



Lobbying under the radar - MEP-industry forums

Appendix: a survey of European Parliament MEP-industry forums

Corporate Europe Observatory

24 May 2011

European Energy Forum

Official mission: “The EEF provides an opportunity for its members to gain a better understanding of energy and energy related issues, through frank and informal discussions on the immensely varied issues present within the world of energy today.”

Members: The European Energy Forum consists of active members and associate members. Active members are MEPs who, having submitted their application to the Treasurer of the Association, are accepted for membership by the Board of Directors and pay their annual subscription. The President of the EEF is UK MEP [Giles Chichester](#) who is also a member of the Parliament's Industry, Research and Energy Committee. The associate members are companies, research organisations, associations and regulators who take an interest in energy-related problems, wish for direct involvement in the EEF's activities and contribute the agreed fee. The overwhelming majority, however, seems to be corporations.

Currently 54 MEPs are members of group. Amongst them is EP President Buzek. There are 79 associate members, including: Statoil, Total, BP, Shell, ExxonMobil, Vattenfall and E.ON.

Funding: Appears to come from the membership fees from both active and associate members. However is it unclear how large these fees are and if they are of the same magnitude.

Activities: The EEF has been referred to as the “submarine of the energy industry” by a source who regularly attends EEF meetings and who spoke confidentially to CEO and confirmed that discussions which start at the EEF usually end up at the Parliament.

According to the EEF's website, it has a secretariat of four staff and director general Jean-Claude Charrault states: “we are not a lobby group!” Charrault goes onto talk about the diversity of the sector and how “we shouldn't forget the consumers!”¹. According to the EEF website, its “associate members” are “companies, research organizations, associations and regulators who take an interest in energy-related problems, which [sic] for direct involvement in the EEF's activities and contribute the agreed fee. They may sit on the Industrial and Scientific Advisory Committee, a committee that helps the Board to set out the areas of which the EEF's work should concentrate.” But out of the 79 “associate members” currently listed, there are no consumer groups represented². Instead the list is full of major energy industry players. Such a pro-industry approach can be illustrated by looking at the close relations between MEP members and the energy industry.

In 2005, former MEP Rolf Linkohr established the ‘Centre for European Energy Strategy’ (CERES) consultancy, whose clients are large energy corporations. Whilst an MEP, Linkohr played an active role in parliamentary committees responsible for energy issues³ and developed close relations with European energy corporations, including through the EEF, which he presided over from 1994 to 2004.

Nuclear energy has been a major focus for the EEF and nuclear industry firms have organised and sponsored numerous EEF events. More than twenty such events, including many visits to nuclear sites organised by nuclear companies, took place during Linkohr's presidency. More recently, Giles Chichester MEP states in his declaration of financial interests that his role as President of the EEF is unpaid but that in 2010, he undertook a visit to AREVA's forge at Le Creosot (which makes large components for nuclear energy reactors) and was also a guest of CEA (the Alternative Energy and Atomic Energy Commission of France) for a briefing on the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor⁴.

Further information can be found [here](#).

1 EEF website viewed 21.5.2011: <http://www.europeanenergyforum.eu/archives/european-energy-forum/letters-from-the-publisher/the-european-energy-forum-is-not-a-lobby-group-1>

2 EEF website viewed 21.5.2011: <http://www.europeanenergyforum.eu/our-members/associate-members>

3 1979 - 1984: Committee on Energy and Research, 1984 – 1994: Committee on Energy, Research and Technology, 1994 - 1999: Committee on Research, Technological Development and Energy, 1999 – 2004: Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy, 2004 – 2009. Source was European Parliament website accessed in 2007.

4 See Giles Chichester MEP's declaration of financial interests: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/members/public/yourMep/view.do?name=chichester&partNumber=1&language=EN&id=2097>

European Forum for Manufacturing

Official mission: “The European Forum for Manufacturing helps to provide European political leadership for the development of multilateral public policies addressing the economic, social and environmental challenges facing manufacturing globally. The purpose of the EFM is to help ensure that Europe remains a leader and benefits fully through enhanced global competitiveness, social progress and environmental responsibility”.

Members: It is not possible to see a list of members on the EFM website but it says, “The Forum has already brought together MEPs from Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom with representatives of many manufacturing companies”⁵.

Funding: The EFM is financed by annual company contributions together with sponsorship of specific meetings.

