



Have fossil fuel lobbyists captured the European Parliament?

Between September 1 and December 18, 2025, **22,158 lobbyists passed through the doors of the European Parliament.** On average, once every two weeks – at key moments – there were more lobbyists than Members of the European Parliament present.

During this intense period, as MEPs were questioning the trade agreement made between the U.S. President and President Ursula von der Leyen, American interest representatives were present in the European Parliament 95% of the time. While the Omnibus law was being negotiated, fossil fuel companies calling for the repeal of the due diligence duty were also there in significant numbers.

Despite genuine progress in terms of transparency, the situation and the analysis of these 22,158 entries reveals a frequently overlooked side of lobbying: what happens in the hallways and cafés. The purpose of this note is to analyze these entries and address some of the questions they raise. Given the period studied, the note complements previous research highlighting the influence of large corporations – particularly the most polluting ones – on the 2025 deregulation movement.

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A reminder about how EU institutions work

Within the European Union (EU), the legislative process is lengthy. Before being applied in the 27 Member States, legislation is processed by three institutions with different roles.

The European Commission is responsible for legislative proposals. It provides general guidance on EU policies in response to the expectations of the heads of state and government of the 27 member states. Proposals for new legislation are generally bound by the "better regulation" process, which requires the legislative proposal to be informed by impact assessments and the views of stakeholders. But a [report by Reclaim Finance](#) on the Omnibus Law shows that this is not always the case. According to the Transparency Register, the European Commissioner in charge of the Omnibus file, Stéphane Séjourné, did not meet with a single non governmental organization (NGO) or trade union representative before presenting his legislative proposal. This file led to massive cuts to regulations on corporate transparency (CSRD) and on the prevention of their impacts on human, social, and environmental rights (CSDDD). A consortium of NGOs filed a complaint against the Commission in April 2025 denouncing the violation of the fundamental principles of "good administration" with regard to this same law¹.

The Council of the EU, meaning the 27 national ministers responsible for a specific area (such as agriculture or transport), and the European Parliament take over once the law is presented by the Commission. The two institutions will, in parallel, study the text and amend it to adapt it to their political vision. They can, if they wish, consult stakeholders (businesses, NGOs, trade unions, academics, etc.) to better understand the issues surrounding the law.

Introduction

Who comes to the European Parliament? Data obtained by Reclaim Finance and published for the first time reveals just how many lobbyists are in the building. The numbers reveal the massive resources deployed by private interests to shape legislation, particularly when it came to the Omnibus I regulation, shedding light on the influence of fossil fuel companies and the United States.

Organizations representing interests of any kind must register with the European Union's Transparency Register if they wish to participate, directly or indirectly, in the drafting of European law. By registering, groups can request and obtain a badge to enter the European Parliament. Once they have a badge, lobbyists can enter the Parliament any day of the week, even without an appointment. Lobbyists are then free to approach MEPs to discuss matters with them.

Reclaim Finance wanted to know how many lobbyists entered the European Parliament in 2025, a year marked by the adoption of laws that significantly incorporated the demands of large corporations at the expense of human, social, and environmental rights. This information is not available. After more than three months and numerous exchanges with the European Parliament's services, we were told that data relating to lobbyists' entries and exits is kept for only four months, after which it is automatically deleted.

¹ Client Earth, [EU watchdog slams Commission's undemocratic environmental rollbacks](#), 27/11/2025

The European Parliament nevertheless provided the data that had not yet been removed from its website in two separate documents: the first taking into account entries and exits between July 22, 2025 and November 13, 2025, the second between November 14 and December 31, 2025².

For this analysis, Reclaim Finance considered 16 weeks of data, from September 1st, the date parliamentary work resumed after the summer recess, to December 18th, the last Friday before the parliamentary recess. This period notably corresponds to the examination by parliamentarians of the Omnibus I law, amending the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) and the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD).

During those 16 weeks, the European Parliament was **visited by 2,553 different lobbying groups**, which are categorised into 13 groups by the European Union's Transparency Register.³

In total, **lobbyists entered the European Parliament 22,158 times in just under four months. This represents an average of 1,385 entries per week or 277 entries per day.**

