



Commissioner Kallas
European Commission
Rue de la Loi, 200
B – 1049 Brussels
Belgium

Brussels, December 2005

Concern: EFN reaction to the ‘European Transparency Initiative’

Dear Commissioner,

The European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN), former Standing Committee of Nurses (PCN), represents more than 6 million nurses in the wider Europe and appreciates the input to the consultation process on the ‘European Transparency Initiative’.

EFN welcomes the recent adoption of the ‘European Transparency Initiative’, which we hope will increase openness and accessibility of EU institutions. Within the framework of this initiative, EFN would like to pay an active contribution to the debate on lobbying.

EFN believes that there is a strong need for a core of ethics and transparency rules that regulate lobbying activities in the EU. There is a need to correct the current lack of mandatory regulation and reporting of lobbying activities. This is why EFN welcomes this initiative as a first step to enable democratic scrutiny of inputs into EU policy-making.

Given the growing influence of corporate lobby groups on EU decision-making, registration of lobbyists is an essential matter for EFN. It is important to know who the organization represents, and especially how many member states are involved. It is also crucial to know the mandate of the lobbyist and the structures that the organization provides to ensure good governance.

EFN endorses Eurodis Position on NGOs’ Transparency, in particular its call for a better distinction to be made between lobbying activities by stakeholders with a financial interest, and the advocacy activities by groups of individuals or associations voicing citizens’ needs and views on critical issues such as health, research, human rights, etc. Additionally, a mandatory system of electronic reporting must be put in place for all business lobbyists with a significant annual lobbying budget.

EFN believes that the ‘European Transparency Initiative’ is also a good opportunity to start spreading the culture of ethical lobbying beyond the European Commission, to the Parliament and the Council.

If EFN can be of any assistance in achieving your political agenda, we are more than happy to support you in any aspect.

Yours Sincerely,



Paul de Raever
EFN General Secretary