

PRESS PACK: *EU Integrity Watch*

Today, the 13th of October 2014, the Transparency International-EU Office (TI-EU) launches EU Integrity Watch (www.integritywatch.eu). This database allows users to search, cross-reference and visualise MEPs' outside revenues and extra-parliamentary activities.

Transparency International-EU has combined the information that is published in MEPs' declarations of financial interest with information on their parliamentary activity such as group and committee memberships or their attendance records.

The resulting database provides a unique overview of the activities of the newly elected European Parliament. For the first time it is possible to gain a broad overview of the revenues of MEPs – for example we found that all MEPs combined earn between 5.8 and 18.3¹ million EUR per year on top of their MEP salaries. The database allows detailed analysis of the differences between countries, political groups or particular national parties. It also allows users to closely monitor potential conflicts of interest or to identify those MEPs with a large number of external activities.

For that purpose Transparency International has developed an “External Activity Indicator (EAI)”, which scores each MEP based on their number of outside occupations, board memberships or other political mandates as well as the cumulative income derived from these activities.

In order to promote the visibility of the new tool and the website, TI-EU is collaborating with the leading media in all major EU member states (one partner per country) that will cover the launch of the platform and have prior access to the database. All media have agreed not to publish any information derived from the dataset before the launch on the 13th of October 2014.

Background information:

The 2014-2019 legislative term of the European Parliament is the first where Members have to fill out their declarations of financial interest right from the start. Following the European elections in May 2014, MEPs had until 3rd of July to submit their declarations. By the end of the first plenary session, all MEPs, old or new, had to update or submit a range of information on their outside revenues, board memberships and financial holdings. While declarations have been required since 2011, these were previously handwritten in the MEP's native language, scanned and uploaded to the respective European Parliament webpage of each individual MEP. From 2014, declarations are being completed electronically, but are still not published in a centralised and easily accessible manner.

¹ Given that 7 MEPs have declared revenues of “more than 10,000 EUR per month this figure might be significantly higher still.

Transparency International has now gathered the information from all 751 declarations submitted in July 2014 into a single database and combined it with other datasets already available (attendance records, committee memberships...). The result is a searchable, user-friendly and public tool: EU Integrity Watch.

According to the [Code of Conduct](#) of the European Parliament, members are allowed to have remunerated outside activities and financial holdings, to be members of boards and committees and to hold certain (additional) elected offices. But to avoid any conflicts of interest between these outside activities and their mandate in the European Parliament MEPs have to be transparent on their activities. They should mention their potential conflicts of interest before any intervention or any vote unless they have already published detailed information on their activities in their declarations of financial interest.

These declarations of financial interests should allow civil society, journalists and ordinary citizens to monitor those potential conflicts of interests. MEPs are solely responsible for their own declarations. If an MEP does not submit a declaration, makes false declarations or otherwise omits information that they are obliged to publish, they breach the Code of Conduct of the European Parliament. Such violations are sanctioned by the Parliament's President and can lead to financial penalties or exclusion from committees and delegations.

Key figures derived from the EU Integrity Watch database:

- 398 or 53% of MEPs have external activities², 110 have a “regular remunerated activity”
- Combined, those 398 MEPs earn between 5.8 and 18.3³ million EUR per year on top of their MEP salaries.
- 12 MEPs earn at least 10,000 EUR per month from outside activities
- 45 MEPs have declared income categories with an upper range of 10,000 EUR per month or more
- One MEP⁴ has declared 68 different outside activities
- One MEP⁵ submitted his declaration almost 3 months after the deadline and was therefore in violation of the EP's Code of Conduct
- 7 declarations are completely blank (no previous or current activities or revenues)
- 46 declarations indicate a previous income of less than 1,000 EUR per month (including 8 members of the previous Parliament that should have declared their previous mandate)
- Out of the 10 MEPs with the highest External Activity Indicator 4 are French and 5 are EPP
- A total of 1210 activities have been declared. Unfortunately, the way in which some MEPs declare these activities, using terms such as “director”, “consultant”, “freelancer”, “manager” or abbreviations such as “RvC FMO” or “ASDCAM”, does not allow for meaningful monitoring of their potential conflicts of interest.

