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Inter-Institutional Agreement on Transparency Register

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Transparency in the functioning of European Institutions has been always a matter of interest but also of concern for the citizens. It is also essential for the democratic legitimacy of the EU.

For this Parliament, transparency has been the top priority since the first day of our work.

It is a fact of life that huge interests are at stake when laws are proposed.

European citizens have the right to know which interest representatives are involved in each phase of European decision making. While our duty is to listen to all those whose interests will be affected by decisions we take, the right of citizens is to know whom we listen to. The Interinstitutional agreement proposed by the Commission is the way to answer their concerns.

The establishment of a mandatory Transparency Register framework would be a major step forward in enhancing transparency of the EU decision making process and the democratic accountability of the EU institutions.

The European Parliament was the first European institution to address the phenomenon of an increasing number of interest groups at European level, as well as, potential consequences of this evolution for the legislative process.

Today, I am convinced the Commission proposal for a mandatory Transparency Register framework covering the three Institutions will take us forward.

But, the European Parliament, and in particular its Constitutional Affairs Committee, responsible for Interinstitutional agreements, is fully aware that the mandatory Transparency Register is only one of the key tools for having more transparency in the EU Institutions. We are happy that Commission comes to the European Parliament with a proposal that required strong support in public consent.

So let me conclude by stressing that only by working together, across all areas of European responsibilities, will the European institutions win back the trust of our citizens.