Activities: [Malcolm Harbour](#) and other MEPs from across the political spectrum of the European Parliament formalised the European Forum for Manufacturing (EFM) by signing the Brussels Statutes in Spring 2009. The EFM website makes clear that its meetings provide manufacturing companies (including some of the largest brands in the world: ABB, Alcoa, Airbus, Air Liquide, Alstom, Bayer, BMW, Bosch, Caterpillar, Corus, Daimler, GKN, Hitachi, IBM, Peugeot, Philips, Renault, Rolls Royce, Scania, Siemens, Toyota, Umicore and Volvo) with the opportunity to exchange views with MEPs from all the main political groups on the specific impact of legislation currently under discussion. These issues have included employment policy, environmental and climate change issues, research, innovation and development, public private partnerships, internal market and trade policy. Apparently, European Commissioners, Directors General, their officials, the Council Presidency and Member State Representations are also invited to contribute to EFM meetings; trade unions are invited but only “where appropriate”⁶.

The European Forum for Renewable Energy Sources

Official mission: EUFORES is a European cross-party network of Members of Parliaments from the European Parliament as well as from the EU27 national and regional Parliaments. EUFORES core objective is the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Members: The forum has members from both the European Parliament and national parliaments. Luxembourg MEP [Claude Turmes](#) is the current president. It has 23 corporate supporting members including Bosch, Dow Corning and Vestas.

Funding: EUFORES is financed by members' contributions, EU grants and private sponsorships. EUFORES has a website with very comprehensive information but no accounts are disclosed.

Activities: This week, EUFORES will host a reception at Brussels airport for a solar aeroplane. Other events include regular dinner debates which are sponsored by corporate members⁷.

European Internet Foundation

Official mission: “The mission of the European Internet Foundation is to help provide European political leadership for the development of European multilateral public policies responsive to the political, economic and social challenges of the worldwide digital revolution. Our purpose is to help ensure that Europe remains at the forefront of this revolution - and benefits fully from it through enhanced global competitiveness and social progress.”

5 EFM website viewed on 20.5.2011: <http://euromanuforum.com/activities.html>

6 EFM website viewed on 20.5.2011: <http://euromanuforum.com/activities.html>

7 Information from EUFORES website viewed on 23.5.2011: <http://www.eufores.org/index.php?id=4>

Members: EIF membership is divided into three main categories: political members (MEPs), business members and associate members. Currently 67 MEPs are members of the group while 38 large corporations hold business membership including: Apple, Google, Microsoft and IBM. The EIF was “pioneered” by Burson-Marsteller senior lobbyist Peter Linton who, according to the BM website, has been particularly active in information and communications industry sectors⁸.

Funding: The Foundation is financed primarily through the membership fees of the business and associate members.

Activities: Key activities, according to the EIF's website, appear to be regular dinner-debates held in the European parliament and addressed by a range of speakers including from the Commission, member states' ministries and BT, the Computer & Communications Industry Association, and AT&T, amongst others⁹.

Malcolm Harbour MEP is a governor of the EIF and also chair of the parliamentary committee on the internal market and consumer protection. He was recently rapporteur on a report for the committee entitled European Broadband: investing in digitally driven growth which called for member states “to open up network competition fully, in accordance with the new telecoms framework rules; calls on national regulators to use their powers to avoid both subsidies which distort the market and the emergence and abuse of dominant market positions, and where appropriate, to follow public procurement rules to ensure fair competition” and for “public-private partnerships and public investment [to] be used where necessary to deploy broadband and enhance access to high-speed internet”. The report received unanimous backing from the committee.

European Life Sciences Circle¹⁰

Official mission: The forum was launched “to facilitate the dialogue with interested stakeholders on relevant issues in the context of life science and pharmaceuticals.”

Members: MEPs, corporate actors and other stakeholders.

Funding: According to German MEP Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, who heads the forum, there are no membership fees or other sources of income.

Activities: Events are supported by the relevant stakeholder, who might be interested in a certain healthcare topic in consultation with 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. It seems that the stakeholder is, in effect, always a company. Examples of sponsors include Bayer and Roche and recent events include 'Turning Europe into the Healthiest Society' held in March 2009 and 'Patient Empowerment – a New Paradigm in Disease Management' held in March 2010.