A. Who are the lobbyists in the European Parliament?

1. The weight of private interests

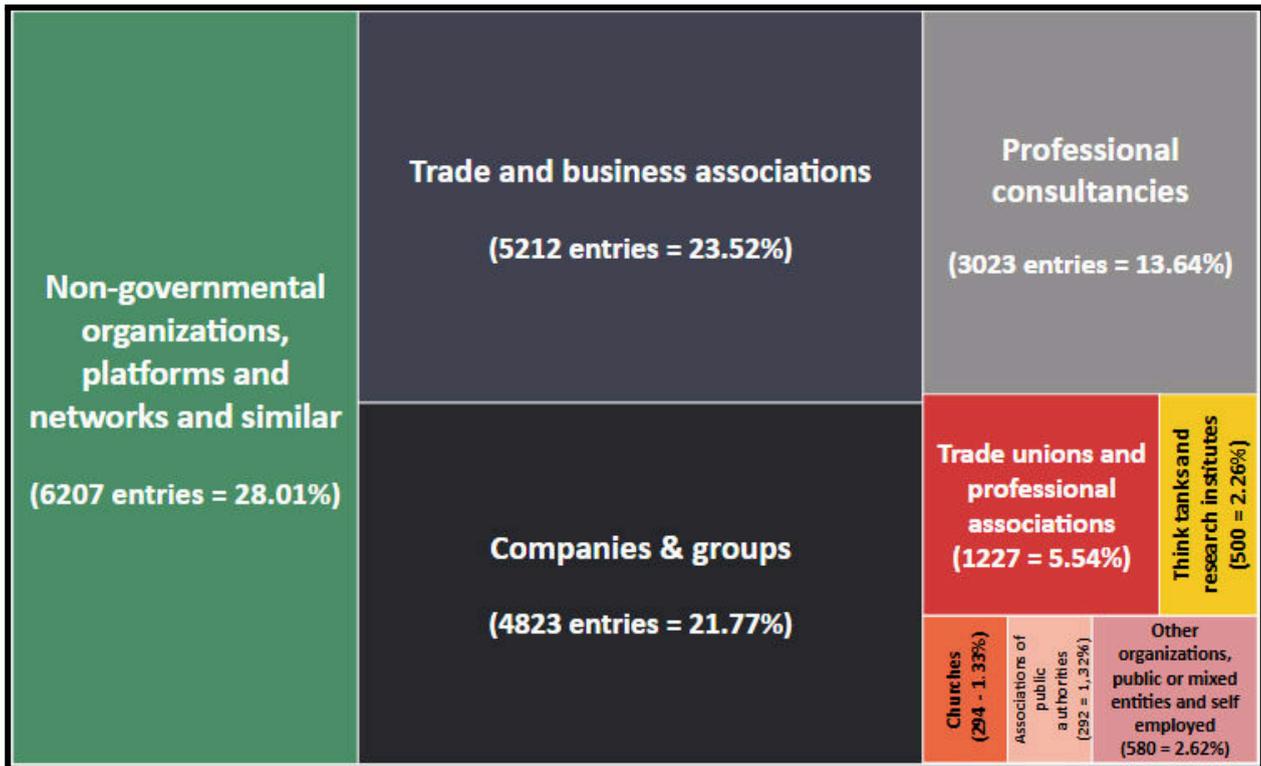
Private interests – primarily divided into trade and business associations (23.5%), companies and groups (21.8%), and professional consultancies (13.6%) – account for 59% of visits to the European Parliament. In comparison, NGOs are the most represented individual category but account for only 28% of visits. **There are twice as many visits to the European Parliament from private interests as from NGOs defending non-profit interests** (13,058 versus 6,207 visits).

Trade unions and professional associations come next (5.5%), followed by think tanks and research institutions (2.2%), organizations representing churches and religious communities (1.3%), associations and networks of public authorities (1.3%), and other miscellaneous organizations (2.6%).

² European Parliament, [Logs for organisations in the transparency register](#), 24/02/2025.

³ (1) Non-governmental organizations, platforms and networks and similar, (2) Trade and business associations, (3) Companies & groups, (4) Professional consultancies, (5) Trade unions and professional associations, (6) Think tanks and research institutions, (7) Organizations representing churches and religious communities, (8) Associations and public authority networks, (9) Other organizations, public or mixed entities, (10) Self-employed individuals, (11) Academic institutions, (12) Law firms, (13) Entities, offices or networks established by third countries.

For statistical reasons, categories 9 to 13 have been combined into one, which represents 2.32% of entries to the European Parliament, *i.e.* 580 entries out of 22,158.



Nevertheless, simply comparing the volume of corporate activities to that of NGOs is misleading, as can be shown with the example of oil and gas companies during the Omnibus discussions. Companies like TotalEnergies and ExxonMobil, which spearheaded the campaign against European laws protecting climate and human rights in 2025, are listed in the "Companies & Groups" category, but are also members of, among others, trade and business associations such as FuelsEurope and the International Association of Oil & Gas Producers Europe.

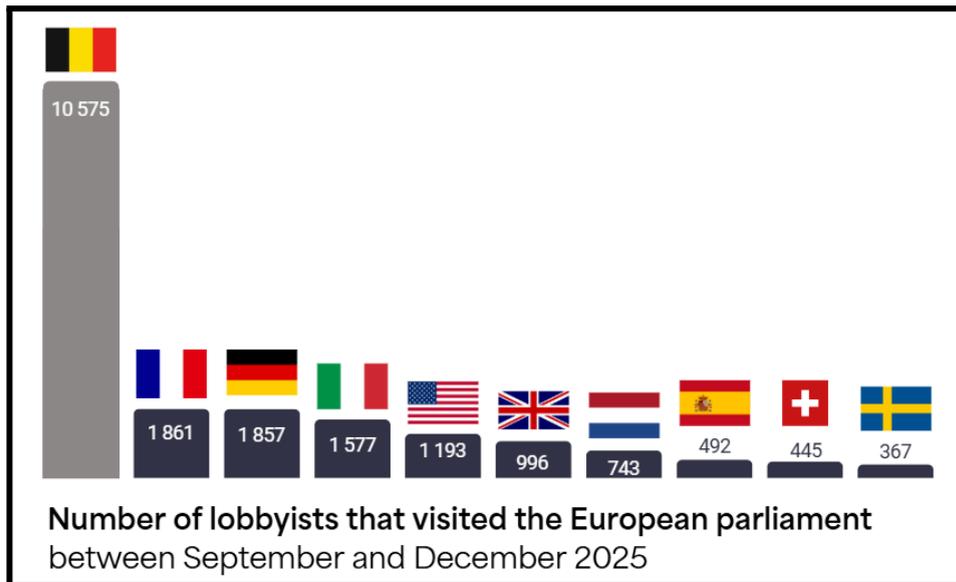
At the same time, these private actors pay consulting firms ("Professional consultancies") to represent their interests. ExxonMobil Petroleum, for instance, spends between €1.3 million and €1.7 million annually on consulting firms⁴.

