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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(28.9.2026)

Public consultations are a key tool for fostering citizen engagement in EU policymaking. The Commission actively encourages public participation in its consultation processes.

Campaigns are identified, documented, and transparently reported in both the factual summary report and the synopsis report linked to the impact assessment. This reporting includes the number and type of respondents associated with the campaign, and a summary of their key arguments.

Public consultations are one of the consultation activities conducted as part of an impact assessment, designed to gather diverse regulatory perspectives for nuanced policy analysis and inform evidence-based policymaking. The Commission ensures that EU policies remain grounded in evidence, including through structured consultation processes.

The Commission is strongly committed to complying with Article 5.3 of the World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)¹ and follows the guidelines on transparency for its implementation. It uses the Transparency Register established by the Interinstitutional Agreement of 20 May 2021² as its key tool for enhancing transparency concerning interest representation.

¹ <https://fctc.who.int/convention>.

² http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_interinstit/2021/611/oj.