



Brussels' three public affairs professional organisations encourage incoming MEPs to engage lobbyists with highest standards of conduct and transparency

Joint letter from ECPA, EPACA and SEAP distributed to all 751 incoming MEPs

Monday 07 July 2014 – ECPA, the European Centre for Public Affairs, EPACA, the European Public Affairs Consultancies' Association, and SEAP, the Society of European Affairs Professionals, today sent a joint letter to all incoming 751 MEPs, welcoming them to the European Parliament.

The letter, which was deposited in the pigeon holes of each of the incoming MEPs, sets out clearly what each of the three organisations does and how they promote best practices and excellence among public affairs practitioners, be they independent, in-house or agency-based.

The letter underscores the importance of full transparency in political communications and lobbying, and to that end encourages MEPs to ask of lobbyists they shall encounter during the course of their work whether they or their organisation are registered on the Transparency Register, or are a signatory of a professional code of conduct. The letter further exhorts MEPs to ask whether the lobbyists with whom they meet are members of any one of the three organisations representing public affairs professionals in Brussels.

In the letter, SEAP and EPACA explain how MEPs can make complaints to the respective organisations against any member whom they suspect to have transgressed the relevant code of conduct, and assure MEPs that any such complaints are taken seriously and will be thoroughly investigated.

The letter is signed by SEAP President Susanna Di Felicianantonio, ECPA Executive Director Maria Laptev and EPACA Chairman Karl Isaksson.

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About SEAP

The Society of European Affairs Professionals was established in 1997. It is the recognised organisation of all EU public affairs professionals including those operating in trade associations, corporations, consultancies and other representative bodies. SEAP encourages the highest standards of professionalism for European affairs activity and promotes self-regulation of the profession. www.seap.be, secretariat@seap.be

About EPACA

The European Public Affairs Consultancies' Association is the representative trade body for public affairs consultancies working with the EU institutions. Its 40 member companies employ more than 700 staff and represent approximately 75% of the European public affairs consulting market. www.epaca.org , info@epaca.org

About ECPA

The European Centre for Public Affairs is a Brussels-based public affairs think-tank focused on best practice and training. It provides a unique space for its members and guests to “stop and think“, offering reflection and insight into the political, social and economic influences impacting the practice of public affairs. It promotes the highest ethical standards in this work. www.theecpa.eu , marialaptev@theecpa.eu