2. European... and American influence

The data published by the European Parliament also reveals which countries the lobbyists are based in. While the significant Belgian presence may seem surprising, this can be explained by the fact that so many groups registered in the EU Transparency Register are based in Brussels. A large proportion of the "Belgian" entities are in reality public relations consultancies or local offices for multinational companies located in Brussels.

⁴ More information on [part B](#) of this note.

Transparency register website of ExxonMobil Petroleum & Chemical, available on 19/03/2026 : https://transparency-register.europa.eu/search-register-or-update/organisation-detail_en?id=0745650927-75



Excluding Belgium, France and Germany share first place with 1,861 and 1,857 entries respectively (8.4% each). Next comes Italy (1,577 entries – 7.1%) and then the United States (1,193 entries – 5.4%).

The United States is therefore the non-European country most actively lobbying the European Parliament. **During the 80 days the European Parliament was open, between September 1 and December 18, 2025, there were only four days without an American lobbyist present. This represents a 95% presence rate.** The extent of American influence in the European Parliament can also be seen by looking at the 10 companies that have most frequently visited the European

Parliament:

Organisation name	NB of entries	Location of head office
Total Politics Group	68	UNITED KINGDOM
British American Tobacco	61	UNITED KINGDOM
Merck Sharp & Dohme Europe Belgium SRL	58	UNITED STATES
Apple Inc.	54	UNITED STATES
ENEL SpA	51	ITALY
TotalEnergies SE	46	FRANCE
BASF SE	45	GERMANY
Meta Platforms Ireland Limited and its various subsidiaries	45	IRELAND
Eni S.p.A.	43	ITALY
ExxonMobil Petroleum & Chemical	40	BELGIUM

- The oil and gas major ExxonMobil Petroleum’s European office, which was very active with the support of Donald Trump in lobbying against the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), is registered as in Belgium. This is also the case for three other oil and gas producing companies.

- Two companies headquartered in the United States: Merck Sharp & Dohme – active in the pharmaceutical sector – and Apple Inc.

- Meta Platforms (Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp, among others), represented by an Irish subsidiary. Meta Platforms is particularly interested in the Digital Services Act (DSA), as is Apple Inc.

Four of the ten most influential companies are therefore American, even if the data is skewed by strategic headquarters.

3. The lobbying machine is driven by consultancies

Professional consultancies, regardless of their nationality, generally represent US interests. Of the 50 consulting firms that most frequently visit the European Parliament (2,194 entries), 40 are directly funded by US-based entities, including all of the top 10 firms, which therefore defend American interests.

Examining the "Belgian" rankings allows for a more precise identification of the activities conducted by consulting firms. The top three Belgian firms include those Acumen Public Affairs, which appeared 165 times, followed by NOVE (145), and then Fleishman-Hillard (132) - all three of which represent American companies.



Acumen Public Affairs visited the European Parliament 165 times in 16 weeks. This meant that, on average, there were two lobbyists per day from this public affairs consultancy, which employs 52 people and receives between €3,075,000 and €5,669,945 annually from companies⁵. It notably represents Apple Inc. (between €100,000 and €199,999 per year), Snap Inc. (same amount), and Amazon (between €25,000 and €50,000).

These companies have positions that are generally opposed to European laws, such as the Digital Services Act (DSA). Apple Inc., for example, was fined by the European Commission in April 2025 for DSA violations⁶. The European Commission also condemned Google, prompting a reaction from President Trump who then decided to threaten the European Commission with

⁵ Transparency register website of Acumen Public Affairs, available on 01/03/2026:

https://transparency-register.europa.eu/search-register-or-update/organisation-detail_en?id=85679286747-21

⁶ European Commission, [Commission finds Apple and Meta in breach of the Digital Markets Act](#), 23/04/2025

measures to respond to these court decisions.⁷ X (ex-Twitter) was also fined €120 million in December 2025 for violating the DSA⁸, a position against which the US Administration vehemently protested⁹.

Acumen Public Affairs is obviously not the only consulting firm representing these American technology companies. Apple Inc., for example, reports spending between €7 million and €8 million annually on lobbying and pays up to 14 consulting firms to assist in its lobbying efforts¹⁰. Meta Platforms, for its part, spends over €10 million per year¹¹.

The NOVE consultancy, which we will discuss later, ranks second, having appeared before the European Parliament 145 times. NOVE defends the interests of a number of clients from the fossil fuel industry, including ExxonMobil Petroleum, TotalEnergies, Eni S.p.A., and Equinor.¹² NOVE receives between €2.5 million and €5 million for defending its clients' positions through its team of 27 lobbyists.

FleishmanHillard, founded in the United States but with European operations based in Brussels, also ranks highly. While negotiations were underway for the revision of the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), the firm visited the European Parliament 132 times over 47 different days, averaging nearly three lobbyists per day. The Transparency Register indicates that the firm receives between €11 million and €19 million annually from its clients.¹³ It employs 63 lobbyists with access badges to the European Parliament and represents the interests of numerous financial players, including BlackRock (€400,000 to €499,999 per year), Morgan Stanley (€300,000 to €399,999), The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. (€300,000 to €399,999), JPMorgan Chase & Co. (€200,000 to €299,999), S&P Global (€200,000 to €299,999).

In total, between €5.8 million and €9.8 million is paid to FleishmanHillard by companies seeking representation on financial services policies¹⁴. Financial players also lobby on their own behalf and through other consulting firms. Blackrock, like JP Morgan Chase & Co., reports spending between €900,000 and €999,999 annually on lobbying¹⁵.

