

The President

Ms Vicky Cann
Corporate Europe Observatory

D 310977 17.10.2023

Dear Ms Cann,

Thank you for your open letter dated 19 July 2023 on behalf of Corporate Europe Observatory concerning the lobbying activities of the US-based Consumer Choice Centre.

The European Parliament needs to give citizens and representative associations the opportunity to make their views known and to hold public exchanges in all the areas Parliament works on. In this sense, the Transparency Register has become one of the main tools to ensure the transparency of said exchanges.

I commend the work of your organisation on transparency issues and I assure you that improving transparency is an objective that I staunchly support. Parliament has improved its ethics and transparency policy in recent months. We have finalised a far-reaching reform plan, which adds new rules on access to the Parliament, including for lobbyists, and lays down overarching transparency obligations on interest representatives' participation in events held on Parliament's premises.

In the same vein, the Rules of Procedure have been revised to include a wider scope for existing measures, such as enhanced mandatory declarations regarding Members' meetings with lobbyists as well as a ban on the activities of informal friendship groups that result in confusion with official Parliamentary activities. In other words, we are making our framework more robust in such a way that the Transparency Register becomes even more central in ensuring legitimate, transparent lobbying, all the while enabling Members to continue to exchange with the outside world in the exercise of their free and independent mandate.

Beyond the changes that will soon enter into force, the use of the European Parliament logo remains strictly regulated and, following your letter, I have asked the relevant services to look into the Consumer Choice Center's website.

Yours sincerely,



Roberta Metsola