

New political momentum and the need for regulation of legislative lobbying in Kosovo

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INTRODUCTION

This policy brief examines the concept of legislative lobbying, international standards for lobbying regulation, the need for legal regulation of lobbying in Kosovo, and provides concrete policy options on how Kosovo's institutions, with particular emphasis on the Assembly of Kosovo, can contribute in this regard.

Kosovo remains the only country in the Western Balkans region without legal regulations governing lobbying in the legislative process.

Besides the lack of an anti-corruption strategy, gaps in the current legislation in Kosovo are also observed in the area of public integrity, particularly with regard to lobbying, which is not regulated in the country. Legal regulation of lobbying would guarantee transparency and proper oversight of the activities of interest groups or persons who exert influence over public institutions¹.

Despite the declarative commitments made by parliamentary parties in recent years to regulate this area, serious institutional efforts have been lacking. Moreover, a high level of misunderstanding regarding the very concept and importance of lobbying regulation has been noticed², both among decision-makers and the general public. Initiatives for the legal regulation of legislative lobbying in Kosovo have primarily derived from civil society, especially from KDI, which, as part of its research on public integrity and anti-corruption efforts, has been actively engaged in this field since 2019³ and 2021⁴, thus evidencing prominent cases of "tailor-made legislation" in Kosovo.

Furthermore, KDI has clearly pointed out how interest groups in Kosovo have influenced public decision-making and created monopolies, while the need has been highlighted to address legal and practical gaps that enable informal and non-transparent influence in the legislative process.

Although lobbying is a legitimate form of political participation, in contexts where a legal vacuum exists, favoritism of private interests, corruption, and the creation of close ties between interest groups and public institutions may undermine the public interest. Therefore, with a view to the legal regulation of lobbying, this policy brief affirms the best international standards and practices for lobbying regulation based on four main pillars: (i) transparency, (ii) integrity, (iii) participation and access, and (iv) oversight and sanctions.

An important part of this paper are the recommendations addressed to the Assembly of Kosovo, namely the Legislature XI, to utilize the new political momentum in order to take concrete steps towards regulating legislative lobbying, drawing on the best practices of European Union countries. In this regard, the policy brief presents two concrete regulatory options (law or regulation), including the advantages and limitations of each model, with the aim of encouraging a broader institutional and public debate among decision-makers and other relevant stakeholders on how to regulate this field in Kosovo.

1 OECD/SIGMA. (2025). Public administration in Kosovo 2024. See the report at this link: https://www.sigmaxweb.org/content/dam/sigma/en/publications/reports/2025/01/public-administration-in-kosovo-2024_d9378da9/a53fce6b-en.pdf.

2 KDI's press release from roundtable discussion organized on the need for legal regulation of lobbying in Kosovo, held on 10 December 2024: <https://kdi-kosova.org/aktivitetet/kdi-mban-diskutime-mbi-ligjin-per-lobim-dhe-financat-politike-ne-kuader-te-konferences-rinia-per-integritet-politik/>.

3 KDI. (2019). *Tailor-made law: Has the time come for a lobbying law in Kosovo?* Prishtina: Kosovo Democratic Institute. See the report at this link: <https://kdi-kosova.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/92-Raporti-Legjislacioni-i-porositur-ALB-02.pdf>.

4 KDI. (2021). *Është koha për Ligj për Lobim në Kosovë*. Prishtina: Kosovo Democratic Institute - Transparency International Kosovo. See the report at this link: <https://kdi-kosova.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/32-Policy-Paper-%C3%8B-sht%C3%AB-koha-p%C3%AB-Ligj-p%C3%AB-Lobim-n%C3%AB-Kosov%C3%AB-ALB-04.pdf>.

DEFINITION OF LEGISLATIVE LOBBYING

Lobbying, in general, is defined as any communication made on behalf of interest groups with the specific purpose of exerting influence or interference in decisions of public interest⁵, namely the decisions of state institutions. This influence can be done in two ways⁶:

- i. **Direct communication:** this method of lobbying is considered when policymakers are contacted directly by lobbyists through physical meetings, phone calls, and electronic communication (email).
- i. **Indirect communication:** publications, events organized on certain topics, and various promotional activities are also considered components of lobbying because they are important-sources for conveying political messages.

