

representatives;

- In 64% of the Expert Groups being studied, business interests appear to be over-represented: industry representatives make up more than 50% of the non-Commission and non-government members;
- Only 32% of the Expert Groups sampled appear to have a more balanced allocation of stakeholders;
- One Expert Group (4%) was unbalanced in favour of NGOs.

The study recommends

The European Commission ought to reform the mechanisms by which it accesses expertise. It should ensure such mechanisms are both transparent and operate fairly. For the latter to be the case, different points of view must be balanced against one another where impartial scientific advice is sought in an atmosphere immune from corporate capture.

Taking the following steps in relation to the Expert Groups would be a long overdue move in this direction:

1. Disclosure of Expert Group membership and key documents;
2. Full transparency around the launch of new Expert Groups;
3. Open and fair processes around the application for and selection of membership;
4. Strong safeguards against privileged access and unbalanced composition of these groups;
5. Dissolution of all Expert Groups controlled by industry (or any other special interests);
6. A broad review on the composition of all Expert Groups by the Commission's Secretariat General.

The full study is available at:

[<http://www.alter-eu.org/en/system/files/publications/expertgroupsreport.pdf>-
><http://www.alter-eu.org/en/system/files/publications/expertgroupsreport.pdf>]

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