



LATVIJAS REPUBLIKAS SAEIMA



Valsts kanceleja

INTERNATIONAL ONLINE CONFERENCE

THE ROAD TO LOBBYING REGULATION IN LATVIA

11 December 2020

The conference aims to discuss progress and the next steps in the development of the legal framework for lobbying – broadly understood as interest group representation activities – in Latvia. Conference participants will learn more about the experience of other European countries in the development, adoption and implementation of lobbying regulation, and the role of the Open Government Partnership (OGP).

The conference is organised by the Parliamentary Committee on Defence, Internal Affairs and Corruption Prevention of the Parliament of the Republic of Latvia in cooperation with Transparency International Latvia and the State Chancellery, with the support of the OGP.

Date and time: Friday, 11 December 2020 | 12.30-16.00, Riga time (EET).

Conference language: Latvian and English (simultaneous translation in both languages will be available).

How to participate: Speakers and participants of the discussion will join the conference via the platform *Zoom*. The general audience will be able to follow the conference on the webpage and *Facebook* page of TI Latvia and the Latvian Parliament.

Registration form: <https://forms.gle/UK1isAd3TnJktfga7>

Conference moderator: *Ieva Morica*, Executive Director, DOTS Foundation for an Open Society, Latvia

AGENDA

- 12.30–12.40** **Conference opening**
Ināra Mūrniece, Speaker of the Latvian Parliament
Juris Rancāns, Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Defence, Internal Affairs and Corruption Prevention, Latvian Parliament
- 12.40–13.00** **Introduction to the Open Government Partnership programme and Latvian government's commitments**
Jānis Citskovskis, Director, State Chancellery of the Republic of Latvia
Peter Varga, Senior Regional Coordinator – Europe, Open Government Partnership
Maria Emilia Berazategui, Interim Head of Policy and Advocacy, Transparency International Secretariat
Inese Tauriņa, Executive Director, Transparency International Latvia

13.00–14.10 Session 1 – How to ensure the transparency of private interest influence on decision-making? Perspectives from Latvia and Europe.

Guiding questions: What is the Latvian Parliament Working Group's vision for lobbying regulation in Latvia? How do Lithuania, Ireland and other European countries regulate lobbying, and what lessons can be learned from their experience?

Inese Voika, Member of the Latvian Parliament, Chair of the Parliamentary Working Group on Lobbying Transparency Regulation

Sergejus Muravjovas, Chief Executive Officer, Transparency International Lithuania

Dr. Mariana Prats, Policy Analyst, Public Sector Integrity Division, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

Jakopo Leone, Chief of Democratic Governance and Gender Unit, OSCE Office for Democracy, Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

Sherry Perreault, Head of Ethics and Lobbying Regulation, Standards in Public Office Commission, Ireland

Question and answer section

14.10 – 14.20 Break

14.20 – 15.30 Session 2 – Discussion: “Interest group representative or lobbyist: the case of Latvia”

Guiding questions: How would lobbying regulation in Latvia affect the society's participation in policymaking? What would be the main advantages and disadvantages? Should lobbying regulation apply to only professional lobbyists or organised civil society at large?

Līga Stafeca, Leading Researcher, Centre for Public Policy PROVIDUS

Māris Vainovskis, Investment Protection and Court Efficiency work group leader, Foreign Investors' Council in Latvia

Filips Rajevskis, Co-owner, Public Relations Agency “Mediju Tilts”

Kristīne Zonberga, Executive Director, Civic Alliance Latvia

Līga Meņģelsone, Director General, Employers' Confederation of Latvia

Agnese Alksne, Latvia Corporate social responsibility platform, Chairwoman of the board

Ivars Balodis, Chairman of the Board of the Association of Disabled People and their Friends “Apeironis”

Inese Tauriņa, Executive Director, Transparency International Latvia

Interventions from representatives of the Parliamentary Groups of the Latvian Parliament

15.30 – 15.45 Conclusions

Inese Kuške, Consultant, Department of Public Administration Policy, State Chancellery of the Republic of Latvia

Inese Voika, Member of the Latvian Parliament, Chair of the Parliamentary Working Group on Lobbying Transparency Regulation

Inese Tauriņa, Executive Director, Transparency International Latvia