² Current external activities can be: other political mandates, regular remunerated activities, committee & board memberships, occasional remunerated outside activities or financial holdings

³ All outside revenues by MEPs are declared in ranges. So this total reflects the sum of the ranges of 751 MEPs. However, 7 MEPs have declared revenues of “more than 10,000 EUR per month” meaning that the actual total might be significantly higher.

⁴ Nathalie Griesbeck

⁵ David Campbell Bannerman

Detailed rankings derived from the database

Numbers of activities

- Highest # of previous occupations:
 1. 16 previous occupations: Nicola CAPUTO, IT, S&D
 2. 15 previous occupations: Monika HOHLMEIER, DE, EPP
 3. 13 previous occupations: Monica Luisa MACOVEI, RO, EPP
 4. 10 previous occupations: Claude ROLIN, BE, EPP

- Highest # of “regular remunerated activities”:
 1. 6 regular outside activities: Peter JAHR, DE, EPP
 2. 5 regular outside activities: Bendt BENDTSEN, DK, EPP
 3. 5 regular outside activities: Svetoslav Hristov MALINOV, BU, EPP
 4. 4 regular outside activities: Angelika NIEBLER, DE, EPP

- Highest # of board memberships:
 1. 68 board memberships: Nathalie GRIESBECK, FR, ALDE
 2. 16 board memberships: Sirpa PIETIKÄINEN, FI, EPP
 3. 13 board memberships: Marietje SCHAAKE, NL, ALDE
 4. 12 board memberships: Monika HOHLMEIER, DE, EPP
 5. 12 board memberships: Monica Luisa MACOVEI, RO, EPP
 6. 11 board memberships: Charles TANNOCK, UK, ECR

- Highest # of total outside activities:
 1. 68 outside activities: Nathalie GRIESBECK, FR, ALDE
 2. 22 outside activities: Sirpa PIETIKÄINEN, FI, EPP
 3. 13 outside activities: Marietje SCHAAKE, NL, ALDE
 4. 12 outside activities: Monika HOHLMEIER, DE, EPP
 5. 12 outside activities: Monica Luisa MACOVEI, RO, EPP
 6. 12 outside activities: Charles TANNOCK, UK, ECR

Possible irregularities

- 7 MEPs have completely empty declarations
 1. Maria ARENA, BE, S&D
 2. Richard ASHWORTH, UK, ECR
 3. David CASA, MA, EPP
 4. Giulia MOI, IT, EFD
 5. Ramon TREMOSA i BALCELLS, ES, ALDE
 6. Daniele VIOTTI, IT, S&D
 7. Hermann WINKLER, DE, EPP

- 46 MEPs declare that they had gross incomes of less than 1,000 EUR per month in the last three years, including 8 members of the previous legislative term of the EP
 1. Vladimír MAŇKA, SK, S&D
 2. Jacek SARYUSZ-WOLSKI, PO, EPP
 3. Philip BRADBOURN, UK, ECR
 4. Renate WEBER, RO, EPP
 5. Elisabetta GARDINI, IT, EPP
 6. Arnaud DANJEAN, FR, EPP
 7. Adam GIEREK, PO, S&D
 8. György SCHÖPFLIN, HU, EPP

Declared incomes for the previous three years

- Average income between 4,485 and 9,934 EUR⁶ (7,209 EUR)
- 474 MEPs previously made at least 5,000 EUR
- 52 previously made at least 10,000 EUR
- 229 have indicated a range that might exceed 10,000 EUR a month
- 82 might even have exceeded 20,000 EUR a month
- 17 have no declared previous activity
- 45 declare that they had monthly revenues under 1,000 EUR before becoming an MEP
- Declared top earner in last three years: Olaf Henkel, DE, ECR – 4 positions that all exceed 10,000 EUR/month

