



# European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations

## *Lobbying for archives and libraries*

EBLIDA, the *European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations*, is an independent, non-profit umbrella organisation of national library, information, documentation and archive associations in Europe. Subjects on which EBLIDA concentrates are European information society issues, including copyright and licensing, culture and education and EU enlargement. We promote access to information in the digital age, and the role of archives and libraries in achieving this goal. We represent the interests of our members to the European institutions, such as the European Commission, European Parliament, and the Council of Europe.

EBLIDA, the European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations, is registered in [CONECCS](#).

EBLIDA Response to the European Commission's Green Paper "European Transparency Initiative" [COM (2006) 194 final of 3 May 2006]

### II. TRANSPARENCY AND INTEREST REPRESENTATION (LOBBYING)

#### **Questions:**

- *Do you agree that efforts should be made to bring greater transparency to lobbying?*

Yes

- *Do you agree that lobbyists who wish to be automatically alerted to consultations by the EU institutions should register and provide information, including on their objectives, financial situation and on the interests they represent?*

Yes

*Do you agree that this information should be available to the general public?*

Yes

*Who do you think should manage the register?*

The European Commission

- *Do you agree to consolidating the existing codes of conduct with a set of common minimum requirements?*

Yes

*Who do you think should write the code?*

The European Commission in cooperation with the European Parliament, because in principle a code written by the people who will be regulated by it is likely to be weak - Quis custodet ipsos custodes?

- *Do you agree that a new, inclusive external watchdog is needed to monitor compliance and that sanctions should be applied for any breach of the code?*

If so, it must be a fully independent public body. As for sanctions, they should not be applied to voluntary registration systems – if lobbyists did not wish to comply with codes and disclosure obligations they would most likely not register given that 'voluntary registration' does not prevent them from lobbying decision-makers.