

Questions from ALTER-EU for Politics for People MEPs for the commissioner-designate hearings

Questions for Vytenis Andriukaitis

Portfolio: Health and food safety

Tobacco lobbying

Background information:

<http://corporateeurope.org/lobbycracy/2013/01/health-and-transparency-ngos-demand-commission-implements-un-tobacco-lobbying>

The World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) Article 5.3 is geared towards safeguarding public health policy-making from tobacco industry interference. The accompanying guidelines stipulate that all decision-makers “should interact with the tobacco industry only when and to the extent strictly necessary to enable them to effectively regulate the tobacco industry and tobacco products.” The guidelines state that “where interactions with the tobacco industry are necessary, Parties should ensure that such interactions are conducted transparently”. Will you, as commissioner, implement an immediate ban on all Commission contacts with the tobacco industry unless there are exceptional circumstances, in line with article 5.3?

EFSA

Background information: <http://corporateeurope.org/efsa/2013/10/unhappy-meal-european-food-safety-authoritys-independence-problem>

The European Food Safety Authority is a crucial institution to protect public health, however its independence policy has been repeatedly shown to not be up to the job. An October 2013 investigation ("Unhappy Meal", by Corporate Europe Observatory and Stéphane Horel) found that nearly 59 per cent of scientists on the agency's panels had direct or indirect ties to commercial companies falling under the agency's remit. The European Parliament voted in plenary last April a resolution demanding the agency to ban scientists with conflicts of interest with industry, by imposing "a two-year cooling-off period to all material interests related to the commercial agrifood sector", a simple, effective measure which would solve the problem. However, EFSA's new independence policy (from last July 31st) simply ignores this demand. The former commissioner in charge of food safety always denied the problem. Will you ask EFSA to at last strengthen its independence policy for good and stop ruining the EU's reputation?

Committees

Background information:

<http://corporateeurope.org/expert-groups/2014/09/chemical-conflicts-inadequate-independence-policies-eus-expert-risk-assessors>

The committees on consumer safety; health and environmental risks; and on emerging and newly identified health risks fall under your responsibility. The scientific advice of these committees must be based on the principles of independence, excellence and transparency. A recent analysis found that there are severe problems with conflict of interests in the committees. How will you reform the committee's rules of procedure to ensure independence from commercial interests, and what should be done to attract more independent scientists?

Lobby transparency

Jean-Claude Juncker has asked all commissioners to publish on-line all the contacts and meetings held with professional organisations or self-employed individuals on any matter relating to EU policy-making and implementation. Will you extend this commitment to cover all the meetings held by your DG staff and will you make sure that this information is published on a monthly basis?

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?

Questions for Andrus Ansip

Portfolio: Vice-president for the digital single market

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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?

How will you ensure that all ongoing forms of organised stakeholder dialogue are officially labelled Expert Groups and are placed within the register for the public to see?

Questions for Dimitris Avramopoulos

Portfolio: Migration and home affairs

Jean-Claude Juncker has asked all commissioners to publish on-line all the contacts and meetings held with professional organisations or self-employed individuals on any matter relating to EU policy-making and implementation. Will you extend this commitment to cover all the meetings held by your DG staff and will you make sure that this information is published on a monthly basis?

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Questions for Elzbieta Bienkowska

Portfolio: Internal market, industry, entrepreneurship and SMEs

Expert Groups

Background info:

[http://www.alter-eu.org/sites/default/files/documents/ALTER-](http://www.alter-eu.org/sites/default/files/documents/ALTER-EU.NoteforMEPs.Expertgroups.pdf)

[EU.NoteforMEPs.Expertgroups.pdf](http://www.alter-eu.org/sites/default/files/documents/ALTER-EU.NoteforMEPs.Expertgroups.pdf)

<http://www.alter-eu.org/documents/2014/09-5>

The committees on consumer safety; health and environmental risks; and on emerging and newly identified health risks fall under your responsibility. The scientific advice of these committees must be based on the principles of independence, excellence and transparency. A recent analysis found that there are severe problems with conflict of interests in the committees. How will you reform the committee's rules of procedure to ensure independence from commercial interests, and what should be done to attract more independent scientists?

How will you ensure that the Expert Groups under your remit meet the four conditions outlined by a cross-party group of MEPs via an amendment to the 2015 draft Commission budget? These conditions were no corporate dominance, no lobbyists in a personal capacity, public calls for application with clear selection criteria, and full transparency. While the commitment to the principles outlined by MEPs is exemplary, but to date the means with which to achieve them (an open door policy) have not succeeded. In particular, the low levels of civil society representation remains problematic. These principles should cover all existing groups as well as new ones.