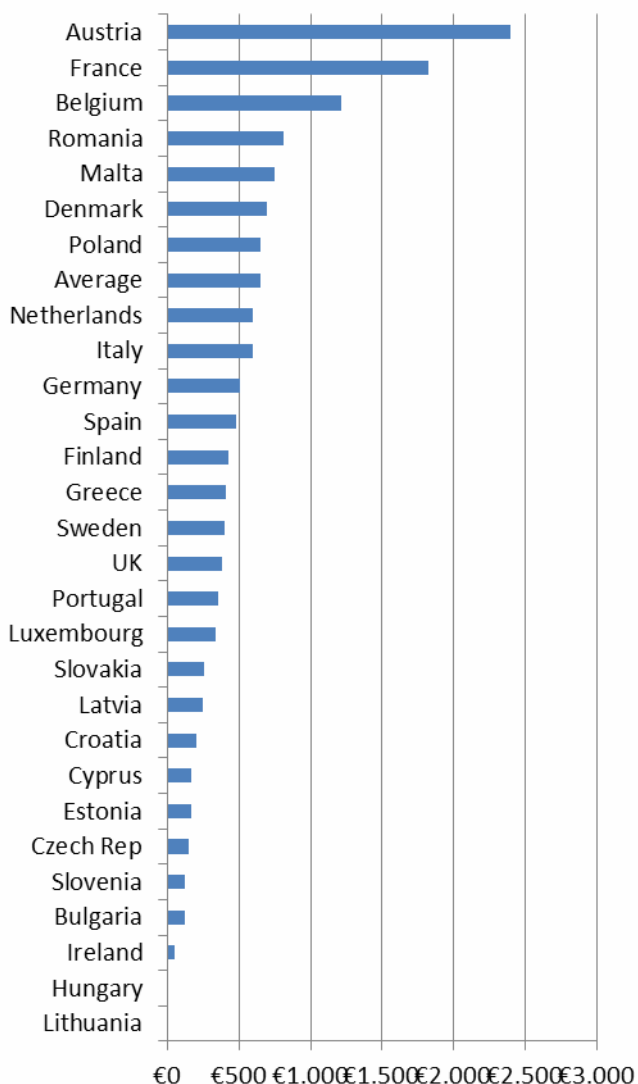
Total outside revenue

- Average income between 646 and 2,032 EUR per month or between 7,752 and 24,384 EUR per year
- 175 out of 751 or 23% of MEPs do have a remunerated external activity and earn at least 500 EUR extra per month
- 35 earn at least 5,000 EUR per month with their outside activity, 12 even exceed 10,000 EUR
- 46 have declared income categories that mean they might exceed 10,000 EUR a month
- At least 15 MEPs earn more money outside the parliament than their salary as MEPs
- 352 or 47% declare no outside revenues

⁶ Any income declared in the declarations is classed in 1 out of 4 income categories: 500 – 1,000; 1,001 – 5,000; 5,001 – 10,000; more than 10,000 EUR per month. If no category is declared it means income under 500 EUR. This means there is no exact income, but a range. Someone declaring three activities of category two for example earns between 3,003 and 15,000 EUR per month.

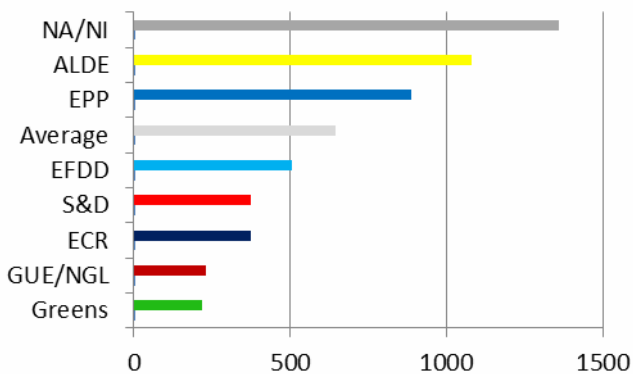
Average revenues per month in EUR per country

Country	min	max
Austria	€2,400	€5,287
France	€1,821	€4,140
Belgium	€1,212	€3,738
Romania	€813	€1,969
Malta	€751	€2,667
Denmark	€693	€2,192
Poland	€647	€2,510
Average	€646	€2,032
Italy	€596	€993
Netherlands	€596	€2,000
Germany	€503	€2,433
Spain	€482	€1,463
Finland	€423	€708
Greece	€405	€1,167
Sweden	€396	€1,150
UK	€380	€1,303
Portugal	€357	€1,452
Luxembourg	€334	€2,333
Slovakia	€254	€423
Latvia	€250	€1,188
Croatia	€200	€1,045
Estonia	€167	€1,083
Cyprus	€167	€917
Czech Rep	€150	€1,275
Slovenia	€125	€625
Bulgaria	€118	€1,176
Ireland	€45	€182
Lithuania	€0	€545
Hungary	€0	€452



Average revenues per month in EUR by political group

Group	min	max
NA/NI	€1,361	€2,387
ALDE	€1,079	€2,750
EPP	€887	€2,919
Average	€646	€2,032
EFDD	€505	€854
S&D	€376	€989
ECR	€374	€3,385
GUE/NGL	€231	€990
Greens	€170	€980



Numbers in yellow are based on data from end of July. Please contact us if you need the latest figures. Slight variations are possible.

