



## **FESI<sup>1</sup> position paper on the European Transparency Initiative 31<sup>st</sup> August 2006**

### **CHAPTER THREE PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION ABOUT BENEFICIARIES OF FUNDS UNDER SHARED MANAGEMENT**

#### **Introduction**

The Federation of the European Sporting Goods Industry (FESI), represents approximately 1,800 sports manufacturers (85% of the European market) through its ten National Sporting Goods Industry Federations and its directly affiliated member companies. The European sporting goods industry directly and indirectly employs over 640,000 citizens in the EU 25 with an approximate annual turnover of 40 billion euro. Key members of FESI include: Adidas, Asics, Diadora, Fila, Lotto, Nike, Puma, Reebok, Timberland, and national sports industry federations from across the EU.

In the overall civil society consultation dialogue (launched in 2002 and culminating in the publication of the Green Paper on the “European Transparency Initiative”), FESI acknowledges the importance of any policy promoting transparent and ethical procedures, provided they are based on stringent democratic principles.

FESI consequently also considers that its working and lobbying activities should be conducted in the same transparent manner, combining efficiency with due consideration of the European institutions’ internal procedures, as well as any relevant inter-institutional legislative mechanisms.

FESI is pleased to provide our members’ feedback on the European Transparency Initiative, which we believe will help contribute to the ongoing debate and will also highlight some possible improvements to the current stakeholder consultation process.

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<sup>1</sup> Federation of the European Sporting Goods Industry – Registered in CONECCS

## **FESI's view point on specific questions**

*6) Do you agree that it is desirable to introduce, at Community level, an obligation for Member States to make available information on beneficiaries of EU funds under shared management?*

FESI's working procedures as well as its communication methods have always respected the principle of transparency. It thus affirms that where there is a confidentiality issue, the fundamental approach should be to encourage open access to documents and overall better information. Therefore, **FESI would fully agree that the European Union and Member States should publish all information on beneficiaries of EU funds.** This would unquestionably allow a better scrutiny of invested funds, with pursued objectives, and would enable all stakeholders to clearly understand how public money is spent.

*If so, what information should be required at national level? What would be the best means to make this information available (degree of information required, period covered and preferred medium)?*

**All details relevant to the proper and detailed understanding of the EU and/or nationally financed projects** should be available on a public-access website.

## **Conclusion**

We support and recognise the European Commission's ongoing commitment to recognise the importance of the input of all interested stakeholders and its proposals to increase transparency through improved stakeholder consultation. However, we believe that **self-regulation** and not cumbersome and compulsory regulation is the best way forward. **FESI shares the EU's strong commitment to bringing greater transparency into the European stakeholder consultation process.**

Alberto S. BICHI  
Secretary General