Lobby transparency

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Questions for Alenka Bratušek

Portfolio: Vice-president for the energy union

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Questions for Miguel Arias Cañete
Portfolio: Climate action and energy

Career background

Background information:

<http://corporateeurope.org/power-lobbies/2014/09/many-business-dealings-commissioner-designate-miguel-arias-canete>

<https://www.foeeurope.org/Canete-conflicts-interests-continue-concern-230914>

Until recently you owned shares in two petroleum-related companies, Petrolífera Dúcar and Petrologis Canarias. Two of your family members hold important positions in the same two companies, and members of your family continue to hold a significant part of the shares in both companies:

You announced that you have sold your shares in the petroleum companies. Did you sell them on the stock market or to individual persons, and if the latter, to whom did you sell the shares?

Please explain your personal connection to Havorad BV, the company that is the largest shareholder in Petrolífera Dúcar and Petrologis Canarias and which was the largest shareholder when you acted as chairman of the two companies. Are you, or have you been in the past a beneficial owner, director, administrator, partner or shareholder of Havorad BV? How exactly were you related to Havorad BV in the past and how are you currently related to it? What exactly are your family (including in-laws) connections to Havorad BV?

Spanish public prosecutors have stated that Havorad BV is a shell company. You refused to answer questions about your involvement in companies that use tax havens and secrecy jurisdictions during the election campaign for the European Parliament. You said that you that you would consider answering those questions about after the elections, but haven't made any public statements since. Have you held shares or an official position in a company that is registered in a secrecy jurisdiction, such the Dutch Antilles, Panama or Costa Rica? Can you clarify your links to the company Angelmo International, which has been linked to a tax fraud scheme? Is it correct that you partly represented the Angelmo International in Spain during the time the tax avoidance scheme was carried out?

How is it credible that you can take decisions on Europe's energy and climate policy without a conflict of interest when your family is invested in two energy-related companies? How will you ensure that no conflicts of interest arise when you deal with decisions affecting the oil sector?

How will you deal with lobbyists that represent the oil sector given your own past in, and your current family ties to, the sector? What concrete steps will you take to ensure that your public mandate and private interests do not conflict?

A company registered in your wife's name, Agricola Micaela Domecq SL, is a recipient of significant payments from the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). So are several other companies, which are owned by close relatives of yours. How will you deal with decisions in the college of commissioners that affect the CAP and other decisions that could financially affect the agricultural interest of your family? Will you recuse yourself from decisions that could affect the CAP?

Given your repeated failings in the past to fully declare your and your family's financial interests, what additional steps will you take to fully disclose all financial interests, including your family's?

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Questions for Corina Cretu

Portfolio: Regional policy

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Questions for Valdis Dombrovskis

Portfolio: Vice-president for the euro and social dialogue

Political background

Background information:

<http://corporateeurope.org/revolving-doors/2014/09/more-prospective-commissioners-questions-answer>

What do you understand is meant by a 'conflict of interest'?

You are under investigation in Latvia relating to a possible conflict of interest relating to the business interests of your wife and the husband of your former legal advisor. How do you respond to these allegations?

How will you ensure that your time as commissioner is free from scandal and free from conflicts of interest?

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Questions for Kristalina Georgieva

Portfolio: Vice-president for budget and human resources

Expert Groups

Background information:

<http://www.alter-eu.org/sites/default/files/documents/ALTER-EU.NoteforMEPs.Expertgroups.pdf>

<http://www.alter-eu.org/documents/2014/09-5>

<http://www.alter-eu.org/documents/2014/09-4>

How will you ensure that the European Commission reforms its Expert Groups and introduces the findings by the ongoing European Ombudsman's investigation, as outlined in the budget amendment for 2015 proposed by a cross-party group of MEPs?

How will you ensure that DG AGRI structures its Expert Group meetings in the interest of all stakeholders and not in a way that indirectly cross-subsidises the coordination efforts of European members, as some civil society groups have pointed out to the European Ombudsman as part of her investigation?

How will you ensure that the European Ombudsman investigation looking specifically at DG AGRI Expert Groups is respected and its findings are implemented?

Revolving doors and commissioners

Background information:

<http://www.alter-eu.org/documents/2014/01/barroso-letter-on-revolving-doors>

Do you agree that if departing commissioners are entitled to a very generous transitional allowance for three years that they should also be banned from taking up lobby jobs for the same period? Will you work with your commissioner colleagues to change the code of conduct for commissioners accordingly?

