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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Timmermans
on behalf of the European Commission
(8.12.2022)

Most legislative proposals in the ‘Fit for 55’ package were subject to both open public consultations and targeted stakeholder consultations in line with Better Regulation rules. The consultation documents, the organisations having taken part in the consultations and the replies from stakeholders can be found on the ‘Have Your Say’ website¹.

The Commission officials are required to check that organisations are listed in the Transparency Register before meeting them. The companies/organisations listed on the Transparency Register must report any funding sources from third country governments, and intermediaries lobbying on behalf of third countries are required to declare the related activities, the clients and the revenue attributable to such activities on the Transparency Register. Since 3 June 2022, the Council Decision (CFSP) 2022/884², concerning restrictive measures in view of the Russian Federation’s actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine, prohibits the provision of public relations services to the government of the Russian Federation or legal persons, entities or bodies established in the Russian Federation and applies in relation to the Transparency Register.

Moreover, the Commission committed as part of its 2023 work programme to present the ‘Defence of Democracy’ package. This will include a proposal to protect EU’s democratic debate against covert interference from entities acting directly with, on behalf of, or funded by hostile foreign interests.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say_en

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32022D0884>