

ORGALIME POSITION PAPER ON

Green Paper on the European Transparency Initiative

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Brussels, 30 August 2006

Introduction

ORGALIME, which was set up in 1954, is an international association set up under Belgian law (AISBL). We speak for 35 national trade federations in 24 European countries, which represent some 130,000 companies in the mechanical, electrical, electronic and metalworking industries. Our national associations members are established in 20 EU countries (all member states excluding Cyprus, Estonia, Greece, Malta and Slovakia) and we also have members from Bulgaria, Croatia, Norway and Switzerland.

The engineering industries (NACE codes 28 to 33) employ some 10 million people in the EU and accounted for an estimated 1598 billion Euro of annual output in 2005, which is over a quarter of the EU's output of manufactured products and a third of the manufactured exports of the European Union.

Orgalime welcomes the Commission's Green Paper on the "European Transparency initiative" and the opportunity to provide our comments on this paper.

We welcome the increasing transparency in the work of the institutions and the efforts being made by the different Directorate Generals to consult stakeholders across the board before issuing a policy or a proposal. We believe that the Commission's standards of consultation have improved markedly in recent years, although we remain concerned that consultation procedures are still often neither simple enough, nor targeted enough. We comment hereafter in greater detail on this issue and on the issue of transparency in the answers we provide to the Commission's questions.

As a trade association, Orgalime consistently represents the collective interests of engineering companies, the vast majority of which are SMEs, which would otherwise find it difficult to make their views known at a EU level. We have for over 50 years participated in the development of the regulatory framework in the EU and collaborate on a daily basis with the institutions from the preliminary stages of consultation, through the regulatory process and thereafter in the implementation phase.

Orgalime will be happy to answer any further queries that the Commission may have on the present submission which we consider as a public document expressing our views as a European trade association.

Disclosure of beneficiaries of Community funds

Question *Do you agree that it is desirable to introduce at Community level an obligation to make available information on beneficiaries of EU funds under shared management?*

Answer Orgalime does not see any reason to object to such a disclosure, in so far as entities are beneficiaries of public funds, except in certain sensitive areas linked, for example to security.

Question *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).*

Answer We would suggest that information should be provided in as simple a form as possible, including the name of the beneficiary, the amount of funding, the programme under which such funds are provided, the purpose to which such funding is allocated and the period covered by the funding.

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