

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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**Report Name:** Germany Introduces Lobbyist Registry

**Country:** Germany

**Post:** Berlin

**Report Category:** Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the News

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**Report Highlights:**

Germany launched a lobbyist registry on January 1, 2022. Registration is required for anyone who contacts members of the parliament or the federal government to influence the political process. This report gives an overview about the lobbyist registry and registration requirements.

## **General Information**

As of January 1, 2022, lobbyists of the German parliament must register in a newly established registry. Registration is now required for anyone who contacts members of the parliament or the federal government to influence the political process. It does not matter whether the interest representative's place of residence or registered office is in Germany or abroad. Diplomats are exempt from registration. A transition period of two months will be allowed for registration. The transition period deadline is February 28, 2022.

It is possible to register after the deadline, but this must be done without delay if one of the following criteria is met:

- the representation of interests is carried out on a regular basis,
- the representation of interests is intended to be permanent,
- the representation of interests is carried out on a business basis for third parties, or
- more than 50 different interest representation contacts have been made within the last three months.

In addition to providing information on the person and the organization for which they work, lobbyists must also provide information on their activities and areas of interest, as well as on the personnel and financial resources deployed in the process. The new regulations also include a code of conduct in which lobbyists must commit to principles of openness, transparency, honesty, and integrity. At the same time, rules are laid down for contacting members of the Bundestag and the federal government. If someone violates this code of conduct, this is also published in the lobby registry.

The lobbyist registry is open to the public and its goal is to transparently trace the structures of influence exerted by interest representatives on the political decision-making process. It is intended to help strengthen public trust in politics and the legitimacy of the decision-making process of parliament and government. The aim is to create more transparency regarding the involvement of interest representatives in these processes.

Failing to register or making incorrect, incomplete, or untimely entries can result in being charged with an administrative offense that can be punished with a fine of up to €50,000.

The lobbyist register can be accessed at <https://lobbyregister.bundestag.de>. The registry is currently only in German. An English version is under construction. Questions can be addressed to the registry hotline: +49 (0)30 227-37555.

## **Attachments:**

No Attachments.