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Netopia

<http://www.netopia.eu/>

Netopia is a website and self described «ideas forum» (<http://www.netopia.eu/about/>) that is actively trying to influence policy-making on issues related to EU's copyright directive, among others. Even though it conducts activities that fall squarely within the remit of the EU Transparency Register, Netopia is not registered.

Netopia's only known employee is Per Strömbäck, a lobbyist for the Swedish gaming industry (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/perstromback>). The Transparency Register show us that Netopia was aided by lobby firm MSL Brussels whose entire lists Netopia as a client, generating revenue between € 50000 and €99999 in 2017(<https://lobbyfacts.eu/representative/f130b89745dc465d94e8e8fdc027e1ee/msl-brussels-division-of-mms-communications-belgium-sa>). According to MSL's website, Netopia hired them to “enhance the impact of the creative industries (...) EU institutions and Brussels-based stakeholders” (<https://mslgroup.com/work/netopia-forum-digital-society>).

MSL ran the secretariat of Netopia and put together a range of lobbying activities which they claim were successful in increasing Netopia's profile in EU institutional events and in EU media. They say that « The Netopia spokesperson has been regularly invited to contribute to a wide range of high-level EU and national institutional hearing and stakeholder's events, also gaining visibility in the most relevant European media. The EU recently adopted legislation that takes into consideration the copyright model supported by the creative industry.” (<https://mslgroup.com/work/netopia-forum-digital-society>)

These are all activities covered by the Transparency Register. On top of that, Netopia seems to regularly make direct appeals to Members of the European Parliament, especially on social media, making voting recommendations. See for instance:

<https://twitter.com/netopiaforum/status/1069594082312429574>

And they have hosted events inside the European Parliament, see for instance - <http://www.netopia.eu/invitation-event-brussels/>

At the moment it is unclear how Netopia is funded but its website says it is supported by the following publisher and creative industry lobbies :

- [European Publishers Council](#)
 - [Federation of European Publishers / Fédération des Éditeurs européens](#)
 - [International Federation of Film Producers Associations](#)
 - [International Federation of the Phonographic Industry](#)
 - [International Union of Cinemas](#)
 - [International Video Federation](#)
 - [ISFE – Representing the European Videogame Industry](#)
 - [Motion Picture Association](#)

- [Premier League](#)
- [UNI MEI](#)

All of the above organisations are registered as lobby groups, yet only the International Video Federation declares being a member of Netopia. The list of supporters is visible in Netopia's website but it is unclear how much each contribute to it. We do know they have a keen interest in the website as the public agenda from the Federation of European Publishers show that they attend Netopia's steering group meetings (<https://fep-fee.eu/FEP-Activities-Week-6-10-June-to>)

Netopia should be told to register as a lobbyist and declare its full lobby budgets, member organisations and lobby issues. If it fails to do so, at the very least, it should not be allowed to host event inside the European Parliament as per article VI. Of the inter-institutional agreement setting up the Transparency Register. https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2014.277.01.0011.01.ENG

Its member organisations should also be told to update their entries to reflect their participation in Netopia.