



Secretariat of the Transparency Register

Minutes Management Board Meeting 19 April 2024 - 15h00 Brussels

- Chair:** Ilze JUHANSONE, Secretary General of the European Commission
- EP:** Alessandro CHIOCCETTI, Nikolas LANE, Michael WEISS, Radostina PARENTI, Edouard DIRRIG
- Council:** Thérèse BLANCHET, Inga ROSIŃSKA, Dhana IRSARA, Jérôme GUICHARD,
- EC:** Tatjana VERRIER, María OLIVÁN AVILÉS, Christos SAKELLARIOU
- Secretariat:** Fernando FLORINDO GIJÓN (Coordinator of the Secretariat)

The Chair welcomed the participants, thanking the Transparency Register Secretariat for striving to ensure an optimal quality for the register as a key transparency tool of the EU in a period of intense scrutiny ahead of the upcoming European elections. Parliament's Secretary General made a reference to the strengthened transparency rules put in place by Parliament since the last meeting of the Management Board.

GOVERNANCE DECISIONS PURSUANT TO ARTICLES 7 AND 8 OF THE IIA

Rotation of the Management Board

The Management Board decided that the Parliament's Secretary General will chair the Board in 2025, followed by the Council in 2026 and the Commission in 2027, and that the same rotation should be maintained in the future.

Appointment of the Coordinator of the Secretariat

The Management Board renewed the term of the head of the transparency unit in the General Secretariat of the Council, Mr. Fernando FLORINDO GIJÓN, as Coordinator of the Secretariat for an additional year (1 January - 31 December 2025).

PRESENTATION OF THE WORK OF THE SECRETARIAT IN 2023

The Coordinator of the Secretariat Mr. Fernando FLORINDO GIJÓN presented an overview of the Secretariat's work and activities since the last meeting of the Management Board in April 2023.

The Management Board welcomed the progress and achievements made, notably the launch of the new Transparency Register website and supporting IT tool, in the first major overhaul of the register since its beginnings more than a decade ago. It stressed the importance of continuing the data quality exercise, after the completion in early 2024 of a full monitoring cycle of 'legacy' registrations transitioned after the entry into force of the 2021 IIA. The Board also took note of the increased expectations placed upon the Transparency Register as a key transparency tool of the EU institutions and the recommendations and suggestions made recently by, respectively, the European Court of Auditors and the European Ombudsman, in the steps to improve further the register and its framework.

ADOPTION OF THE GUIDELINES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 11 OF THE IIA

The Management Board adopted the guidance prepared by the Secretariat and asked for its publication on the Transparency Register website. It recalled that, availing from Article 11 of the IIA, the two EU advisory committees are the first EU bodies having already put in place internal transparency measures linked to the Transparency Register. The Board highlighted that the IIA provides other EU institutions and bodies with the possibility to take corresponding measures linked to the Transparency Register, and that the new guidelines should facilitate this process.

ADOPTION OF THE 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The Management Board adopted the annual report for 2023, agreed to submit it to the signatory institutions and to publish it on the Transparency Register website.

ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL PRIORITIES AND BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 2025

The Management Board adopted the annual priorities and the budget estimates for 2025.

The Chair recalled that the IIA is its fourth year of implementation and stressed that the register's priorities in 2025 strive for ambition and are not limited to maintaining a status quo.

The Board recalled that the IIA is due for a review by July 2025 and that this process is dependent upon the political decision-making of each of its signatory institutions. As part of the register's priorities in 2025, it was agreed that the Secretariat could perform a mapping exercise to support the review. After an internal reflection by the signatory institutions on the nature and process for the review, the results thereof could be discussed in an ad hoc Management Board meeting.

PRELIMINARY BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 2026

The Management Board agreed on the draft preliminary budget estimates for 2026, on the understanding that these will be aligned with the annual priorities for 2026 and, as budget estimates, will be subject to a decision at the Board's next meeting.

OTHER MATTERS

The Management Board welcomed the notification received in February 2024 of measures taken by Belgium, in accordance with its national law, concerning its permanent representation to the EU pursuant to Article 12 of the IIA. It noted that the measures notified by Belgium shall be published on the Transparency Register website.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is expected to take place in the second quarter of 2025.