European Parliament Ceramics Forum

Official mission: “The European Parliament Ceramics Forum is a cross party discussion group with the objective of facilitating the dialogue between the European Institutions and the ceramic industry on all relevant policy developments”.

Members: The only two political members mentioned on the website are Michael Cashman and Malcolm Harbour who are taking turns to chair the group. The website doesn't specify whom the corporate members are but the forum seems to exist in collaboration with Cerame-Unie, the European Ceramic Industry Association.

8 Burson-Marsteller website viewed on 21.5.2011: <http://burson-marsteller.be/about/team/senior-consultants/#profile.peter.linton>

9 Information from EIF website viewed on 23.5.2011: <http://www.eifonline.org/en/articles/eventspages/recent-events.cfm>

10 CEO understands that this organisation is active although no live website could be found.

Funding: No financial information is provided.

Activities: On May 26 2011, the EPCF will host an event in Parliament entitled "Ceramic solutions for resource efficiency". Speakers, as well as MEPs, include: Carina Vopel, Deputy Head of Unit, DG Environment; Pere Fullana, Director of [GiGa, the Environmental Management Research Group](#); plus the the European Brick and Roof tiles association; and [Deutsche Edelstahlwerke GmbH](#) ("a leader in the manufacture and processing of steel long products"). The EPCF hopes that trade unions and environment NGOs will attend, although they are not represented on the current speaker's list.

European Parliamentary Financial Services Forum

Official mission: "The European Parliamentary Financial Services Forum facilitates and strengthens the exchange of information on financial services and Europe's financial markets between the financial industry and Members of the European Parliament."

Members: The group brings together MEPs and large financial companies. All Members of the European Parliament are invited to participate in the activities of the Forum. A large number of MEPs are active in Forum events, and these select the members of the [Steering Committee](#), currently composed of 28 MEPs from the EPP, ECR, Socialist and ALDE Political Groups.

There are currently 53 corporate members of the group, including: Deutsche Bank, Goldman Sachs and Royal Bank of Scotland.

Funding: The Forum is financed by annual contributions from the corporate members. In 2008 the expenses totalled roughly €250,000.

Activities: In September 2010, the EPFSF organised a seminar on financial derivatives for MEPs' assistants in the run-up to European Parliament discussions on the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive. Derivatives have become very controversial in the wake of the global financial crisis (they have been called "financial weapons of mass destruction" by Warren Buffet¹¹). While the EPFSF protests that it is a 'forum for discussion' rather than a lobby group (Catherine Denis, Director of EPFSF, is on the record as saying that the objective of the EPFSF "is to organise debates where all participants can express their different points of view, including representatives of consumer groups¹²") the list of speakers at this event¹³ was dominated by the finance industry and included no consumers' voice or other critical voice. More information can be found [here](#).

In September 2009, the EPFSF was one of three MEP-industry forums that were re-launched in the new Parliament at a cocktail event where speakers included Commission President José Manuel Barroso. President Barroso said at the time, "These forums represent important European economic interests. It is our duty to listen to the different economic sectors because it is these sectors which create jobs in Europe"¹⁴.

In 2005, [the Wall Street Journal](#) described how MEPs from the EPFSF had tabled amendments to water-down the 'Third Money Laundering Directive'. This banking trade group was run by a lobbyist (John Houston) who had several clients which also funded the EPFSF. According to the WSJ, this dubious process led to an unusual protest by legislators looking at the money laundering legislation: more than half of MEPs on one committee abstained on the amended measure. Too many Parliament members introduced "amendments which had been dictated to them by bankers," said French MEP Vincent Peillon at the time¹⁵. As a result of this story, John Houston went on to be nominated in the Worst Lobby Awards of 2005¹⁶.

11 <http://www.berkshirehathaway.com/letters/2002pdf.pdf>

12 http://www.publicaffairsnews.com/no_cache/home/european-news/news-detail/newsarticle/meps-banking-lobby-is-a-danger-to-democracy/10/

13 EPFSF website viewed 21.5.2011: http://www.epfsf.org/training/seminar1_2sep2010.php

14 For more information including a film of this event and interviews of the participants, please see: <http://blog.brusselssunshine.eu/2009/09/mep-industry-fora-vehicles-for-lobbying.html>

15 Wall Street Journal (2005). *In Europe, Finance Lobby Sways Terror-Funding Law*. May 24 2005.

16 More information is available here: <http://archive.worstlobby.eu/2005/nominees/houston.html>

Forum in the European Parliament for Construction

Official mission: “With the ever-increasing development of EU policies affecting industry it is necessary for market participants to have contact with EU legislators in order to exchange views and influence the legislative process. This Forum will be of interest to all those directly or indirectly involved whose aim is to create a competitive and effective industry with high growth and employment.”

