Methodological Annex “Who lobbies most on TTIP?”

Where does the data come from?

The data covers three channels via which lobbyists are trying to influence the TTIP negotiations.

A) Contributions to the Commission’s public consultations on the agreement:

B) Registrations for the Commission’s civil society dialogue meetings on TTIP (the Commission did not release the list of people who actually participated, citing data protection requirements):

C) A list of “stakeholder meetings” on TTIP behind closed doors as well as additional information about lobby groups from the reports of these meetings (both provided by the Commission in a response to an access to information request):
   2. Freedom of information request including the meeting reports released by the Commission: http://www.asktheeu.org/en/request/dg_trade_contacts_with_industry

Which time period is covered by the data?

Our data covers the period between 01/2012 and 04/2013 for which we have encompassed publicly available data for all three lobby channels. In particular for the Commission’s behind-closed-door stakeholder meetings on TTIP, there is no publicly available data yet that covers the period after April 2013.

How did we categorise the data?

We have combined all entities that work on behalf of for-profit entities in the category “corporate”, hence covering all individual companies, industry federations (even if they call themselves “non-profit”, but work for for-profit companies), public affairs consultancies etc.

We grouped companies and industry federations according to economic sectors, but obviously there are many overlaps between the sectors. To avoid double counting, we have, for example, included the category “biotech” – even though many of the companies there would also fit into the “chemicals” or “agribusiness” categories. The same is true for the category “chemicals and agribusiness” (obviously at the intersection of the two categories). This means that the actual amount of agribusiness lobbying on TTIP is even bigger than the 113 encounters mentioned in our results.

If there was any doubt about the clear labelling of an organisation, we included it in the “miscellaneous” category.

Limitations of the data

The time period is a clear limitation of the data. So are overlaps in the different categories we used, particularly when it comes to the different industry sectors. Also, the data does not account for the fact that not all lobby encounters are equally important when it comes to influencing policy. It is very likely, for example, that an intimate 2 hour meeting behind-closed doors is more effective than participation in the Commission’s Civil Society Dialogue. Finally, the data cover only lobbying of the Commission’s Trade
Department (DG Trade), which is leading the EU’s negotiation. The lobbying of other DGs, which are also involved in the negotiations (DG Enterprise and Industry, DG Health and Consumer Protection, DG Agriculture, and so on) is not covered.