⁷ [Post Truth Social](#) by Donald J. Trump, "[...] Very unfair, and the American Taxpayer will not stand for it! As I have said before, my Administration will NOT allow these discriminatory actions to stand", 05/09/2025

⁸ European Commission, [Commission fines X €120 million under the Digital Services Act](#), 05/12/2025

⁹ Reaction from the State Department on X <https://x.com/StateDept/status/1947755665520304253> and reaction of X's CEO, and VP J.D. Vance on X.

<https://x.com/elonmusk/status/1996773422333071787?s=20>

¹⁰ Transparency register website of Apple Inc., disponible au 01/03/2026.

https://transparency-register.europa.eu/search-register-or-update/organisation-detail_en?id=588327811384-96

¹¹ Transparency register website of Meta Platforms Ireland Limited and its various subsidiaries, available on 01/03/2026.

https://transparency-register.europa.eu/search-register-or-update/organisation-detail_en?id=28666427835-74

¹² Transparency register website of NOVE, available on 01/03/2025

https://transparency-register.europa.eu/search-register-or-update/organisation-detail_en?id=522122412613-18

¹³ Transparency register website of FleishmanHillard, available on 01/03/2026

https://transparency-register.europa.eu/search-register-or-update/organisation-detail_en?id=56047191389-84

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ Transparency register website of Blackrock and of JPMorgan Chase & Co., available on 01/03/2025

https://transparency-register.europa.eu/search-register-or-update/organisation-detail_en?id=51436554494-18 ;

https://transparency-register.europa.eu/search-register-or-update/organisation-detail_en?id=9171899949-17

B. Fossil fuel lobbying in the European Parliament

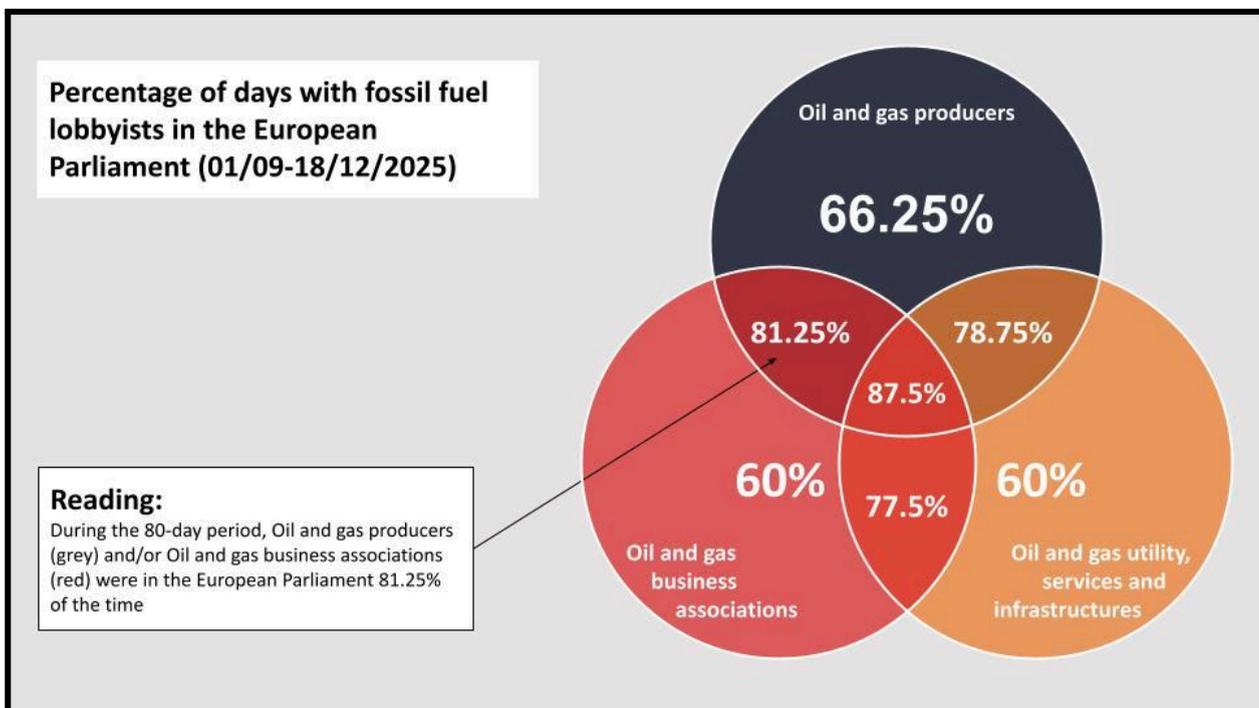
1. A massive presence of fossil fuel representatives

There are three main types of actors lobbying for climate deregulation in Europe: companies, trade associations linked to these companies, and professional consultancies tasked with lobbying on behalf of these companies.

In the case of fossil fuels, companies and trade associations were particularly active in 2025. The data allows us to identify 27 fossil fuel lobby groups. These can be further classified into three subcategories.

Among the 27 fossil fuel lobby groups, 10 are oil and gas producers, such as ExxonMobil Petroleum and TotalEnergies. Eight associations represent the interests of fossil fuel companies, such as FuelsEurope or the International Association of Oil & Gas Producers Europe (IOGP). And nine companies specialise in oil and gas services and infrastructure. This classification does not include the numerous chemical and plastics companies, which are also very active in negotiations surrounding the removal of climate obligations such as transition plans. Between September 1 and December 18, 2025, there were **only 10 days without any representatives from the fossil fuel industry present in the European Parliament**. The fossil fuel industry was therefore present 87.5% of the time.