Both methods of lobbying interest groups serve the main purpose of influencing decisions made by public institutions and achieving their goals for which they lobby at the legislative level⁷. However, it is important to underline that lobbying is exercised by persons, as part of interest groups, who operate outside institutions, namely they do not have any legal-constitutional mandate, do not hold public positions and do not have democratic legitimacy⁸. In this regard, the list of actors who exercise lobbying activities is long and includes various interest groups, such as professional consultants, legal offices, lobbyists of various corporations, professional associations, unions, non-governmental organizations, media, research institutes, academic institutions and representatives of religious communities⁹.

5 Kergueno, R. (2024). *Lobby transparency across the EU*, p. 3. Brussels: Transparency International EU. See the report at this link: https://transparency.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Transparency-international-EU_briefing_Lobby-transparency-in-the-EU.pdf.

6 Ibid.

7 Ibid.

8 KDI. (2021). *Është koha për Ligj për Lobim në Kosovë*, p. 7. Prishtina: Kosovo Democratic Institute - Transparency International Kosovo. See the report at this link: <https://kdi-kosova.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/32-Policy-Paper-%C3%8Bsht%C3%AB-koha-p%C3%ABr-Ligj-p%C3%ABr-Lobim-n%C3%AB-Kosov%C3%AB-ALB-04.pdf>.

9 Ibid.

WHY IS IT NECESSARY TO REGULATE LEGISLATIVE LOBBYING IN KOSOVO?

As of June 2026, Kosovo's institutions have not yet regulated lobbying, making Kosovo the only country in the Western Balkans without a law or regulatory framework governing lobbying activities. Despite that the Forum for Parliamentary Transparency through the Open Assembly Action Plan 2023-2026 has foreseen to legally regulate lobbying¹⁰, no initiative has been taken by the Assembly of Kosovo or Members of the Assembly of the last legislatures to open at least public discussions regarding the need to regulate this field at the legislative level. Moreover, the Assembly of Kosovo, through this document, has not clarified whether the lobbying regulation in Kosovo will be done through a special law or through the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly. Consequently, the lack of political will for the legal regulation of lobbying has also been observed among the parliamentary parties in Kosovo (those in power as part of the government coalition and in the opposition), which neither during the parliamentary elections campaigns in Kosovo throughout 2025 (in 2025 two parliamentary elections were held, on February 9 and December 28), nor after the constitution of the new institutions, have had the topic of lobbying in their programmes, not even as part of the public discourse. The failure to address this important topic for transparency, accountability, and above all, the integrity of public institutions clearly shows the lack of seriousness of institutional leaders and senior state officials in regulating lobbying in Kosovo.

The importance of legal regulation of lobbying is multifaceted. According to the OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development), lobbying in the 21st century is a legitimate act of political participation that enables various actors to have access to the development and implementation of public policies.¹¹ Although lobbying should not be seen as a negative phenomenon, it can nevertheless have serious consequences, such as campaigns by various interest groups that lobby to influence the adoption of favorable laws to the detriment of the public interest (also known as commissioned legislation)¹², creating close links between business and public institutions, etc.

These actions can lead to the corruption risk¹³ in terms of favoring interest groups that, through lobbying or interaction with various public officials, influence the decisions of public institutions. KDI's research reports, published in 2019 and 2021, show concrete cases of the influence of various interest groups, which, through lobbying and various campaigns, have created monopolies in certain segments and were favored by public institutions¹⁴. Furthermore, in the absence of legislation that regulates and sanctions the exercise of lobbying activities in a legal manner, the consequences may be even greater and consequently illegal actions may remain unpunished. On the other hand, regulating lobbying through a law or special regulation would mark an important step towards strengthening the transparency of lobbying activities and the fight against corruption as a prerequisite for democratic development.

10 Assembly of Kosovo - Forum for Parliamentary Transparency. (2022). *Open Parliament Action Plan 2023-2026*, p. 22. See the document at this link: https://www.assembly-kosova.org/Uploads/Data/Files/14/OPAP2023-2026_SHQ_Final_compressed_CWBhEzXhFM.pdf.

11 OECD. (2021). *Lobbying in the 21st Century: Transparency, Integrity and Access*, p. 16. Paris: OECD Publishing. See the report at this link: <https://doi.org/10.1787/c6d8eff8-en>.

12 KDI. (2019). *Tailor-made law: Has the time come for a lobbying law in Kosovo?* Prishtina: Kosovo Democratic Institute. See the report at this link: <https://kdi-kosova.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/92-Raporti-Legjislacioni-i-porositur-ALB-02.pdf>.

13 Kergueno, R. (2024). *Lobby transparency across the EU*, p. 3. Brussels: Transparency International EU. See the report at this link: https://transparency.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Transparency-international-EU_briefing_Lobby-transparency-in-the-EU.pdf.

