimer

The data displayed on LobbyFacts.eu is based on published information extracted from two official sources, the EU Transparency Register and the Commission's meetings data. LobbyFacts.eu replicates this data and can therefore not be held responsible for inaccuracies in the originals. If using LobbyFacts.eu data, you can always confirm the data presented with the original sources.

LobbyFacts.eu is a joint project of Corporate Europe Observatory and LobbyControl.

[www.lobbyfacts.eu](http://www.lobbyfacts.eu) | [info@lobbyfacts.eu](mailto:info@lobbyfacts.eu) | +32 (0)2 893 0930