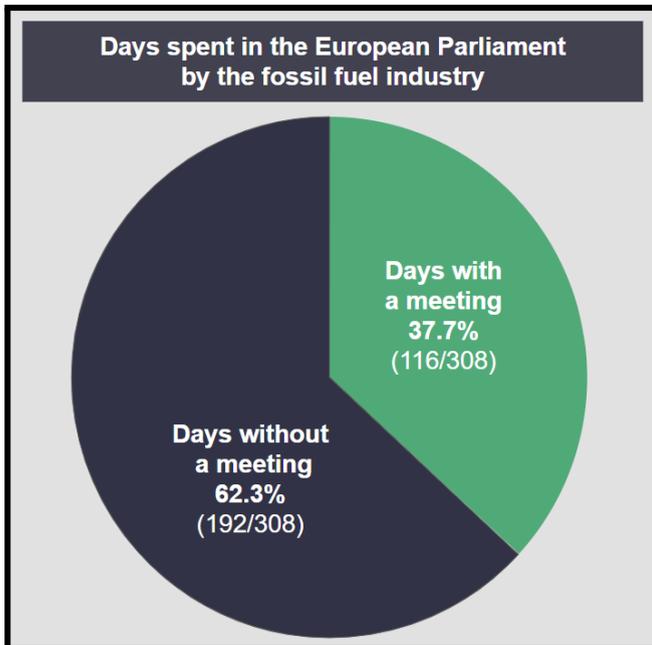
The proportion for each subcategory is shown below:



These 27 companies and the trade associations linked to fossil fuels entered the European Parliament 468 times. This figure does not include public relations consultancies, which also

conduct a significant amount of lobbying on behalf of fossil fuel producers against climate regulations.

These companies spent several days at the European Parliament, often without having any declared appointments with MEPs or their staff. For example, the trade association FuelsEurope entered the European Parliament 61 times over 25 different days, usually with two or three lobbyists. They had a total of 21 appointments, spread over 17 days.



On average, fossil fuel lobbies entered the European Parliament 17 times (over the span of 11,4 days), with just under two thirds of visits not linked to a specific appointment (62.3%).

Being present in the corridors of the European Parliament is central to European lobbying. Lobbyists encounter MEPs or knock on their doors to advocate for their interests, leading to more informal interactions. While members of parliament are required to declare meetings they have had with interest representatives, it is not easy to track all the informal interactions they have had with them.

Understanding lobbying therefore requires both analysing the appointments obtained and

the number of lobbyists present in Parliament on days of significant importance (see [A noticeable lobbying presence surrounding the Omnibus Law](#)).

Furthermore, a presence at the European Parliament explained by a declared meeting does not mean that the lobbyists' entire presence was solely dedicated to that meeting. There could be several lobbyists from the same company in the European Parliament, without all of them necessarily going to the meeting. Moreover, a lobbyist might have a one-hour appointment but also spend the rest of the day in more informal encounters in the Parliament.¹⁶

2. ExxonMobil case study: more than a million euros spent on consultancies

This massive presence inevitably impacts the legislative process and the peaceful environment in which parliamentarians operate. The example of the American company ExxonMobil Petroleum is particularly telling, as it was heavily involved in the Omnibus Law.

The oil and gas firm visited the European Parliament 40 times in 16 weeks (on 21 different days). Beyond its *direct* lobbying, it also engaged in *indirect* lobbying through professional consultancies (see table below) and the professional associations of which it is a member.

¹⁶ This is one of the main limitations of the information published by the European Parliament: it is not possible to know how long lobbyists stayed on average for each visit.

Name of the professional consultancy ¹⁷	NB of visits	Amounts received from ExxonMobil
Burson Cohn & Wolfe SRL	30	700 000€ - 800 000€
NOVE	145	200 000€ - 300 000€
Teneo Brussels	22	300 000€ - 400 000€
FTI Consulting	53	100 000€ - 200 000€
Total	250	1,3M€ - 1,7M€

It is impossible to understand the influence of the oil and gas industry on European lobbying, using ExxonMobil Petroleum as an example, without considering the lobbying carried out by the company's indirect representatives. In 2025, the firm spent between €1,300,000 and €1,700,000 on professional consultancies that regularly visit the European Parliament. These amounts are directed to influence climate legislations such as the Due Diligence Directive and the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive¹⁸. Its counterparts, such as TotalEnergies, Eni S.p.A., Shell Companies, and BP p.l.c., among others, also spend significant amounts on this indirect lobbying.

It is also necessary to consider professional associations that also engage in indirect lobbying. FuelsEurope, for example, has entered the European Parliament 61 times, the International Association of Oil & Gas Producers Europe 31 times, the American Chamber of Commerce 38 times, and BusinessEurope 71 times. These four associations, that ExxonMobil Petroleum is a part of, account for more than 200 entries. The oil and gas major is a member of 25 industry associations that represent its interests, for a total of 367 visits.