External Activity Indicator

The External Activity Indicator (EAI) was developed by Transparency International to provide a quick overview of all activities that fall under the remit of the Code of Conduct for Members of the European Parliament and the related declarations of financial interests. In short, the higher the indicator the more activities a member has declared and the higher the declared revenues. The website shades MEPs according to their EAI – the higher the EAI the darker the orange shading.

The EAI is not an assessment of an MEP's performance or a value judgement on the declared activities. It does not identify actual conflicts of interest. It serves as an easy-to-use tool to quickly identify and compare the number of declared activities and/or volume of declared income from outside activities of Members of the European Parliament.

For a detailed description on how the EAI is calculated [see this page](#).

By country:

Country	EAI
Austria	8
France	6
Belgium	5
Romania	4
Finland	4
Poland	4
Denmark	4
Germany	3
Average	3
Netherlands	3
Malta	3
Croatia	2
UK	2
Czech Rep	2
Estonia	2
Italy	2
Luxembourg	2
Portugal	2
Spain	2
Sweden	2
Bulgaria	2
Latvia	2
Lithuania	2
Slovakia	2
Cyprus	1
Greece	1
Slovenia	1
Hungary	1
Ireland	0

By political group:

Group	EAI
ALDE	5
EPP	4
NA/NI	4
ECR	3
Average	3
S&D	2
Greens	2
EFDD	2
GUE/NGL	1

Among the 10 MEPs with the highest EAI there are:

4 French and one each from Romania, UK, Austria, Italy, Belgium and Poland

5 are EPP, 3 ALDE, one EFDD, one S&D

Total outside revenues

175 MEPs will make at least 5.8 million EUR on top of being an MEP during their first year in office – this being the absolute minimum. With the ranges indicated the figure could be as high as 18.3 million EUR. 15 MEPs make more money outside Parliament than inside (4 FR, 3 AT, 2 DE, 2 IT, PO, RO, BE, UK)(7 PPE, 4 ALDE, 2 NI, S&D, EFDD). 7 of them have declared at least one category 4, meaning 10,000+ EUR – so we do not know the real total (the scale is open ended). 127 make at least 1,000 EUR on the side. 352 have no outside financial interests whatsoever.

Recommendations:

One conclusion that can already be drawn from the EU Integrity Watch database is that the declarations of financial interest and thus the Code of Conduct of the European Parliament need reform. Meaningful monitoring of conflicts of interest is impossible when MEPs declare that their side-job is “consultant”, “freelancer”, “manager” or something that goes under an abbreviation such as “RvC FMO” or “ASDCAM”. The financial thresholds in the declarations need to be revised and should allow much more accurate reporting instead of capping the information at “more than 10,000 EUR”. Better guidelines on how to fill out the declarations are needed and the European Parliament should better monitor the submitted declarations. An independent ethics committee should monitor compliance and publish recommendations in case of an alleged breach.

To further improve public monitoring of potential conflicts of interest at the Parliament and at the Commission, TI-EU suggests the adoption of a ‘legislative footprint’ mechanism – a record of all meetings between lobbyists and lawmakers. 181 MEPs have already committed to using this as part of TI-EU’s anti-corruption [election pledge](#).

Finally, TI-EU continues to advocate for a mandatory Transparency Register of Lobbyists that covers the European Parliament, the Commission and the Council, something that Commission President elect Jean-Claude Juncker has announced for his term.

Core recommendations:

- Publish more detailed information in the declarations to allow a meaningful monitoring of potential conflicts of interest
- Revise the financial thresholds in the declaration to allow more accurate reporting and monitoring of outside revenue
- Translate all declarations into all official languages
- The European Parliament administration should better check the declarations for plausibility and possible errors – false declarations should lead to sanctions
- The Code of Conduct needs to be fully respected in word and in spirit and violations need to be sanctioned by the EP President
- Standardise as much of the information as possible to allow better comparisons and groupings and to connect the information with other databases, such as the Transparency Register
- Publish all declarations of interest in a centralised, searchable manner, including historical declarations (.xml files instead of .pdf)