



Secretariat of the Transparency Register

Corporate Europe Observatory
Rue d'Édimbourg 26
1050 Brussels – Belgium
attn. Ms Vicky Cann

Sent by email only:

vicky@corporateeurope.org

Ref.: TR-C-2023-207

Dear Ms Cann,

We refer to the complaint you submitted on 13 March 2023 (TR-C-2023-207) to the Secretariat of the Transparency Register (hereafter the “Secretariat”) regarding BASF SE (registered in the Transparency register under ID 7410939793-88) in which you alleged that BASF SE has breached points (f) and (j)¹ of the Transparency Register Code of Conduct, provided for in Annex I to the Interinstitutional Agreement of 20 May 2021 between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on a mandatory transparency register².

You received an acknowledgement of receipt on the same day.

Further to the investigation carried out the Secretariat can inform that:

¹ *Registrants shall operate in line with the rules and principles set out in this Annex. In particular, registrants shall:*

[...]

(f) ensure that the information that they provide upon registration, and subsequently administer in the framework of their covered activities, is complete, up-to-date, accurate and not misleading, and agree to that information being made available in the public domain;

[...]

(j) where engaged in a client-intermediary relationship:

(i) ensure that the parties in such a relationship are entered in the register; and

(ii) as clients or intermediaries, ensure that the relevant information concerning the relationship entered in the register pursuant to Annex II is published;

[...].

² Interinstitutional Agreement of 20 May 2021 between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on a mandatory transparency register OJ L 207, 11.6.2021, p. 1 -17.

- BASF SE confirmed that all BASF Group lobbying activities are mentioned in the BASF SE registration in compliance with the single registration principle;
- BASF SE declared that they did not have any contractual relationship with Fourtold and Hanover Communications International in 2022 and, after having double checked, Fourtold and Hanover Communications International removed any reference to BASF SE in their registration in the Transparency Register;
- BASF SE contracted Ketchum in 2022 to carry out activities covered by Article 3 of the IIA;
- BASF SE registration in the Transparency Register shows now Ketchum as an intermediary in the financial year 2022;
- Ketchum registration in the Transparency Register shows now BASF SE as a client in the financial year 2022;
- BASF SE confirmed that the costs declared in their registration are those incurred by the BASF group entities beyond the headquarters and the Brussels office and that they also include the costs for in-house public affairs in EU27 countries.

In light of the above, the Secretariat considers that BASF SE is compliant with the Transparency Register Code of Conduct as Annex I to the IIA³ and decided to close the investigation opened further to your complaint.

Sincerely,

María OLIVÁN-AVILÉS
Coordinator of the Secretariat of the
Transparency Register

³ See footnote 2