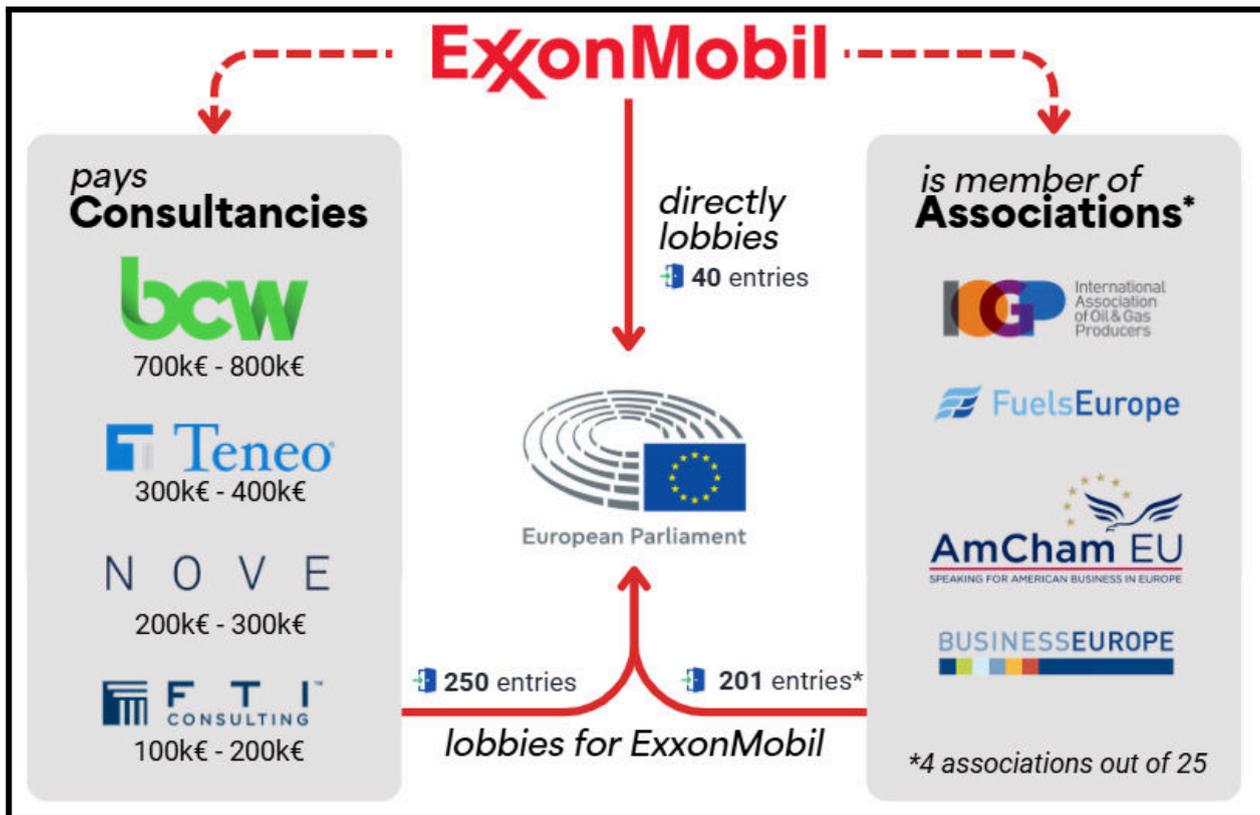
In 2025, ExxonMobil has therefore visited the European Parliament more than 650 times in less than four months.

For this direct and indirect lobbying, ExxonMobil declares that its activities covered by the transparency register in 2025 cost between €4,000,000 and €4,500,000. Directly or indirectly (in 2024, it was significantly lower, as ExxonMobil spent between €3,500,000 and €4,000,000). This extra spending in 2025 can be explained by the Omnibus I legislation.

¹⁷ Transparency register websites of ExxonMobil Petroleum & Chemical, Burson Cohn & Wolfe SRL, NOVE, Teneo Brussels and FTI Consulting, available on 01/03/2025 :

https://transparency-register.europa.eu/search-register-or-update/organisation-detail_en?id=0745650927-75,
https://transparency-register.europa.eu/search-register-or-update/organisation-detail_en?id=9155503593-86,
https://transparency-register.europa.eu/search-register-or-update/organisation-detail_en?id=522122412613-18,
https://transparency-register.europa.eu/search-register-or-update/organisation-detail_en?id=91124993695-29,
https://transparency-register.europa.eu/search-register-or-update/organisation-detail_en?id=29896393398-67

¹⁸ *Ibid.* for ExxonMobil Petroleum and Chemical.



In addition to this direct and indirect lobbying, there is also political pressure. The US President Donald Trump took a clear position in favor of repealing the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive, notably in August 2025¹⁹ and then again a few months later on his TruthSocial network. The American president shared an op-ed, "100% CORRECT!" from his ambassador to the European Union explicitly calling for the repeal of the CSDDD. The op-ed's subtitle indicated that the EU should abolish its law because "it has an urgent need for access to reliable fossil fuels from trustworthy allies like the UE."²⁰ This position aligns with ExxonMobil's stance, as reported in the press^{21,22}.

¹⁹ Extract from point 12 of the joint statement on a United States-European Union framework on an agreement on reciprocal, fair and balanced trade, August 21, 2025.

"The European Union commits to [...] propose changes to the requirement for a harmonised civil liability regime for due diligence failures and to climate-transition-related obligations. [...]"

https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/news/joint-statement-united-states-european-union-framework-agreement-von-der-Leyenir-and-balanced-trade-2025-08-21_en available on 01/03/2025

²⁰ Post TruthSocial of Donald Trump, taking up the opinion piece by Andrew Puzder, US Ambassador to the EU published in the Financial Times on 01/12/2025.

