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AFCO committee meeting “Exchange of views with Věra Jourová, Vice President of the European Commission for Values and Transparency”

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Talking about transparency, I would like to thank you for relaunching the inter-institutional discussion on the Transparency Register. We appreciate your role. I see a strong political will in the three institutions to deliver and I hope by the end of the year, that the interinstitutional Agreement on mandatory transparency register will become a reality.

I trust that the three institutions will together make a major step forward toward a fully transparent European decision-making. The parliament is committed to the conditionality principle and will spare no effort to ensure in practice a fully equivalent transparency framework.

I believe that our determination to enhance political culture of transparency and respecting transparency will contribute to greater accountability of European institutions. What I would like to stress again is our intention to keep open the possibility of making a first step in the future agreement toward also covering indirect lobbying. We find it important, now that Covid-19 has led to new ways of communication among stakeholders and decision makers, that we will find understanding and agreement on this point.

Vice President, as Chair of the Commissioners’ Group on a New Push for European Democracy, you will play an important role in the Conference on the Future of Europe

on topics specifically related to democratic processes and institutional matters, including the lead candidate system and transnational lists for elections to the European Parliament. These issues have been long discussed in this Committee. We know that the Council is reluctant to focus on institutional matters. We expect that the Commission will support us in opening a space for such debates in the Conference. I would appreciate your comment on this.