



Brussels, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014

RE: ALTER-EU Proposals for written questions for Commissioners-designate questionnaires

Dear Politics for People MEP,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Alliance for Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Regulation (*ALTER-EU*), organiser of the Politics for People pledge campaign which you supported earlier this year. As you will remember, the Politics for People campaign asked MEPs to commit to “stand up for citizens and democracy against the excessive lobbying influence of banks and big business”.

We are aware that MEPs, via parliamentary committees, will shortly start to interview the commissioners-designate. We understand that each committee has the opportunity to suggest a few written questions to the proposed commissioners in advance of the hearings.

As a result, ALTER-EU would like to take this opportunity to propose a few questions for you to consider for written submission. These questions are designed to ascertain the commissioner candidates' views on issues such as lobby transparency and corporate influence on European decision-making.

*Priority question 1 (for all commissioners)*

*Will you ensure that neither you nor or any of your DG staff meet with any lobbyist or lobbying organisation unless they are a member of the EU's lobby transparency register? Will you also commit to not attending any event organised by a non-registered lobby organisation?*

*Priority question 2 (for all commissioners)*

*What new steps will you take to ensure that any industry-dominated expert groups within your DG are reformed so that consumer groups, trade unions, academics and NGOs have an equal or even greater role in comparison to industry interests?*

*Optional question 3 (for all commissioners)*

*How will you make sure that the principle of proactive lobby transparency is implemented within your DG? Will you introduce measures such as publishing online and in real-time a list of all external lobby actors which meet with you and your DG staff?*

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As the commissioner for transparency matters (currently Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič) will have a particularly important role to play in the Juncker commission, we propose an additional and specific question to the new transparency commissioner:

*What concrete steps will you take to implement Jean-Claude Juncker's promise to establish a mandatory EU lobby transparency register?*

We hope these suggestions are useful. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require further information.

We will write to you again in advance of the commissioner-designate hearings to suggest some additional and specific questions.

We are writing in similar terms to all Politics for People MEPs and the chairs of the parliamentary committees.

Yours sincerely,

Nicola Freeman,

on behalf of the ALTER-EU Steering Committee