TRUST IN GOVERNMENT: LOBBYING FOR OPEN AND FAIR DECISION MAKING

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Trust in government is low and has been declining

- **Confidence in national government in 2012 and its change between 2007 and 2012** (descending order according to percentage change)

Source: Gallup World Poll
Corruption and "wrong incentives driving policies" are key levers of mistrust in government

- Correlation: confidence in national government and perception of government corruption (2012)

Source: Gallup World Poll
Views of Lobbyists and Parliamentarians

Transparency would help alleviate actual or perceived problems of inappropriate influence peddling by lobbyists.
What information should be made public?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information Provided</th>
<th>Legislators</th>
<th>Lobbyists</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Names (of individuals or organisations)</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact details</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whether the lobbyist was previously a public official</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The names of clients</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The name of the lobbyist employer</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The name of parent or subsidiary company that would benefit</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The specific subject matters lobbied</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The name or description of specific legislative proposals, bills</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The name of the national/federal departments or agencies</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The source and amounts of any government funding received</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lobbying expenses</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turnover from lobbying activity</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The communication techniques used such as meetings</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lobbying activities below certain thresholds (e.g. in terms of)</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lobbying activities that are not remunerated</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions to political campaigns</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No information should be made publically available</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Addressing lobbying concerns is a key policy lever to restore trust in governments.

Countries have increasingly opted for introducing regulation on lobbying.
Lobbyists also support the regulation of lobbying

Should transparency of lobbying activities be mandatory for all lobbyists or voluntary for those who wish to disclose?

But regulations remain difficult to apply in practice...

- Clear definition of lobbyist and lobbying
- Disclosure requirements: intent, beneficiaries, funding
- Enforceable standards of conduct for fostering a culture of integrity in lobbying: avoid misuse of confidential information, conflict of interest
- Mechanisms for implementation and securing compliance: management, monitoring and enforcing
The majority of lobbyists responded that the lobbying code of conduct provides good principles that are easily applied to specific situations...
Views of Lobbyists and Parliamentarians

... but on the other hand said that there are no effective rewards for agreeing to comply with the code.
Views of Lobbyists and Parliamentarians

Are there effective penalties for breaching the code?

- Yes, there are effective penalties for breaching the code: 38% (2009), 40% (2013)
- Not really, there are some penalties but they are not compelling: 39% (2009), 34% (2013)
- No, there are no penalties for breaching the code: 12% (2009), 18% (2013)
What do lobbyists believe to be the most effective ways of learning about integrity standards in lobbying?

- Briefing: 55%
- Lecture: 22%
- Workshop: 67%
- Online training: 24%
- Conference or learning event: 37%
- Direct communication: 35%
- Scenario-based training: 36%
- Provision of training material: 26%
- Information on the website of the office responsible for lobbying: 36%
Moving forward: fairness in decision making

• Focus on implementation challenges
• But also high risk areas, with stronger emphasis on those who make the decisions:
  – Revolving door
  – Political finance
• OECD Forum on Transparency and Integrity in Political Financing will take place 14-15 November 2013 at OECD.
Website: www.oecd.org/gov/ethics/lobbying

Selected publications

- Principles for Transparency and Integrity in Lobbying (2010)