

Dear Margarida,

Frontex does not meet with lobbyists and has no contract in place with any lobbying company.

Frontex does invite company representatives to take part in the agency's Industry Days, which serve to provide border control officials a way of learning about new technologies and innovations related to border control. Frontex also meets officials during open Informative Meetings (in relation to open procurement procedure) and in the contract implementation phase (i.a. kick off meetings).

The two companies you refer to won Frontex tenders.

Kind regards,

Frontex press office

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 January 2021 12:05
To: [REDACTED]@frontex.europa.eu>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Questions regarding Frontex and lobbying

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] CAUTION: Email originated from outside of Frontex. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear [REDACTED] and Frontex team,

I just wanted to get back to you as I haven't received an answer to my last email.

We are just getting ready to publish this article and we find it really important to clarify your first reply.

You should also know that we have now agreed to publish this research article at the NGO Corporate Europe Observatory - <https://corporateeurope.org/en>

Resending our question here:

From documents that were released by Frontex under freedom of information requests, we found that between 2017 and 2019 Frontex met with 139 private bodies – of these 108 were companies; 10 research centres / think tanks; 15 universities and 1 NGO.

European defence companies Airbus and Leonardo had the most access counting five meetings each.

These meetings cover a variety of encounters from workshops on specific procurement processes for equipment (i.e. handguns or maritime tools) to meetings with just a few companies to discuss how to invest and support technology for border control.

According to the EU Transparency Register, which is the system setting up the rules for lobbying at EU level, lobbying covers all activities “carried out with the objective of directly or indirectly influencing the formulation or **implementation** of policy and the decision-making processes of the EU institutions, irrespective of where they are undertaken and of the channel or medium of communication used, for example via outsourcing, media, contracts with professional intermediaries, think tanks, platforms, forums, campaigns and grassroots initiatives.”

Taking this into consideration, it looks to us like Frontex officials do meet with lobbyists, often even. Does Frontex interpret it differently?”

Best regards,

Margarida

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.

----- Original Message -----

On Wednesday, 6 January 2021 13:03, Margarida Silva <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED],

Happy New Year and thank you for the prompt reply.

If you don't mind, I have a follow-up question of clarification.

From documents that were released by Frontex under freedom of information requests, we found that between 2017 and 2019 Frontex met with 139 private bodies – of these 108 were companies; 10 research centres / think tanks; 15 universities and 1 NGO.

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Taking this into consideration, it looks to us like Frontex officials do meet with lobbyists, often even. Does Frontex interpret it differently?

Best regards,

Margarida

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----- Original Message -----

On Tuesday, 5 January 2021 12:10, Press <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Margarida,

I hope you're doing well in this new year and staying healthy.

Frontex does not meet with lobbyists. Given our mandate (contribute to the implementation of integrated border management at the external borders of the EU) and the fact that the agency does not play a role in the EU decision-/law-making process, Frontex does not attract the interest of lobbyists.

Indeed Frontex is working on public register of documents as part of its commitment to transparency. However, it is too early to discuss the precise timing.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]
Spokesperson

Plac Europejski 6
00-844 Warsaw, Poland

[REDACTED]
Tel. [REDACTED]

From: Margarida [REDACTED]

Sent: 21 December 2020 16:36

To: Press [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Questions regarding Frontex and lobbying

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] CAUTION: Email originated from outside of Frontex. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Frontex team,

I am a researcher focused on the way that EU Institutions interact with lobbying, currently preparing a freelance project on Frontex' handling of corporate lobbying. I would like to ask you a few questions about the procedures that Frontex has in place for this. It would be very useful to hear from you before the 6th of January.

1 – In 2018, Frontex's consolidated annual activity report stated that:

“Frontex only met with registered lobbyists who are registered in the EU transparency register and publish annually an overview of meetings on its website; no meetings were held in 2017.”

However, lists of participants and agendas of lobbying meetings released under Access to Documents requests show that Frontex officials do meet with unregistered corporate lobbyists. They also include that some meetings were not listed in Frontex's website.

What explains this discrepancy?

2 - What procedures does Frontex have in place to handle interactions with corporate lobbyists?

3 - At which point does Frontex check whether a corporate representative is registered in the EU's Transparency Register?

4 – Why are some meetings with corporate representatives proactively published on the website and others not?

5 - Are there any guidelines for Frontex officials when dealing with corporate lobbyists?

6 – I saw too that Frontex is preparing to start publishing a list of meetings and contacts between third-party stakeholders and the executive director, deputy executive directors and heads of division in matters concerning procurements and tenders for services, equipment or outsourced projects and studies.

When will this new list be public and will there be a link between this list of meetings and the EU Transparency Register?

7 – Any other comment?

I look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely,

Margarida Silva

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.

European Border and Coast Guard Agency

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www.frontex.europa.eu

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