Members: The forum does not disclose this although it is clear that both MEPs as well as corporate actors are involved.

Funding: No financial information is provided.

Activities: The contact for FOCOPE appears to be [Wilfred Aspinall](#) who is also an “EU strategic adviser” for Aspinall Brussels. Aspinall's website says that he can advise on “assisting in making representations to Members of the European Parliament on strategy affecting clients” and “assisting in the preparation of Briefings for MEPs”. On his website, Aspinall lists the following subjects, amongst others, where he can offer advice: “Construction Products Regulation, Waste Framework Directive, Soil Framework Directive, Energy Efficiency in Buildings, Reduced VAT Rates for intensive labour activities including for the aged and disabled”¹⁷. This list is almost identical to the list of issues under consideration on FOCOPE's website¹⁸.

Forum for the Automobile and Society

Official mission: “By bringing decision makers from the motor industry and motoring organisations together with key policy-makers from major legislative institutions, the Forum acts as a place to exchange information and views and as a think tank for all those interested in automotive issues.”

Members: The group consists of political members (MEPs) and corporate members. Currently 20 MEPs are members alongside 23 corporate members.

Funding: Corporate members cover the operating costs of the Forum.

Activities: In a February 2011 article, [journalist David Cronin](#) investigated the links between the auto mobile industry and two prominent UK MEPs on the FAS: [Martin Callanan](#) and [Malcolm Harbour](#) (who hosted the cocktail event which re-launched several MEP-industry fora, including FAS, in the 2009-2014 parliamentary session).

David Cronin wrote: “The [FAS] brings car-obsessed MEPs together with the manufacturers of their dream climate-changing machines. Both Harbour and Callanan have done nicely out of this far-too-cosy relationship. Harbour's latest declaration of interests indicates that he no longer takes free gifts from his corporate chums. Nonetheless, he has spent much of his 12 years as an MEP doubling up as an adviser to the car industry and as a legislator on dossiers affecting that sector. He has attended Grand Prix racing as a guest of Jaguar and Toyota and been loaned a variety of models from different companies. Callanan meanwhile, has admitted that he was given a discount by Ford when he bought a new car in 2006”¹⁹.

But even more serious than gifts and perks, is the influence that the auto mobile industry appears to have on amendments to legislation being debated by MEPs. As Cronin goes on to report, in 2009 the Commission proposed that an average new van should release no more than 135 grams of carbon dioxide per kilometre by 2020, but in 2011 Callanan drafted the Parliament's official response to this proposal and pressed for a far less stringent target of 140g per km²⁰. According to Cronin, “his stance mirrors that of the [European Automobile Manufacturers' Society \(ACEA\)](#) the main umbrella group for car and van makers in Europe, which claims that it is being required to

17 Information from Wilfred Aspinall's website viewed on 23.5.2011: <http://aspinall.wordpress.com/>

18 Information from FOCOPE website viewed on 23.5.2011: <http://focope.wordpress.com/issues-under-consideration/>

19 <http://dvcronin.blogspot.com/2011/02/time-to-talk-straight-about-corporate.html>

20 <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sidesSearch/search.do?type=REPORT&language=EN&term=7&author=4536>

bring down emission levels too quickly”²¹. There is substantial overlap of membership between the FAS and the ACEA. More information is available [here](#).

Further information on the lobby power of the car industry in Brussels is available [here](#).

GLOBE-EU (Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment)

Official mission: “GLOBE is a community of parliamentarians present in the legislatures of most countries of Europe and other regions of the world. The Members of GLOBE share an interest in co-operating across country and party lines on the environmental agenda of climate and biodiversity protection and sustainable development.”

Members: GLOBE-EU has members from both the European Parliament as well as national parliaments. The group has set up the so-called [Bee Group](#) as a forum where corporate partners are invited. Members include Dow, Unilever and General Electric.