Commissioner Šefčovič has previously promised that there will be online transparency about any future revolving door moves by departing commissioners which are to be assessed by the commission. Will you ensure that this happens in real-time (ie. that a commissioner's application is immediately placed on-line as soon as it is received) so as to ensure full openness and accountability to the public?

Do you agree that the only way to ensure that there is full public confidence in the process of assessing former commissioners' proposed revolving door moves is to introduce a fully independent committee to analyse the applications? Will you replace the current ad hoc ethics committee with a fully independent body of ethics experts from the EU member states?

Revolving doors and commission staff

Background information:

<http://www.alter-eu.org/revolving-doors/>

<http://corporateeurope.org/pressreleases/2014/09/european-ombudsman-demands-far-reaching-changes-commissions-handling-revolving>

Will you implement all 16 of the European Ombudsman's recent recommendations and suggestions to improve the handling of the Commission's revolving doors cases? (See here: <http://corporateeurope.org/pressreleases/2014/09/european-ombudsman-demands-far-reaching-changes-commissions-handling-revolving>)

The current EU Staff Regulations implements a one-year ban on lobbying for top EU officials who leave office. For senior officials with decades of experience in the EU institutions one year is not very long to prevent the risk of conflicts of interest from arising. Will you extend the lobby ban for very senior departing EU staff to three years and introduce a shorter lobby ban of two years on less senior officials?

The Commission has no commonly-agreed definition of 'conflicts of interest'. Will you implement a review of the Commission's thinking and practice in the area of conflicts of interest?

Lobby transparency

Jean-Claude Juncker has asked all commissioners to publish on-line all the contacts and meetings held with professional organisations or self-employed individuals on any matter relating to EU policy-making and implementation. Will you extend this commitment to cover all the meetings held by your DG staff and will you make sure that this information is published on a monthly basis?

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Questions for Johannes Hahn

Portfolio: Neighbourhood policy and enlargement

Jean-Claude Juncker has asked all commissioners to publish on-line all the contacts and meetings held with professional organisations or self-employed individuals on any matter relating to EU policy-making and implementation. Will you extend this commitment to cover all the meetings held by your DG staff and will you make sure that this information is published on a monthly basis?

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or even greater role in comparison to industry interests?

Questions for Jonathan Hill

Portfolio: Financial services

Career background

Background information:

<http://corporateeurope.org/revolving-doors/2014/07/uk-prime-minister-david-cameron-nominates-revolving-door-ex-lobbyist-eu>

<http://corporateeurope.org/revolving-doors/2014/07/uk-prime-minister-david-cameron-nominates-revolving-door-ex-lobbyist-eu>

<http://corporateeurope.org/financial-lobby/2014/09/necessary-uphill-battle>

You have been a government minister in the UK for the past four years yet you held onto your public relations company shares for all of this time. You have also had a long career in the public relations/ lobby industry yourself. Why did you not sell your shares once you became a minister? Didn't those shares and your lobby industry background create any conflicts of interest?

Considering your background in the lobby and public affairs industry, what specific steps will you take to ensure that you are not seen as a lobby industry insider within the European commission? Will you uphold the rules and principles of lobbying transparency?

Until very recently you had a major shareholding in Huntsworth plc which is the parent company of Grayling, one of the biggest lobby firms operating in Brussels. You also co-founded Quiller Consultants whose UK client list includes HSBC and the City of London Corporation. So as to avoid the appearance that you are doing favours in support of these lobby firms and their clients, will you ensure that you have no contact with Huntsworth, Grayling, Quiller and any of its clients in either a professional or private capacity whilst you are commissioner?

Finance lobby

Background information:

<http://corporateeurope.org/financial-lobby/2014/04/fire-power-financial-lobby>

<http://corporateeurope.org/financial-lobby/2014/09/necessary-uphill-battle>

Brussels is the biggest lobbying capital in the world second only to Washington DC. Recent research shows that the finance industry spends €120 million per year on lobbying in Brussels and employs more than 1700 lobbyists. The financial industry outnumbers civil-society organisations and trade unions by a factor of more than seven. What action will you take to ensure that the finance industry no longer outnumbers NGOs, trade unions and other public interest groups when lobbying your DG?

DG Internal Market recently released a list of meetings with banking lobbyists, showing that more than 400 such meetings happened with 15 months. What will you do to curb the excessive influence of banking sector lobbyists over decisions being made in your DG?