14 See the report "*Tailor-made law: Has the time come for a lobbying law in Kosovo?*" and the report "*Është koha për Ligj për Lobim në Kosovë*" published by KDI on the need for legal regulation of lobbying in Kosovo.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR LOBBYING REGULATION

Since 2015, prominent international organizations such as Transparency International, Access Info Europe, the Sunlight Foundation, and Open Knowledge, which promote transparency in lobbying processes, integrity, and good governance, have developed international standards for the lobbying regulation.¹⁵ These standards can serve as a solid foundation for regulating lobbying in Kosovo as well.

According to the standards, the legal framework for regulating lobbying must first define what “lobbying”, “public official”, “lobbyist” and “public decision-making” are¹⁶. However, this document has some exceptions for the lobbying process: i) the interaction of individual citizens with public officials concerning their private affairs shall not be considered lobbying, save for where it may concern individual economic interests of sufficient size or importance so as to potentially compromise public interest and ii) the standards have also left open the possibility that public officials, diplomats and political parties are not part of lobbying. In cases where this is deemed necessary, public officials in the exercise of official duty may be excluded from the lobbying process, but also diplomats and political parties (the latter because they have a quasi-public role).¹⁷

International standards have highlighted four main pillars on which legislation (law or regulation) should be drafted in order to regulate lobbying¹⁸ and which are examined in the following sections of this paper:

- i. **Transparency.**
- i. **Integrity.**
- i. **Participation and access.**
- i. **Supervision, management and sanctions.**

15 Transparency International, Access Info Europe, Sunlight Foundation and Open Knowledge. (2015). International Standards for Lobbying Regulation: Towards greater transparency, integrity and participation. See the document at this link: <https://lobbyingtransparency.net/lobbyingtransparency.pdf>.

16 Ibid. p. 5.

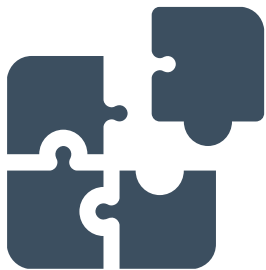
17 Ibid.

18 Ibid.



TRANSPARENCY is one of the main conditions for the legal regulation of lobbying that should include a lobbying register and public access to information:

- To regulate lobbying, a mandatory lobbying register should be established in which lobbyists are registered. All organizations that lobby through their employees or other lobbyists should register to exercise lobbying activities and should report on their activities on a periodic basis with other accompanying information. Lobbyist registration should be done in a timely manner before any lobbying activity takes place, while reporting on activities should be done in a timely manner and on a quarterly basis to enable analysis and intervention by other parties.
- The lobbying register must include the following information: lobbyist identity; the subject matter of lobbying activities and outcomes sought; the ultimate beneficiary of lobbying activities; the targeted institution and/or public official involved in the lobbying activity; the type and frequency of lobbying activities; any supporting documents shared with the public officials; lobbying expenditure, including in-kind; sources of funding, per client and per dossier; any political contributions, including in-kind; any prior functions as public official held by the relevant person and/or family members; and public funding received by the lobbyist.
- An important part of transparency, within the framework of the lobbying register, is that all information should be accessible in an 'online' format through a website that should be provided free of charge, indexed and ready to be downloaded in the form of open data. Also, the data should comply with open data standards and each registered lobbyist or organization should be assigned a unique identifier.
- Regarding public access to information, the relevant law on access to information (in Kosovo it is Law No. 06/L-081 on Access to Public Documents) should guarantee the public's right to access information, including information on lobbying. The legal regulation on lobbying should provide for some limited exceptions regarding privacy, security, financial sensitivity, decision-making process and any other legitimate concerns in case of harm to the public interest and in accordance with international standards. Meanwhile, public institutions and public officials are required to proactively publish organizational, administrative and financial information, as well as summaries of meetings and other interactions with third parties. As emphasized in the transparency of the lobbying register, all information should be made public free of charge and without imposing restrictions on its reuse. Furthermore, any essential information and analysis should be presented in an accessible and understandable manner for citizens and interest groups.

