



It takes eight years to train a doctor. It takes approximately thirty days to elect an MEP. The IABP has an international reputation of providing transparent, learning through experience programmes conducted according to a Code of Ethics which guarantees the integrity of the process (see. [www.iabp.org](http://www.iabp.org) 'principles'). For the past thirty years it has been used by Parliaments as diverse as New Zealand, Finland, and the UK. The European Parliament invited the IABP - to establish the scheme as a means of helping to equip the institution to deal with the issues of the twenty first century.

This is not provided through the fifteen thousand lobbyists accredited to the parliament expressing the agendas of NGOs and business sectors.

The assertion of the Corporate Europe Observatory that the European Business and Parliament Scheme is using an office in the European Parliament for the benefit of multi-nationals, is as ill informed and inaccurate as the general comments of the organisation about the scheme.

The EBPS office in the Parliament has not been used since September. The Advisory Board of the scheme having been subjected to grossly inaccurate attacks have stepped down. Programmes for MEPs have been suspended, as is usual in any Parliament in the lead up to the election.

The current model forming the basis of the EBPS has been used for a range of sectors including the NGO sector, and armed forces and legal sectors in various countries and Parliaments as well as the business sector. But all concerned are agreed that this model is not appropriate in the case of the European Parliament where it is subject to these ill informed attacks.

Discussions are being held with all interested parties as the need remains. Mr Erik Wesselius of The Corporate Europe Observatory was invited to discuss with us how we could answer the concerns his organisation had expressed. An invitation that was not taken up.

Our objective as a not for profit organisation remains, whatever the Parliament or country, to provide a transparent mechanism which delivers learning experiences enabling Parliamentarian to come to their own informed understanding, enabling judgements for the public benefit.

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