Jean-Claude Juncker has asked all commissioners to publish on-line all the contacts and meetings held with professional organisations or self-employed individuals on any matter relating to EU policy-making and implementation. To allow additional public scrutiny, will you ensure that full lists of meetings between all your DG officials and lobbyists will be published online?

Expert Groups

Background information:

<http://corporateeurope.org/expert-groups/2014/05/crooked-counsel-how-law-breaking-corporations-are-advising-european-commission>

How will you ensure that the European Supervisory Authority stakeholder groups (ESMA, EBA, EIOPA), intended to oversee the reform of the financial system, are not dominated by the very same financial institutions implicated in the economic crisis? And how will you ensure that adequate rules and oversight exist over the ESA groups in order for them to fulfil their public interest duty, for example including them within the Register for Expert Groups and Other Similar Entities, or at least ensuring they follow the same rules?

Many financial corporations that have been found to have broken member-state and/or EU law before, during and since the financial crisis continue to serve in many of the bodies that advise the European Commission and its regulatory bodies such as the European Supervisory Authority, damaging the reputation of the European Union and its ability to regulate its financial services and markets. How will you ensure that these corporations are not allowed to assume such a role, and are instead adequately punished, while also introducing rules to protect the future reputation and regulating powers of the Commission from such scandals

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?

Lobby transparency

Will you ensure that neither you nor 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?

Questions for Phil Hogan

Portfolio: Agriculture and rural development

Expert Groups

Background info:

<http://www.alter-eu.org/sites/default/files/documents/ALTER-EU.NoteforMEPs.Expertgroups.pdf>

<http://www.alter-eu.org/documents/2014/09-5>

<http://www.alter-eu.org/documents/2014/09-4>

How will you ensure that a) DG AGRI's recently formed Civil Dialogue groups (known also as Expert Groups) meet the four conditions outlined by a cross-party group of MEPs via an amendment to the 2015 draft Commission budget? These conditions were no corporate dominance, no lobbyists in a personal capacity, public calls for application with clear selection criteria, and full transparency.

How will you ensure that DG AGRI structures its Expert Group meetings in the interest of all stakeholders and not in a way that indirectly cross-subsidises the coordination efforts of European members, as some civil society groups have pointed out to the European Ombudsman as part of her investigation?

How will you ensure that DG AGRI implements the findings of the European Ombudsman's own initiative inquiry into the Directorate's Expert Groups?

Lobby transparency

Jean-Claude Juncker has asked all commissioners to publish on-line all the contacts and meetings held with professional organisations or self-employed individuals on any matter relating to EU policy-making and implementation. Will you extend this commitment to cover all the meetings held by your DG staff and will you make sure that this information is published on a monthly basis?

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Questions for Vera Jourová

Portfolio: Justice, consumers and gender equality

Political background

Background information:

<http://corporateeurope.org/revolving-doors/2014/09/more-prospective-commissioners-questions-answer>

You are a senior member of the ANO political movement and a close associate of Andrej Babiš. The European Voice has described Babiš as “a man whose business interests amount to the biggest conflict of interest in the [Czech Republic's] post-1989 history”. How will you ensure that you are fully independent from the Babiš business empire?

One of your political movement's slogans is “run the state like a business”. Yet, the commissioner for consumer affairs needs to stand-up for the public interest and be a champion of EU citizens' rights. How will you reconcile these positions?

How will you ensure that as commissioner you are not involved in any decisions which could benefit Andrej Babiš' numerous business interests?

Will you refuse to meet with, in either a public or private capacity, any representative or lobbyist working on behalf of any part of the Babiš business empire?

Expert Groups and committees

Background information:

<http://corporateeurope.org/expert-groups/2014/09/chemical-conflicts-inadequate-independence-policies-eus-expert-risk-assessors>

The committees on consumer safety; health and environmental risks; and on emerging and newly identified health risks fall under your responsibility. The scientific advice of these committees must be based on the principles of independence, excellence and transparency. A recent analysis found that there are severe problems with conflict of interests in the committees. How will you reform the committee's rules of procedure to ensure independence from commercial interests, and what should be done to attract more independent scientists?