<https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/115877154046314028> available on 01/03/2025

"Europe should repeal the directive that's killing its growth

It badly needs access to reliable fossil fuels from dependable allies like the US"

²¹ Reuters (by Shela Dang), [Exxon seeks US political help in call to quash EU climate law](#), 18/09/2025

²² Bloomberg (by Kevin Crowley), [Evon der Leyens of 'Bone-Crushing' EU Climate, Human Rights Law](#), 18/09/2025.

At the European level, TotalEnergies also called on French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz in September to take a position in favor of repealing the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive.²³.

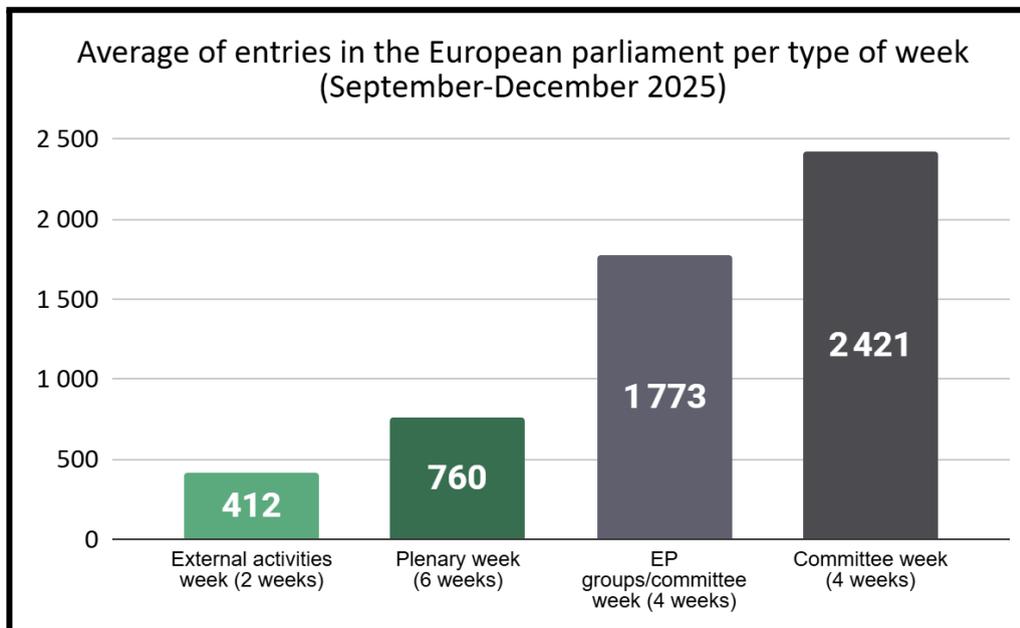
C. Heavy lobbying around the Omnibus Law

1. Weeks organization at the European Parliament

To understand the presence of lobbyists in the European Parliament, it is helpful to examine the parliamentary calendar and the pace of legislative debate.

Work in the European Parliament operates on a rotation system of different types of weeks. "External work" weeks allow MEPs to maintain contact with their constituencies. Committee weeks are dedicated to parliamentary work within the various parliamentary committees, which specialise in a particular area (e.g., the ECON Committee for the economy, the ENVI Committee for health and the environment, etc.). Political group weeks allow MEPs to align their positions within the same political group before proceeding to the votes during plenary sessions.

External work weeks are those with the fewest lobbyists because they also correspond to the fewest MEPs present. These are followed by plenary voting sessions, where MEPs generally follow the guidelines established by their political group. These plenary sessions take place, for the most part, in Strasbourg and not in Brussels. It is therefore during parliamentary debates and political negotiations that the highest concentration of lobbyists is found in the European Parliament.



²³ Letter dated October 6, 2025, following the "Evian meetings" in September, signed by TotalEnergies CEO Patrick Pouyanné and Siemens CEO Roland Busch. Published by Politico: <https://www.politico.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/15/e2c4c71c-bb72-4331-907d-7faf640f28ac-CLEANEvian-2025-Letter-to-President-Macron-and-Bundeskanzler-Merz.pdf>

Taking into account the 2025 calendar, and extrapolating the data from September to December 2025, it is possible to **estimate that lobbyists entered the European Parliament approximately 62,255 times in 2025.**²⁴.

Over the 80-day period studied, there were 8 (10%) days when Parliament hosted more lobbyists than Members of the European Parliament. **A closer examination of this period shows that during the most important strategic decisions concerning the Omnibus I Law, there was a strong lobbyist presence at the European Parliament.**



2. The position of the JURI committee and the rejection of the mandate (October 14-22)

On October 14 and 15, there were over 840 lobbyists in the corridors of the European Parliament, a ratio of 1.17 lobbyists for every 720 elected MEPs. Parliament was due to vote on the Omnibus I legislation a week later, and it was during these days that the final positions of the political groups were being negotiated.

The atmosphere surrounding this plenary session was particularly tense. The majority groups, with the exception of the European People's Party (EPP), had denounced the negotiations. Socialist Shadow Rapporteur Lara Wolters explained that there was "not a single decent conversation. Only threats and theater,"²⁵ before resigning because the Rapporteur for the text, Jörgen Warborn, was negotiating compromises with the far right. The shadow of the Green group, Kira Marie Peter-Hansen concurred, explaining that "EPP has constantly been flirting with the far right and threatening with an alternative majority."²⁶

²⁴ Explanation of the calculation of the 62,255 visits:

- + 9 weeks of external activities = 3,708
- + 14 plenary sessions (including 3 in Brussels) = 10,640
- + 11 weeks of committee meetings = 26,631
- + 12 weeks of group/committee meetings = 21,276

²⁵ Politico (by Marianne Gros), [Von der Leyen's coalition partners clash over simplification talks](#), 01/10/2025

²⁶ *Ibid.*

Two parallel negotiations were taking place: one between the right wing and the rest of the "von der Leyen majority," which has been the official majority since 2019, and the other between the "right/far-right" majority, which had never been officially recognized. The first, the "traditional" majority, sought to denounce the text produced by the JURI Committee, which, according to MEPs, more closely resembled the EPP's position than a position resulting from negotiations. The second sought further deregulation, notably by removing the requirement to adopt climate transition plans. The fossil fuel lobby, among others, had a vested interest in the formation of the right-wing/far-right majority. This majority aimed to eliminate transition plans, and the fossil fuel lobby was pushing for this outcome.²⁷.

