

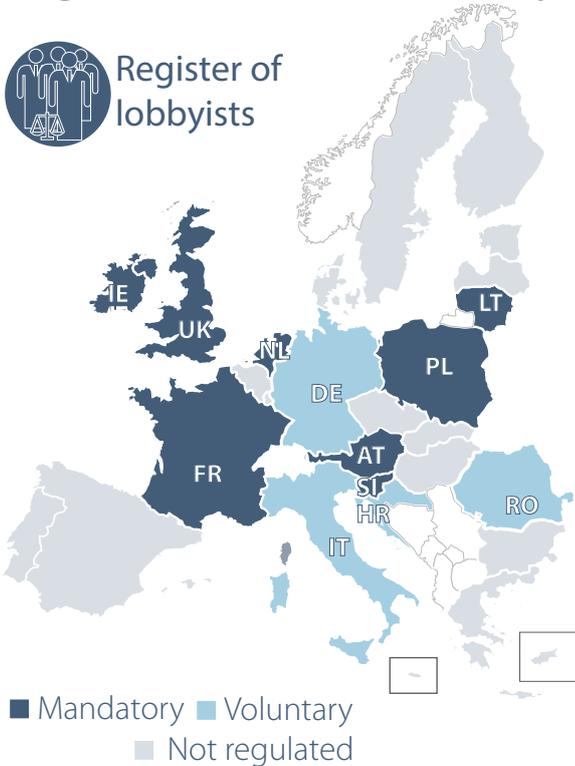
At a glance

Infographic
December 2016

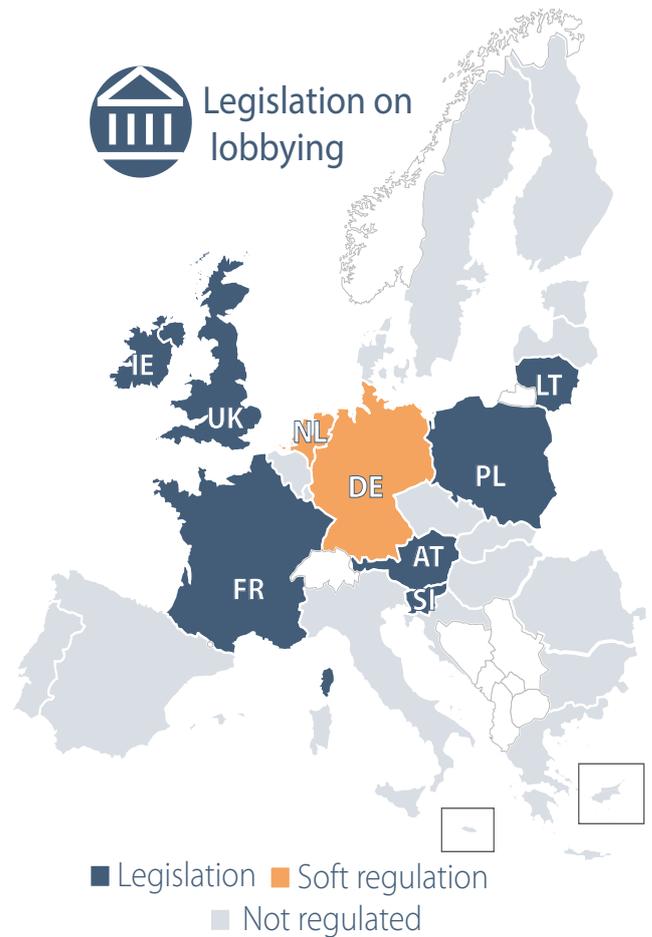
Regulation of lobbying across the EU



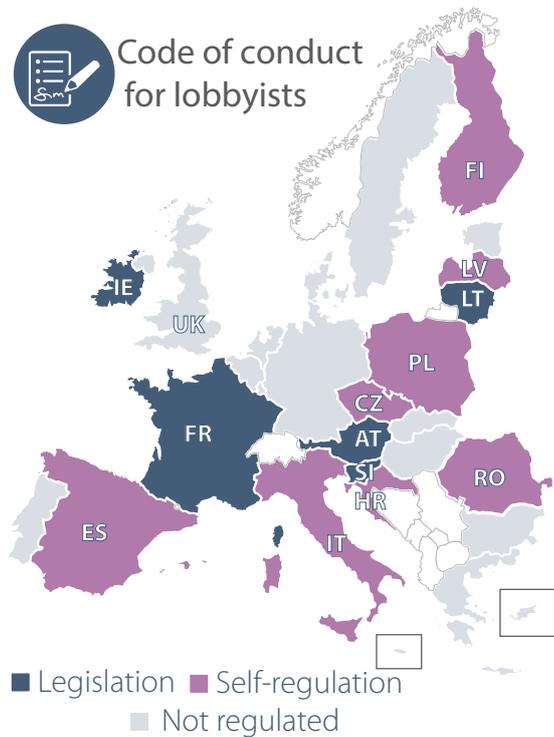
Register of lobbyists



Legislation on lobbying



Code of conduct for lobbyists



The infographic illustrates in broad terms the differences between Member States' approaches to regulating lobbying (legislation or soft-regulation), as well as the existence of codes of conduct for lobbyists (either provided for by legislation, or through self-regulation by lobbyists' organisations), and registers of lobbyists (mandatory or voluntary).

National provisions

Regulating lobbying is a rather recent concept in the majority of Member States. Currently, only seven Member States (France, Ireland, Lithuania, Austria, Poland, Slovenia and the United Kingdom) have legislation on lobbying activities, as well as a mandatory register of lobbyists. Hungary's earlier legislation on lobbying, and register were revoked in 2011. The most recent law has been adopted in France on 8 November 2016. Only codes of conduct provided for in law or by lobbyists' organisations (self-regulation) are included in the table. In some countries (e.g. Denmark, Germany, Sweden, UK) there are ethical codes of public relations and consultancy agencies, but these are not included.

The remaining Member States – Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, Portugal, Slovakia and Sweden – have no legislation, code of conduct or register of lobbyists.

	Legislation	Code of conduct	Register
Czech Republic	No	Self-regulation	No
Germany	Bundestag Rules of Procedure, 1972	No	Voluntary, register for Bundestag lobbyists
Ireland	Registration of Lobbying Act, 2015	Yes, provided for by the law	Mandatory
