

Dear Margarida Silva,

Forest EU is fully transparent about the support it receives from Japan Tobacco International (JTI) – this is made crystal clear on its [website](#). In addition, it is consistently highlighted by Brussels-based media, including POLITICO, that Forest EU is supported by JTI. No-one is left in any doubt about this.

As regards the Consumer Choice Center (CCC), JTI supported the organisation's launch event in Brussels on 26 April 2017, which was referenced on the CCC launch event agenda. The CCC has its own code of ethics, which is publically available on its [website](#).

The associations / (con)federations / networks or other bodies that JTI is a member of at EU level are listed on our [entry](#) in the EU Transparency Register. This list is updated by us once a year, as officially required. At the next update we will review and update our list of memberships.

JTI is proud to support CCC and, separately, Forest EU - a new pro-choice organisation dedicated to defending the interests of informed adults across the 28 member countries who enjoy smoking and vaping. We find many public health and anti-tobacco lobbyists based in Brussels and it's clear they enjoy the close ear of certain decision-makers. So we are striving to help those who want to bring a bit of balance to the paternalism versus freedom of choice discussion here in the EU capital. In a democratic society, Europeans should be allowed to make up their own minds on how they choose to live their lives by listening to all sides of this important debate.

We trust that Corporate Europe Observatory consistently applies the same level of scrutiny not only to the private sector but also to the NGO community, some of whom are not fully transparent as to where they receive their funding and/or support from.

Yours sincerely,

Ben Townsend

Vice-President, Head of EU Affairs

EU Affairs Office

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From: Margarida [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Thursday, 22 June, 2017 16:44
To: Townsend, Ben < [REDACTED] >
Subject: Questions about JTI

Dear Ben Townsend,

I work for an NGO called Corporate Europe Observatory which is 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 would like to ask you several questions about the organisations that Japan Tobacco International is currently funding. It would be very useful to understand more about this from your side before we consider publishing an article on this issue. I would appreciate receiving a response from you as soon as possible and before Thursday 29 June.

1. Recently, two new lobbying organisations have been launched in Brussels that seem to be wholly or partially funded by JTI, these being Forest EU and the Consumer Choice Center respectively. Is there any reason for why they are not listed in your EU transparency register entry?
2. What type of cooperation exists between JTI and Forest EU? And JTI and the Consumer Choice Center?
3. Do you fund any other organisation, foundation, think tank or any other type of groups involved in EU or member-state lobbying?
4. How do you respond to concerns that by funding such groups, JTI is disguising its lobbying activities?

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

Yours sincerely,

Margarida Silva

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