

Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200/Wetstraat 200
1049 Bruxelles/Brussel

Brussels, 3 June 2016

Dear First-Vice President Timmermans,

The American Chamber of Commerce to the European Union (AmCham EU) stands for an open and transparent European policy-making process and is a long-standing supporter of EU efforts to enhance transparency. Interest representation is a vital element of a healthy EU decision-making process, where policy makers depend on input from experts to deliver effective regulation. We encourage the European Commission, European Council and European Parliament to structurally and openly involve all stakeholders in the policy-making and implementation process as we believe that transparent and inclusive law-making is vital to maintaining a globally-competitive Europe. We are committed to providing quality input to ensure more transparency and legal certainty in relations between stakeholders and all European institutions and bodies.

AmCham EU has always strived to work to the highest standards of integrity and transparency in its relations with the EU institutions. We have been part of the Transparency Register since 2008 and try to lead by example by filing complete, accurate, meaningful and up-to-date information. The Transparency Register is an important tool for regulating lobbying and we welcome the Commission's ambition to propose a new Inter-institutional Agreement on a **mandatory Transparency Register including all three EU institutions**. AmCham EU believes a reformed Transparency Register should:

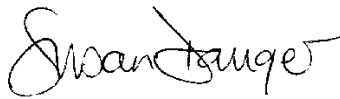
- Apply across the board with a **'one-stop shop' approach**, resulting in reduced administrative burden for registrants and less risk of confusion and duplication of rules.
- Offer a **simpler and clearer set of guidelines** to allow for better compliance as the Register currently suffers from disparity in the disclosure of information.
- Provide **better communication and explanation** on what the Register constitutes in order to avoid misinterpretation of the information declared.
- Ensure a **consistent application of the Commission policy of publishing information on stakeholder meetings** in order to avoid a situation where each Directorate-General can make its own rules.

In the proposed reform of the Transparency Register, AmCham EU believes it is vital to structurally involve all relevant stakeholders for their input. Given the impact the reform will have on the legitimate activity of

interest representation, we would welcome the establishment of an advisory council to facilitate the widest-possible stakeholder input in the development of the proposed mandatory Register.

We look forward to a continued dialogue on this important issue and remain at your disposal should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,



Susan Danger
Managing Director
American Chamber of Commerce to the European Union