Spain ¹	No	Self-regulation	No
France ²	Loi Sapin II, 2016	Yes, provided for by the law	Mandatory
Croatia	No	Self-regulation	Voluntary
Italy ³	No legislation at the national level	Self-regulation at different levels	Voluntary in some ministries
Latvia	No	Self-regulation	No
Lithuania	Lobbying Act, 2001	Yes, provided for by the act	Mandatory
Netherlands ⁴	House of Representatives Rules of Procedure, 2012	No	Mandatory register for accessing Parliament
Austria	Lobbying and Special Interest Group Transparency Law, 2013	Yes, provided for by the law	Mandatory
Poland	Act on Legislative and Regulatory Lobbying, 2006	Self-regulation	Mandatory
Romania ⁵	No	Self-regulation	Voluntary
Slovenia	Integrity and Prevention of Corruption Act, 2010	Yes, provided for by the act	Mandatory
Finland	No	Self-regulation	No
United Kingdom	Transparency of Lobbying, Non-Party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Act, 2014	No	Mandatory only for public affairs consultancies

■ Legislation ■ Soft-regulation ■ Self-regulation

Notes

¹ In Spain, Catalonia has a Registro de lobbies de la Generalitat de Cataluña.

² In France, until a new law comes into force (in July 2017 at the latest), National Assembly Rules of Procedure regulate the issue and the register of lobbyists is voluntary.

³ In Italy there is no specific legislation at the national level but some internal regulations (for Chamber of Deputies still not in force, and for two ministries), and regional laws in five regions.

⁴ The Netherlands also has a mandatory register, but only for lobbyists accessing the Parliament.

⁵ In Romania, the Government introduced a public register of meetings with interest representatives in September 2016.

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