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Questions for Jyrki Katainen

Portfolio: Vice-president for jobs, growth, investment and competitiveness

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Questions for Cecilia Malmström

Portfolio: Trade

EU-US trade talks/ TTIP

Background information:

<http://www.foeeurope.org/eu-us-trade-people-have-right-to-know-190514>

<http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/en/press/release.faces/en/54636/html.bookmark>

<http://corporateeurope.org/international-trade/2014/07/who-lobbies-most-ttip>

There is much public concern about the lack of commission transparency regarding the ongoing TTIP negotiations. Do you agree that citizens have the right to know what is being put on the table on their behalf and how this is being negotiated? As commissioner for trade will you ensure that the negotiating mandate, all documents submitted by the EU during the negotiations, and the negotiating texts themselves are immediately published online?

Recently the European Ombudsman has urged the European Commission and the Council to "to step up their proactive transparency policy" for the TTIP negotiations following a call from more than 250 civil society organisations on the issue. Will you follow the European Ombudsman's recommendations for more openness and transparency in the EU-US trade negotiations and if so, which concrete steps are you going to take in this regard? Will you ensure that lists of meetings between DG Trade officials and lobbyists will be published online?

Research by civil society groups have revealed a serious imbalance in the Commission's

consultations with stakeholders in the preparations for the TTIP negotiations, with more than 90 per cent of the meetings being with industry whereas trade unions and environmental NGOs were hardly consulted in the crucial phase before the negotiations were launched. This undoubtedly negatively influenced the EU's negotiating positions for the TTIP talks. What will you do to ensure a far more balanced consultation process?

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Questions for Neven Mimica

Portfolio: International co-operation and development

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Questions for Carlos Moedas

Portfolio: Research, science and innovation

Career background

Background information:

<http://corporateeurope.org/revolving-doors/2014/09/more-prospective-commissioners-questions-answer>

You have had a recent and dedicated career in the private sector. How will you ensure that EU research funds are steered towards public sector interests?

How will you ensure that your time as commissioner is free from possible conflicts of interest?

Will you refuse to meet, in either a public or private capacity, with any company (or their representatives) with which you have had recent financial links?

Will you ensure that you do not take any decision as commissioner which will benefit your recent private interests or those of your family?

Brussels is the biggest lobbying capital in the world second only to Washington DC. Considering your recent career background in the private sector, what specific steps will you take to ensure that you are not seen as a private industry insider within the European commission?

Expert Groups

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Questions for Federica Mogherini

Portfolio: High representative for foreign policy

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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?

Questions for Pierre Moscovici

Portfolio: Economic and financial affairs, taxation and customs union

Expert Groups

Background info:

<http://www.alter-eu.org/sites/default/files/documents/ALTER->

[EU.NoteforMEPs.Expertgroups.pdf](http://www.alter-eu.org/sites/default/files/documents/ALTER-EU.NoteforMEPs.Expertgroups.pdf)

<http://www.alter-eu.org/documents/2014/09-5>

How will you ensure that the Expert Groups under your remit meet the four conditions outlined by a cross-party group of MEPs via an amendment to the 2015 draft Commission budget? These conditions were no corporate dominance, no lobbyists in a personal capacity, public calls for application with clear selection criteria, and full transparency. In particular, the low levels of civil society representation are problematic, while individuals clearly representing industry are still appointed in a personal capacity. This should cover all existing groups as well as new ones.

Lobby transparency

Jean-Claude Juncker has asked all commissioners to publish on-line all the contacts and meetings held with professional organisations or self-employed individuals on any matter relating to EU policy-making and implementation. Will you extend this commitment to cover all the meetings held by your DG staff and will you make sure that this information is published on a monthly basis?

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?

Questions for Tibor Navracsics

Portfolio: Education, culture, youth and citizenship

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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?

Questions for Günther Oettinger

Portfolio: Digital economy

How will you ensure that public information is re-used freely by members of the public and not covered by copyright restrictions?

How will you ensure that data produced by the EU institutions is published in open-source formats so that citizens don't need to buy proprietary software to access EU information?

Jean-Claude Juncker has asked all commissioners to publish on-line all the contacts and meetings held with professional organisations or self-employed individuals on any matter relating to EU policy-making and implementation. Will you extend this commitment to cover all the meetings held by your DG staff and will you make sure that this information is published on a monthly basis?

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Questions for Maroš Šefcovic **Portfolio: Transport and space**

Jean-Claude Juncker has asked all commissioners to publish on-line all the contacts and meetings held with professional organisations or self-employed individuals on any matter relating to EU policy-making and implementation. Will you extend this commitment to cover all the meetings held by your DG staff and will you make sure that this information is published on a monthly basis?

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?

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?

