

Majority of EU citizens 'concerned' about EU lobbying

Me gusta 3 Tweet 28 0

By Martin Banks - 1st February 2013

A new report says that a majority of people across Europe are concerned about ethics and lobbying in EU policymaking.

The main findings of a poll of over 6000 people in six European countries also shows that citizens want better regulation of lobbyists and increased transparency for the EU.

The survey comes after recent scandals such as those surrounding the resignation of former EU health and consumer policy commissioner John Dalli, which implied that representatives of the tobacco industry had privileged access to key EU decision-makers.

The Olaf report which resulted in Dalli's resignation has still not been made public.

The Maltese authorities are thought to be close to concluding their inquiry into the Dalli case with charges likely to follow soon against the former commissioner's business associate who is alleged to have attempted to alter the EU tobacco products directive.

The survey reveals that 73 per cent of respondents are concerned that lobbyists representing the business sector have too much influence on EU decisions.

It says 80 per cent of those surveyed believe there should be mandatory regulation of lobbying to ensure a balanced participation of different interests in decision making.

The results come following the recent launch of the European year of citizens which aims to stimulate dialogue between governments and citizens.

Reaction to the findings came from Natacha Cingotti, of Friends of the Earth Europe, who said, "The results of this poll should be a wake-up call for European decision makers.

"Citizens are clearly asking for compulsory regulation for lobbying."

She said parliament "should insist" that this happens by making the EU's transparency register mandatory.

Four out of five people polled (80 per cent) also said they feel "less confident" that an MEP represents the best interests of citizens if they also work for a lobby group or a private company.

French respondents (76 per cent) felt the most strongly that MEPs should not be allowed to work for a lobby group or a private company while they are serving as elected representatives.

Cingotti added, "This poll also signals that the poor enforcement of the MEP code of conduct negatively affects citizens' confidence. Strict implementation and monitoring of MEPs' second jobs are urgently needed to avoid conflicts of interest."

Further comment came from Helen Darbishire, executive director of Access Info Europe, who said, "This survey firms the findings of the EU citizens project conducted over the past year.

"The public are hungry for more information about what is happening in Brussels"

Helen Darbishire

Related News

EU watchdog calls on ECB to 'improve' communication with citizens

Commissioner leaps to defence of under-fire EU personnel office

Van Rompuy aide defends EU's 'credentials'

Parliament rejects calls to block approval of EU agency's budget

Tackling unemployment and restoring confidence top Irish presidency agenda

Latest news

Cypriot expert warns of '45 years of more talks' on divided island

An expert has warned that Cyprus faces "another 45 years of peace negotiations" unless a settlement to the island's long running dispute is found soon

EU watchdog calls on ECB to 'improve' communication with citizens

The European ombudsman has ruled that European central bank (ECB) president Mario Draghi's membership of the Group of Thirty (G30) "does not undermine" the bank's independence

EU has 'vital role' in promoting democracy in Kazakhstan

The foreign minister of Kazakhstan says the EU has a "vital" role to play in helping his country on the "road to democracy"

Majority of EU citizens 'concerned' about EU lobbying

UK referendum on EU membership 'asks all the right questions'

Kroes warns of cyber security's 'rising threat'

Van Rompuy says 'worst of crisis' is behind the EU

EU commissioner spells out action to combat air pollution



EU MONITORING

- ✓ Tailored intelligence
- ✓ In depth briefings
- ✓ Ad-hoc research
- ✓ Institutional insight

"Clearly, members of the public are hungry for more information about what is happening in Brussels, and specifically that they want to know about decision making and spending."

Meanwhile, it emerged on Thursday that corporate Europe observatory (CEO) has submitted a formal complaint to the ombudsman about the commission's secrecy around the 'Dalligate' scandal.

In the complaint, CEO accuses the commission of secrecy, selective release of documents and failure to fulfill its obligations under EU transparency legislation.

On 26 October 2012, CEO said it requested access to "all documents related to Dall's resignation over the issues covered in the Olaf investigation, including all minutes of meetings, all correspondence, both internal and external, and any other documents held by the commission on these matters."

The commission has refused to disclose the most important of these documents.

CEO argues that "the commission has unduly refused access to documents, failed to provide clarity about which documents falling under the scope of request actually exist and used delay tactics", all of which constitutes "a pattern of serious maladministration".

Me gusta 3 Tweet 28 0  

More from TheParliament.com

RSS feeds

News
Parliament Magazine
Regional Review
Research Review
Blog posts

The Parliament Magazine

Archive
About
Contact
Advertising
Subscribing
Purchase online

Regional Review

Archive
About
Contact
Advertising
Subscribing
Purchase online

Research Review

Archive
About
Contact
Advertising
Subscribing
Purchase online

TheParliament.com

- Contact us
- About us
- Terms and conditions
- Advertising opportunities

More from Dods

Dods.co.uk
Dods Shop
Dods People
Dods Legislation

Public Affairs News
ePolitix.com
Civil Service Live Network
Dods Monitoring EU

Training Journal
Westminster Explained
Westminster Briefing
Electus

