

Important Notices concerning the Lobbying and Advocacy Register

Obligation to register

Since 1 January 2013

- Lobbying firms and their fields of activities,
- Companies employing company lobbyists,
- Self-governing Bodies and
- Advocacy Groups

have to be entered into the automated **Lobbying and Advocacy Register** kept by the Federal Ministry for Constitutional Affairs, Reforms, Deregulation and Justice. Substantial parts of the Lobbying and Advocacy Group Register are accessible to the public.

Lobbying Firms are companies whose business purpose is also to take over and complete lobbying commissions, even if only on a short-term basis. Prior to taking up their activities, they have to enter among others their basic data, the names and dates of birth of their lobbyists into the newly established Register. In those parts of the **Register with only restricted access** also the Contractor for each lobbying commission and its agreed scope of activity have to be entered.

Companies employing **staff** for the purpose of lobbying on their own behalf also have the basic data, and the lobbyists working for them entered into the Register prior to them taking up their activities.

Legally established **Self-governing Bodies** and **Advocacy Groups** working on a private law basis, such as associations, in addition to their basic data and the legal basis of their incorporation, and in addition to a brief description of their contractual or statutory scope of activities have to disclose the total number of persons working for them mainly in an advocacy function and the estimated costs of such persons for entry into the Register within nine months after the conclusion of their financial year for the preceding year.

Obligations of Behaviour

- Lobbying Firms,
- Companies employing lobbyists on their own behalf,
- Lobbyist and lobbyist working on behalf of companies

are only allowed to exercise their lobbying activities as from notification for entry into the **Lobbying and Advocacy Register**, and only during the validity of such entry. The persons and legal entities involved in lobbying and advocacy activities shall be obligated to comply with the **minimum standards** defined in Chapter 2 of the Act concerning the Transparency of Lobbying and Advocacy Activities (LobbyG). Among such standards are for instance that for any first contact with a function holder the specific task, identity and concern shall be disclosed and that they shall refrain from exerting any unfair or undue pressure upon such function holders.

The Register

Since 1 January 2013, the Lobbying and Advocacy Register can be accessed at the Unternehmensservice Portal [Business Portal]. The Authentication shall be made either by citizen card or by user name and password (Finanz Online). The Register is available to the public on the Internet at www.lobbyreg.justiz.gv.at.

The obligation to register shall come into effect when the Act enters into force, i.e. on 1 January 2013. For companies, self-governing bodies and advocacy groups having been previously active in the field of lobbying and advocacy, the LobbyG has foreseen a transition period until 31 March 2013. During such a transition period, the persons active in the field of lobbying or advocacy may continue their work even without registration.