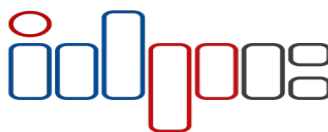




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NATIONAL CONVENTION ON EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

Roundtable on Chapter 23 – Regulating Lobbying in Albania: Strengthening Transparency, Implementation and Coordination Challenges, and European Standards

22 May 2026

RECOMMENDATIONS

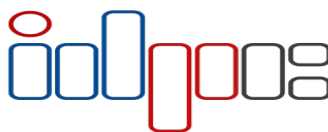
Legal Framework and Secondary Legislation

- Civil society actors have noted that the definitions contained in the Law on Lobbying draw a broad distinction between public-interest advocacy and lobbying conducted on behalf of private or commercial interests, leaving room for interpretation and creating uncertainty for civil society organisations and other actors engaged in advocacy campaigns and activities. It is therefore recommended that this distinction be further clarified through the secondary legislation. In particular, questions remain as to whether civil society advocacy on issues that directly affect the organisation's own interests should be considered advocacy or lobbying for a private interest. Such ambiguity may create unnecessary administrative burdens for civil society organisations and discourage active civic participation in democratic processes.
- The system of sanctions should be proportionate to the nature and gravity of violations, ensuring fair and balanced enforcement of the law. Excessively severe sanctions may have unintended negative effects on both lobbying and advocacy activities.
- In drafting the secondary legislation, it is recommended that the provisions be aligned with the standards of the Council of Europe, OECD principles, and European Union best practices. This would help avoid challenges already encountered in other European countries regarding the management of lobbying registers, procedural requirements, and the clarification of responsibilities for both affected stakeholders and competent institutions.
- The seven planned secondary acts should provide clear guidance on registration procedures, the operation of the lobbying register, required documentation, and the obligations and responsibilities of all actors involved.

**This WG session for Chapter 23 takes place within the framework of the project "Building Partnership on Fundamentals: Empowering CSOs for the EU accession process", with the financial support of the European Union - IPA Civil Society Facility 2021, which is implemented by the European Movement in Albania and in cooperation with the Academy of European Integration and Negotiations (AIEN), Slovak Foreign Policy Association (SFPA) and the Center for Transparency and Freedom of Information (CTFI).*



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Strengthening Institutional Capacity and Cooperation

- European experience demonstrates that not all countries operate a national lobbying register. At the same time, the way lobbying and lobbyists are defined can significantly affect the number of registrations, resulting in either an excessively broad scope or a very limited number of registered lobbyists. It is therefore important that the Albanian framework adopts definitions appropriate to the national context and conducts an initial mapping exercise to identify the likely number of lobbyists. Such an assessment would support proper planning of the human and financial resources required for registration, oversight, and monitoring.
- The Law on Lobbying represents the first attempt to regulate lobbying activities in Albania through dedicated legislation. While this constitutes an important development, it also introduces new challenges, particularly for the Commissioner for the Right to Information and Protection of Personal Data, which assumes new responsibilities under the law. In this regard:
 - The supervisory institution should operate with full institutional independence, free from political influence in monitoring and enforcement processes.
 - Adequate human, financial, and technical resources should be secured to ensure effective implementation of the law, including the establishment of dedicated staff within the Commissioner's office.
 - Specialised training programmes should be organised to support the proper and comprehensive implementation of the Law on Lobbying.
- Effective institutional interaction and cooperation with public officials require parallel efforts:
 - Awareness-raising and information sessions should be organised to inform public officials and relevant institutions about the law, their obligations and responsibilities, as well as applicable procedures, deadlines, and reporting requirements.
 - Communication and dialogue between public officials, institutions, and stakeholders should be strengthened to avoid delays or obstacles in the registration, monitoring, and assessment processes.

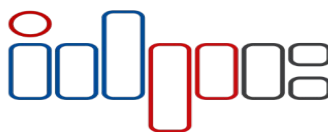
Electronic Lobbying Register

- The establishment and operation of the public electronic lobbying register should ensure completeness, accessibility, and user-friendly information for both stakeholders and the wider public.

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- Consideration should be given to incorporating the concept of a “legislative footprint” or “lobbying footprint” within the register. This would allow the tracking of influence on decision-making processes, including information on actors involved, objectives pursued, and policy areas affected, thereby improving transparency and understanding of lobbying activities.
- Before the register becomes fully operational, clear guidance and instructions should be provided, including templates and standard forms for the submission of information and documentation by lobbying entities and other affected actors.
- Clear rules should also specify which documents and information submitted to the Commissioner’s office will be publicly available and which will remain confidential, while ensuring compliance with personal data protection legislation and preventing the disclosure of sensitive information.
- Deadlines for periodic reporting by both lobbyists and public officials should be harmonised and coordinated. Consideration should be given to extending reporting deadlines for public officials, as excessively short deadlines may create unnecessary administrative burdens and discourage engagement and communication with lobbyists and stakeholders.

Involvement of Non-State Actors and Lobbyists

- It is essential to conduct a communication campaign targeting lobbyists, civil society organisations, public institutions, and public officials to explain the objectives of the law. The campaign should emphasise that the purpose of the legislation is to increase transparency and integrity in decision-making processes rather than to create a punitive framework.
- Awareness-raising and information campaigns should also be carried out to clarify newly introduced concepts such as lobbying, lobbyist, beneficiary, public official, and advocacy. This is particularly important for civil society organisations, which require clear guidance on which activities fall within the scope of lobbying and which do not.