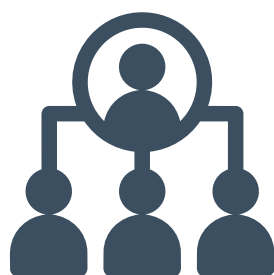


INTEGRITY in the lobbying process provides that public officials should be subject to a Code of Conduct and a system for managing conflicts of interest. Although the responsibility in this regard sits with both parties (public officials and lobbyists), the lobbying regulation standards highlight that public officials should nevertheless have greater responsibilities due to their role as the holders of delegated power:

-
- International standards for lobbying regulation require that the Code of Conduct be applicable to all public officials, including in agreements they make with third parties. The rules of this code include a long list of obligations for public officials, such as transparency, integrity, responsiveness, impartiality, fairness, accountability and service to the public interest. Other rules of the Code of Conduct include keeping accurate and detailed records of meetings with lobbyists, avoiding contacts with unregistered lobbyists, reporting violations of lobbying rules to their superiors and relevant institutions, having a mechanism for dealing with cases of conflict of interest, including incompatibilities related to being a lobbyist, instructions for handling gifts, including their registration or decline, a system for assets and interests disclosure by the public official, but also by family members and business partners according to the decision-making power of the public official. International standards provide for several additional conditions to be met by public officials after leaving their previous workplace, including the restriction that they cannot engage in lobbying activities in their previous workplace for at least two years.
 - Unlike public officials, a Statutory Code of Conduct is provided for lobbyists drafted in close consultation with all relevant parties. This code sets out the main standards of conduct for lobbyists, with particular emphasis on honesty and avoiding undue influence. It also provides, as a form of self-regulation, that additional measures should be taken to encourage lobbyists to adopt, publish and report additional ethical commitments on a voluntary basis, and that these commitments should be supported by internal control and sanction mechanisms, and be integrated into their wider corporate social responsibility and governance strategy.



PARTICIPATION AND ACCESS means that the public and citizens in general should have open and fair access to public decision-making and be part of the decision-making process. Consequently, the standards for regulating lobbying emphasize the importance of the public's right to participate in public decision-making processes at all levels of government (including the legislative). Forms of public involvement in decision-making include the process of public consultations, equal opportunities for citizens to be part of different interest groups in the public interest, while public institutions should provide opportunities for citizens to provide effective input in terms of reviewing materials or documents at the stage of their preparation.



OVERSIGHT, MANAGEMENT AND SANCTIONS are another important aspect of the standards to regulate the issue of lobbying from a legal and institutional perspective. The standards require the creation of an independent mechanism, with a clear mandate and sufficient human resources, that will have the following responsibilities:

- Managing lobbying registration.
- Reviewing potential conflicts of interest.
- Collecting and disseminating the locations of proactively disclosed information.
- Monitoring compliance, including proactive verification and report audits.
- Following up on complaints.
- Investigating apparent breaches and anomalies.
- Consulting on and defining further regulatory provisions in cases where there is a mandate.

The lobbying oversight mechanism will be responsible for providing guidance and training to lobbyists and public officials regarding the implementation of relevant laws, analyzing trends and reporting on its findings, raising awareness among the public and professionals about recent developments, and promoting best practices in the sector.

Regarding complaints about the lobbying process, a complaints mechanism should be established for reporting violations either openly, confidentially or anonymously, with results of complaints published while respecting privacy rules.

In case of violations of lobbying rules, lobbyists and public officials will be subject to effective and proportionate sanctions. According to international standards, sanctions should be scaled, such as: the threat of criminal sanctions, temporary deregistration and disciplinary proceedings for public officials. In addition, public contracts for which violations are found to have occurred are declared invalid, while personal liability also extends to



the leadership of organizations when they are found to have collaborated in committing violations.

However, international standards for lobbying regulation do not clarify the composition of the independent lobbying mechanism nor its relationship with public institutions, namely the legislative and executive branches of government. This is perhaps left to the discretion of countries drafting laws according to local context and circumstances.

These standards emphasize the importance of the local context¹⁹ in the event of legal regulation of lobbying, local circumstances should be taken into account at the stage of drafting legislation. In this case, the standards recommend that lobbying legislation should address the following pillars of the local context: socio-political issues, the degree of informal and professional lobbying, as well as address public concerns that may lead to the need for lobbying regulation.

Of course, it is not enough to simply draft and adopt legislation to regulate lobbying, but rather its implementation should be successful. International standards require that for the most efficient implementation of legal provisions on lobbying, changes should be made (where necessary) to the legal framework of the respective country, with particular emphasis on the rule of law and anti-corruption legislation, such as trading in influence, bribery and corruption; political finance and sponsoring of candidates or political entities running in elections; public procurement; media legislation, in particular on media independence and sponsorship; Labor Law; whistleblower protection; legislative procedures, including the handling of urgent matters; judicial and administrative review, as well as the rights to freedom of speech, assembly and petition.

