



**Council of the European Union**  
General Secretariat  
The Secretary-General

SGS 21 / 000424

Brussels,

05. 02. 2021

Ms Emily O'Reilly  
European Ombudsman  
Email: Registry@ombudsman.europa.eu

Dear Ms O'Reilly,

I refer to your letters of 18 June 2019 and 10 October 2019, concerning the transparency of meetings of the President of the European Council.

Since the new President of the European Council took up his functions on 1 December 2019, his calendar of activities has been regularly published and updated on the European Council website and his schedule is available to be consulted by any member of the public. The President of the European Council has adopted a code of conduct with clear transparency rules. This code is also available to the public on our webpage.

Concerning meetings with interest representatives, as you know, the European Council provides the Union with the necessary impetus for its development and defines the general political directions and priorities thereof. It does not exercise legislative or executive functions. Therefore lobbyists only target the European Council to a very limited extent, and contacts between the President of the European Council and lobbyists are very rare.

This being said, the President of course strives to achieve an appropriate balance and representativeness among the stakeholders that he may meet.

Regarding the interaction with interest representatives in general, agreement has just been reached on the Commission proposal for an Interinstitutional agreement on a Transparency register. The President will assess whether the result should inspire any changes in the practices of the European Council.

Yours sincerely

  
Jeppe TRANHOLM-MIKKELSEN