On October 22, the text presented by the JURI Committee was rejected by MEPs in plenary session in Strasbourg.

3. The final vote on the European Parliament's position (November 4-13)

A new period of negotiations began as soon as MEPs returned to Brussels. **On November 4 and 5, there were once again more lobbyists than MEPs in the European Parliament.**

These dates reflect the search for new compromises, with the right wing indicating its desire to vote on a version of the text with the far right, since, according to the EPP rapporteur, the version resulting from negotiations with the von der Leyen majority had failed. Meanwhile, the other political groups within the von der Leyen majority were working to salvage the laws on due diligence and non-financial reporting from the deregulation announced by the new right-wing/far-right majority, thus fulfilling the wishes of the fossil fuel industry that explicitly asked for the deletion of climate transition plans.

On November 4, the JURI committee met for the first time since the text had been rejected in plenary on October 22. This committee was tasked with defining potential adjustments to the text before presenting it in plenary on November 13. These were negotiations for the von der Leyen majority allies, who had disagreements about the stance to adopt. It also marked the beginning of genuine negotiations between the right and the far right. Furthermore, MEPs had until the evening of November 5th to table amendments, which also explains the activity that day.

November 4th was the third busiest day for lobbyists at the European Parliament, with the top two spots having been filled two weeks earlier.

November 4th also the day the European Parliament hosted the highest number of fossil fuel lobbyists. That Tuesday, eleven lobbyists from fossil fuel producers were present in the European Parliament, along with eight from fossil fuel associations, three from utilities, four from NOVE, and two from FTI Consulting. This means that at least 28 fossil fuel lobbyists were in the European Parliament while amendments concerning the future of climate transition plans in Europe were being debated. These amendments were ultimately removed by amendments proposed by the far right.

²⁷ On this point, see also the investigation by the NGO SOMO: [The secretive cabal of US polluters that is rewriting the EU's human rights and climate law - SOMO](#), published on 03/12/2025.

CONCLUSION

In sixteen weeks, lobbyists actively participated in shaping the Omnibus I law, with large corporations exerting a particularly strong influence. American representatives and fossil fuel companies were directly and indirectly—through trade associations and consulting firms—very present in Parliament during this period and were able to secure the removal of climate transition plans as they had hoped, thanks to the right-wing and far-right majority.

The data published for the first time by the European Parliament is important. But beyond this effort at transparency, Reclaim Finance urges parliamentarians to reflect on how laws are currently being drafted.

In the coming months, the European Parliament will have to adopt its position on various texts, including the revision of the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR). Following numerous scandals that revealed to Europeans that funds marketed as "green" or "responsible" finance the most polluting companies, the European Commission has proposed in this text to exclude the assets of companies developing coal, oil, and gas from the categories of funds labeled "sustainable" or "transition." While insufficient, this proposal is already facing opposition from oil and gas companies and certain influential financial players. As with the Omnibus Directive, it is likely that the financial and fossil fuel lobbies will join forces to oppose it. Parliamentarians must guard against this influence, which is detrimental to the interests of Europeans.

Annex 1 – Methodology

Following the vote on the Omnibus law, Reclaim Finance submitted a request for access to administrative documents to the European Parliament. The purpose of this request was to collect data on lobbyists' entries and exits at the European Parliament between January 1 and November 14, 2025. Six weeks later, in early January, Reclaim Finance submitted a second freedom of information request to obtain the full dataset for the year 2025 (thus including the period from November 15 to December 31).

After numerous cordial exchanges with the services of the European Parliament, the institution released, on February 24, 2026, the data that had not yet been deleted. The European Parliament informed Reclaim Finance that records of lobbyists' entries and exits were kept for only four months before being permanently removed.

The Parliament published [two PDF documents](#): one covering the period from July 22 to November 14, and the other from November 15 to December 22. Merging these two files made it possible to observe monthly attendance figures. July (from 22/07 onward) contained 111 entries, August 139, September 5.410, October 5.167, November 6.714, and December 4.936.

Reclaim Finance chose not to include data from July and August, periods when MEPs are largely absent from Brussels and/or the Parliament is closed, and to begin the analysis with the return of parliamentary activity in Brussels on Monday, September 1. This decision led to the removal of 250 rows from the 22.468 provided by the European Parliament. The decision was also made to exclude Monday, December 22, when MEPs had already left for the end-of-year recess, resulting in the deletion of 3 additional rows.

Finally, 52 rows were removed, between September and December, due to the deactivation or suspension of the entity on the Transparency Register website (15 entities in total), according to the information available as of February 24, 2026.

The analyses concerning meetings were carried out using the meetings declared on the European Parliament's website, within the following timeframe: September 1, 2025 – December 18, 2025.

Reclaim Finance would like to thank the European Parliament's Transparency Unit for their time and the constructive exchanges that took place.

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