

RULES ON LOBBYING IN THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES.

Approved by the Committee on the Rules of Procedure at the sitting of 26 April 2016

I

(Register of lobbyists)

The representation of special interests (political lobbying) on any of the official premises of the Chamber of Deputies is predicated on principles of disclosure and transparency. To this end, the Bureau of the Chamber of Deputies shall oversee a register of persons (lobbyists) who professionally promote special interests among the Members of the Chamber. The register is published on the website of the Chamber of Deputies and regularly updated to reflect any changes.

II

(Definition of political lobbying)

For the purposes of these Rules, political lobbying shall refer to any activity carried out at a professional level on the premises of the Chamber of Deputies by a natural person or legal entity, as referred to in Section III, which, in order to further their legitimate interests or those of third parties, advances proposals, requests or suggestions, promotes studies, research or analyses, takes other initiatives or makes any oral or written communication to Members of the Chamber of Deputies. Making statements before or providing material to a parliamentary committee or sub-committee does not constitute lobbying.

III

(Enrolment in the register of lobbyists)

Those who wish to represent their own or a third party's legitimate interests to Members on the official premises of the Chamber must apply for inclusion in the relevant register, for which they must provide the following information:

- a)* in the case of natural persons, their personal details and business address;
- b)* if the lobbying is carried out by a legal entity other than a natural person, the name and address of the entity, as well as the personal details and the specific contractual relationship of those who work on a stable and regular basis for such entity;
- c)* a description of the activities that the lobbyist intends to conduct;
- d)* the persons whom the lobbyist intends to contact.

If the activity is intended to further the interests of third parties, the lobbyist must disclose the identity of the third party on whose behalf he or she intends to register, along with an indication of the legal title under which he or she will be operating, as well as an indication of the termination date of the legal relationship, if any.

To enrol in the register, the applicant:

- a)* must have reached the age of majority;
- b)* must not have received any definitive convictions over the last decade for offenses against the public administration, violations of the public trust or crimes against state assets;
- c)* must enjoy civil rights and must not have been disqualified from public office;
- d)* must not have held government office or a parliamentary mandate in the past twelve months.

The same rules also apply to former Members of Parliament who have left office and intend to carry out lobbying activities.

For legal entities other than natural persons, the requirements under letters a), b), c) and d) of paragraph 3 above must be fulfilled by the natural person(s) referred to under letter b) of paragraph 1.

Further rules governing inclusion in the register of lobbyists, the maintenance of the register, access to the Chamber of Deputies and the identification of the premises and of the instruments that lobbyists may use in the pursuit of their professional activities are set by the Bureau and published on the website of the Chamber of Deputies. The Bureau shall also decide upon suspensions from the register of lobbyists in cases where a person or entity no longer has legal title to act as a lobbyist under the terms of the second paragraph, and shall provide for the removal of names from the register for failure to comply with letters b), c) and d) of paragraph 3.

IV

(Periodic reports)

By 31 December of each year, all those included in the register shall submit to the Chamber of Deputies a report on the lobbying activities that they carried out during the year, in which they shall include details of the contacts they have made, the objectives they have been pursuing and the entities in whose interests they are working, and shall give notice of any changes, as well as of the names of the employees or collaborators who have taken part in lobbying work. If the registered lobbyist is a legal entity rather than a natural person, it must issue a single report. The Bureau, acting in accordance with procedures and criteria it has established, may seek verifications of the reports submitted by registered lobbyists and, if necessary, may demand additional data and information. The reports shall be published immediately on the website of the Chamber of Deputies.

V

(Disciplinary action)

Any violation of the rules contained in this text or of any other related rules adopted by the Bureau shall be punished by suspension or removal from the register. It shall be the responsibility of the Bureau, acting in accordance with procedures and criteria it has established, to determine the severity of the punishment with reference to the gravity of the offense.

Any failures to comply with the terms of this text and any sanctions imposed shall be disclosed on the website of the Chamber of Deputies.