Funding: The corporate membership fees of €7500 contribute to finance GLOBE-EU. Other than that, GLOBE-EU refers to the fact that it is not an official intergroup and therefore is not subject to those requirements from the Parliament²².

Activities: In 2011, EU priorities for GLOBE include a two-part seminar series to be held in June entitled “Green & Sustainable Growth, the Bottom Line for the European Financial Industry with banks, insurance companies, pension funds, the asset management industry, private equity, rating agencies and stock exchanges”. This will also see the launch of a formal parliamentary written declaration “on a comprehensive package of tools, carrots and sticks, to encourage European public and private financial institutions to mobilize capital through their investment and lending policies”²³.

For the Bee Group, a January discussion on substantive issues for 2011 highlighted that, “the generation of raw materials, bio-ethanol and energy from organic waste is the real cornerstone of a resource-intelligent, organic-based society ... the main obstacles which keep agriculture and waste under-utilised sectors are now political rather than technological ... it is also crucial that a market for second-generation bio-fuels is created, and that multi-purpose bio-refineries take off in the EU”. This is a hugely controversial area of public policy, but absent from the attendance list (of 11 MEPs or MEP assistants and 12 industry representatives) were consumer groups and environmental NGOs²⁴.

Kangaroo Group

Official mission: The Kangaroo Group is an association of members of the European Parliament, Commission and Council and representatives of industry and academia working to enhance European unity step by step around the pursuit of common projects. The motto of the Kangaroo Group is free movement and security.

Members: There are 17 MEPs and 51 corporate members. The corporate members stem from many different sectors including: British American Tobacco, Fizzer, CEFIC, BP and Intergroup. In addition, several member companies are major arms producers including EADS, Hales, and MBDA.

Funding: No financial information is provided.

Activities: Kangaroo Group is an important forum for discussing and aligning views among the defence industry and enthusiastic MEPs on issues in the security, defence and space policy fields.

21 <http://dvcronin.blogspot.com/2011/02/time-to-talk-straight-about-corporate.html>

22 Globe website viewed 21.5.2011: <http://www.globe-europe.eu/index.php/partners>

23 Information from GLOBE website viewed on 23.5.2011: <http://www.globe-europe.eu/index.php/events?phpMyAdmin=NgYeRliQSA8hn88V0LttxHZw327>

24 Information from GLOBE website viewed on 23.5.2011: <http://www.globe-europe.eu/index.php/partners>

Indeed Kangaroo has a working group on 'space, security and defence' which meets regularly (at least seven times already in 2011)²⁵.

Even though the Kangaroo Group is not officially affiliated to the Parliament, the contact address named on its website is in the European parliament (Eastman building).

Karl von Wogau, one of the founders of Kangaroo and a former MEP, is now Kangaroo's secretary general (as well as being Secretary General of the [European Security Foundation](#)). He has been very active in defining the way forward for a militarised EU space policy. In July 2002, a high-level European advisory group, of which Mr von Wogau was a member, presented a report called "STAR21- Strategic Aerospace Review for the 21st century" to the European Commission. The report argued that a competitive aerospace industry is essential to deliver on Europe's economic ambitions and policy aims²⁶. In particular it said: "A flourishing and competitive aerospace industry is essential to ensuring a secure and prosperous Europe ... [and makes a] contribution to sustainable growth"²⁷.

Knowledge for Innovation: K4I Forum of the European Parliament

Official mission: "The K4I Forum of the European Parliament is committed to its mission of providing a space for debate on the future of innovation in Europe. The main objective is to make issues relevant to knowledge and innovation the top priority of European policy-makers."

Members: K4I has 28 member organisations, including industry associations, universities and other research organisations. Twelve MEPs sit on the governing board, alongside K4I members. One of the advertised perks of being a member of K4I is that it brings: "easy access to Members of the European Parliament and representatives of other EU institutions"²⁸. Corporate members include Shell and the European Crop Protection Association²⁹.

Funding: It is not immediately obvious how this forum is funded although there is a subscription system for members and its key events, such as the [European Innovation Summit](#) enjoy external funding.

