

Subject: Re: Questions regarding the relationship between Allied for Startups and its corporate board

Date: Thu, 26 Aug 2021 20:54:27 +0200

From: Benedikt Blomeyer-Bartenstein <[REDACTED]>

To: Margarida <margarida@corporateeurope.org>

Dear Ms Silva,

Thanks for reaching out to us with your inquiry, which we are happy to clarify.

Allied for Startups is a worldwide network of over 40 advocacy organisations focused on improving the policy environment for startups around the globe. Our focus is to ensure that the policy environment is conducive and responsive to the needs of startups and that policy decisions positively impact the startup ecosystem, digital entrepreneurship and digital economy at large.

The Members of Allied for Startups are startup organisations from around the world and they pay a membership fee. They direct the activities and positions of the association. The Corporate Board sponsors the activities of Allied for Startups but they are not members and have no voting rights or role in running Allied for Startups or the positions we advocate for.

Best regards,

Benedikt Blomeyer

On Mon, 23 Aug 2021 at 18:49, Margarida <margarida@corporateeurope.org> wrote:

Dear Mr. Blomeyer,

I work for an NGO called Corporate Europe Observatory, a research and campaign group concerned with the access and influence enjoyed by corporations and their lobby groups in EU policy-making: <http://corporateeurope.org/>

I am currently preparing a report on the lobbying power of tech firms and I would like to ask you a few questions about the relationship between Allied for Startups and the companies in its corporate board.

It would be very useful to understand more about this role from your side and I would appreciate receiving a response from you before Friday the 27th of August.

1. What type of relationship exists between Allied for Startups and its corporate board?
2. We note that the report “The impact of the Digital Services Act on business users” prepared by Oxera for Allied for Startups counted with comments and funding from the corporate board members.

What involvement overall has the corporate board had in Allied for Startups’ activities on the Digital Services Act and the Digital Markets Act? Have these firms been involved in the development or implementation of the DSA4Startups project?

3. How do you respond to concerns that funding startup associations, like Allied for Startups, is a component of Big Tech’s lobbying strategy?
4. Do you have any other comments to make about these issues?

I look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely,

Margarida Silva

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**Margarida Silva, Researcher/Campaigner
Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO)**

www.corporateeurope.org

CEO's EU transparency register ID number: 5353162366-85

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Benedikt Blomeyer

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