¹⁹ Ibid., p. 13.

RECOMMENDATIONS

As mentioned, lobbying in Kosovo has not yet been regulated and there has been a continuous lack of concrete efforts at the institutional level (Assembly and Government) or parliamentary parties (ruling parties and opposition). In fact, the Assembly of Kosovo with its mechanisms (Forum for Parliamentary Transparency and Parliamentary Committee for Legislation) has not even managed to fulfill the commitment given through the Open Parliament Action Plan 2023-2026 for the legal regulation of lobbying in Kosovo.

KDI, through this paper, recommends that at least serious efforts be initiated to regulate lobbying at the legislative level through the Assembly of Kosovo. In this regard, it is recommended that after the constitution of the next legislature of the Assembly of Kosovo, the legislative lobbying to be regulated through the new Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of Kosovo. This initial model of regulating legislative lobbying is based on the practices of several European Union countries that have regulated legislative lobbying through the rules of procedure of their parliaments. These practices show that some European countries (Germany and France among others) have followed the gradual model of first regulating legislative lobbying through the rules of procedure and in later stages have drafted and approved laws to regulate lobbying in a more comprehensive manner that includes not only the legislative level, but also other institutions at the central and local levels. The European Parliament has also regulated lobbying through its own rules of procedure.

A similar model could be followed by Kosovo's institutions, more specifically the Assembly of Kosovo, to include lobbying as an integral part within the new Rules of Procedure. Furthermore, see Annex I of this paper, which proposes concrete legal recommendations for the initial regulation of legislative lobbying with the new Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of Kosovo after the constitution of the next legislature.

However, in order to initiate discussions on the regulation of lobbying in Kosovo, this paper provides two concrete options or models in which the scope of this issue could be determined in Kosovo. The practices of various states, including those in the Western Balkans and the European Union that have regulated the legislative lobbying show that regulation can be done either through a specific law on lobbying or bylaws at the legislative level through the Assembly.

The following briefly explains the advantages and disadvantages (pros/cons) of these two models, namely with a separate law or rules of procedure of the Assembly for regulating legislative lobbying.

Option 1: Legislative lobbying regulation through a specific law

Advantages	Disadvantages
1. Based on international standards for lobbying, regulation through a specific law is the best model since it is not limited only to legislative lobbying, but is comprehensive. Thus, the scope of the law would extend not only to the Assembly (legislative lobbying), but to all central and municipal level institutions²⁰.	1. There is a lack of political will of state institutions and political entities to draft a law for lobbying regulation in Kosovo, despite the importance it would have in increasing transparency, integrity and the fight against corruption
2. Any serious initiative to regulate lobbying with a specific law must take into account international lobbying standards so that the law is applicable in practice. In this case, the practices of powerful European states with consolidated democracies, such as Finland, France, Germany and Ireland, should be examined, as well as the EU institutions, which have regulated lobbying by aligning lobbying legislation in accordance with these standards. Consequently, the initiative to regulate lobbying according to this option is highly advantageous because international standards for lobbying regulation provide the main guidelines on what the law should contain to make it applicable in practice.	2. Lobbying regulation with a specific law implies changes or amendments to existing laws in the field of the rule of law and combating corruption, especially regarding legislation on political financing, public procurement, media (independence and sponsorship of media), Labor Law, whistleblower protection, etc.
3. Legislative lobbying regulation in Kosovo with a specific law would primarily increase transparency and control over interest groups and lobbyists for their meetings (contacts) with MPs, ministers and senior officials of central and municipal institutions through the lobbying register. This could have an impact on increasing citizens' trust in the Assembly and the Government, while in the absence of a law on lobbying there are suspicions of "tailored-made laws" or various favors to interest groups to the detriment of the public interest.	3. However, even a specific law would not guarantee full transparency or accountability, as many interactions between interest groups could still take place privately and informally. Through such forms of influence, official mechanisms for lobbying activities reporting may be avoided.

20 Recently, the Assembly of Albania, in January 2026, regulated lobbying through a specific law which is applicable to Members of Parliament during the exercise of their legislative functions; ministers of the Government and political officials close to them; senior officials and civil servants of public bodies exercising decision-making functions; elected and appointed officials at the central level, as well as employees of local self-government units exercising decision-making functions. However, the law adopted in Albania prohibits officials of the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces from engaging in lobbying activities. See Law No. 12/2026 on Lobbying in the Republic of Albania at this link: <https://qbz.gov.al/eli/ligj/2026/01/28/12/a207cc1f-f662-4347-89ef-bb037517de3d>.