Activities: According to the K4I website, "Under the K4I Forum of the European Parliament, K4I regularly organises monthly dinner debates and working breakfasts in the "Salons de Members" of the European Parliament, as well as the annual European Innovation Summit. For these events we invite policy-makers from the European Parliament, Commission as well as Member States, as well as innovation stakeholders from the industry and academia"³⁰. For example, the April 2011 event on "public procurement in support of innovation" included MEP, Commission, and member state speakers as well as [SAP Research](#)³¹. The event in June 2010 on enforcing intellectual property rights (a very controversial area of public policy) was addressed by MEP, commission, and member state government speakers, as well as the [International Federation of the Phonographic Industry](#) which represents the worldwide recording industry³². No consumer voice was on the platform.

K4I was created in January 2009 by Roland Strauss, owner of the consultancy company Strauss & Partners who remain as the secretariat³³.

25 Information from Kangaroo website viewed on 23.5.2011:

http://www.kangarogroup.eu/E/042_recent_events_L.lasso

26 Information from Basis website viewed on 23.5.2011:

<http://www.basis.ie/home/home.jsp?pcategory=13507&ecategory=13587§ionpage=10339&language=EN&page=&link=link001&doc=11175&doclistid=13598&logname=Aerospace%20New&urlcode=>

27 STAR21 - Strategic Aerospace Review for the 21st century. Creating a coherent market and policy framework for a vital European industry. 2002.

28 K4I website viewed on 20.5.2011: <http://www.knowledge4innovation.eu/join/default.aspx>

29 K4I website viewed on 23.5.2011: <http://www.knowledge4innovation.eu/members/default.aspx>

30 K4I website viewed on 20.5.2011: <http://www.knowledge4innovation.eu/SitePages/forum.aspx>

31 K4I website viewed on 23.5.2011: http://www.knowledge4innovation.eu/events/SitePages/past_events.aspx

32 K4I website viewed on 23.5.2011: http://www.knowledge4innovation.eu/events/SitePages/past_events.aspx

33 K4I website viewed on 23.5.2011: <http://www.strauspartners.eu/SitePages/K4I.aspx>

Land Use and Food Policy Intergroup³⁴

Official mission: “LUFPIG is a unique MEP-led intergroup of politicians and players outside the political circle, that interacts regularly with the agri-business community. Since its establishment, 20 years ago, LUFPIG has been providing a forum for debate on issues as varied as budgets, international trade, development, environment and consumer issues, to agriculture.”

Members: This is unclear but it includes both MEPs and representatives from the agri-business community. Between January 2008 to July 2009 ex-MEP Paulo Casaca served as Chairman of the LUFPIG. Paulo Casaca has a consultancy called [Less Means+More](#)

Activities: According to Less Means+ More, LUFPIG is active in the present European Parliament in the areas of “trade, development, environment and food policy. It is therefore in these areas that LUFPIG is focussing its attention. As this reform runs its course LUFPIG will continue as a forum not bound by the constraints of formal committees and protocols and an excellent arena in which stakeholders and policy makers are able to explore new ideas”³⁵.

As an example of such an activity, [Luís Paulo Alves MEP](#) recently invited MEPs to a sandwich lunch debate on behalf of LUFPIG, on “co-decision procedure and agricultural decision making ... [under] ... Chatham House rules, whereby information exchanged at the meeting shall not be attributed to any speaker”. Expected speakers were: Mairead McGuinness MEP; David Earnshaw, Chairman (and co-author, The European Parliament); David O’Leary, Director, Burson-Marsteller; Klaus Baier head of codecision and conciliation European Parliament; Gerhard Kalb, head of agriculture committee secretariat European Parliament; Rudolf Mogege, Director DG Agriculture, European Commission³⁶.

[Rail Forum Europe](#)

Official mission: The main purpose of the Association is to facilitate dialogue between Members of the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Member States and the European rail sector. The Association intends to achieve a better understanding of rail-related issues and generally speaking to facilitate the work of all interested parties.

Members: There are 14 MEPs and 12 corporate partners. The President of the RFE is UK MEP [Brian Simpson](#) who is also chair of the European Parliament’s transport and tourism committee.

Funding: It is not clear from the website how the RFE is funded.

Activities: RFE was launched just two weeks ago in Strasbourg at a dinner debate sponsored by Alstom which saw Brian Simpson sharing a platform with Siim Kallas, Vice-President of the European Commission in charge of Transport, Keir Fitch, Deputy Head of Cabinet of Siim Kallas, and Marc Chatelard, Senior Vice-President Product and Strategy, Alstom Transport³⁷.

