

**Lobby transparency register alert by Corporate Europe Observatory**  
**15 November 2017**  
**Institute for Economic Affairs**

<https://iea.org.uk/>

If an organisation has “the objective of directly or indirectly influencing the formulation or implementation of policy and the decision-making processes of the EU Institutions” then it should be registered in the EU lobby transparency register. We consider that the Institute for Economic Affairs has this objective and should be registered, which would bring transparency to its activities and funding. <https://iea.org.uk/>

The Institute of Economic Affairs is a think-tank which, according to its UK Charity Commission entry, works mostly in London and Belgium (<http://beta.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-details/?regid=235351&subid=0>).

A number of IEA staff already have EP access passes namely:

- Ms Christiana Elizabeth Stewart-Lockhart – Director of Programmes at the IEA  
<https://iea.org.uk/christiana-stewart-lockhart/>
- Mr Adam Bartha – Programmes Assistant at the IEA  
<https://iea.org.uk/adam-bartha/>
- Mr Diego Zuluaga Laguna – Head of Financial Services and Tech Policy at the IEA  
<https://iea.org.uk/diego-zuluaga/>

However, these passes are held via another organisation called EPICENTER, not via the IEA, because the IEA has chosen not to register. EPICENTER is registered (although see our separate complaint about their entry

<http://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/public/consultation/displaylobbyist.do?id=080362721653-38>) and the IEA is one of its founding members. IEA staff are also listed as EPICENTER’s chief executive and events and outreach officer on EPICENTER’s lobby register entry.

The IEA calls EPICENTER its “European policy unit” <https://iea.org.uk/events/the-nanny-state-index-conference/> and the substantial overlap between IEA and EPICENTER begs the question whether the IEA is using EPICENTER to avoid registering in its own right? In our view, IEA should register and this would bring much needed clarity to the relationship between EPICENTER and IEA, and to their respective funding sources.