Option 2: Legislative lobbying regulation through Rules of Procedure of the Assembly

Advantages	Disadvantages
1. International practices show that lobbying can also be regulated through less complex approaches than adopting a specific law. Countries with developed democracies, such as Germany and France, initially regulated legislative lobbying through parliamentary rules of procedure and, at later stages, adopted specific lobbying laws. In the context of Kosovo, this could be done through the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of Kosovo and regulating lobbying by introducing a specific chapter within the Assembly's Rules of Procedure.	1. Regulating legislative lobbying with the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly would be restrictive and exclusive for other institutions since it would be applicable only to the Assembly (MPs) without the involvement of central and municipal level institutions.
2. This model of lobbying regulation both in procedural and logistical as well as political terms, may be easier and more flexible than drafting a specific law, which requires a lengthy parliamentary process until final approval by the Members of the Assembly.	2. The model of regulating legislative lobbying by the Assembly's Rules of Procedure would be minimal compared to a specific law due to lobbying as a process does not only occur at the legislative level, but also during the drafting of public policies and draft laws by the Government, ministries and other institutions. Therefore, there is a risk that interest groups will exert more influence on these institutions, while meetings and contacts with MPs will be reported only formally.
3. One of the main advantages in favor of this option of legislative lobbying regulation would be the establishment of rules or minimum standards of transparency of lobbying within the Assembly of Kosovo for its members and parliamentary committees. In addition, according to this model, the financial and administrative costs would be significantly lower compared to the option of a specific law. However, lobbying regulation by Rules of Procedure would be a transitional phase to establish good practices of parliamentary transparency of lobbying in order to regulate this issue at a later stage with a specific law on lobbying.	3. Another shortcoming is the phenomenon of MPs moving to the private sector, while restrictive periods after leaving office or general regulation of lobbying activity require a legal basis and cannot be effectively addressed only through the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.

ANNEX I

Normative recommendations/proposals for regulation of legislative lobbying through the new Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of Kosovo

Proposed articles	Explanation of proposed articles
<u>Article on legislative lobbying register</u> 1. The Assembly shall maintain a public register of legislative lobbying for natural or legal persons who represent interests and engage in communication with members of parliament, parliamentary committees or the administration of the Assembly with the aim of influencing the drafting, amendment or review of legislation, the development of public policies, the setting of legislative priorities or the parliamentary agenda. 2. The register shall contain basic data on the identity of the subject, the interests it represents, the organization or client for which it acts and the legislative areas for which it conducts lobbying activities. 3. Registered persons may benefit from facilitated access to information on public hearings, consultations and other activities organized by the Assembly in relation to the legislative process. 4. Persons communicating with members of parliament or committees regarding draft laws or other legislative matters shall declare the interest they represent and, where applicable, the organization or client on whose behalf they act.. 5. Parliamentary committees may publish on the official website of the Assembly general information on consultations and meetings held with stakeholders during the review of draft laws. 6. More detailed rules for the registration, administration and publication of data from the legislative lobbying register shall be determined by a specific act of the Presidency of the Assembly.	<i>The purpose of this provision is to increase the transparency of the influence of organized interests in the legislative process and to ensure that communication between members of parliament, parliamentary committees and stakeholders takes place in an open and identifiable manner. In practice, civil society organizations, the business community, professional organizations and other stakeholders often contribute to the process of drafting and reviewing laws by providing information and expertise to members of parliament and parliamentary committees. This is a common practice in democratic systems and forms part of the process of representing interests in decision-making.</i> <i>However, to preserve the integrity of the legislative process and to enhance public confidence in the work of the Assembly, it is important that such interactions take place in a transparent manner. The creation of a legislative lobbying register aims to enable the identification of persons or organizations representing interests in relation to draft laws and other matters under consideration in the Assembly.</i> <i>This approach is in line with the practices of the European Union institutions and a number of parliaments in the Member States, which have established transparency mechanisms for interest representatives interacting with public institutions. These mechanisms ensure that the process of influencing policy and legislation is open and traceable to the public.</i> <i>The establishment of such a mechanism in the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly does not aim to limit communication between MPs and various stakeholders in society, but to establish minimum standards of transparency in accordance with the principles of good governance, institutional integrity and Kosovo's European integration process.</i>