[Transatlantic Policy Network](#)

Official mission: “The Transatlantic Policy Network (TPN) is a non-governmental network firmly rooted in the worlds of business and politics, but also open to administrators and academics on both sides of the Atlantic. TPN has been created to promote a strong and stable partnership between the US and Europe, to influence its priorities and help to drive its development.”

Members: There are 39 corporate members and 58 members from the European Parliament as

34 CEO understands that this organisation is active although no live website could be found.

35 Less Means+More website, viewed on 21.5.2011:

http://lessmeansmore.org/site/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=87:lufpig-land-use-and-food-policy-intergroup-&catid=38:land&Itemid=53

36 Information from an invitation to the event seen by CEO.

37 Minutes of the meeting can be read here: <http://www.rail-forum.eu/2011/05/rail-forum-rail-forum-europes-launch-event-in-strasbourg.html>

well as 46 US senators and congressmen. The business members include Bayer, Arcelor Mittal, Syngenta and BP. The EU President of the TPN is [Peter Sutherland](#) who was an EU commissioner and former head of the predecessor of the World Trade Organisation. Today he is non-executive Chairman of [Goldman Sachs International](#) and a former director of Royal Bank of Scotland, amongst other business interests.

Funding: No financial information is provided. The group has a secretariat in both Washington and Brussels.

Activities: A key milestone in TPN's influencing campaign was the European Parliament resolution on EU-US relations, approved on April 22 2004. In a plenary vote, the European Parliament approved a set of recommendations for the June 2004 EU-US summit which include the main TPN demands. Under the heading "Completing the Transatlantic Market by 2015", the resolution proposed "the launching of a 10-year Action Plan aimed at deepening and broadening the transatlantic market, as well as the transatlantic economy and monetary cooperation, with the goal of a barrier-free transatlantic market by 2015"³⁸. This is a resolution with a radical – and highly controversial agenda.

What is remarkable about this resolution is that the TPN had effectively pre-cooked it by exploiting the fact that TPN heavyweight [Elmar Brok](#), a German MEP, was the then chairman of the parliament's foreign affairs committee. In fact, Brok simply cut-and-pasted the main TPN demands into the draft European Parliament resolution. The resolution was discussed in the Committee on Foreign Relations, which at the time included over a dozen MEPs who were also members of the TPN.³⁹ Neither Brok nor any of the other TPN-ers ever made the origins of the resolution known. Nor did they inform other parliamentarians about their double roles.

Today Brok is chair of the European Parliament's delegation for relations with the United States and a member of the foreign affairs committee. He is also a vice chairman of the TPN. He also remains on the payroll of German communications giant Bertelsmann where he is Vice-President for Media Development.

Another key figure within the TPN has been Burson-Marsteller Brussels lobbyist [Peter Linton](#) who is listed on the Burson-Marsteller website as "co-founder and Rapporteur of the highly influential Transatlantic Policy Network (TPN)."⁴⁰ Until at least July 2007, Mr Linton was compiling the TPN's partnership report as its EU Rapporteur.⁴¹

The TPN has organised regular trips for politicians in both Europe and the US. As an example, there have been regular conferences held in August in Scotland to which politicians have been invited. Between 2000 and 2011, US Congressmen have declared 45 trips at a total cost of US\$233,336 which were "sponsored" by TPN.⁴² Limitations with MEPs' financial declarations means that it is not easily possible to carry out a similar analysis.

More information on the TPN can be found [here](#).

38 Paragraph 17 in the "European Parliament resolution on the state of the Transatlantic Partnership on the eve of the EU-US Summit in Dublin on 25-26 June 2004" (P5_TA-PROV(2004)0375 - B5-0185/2004), see: <http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P5-TA-2004-0375+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&LEVEL=3&NAV=X>

39 At the time, over 20 members of this EP committee were part of the TPN, if substitute members were included.

40 Burson-Marsteller website viewed on 21.5.2011: <http://burson-marsteller.be/about/team/senior-consultants/#profile.peter.linton>

41 TPN website viewed on 23.5.2011: <http://www.tponline.org/newsletter.html>

42 Information taken from Legistorm website viewed on 21.5.11: http://www.legistorm.com/trip/list/by/sponsor/id/5811/name/Transatlantic_Policy_Network.html