

Scorecard

Responsible Lobbying Framework

About Responsible Lobbying Framework

COVERAGE OF COMPANIES

Global

LAUNCH DATE

2020

FOCUS

Responsible lobbying

LINK:

<https://www.responsible-lobbying.org/the-framework#>

Responsible Lobbying Framework Score

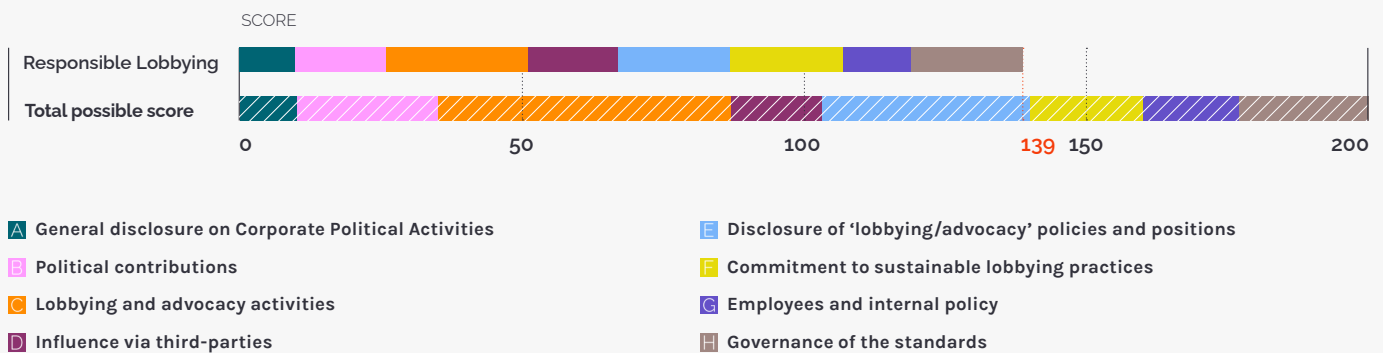


Rank 1 /27

Tracker Rank and Score for Responsible Lobbying

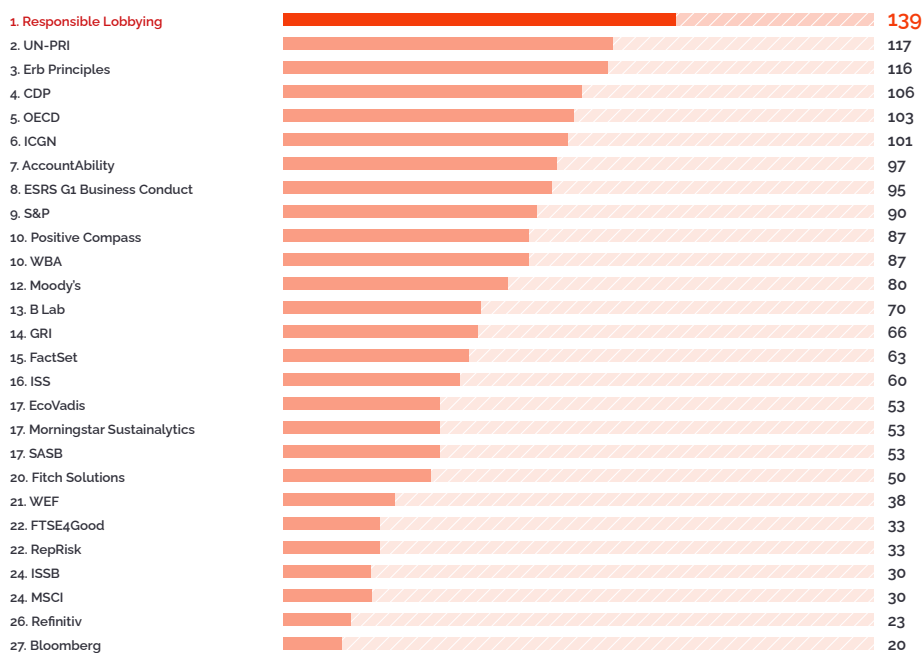
The score is out of a total of 200 and the rank describes the standards position in the 27 standards assessed by the Tracker.

Category scores of Responsible Lobbying Framework



*Categories where the standard received no points do not appear in the colour-coded graph

Rank and scores for all standards



Description

Launched in 2020, the Responsible Lobbying Framework was developed by a group of civil society actors to hold their corporate partners accountable during a thematic dialogue process. The specific terms of that dialogue remain confidential, but all parties agreed that the resulting Framework should have a wider use and provided a valuable tool to increase transparency and accountability.¹ The Framework, structured around five principles, was published and is designed to be used both as a set of globally applicable principles and standards, outlining what responsible lobbying would look like, and as an evaluation tool of a specific organisation's lobbying activities.

Score summary

The Responsible Lobbying Framework score changed from 106 to 139 reflecting new analysis and information on the methodology details in 2024. The Framework receives points in Tracker Category B on 'Political contributions' for requiring basic disclosures under principle one. The Framework addresses Tracker Category F, 'Commitment to sustainable lobbying practices.' It specifies that "responsible lobbying must consider the wider public interest, not only an organisation's needs narrowly defined." And clarifies that corporate political activities "should respect the interests and needs of people, communities and the environment. Organisations lobbying responsibly will be able to present a public interest case for their positions." Principle 2 of the Framework covers transparency, outlining expectations for full disclosure of the amount and nature of all direct and intermediary lobbying, paid or unpaid. These detailed explanations earn points in Tracker category.

With respect to oversight and governance of corporate political activities, the Responsible Lobbying Framework outlines expectations for companies to have controls over all lobbyists, in-house and intermediary, paid or unpaid, to ensure they understand and adhere to organisational policies" via codes of conduct, training and regular performance assessment. These expectations receive points in Tracker Category G 'Employees and internal policy.'

Unique among the standards assessed in the Tracker, the Responsible Lobbying Framework indicates expectations that "substantial public sanctions" be placed on corporate lobbyists who contravene company policies and codes of conduct. This is an interesting expectation and reflects the almost complete absence of regulatory or legal enforcement for contravening lobbying codes of conduct, in the small handful of countries where such guidelines exist. Finally, the Framework describes how company "boards should have clear oversight of lobbying policy positions, the lobbying processes and practices of the organisation itself, of intermediary lobbyists (paid or unpaid) and the lobbying activity of third-party organisations it is a member of."

Opportunities for improvement

The Responsible Lobbying Framework could be improved by adding additional granular expectations in a number of Tracker categories.

Endnotes

- 1 <https://www.responsible-lobbying.org/>

www.thegoodlobby.eu/initiatives/tracker
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