

The Recent Lobbying Act in Portugal: A Critical Analysis

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Abstract

This article analyses Law No. 5-A/2026 of 28 January, which establishes the first legal framework for interest representation in Portugal. Starting from a conceptual framework of lobbying and its relevance in contemporary democracies, the article examines the main legal provisions, including the scope of application, the entities covered, the regulated activities and the organisational consequences arising from this new legal regime. The methodology adopted is based on a theoretical framework that included a revision of the state of art, legislation and reports. The aim of this study focuses on an analysis of innovative regulatory instruments and their implications for economic operators, in particular the creation of the Register of Interest Representation (RTRI), highlighting its role in promoting transparency and monitoring interactions between interest representatives and public decision-makers. It also analyses the obligations imposed on both parties, as well as the oversight mechanisms and the envisaged sanctions regime. The potential impacts of the law on strengthening institutional integrity and public trust, whilst also identifying the main challenges associated with its implementation. The analysis provides an understanding of the extent to which this new legal framework brings Portugal closer to international best practice in the regulation of lobbying.

Keywords: lobbying, regulation, sanctions, transparency register

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