

Financial transparency of MEP-industry forums

Corporate Europe Observatory - September 2009



In October 2006, Corporate Europe Observatory [revealed](#) that there was a fundamental lack of transparency concerning how the European Parliament's official intergroups and also the unregistered cross-party groups of MEPs were financed. Among the many unregistered cross-party groups were at least a dozen MEP-industry forums, where secrecy was particularly widespread. Three years later, only the European Parliamentary Financial Services Forum and the European Internet Foundation have disclosed any information about how they are financed. The funding sources of the rest remain obscure.

Membership and some funding information provided

European Internet Foundation

www.eifonline.org

According to the website, the foundation is financed primarily through the membership fees of the corporate and associate members. The standard annual fee is €10,000. , There are three different categories of memberships: "MEPs" (free), "Business" (standard fee: €10,000; small & medium-sized enterprises: €2,000) and "Associate" (€2,000 for members representing commercial interests who themselves have corporate members; €1,000 if one or more of these corporate members is a member of EIF; €500 for members representing non-commercial interests or having no corporate members). No further financial information is provided.. With 37 business members and 46 associate members, the annual budget of EIF for 2009 can be estimated to be well above €400,000.

There are 56 MEPs as political members.

The three membership lists are disclosed on the website.

European Parliamentary Financial Services Forum

www.epfsf.org

The annual contributions from industry members are 8,000 euros per member for 2009. The latest summary of the Forum's expenses is from 2005. It details how the expenses are dispersed. 10 MEP's in the steering committee. The membership list is disclosed on their website.

Forum for the Automobile and Society

www.autoandsociety.com

The operating costs of the forum is covered by annual fees from corporate members, but no further financial information is provided.

There are 41 MEPs as members.

The membership list is disclosed on the website.

European Energy Forum

www.europeanenergyforum.eu

MEPs and corporate members are required to pay an annual fee but no details of this are provided. 30 MEPs are "active members". No further financial information is provided.

The membership list is disclosed on their website.

Membership information provided

Kangaroo Group

www.kangaroogroup.org

There are over 150 Members of the European Parliament who are actively involved in the Kangaroo Group, giving lectures at its conferences, seminars, working groups, writing articles for the group's quarterly newsletter, and chairing various events.

The membership list is disclosed on their website, no financial information is provided.

Transatlantic Policy Network

www.tponline.org

The full membership list is disclosed on their website. There are 71 MEP's on the TPN's European Parliamentary Committee. [No info about finances?]

European Parliament Ceramics Industry Forum

www.epceramicsforum.eu

There are 11 MEPs involved. Two other members are mentioned on the website.

The website doesn't appear to have been updated in the last year. No financial information is provided

Forum in the European Parliament for Construction

www.focope.eu

About 60 MEPs from all member states and political groups (according to the report from AALEP). No financial information is provided.

According to FOCOPE's website "A structured programme of issues of immediate importance to the industry will be discussed and every effort made to promote ideas."

The forum explains that it is needed because: "With the ever-increasing development of EU policies affecting the construction industry it is necessary for market participants to have contact with EU legislators in order to exchange views and influence the legislative process."

No information on membership or funding

Forum for the Future of Nuclear Energy (FORATOM)

No website

It is unclear how many MEPs are involved.

FORATOM suggests potential topics of discussion and speakers to the Chair of the Forum. Financial information is missing. [Any evidence of its activities - because it is active...??]

European Parliament Life Sciences Circle*

www.chatzi.de

Supported by: Verband Forschender Arzneimittelhersteller e.V. (German Association of Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies). Financial information is not provided on the website.

According to MEP Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, who heads the forum, there are no membership fees or other sources of income. The events are supported by the relevant stakeholder, who might be interested in a certain healthcare topic in consultation with Mr. Chatzimarkakis. The respective stakeholder pays for lunch, any other refreshments served during the conference, for the speakers' travelling costs, invitations and any rent for a room, as needed.

The respective stakeholder supporting the event is clearly indicated in the programme.

The Circle for Research and Innovation in the European Parliament

No website.