



Secretariat of the Transparency Register

Ms Vicky Cann

Corporate Europe Observatory

By email only:

vicky@corporateeurope.org

Dear Ms Cann,

I am responding on behalf of Vice-President Jourová, in my role as Coordinator of the Transparency Register Secretariat ('Secretariat'), to your letter dated 19 July 2023 bringing to her attention the interest representation activities allegedly performed at EU level by a US-based organisation, Consumer Choice Center (CCC).

In your letter, you allege that this organisation engages in activities provided for in Article 3 of 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 register ('IIA'), without being registered in the Transparency Register. You base your allegations on information provided in recent press articles and on the information available on the website of the organisation concerned.

The organisation you refer to was in fact registered in the Transparency Register until 13 May 2022, at which date it was removed, in the framework of the regular quality control procedures performed by the Secretariat. As you are aware, registrants are ultimately responsible for the accuracy of the information they have provided in the register. They are required to observe at all times the ethical rules and principles set out in the code of conduct for registrants, which includes ensuring 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.

The Secretariat monitors the ongoing eligibility of registrants, which includes regular quality checks on registrants' data, aimed at detecting potential inaccuracies, errors or omissions, in order for the information available to the public in the register to be useful and reliable. When the Secretariat has reasons to believe that a registration does not

accurately provide the relevant information, it contacts the registrant concerned, requesting an update or an explanation. In the case at hand, the organisation concerned did not provide an adequate response to the Secretariat's questions which eventually entailed their removal from the register.

Only registered interest representatives are allowed to perform interest representation activities that are subject to the conditionality measures established by the EU institutions, and which require prior registration. Those include for example meetings with Commission decision-makers, covering all Members of the Commission, their members of Cabinet, as well as all Directors-General and heads of service of the Commission. Other conditionality and transparency measures that are currently in force in the institutions are listed on the dedicated page on the Transparency Register website¹.

In view of other interest representation activities Consumer Choice Center might engage in, as referred to in your letter, I will invite the organisation concerned to provide an explanation and submit a new application to register such activities, where relevant, in the Transparency Register in a comprehensive and transparent manner.

Yours sincerely,

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

¹ [Transparency Register \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/en/press-operations/infographic-116136.attachments)