Questions for Christos Stylianides **Portfolio: Humanitarian aid and crisis management**

Jean-Claude Juncker has asked all commissioners to publish on-line all the contacts and meetings held with professional organisations or self-employed individuals on any matter relating to EU policy-making and implementation. Will you extend this commitment to cover all the meetings held by your DG staff and will you make sure that this information is published on a monthly basis?

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?

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?

Questions for Marianne Thyssen

Portfolio: Employment, social affairs, skills and labour mobility

Jean-Claude Juncker has asked all commissioners to publish on-line all the contacts and meetings held with professional organisations or self-employed individuals on any matter relating to EU policy-making and implementation. Will you extend this commitment to cover all the meetings held by your DG staff and will you make sure that this information is published on a monthly basis?

Will you ensure that neither you nor 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?

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?

Questions for Frans Timmermans

Portfolio: Vice-president for better regulation

Lobby transparency

Background information:

<http://www.alter-eu.org/taxonomy/term/23>

Jean-Claude Juncker has committed himself to introducing a proposal for a mandatory lobby register to cover the Commission, Parliament and European Council. What concrete steps will you take to progress and implement this mandatory EU lobby transparency register?

Jean-Claude Juncker has committed himself to introducing a proposal for a mandatory lobby register to cover the Commission, Parliament and European Council. The European Council is not part of the existing voluntary lobby register. How will you persuade the European Council to join the future mandatory EU lobby register?

Will you ensure that in the interim, before a mandatory lobby register is introduced, the next review of the Transparency Register results in more comprehensive disclosure requirements, to ensure that citizens have access to reliable and up-to-date data about who is lobbying to influence EU decision-making, on whose behalf, on which issues and with what budgets?

Before a mandatory lobby register can become a reality will you take other actions to boost lobby transparency? These could include ensuring that the Commission refuses to meet unregistered lobbyists; that unregistered lobbyists do not sit on expert groups; that Commission decision-makers do not speak at events organised by unregistered lobbyists; and that unregistered lobbyists cannot hold events in Commission buildings?

Is it acceptable that many law firms operate in Brussels and offer lobbying services but have not signed up to the EU lobby register? How will you ensure that these law firms join?

What will you do to ensure that the EU's decision-making processes, including the dialogues, are made open and transparent to the public?

Proactive transparency

Jean-Claude Juncker has asked all commissioners to publish on-line all the contacts and meetings held with professional organisations or self-employed individuals on any matter relating to EU policy-making and implementation. Will you extend this commitment to cover all the meetings held by all DG staff across the Commission, including in your own DG, and will you make sure that this information is published on a monthly basis?

What further proactive transparency measures will you enact to ensure that Commissioner's expenses are published, that all Commission meetings with third parties are transparent, and that the legislative process is open to public scrutiny?

Tobacco lobbying

Background information:

<http://corporateeurope.org/lobbycracy/2013/01/health-and-transparency-ngos-demand-commission-implements-un-tobacco-lobbying>

The World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) Article 5.3 is geared towards safeguarding public health policy-making from tobacco industry interference. The accompanying guidelines stipulate that all decision-makers "should interact with the tobacco industry only when and to the extent strictly necessary to enable them to effectively regulate the tobacco industry and tobacco products." The guidelines state that "where interactions with the tobacco industry are necessary, Parties should ensure that such interactions are conducted transparently". Will you, as commissioner, implement an immediate ban on all Commission contacts with the tobacco industry unless there are exceptional circumstances, in line with article 5.3?

EU-US trade talks/ TTIP

Background information:

<http://www.foeeurope.org/eu-us-trade-people-have-right-to-know-190514>

<http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/en/press/release.faces/en/54636/html.bookmark>

<http://corporateeurope.org/international-trade/2014/07/who-lobbies-most-ttip>

There is much public concern about the lack of Commission transparency regarding the ongoing TTIP negotiations. Do you agree that citizens have the right to know what is being put on the table on their behalf and how this is being negotiated? As commissioner with overall responsibility for transparency issues across the Commission, will you work with DG Trade to ensure that the negotiating mandate, all documents submitted by the EU during the negotiations, and the negotiating texts themselves are immediately published online?

Recently the European Ombudsman has urged the Commission and the Council to "to step up their proactive transparency policy" for the TTIP negotiations following a call from more than 250 civil society organisations on the issue. Will you follow the Ombudsman's recommendations for more openness and transparency in the EU-US trade negotiations and if so, which concrete steps are you going to take in this regard?

Revolving doors and commissioners

Background information:

<http://www.alter-eu.org/documents/2014/01/barroso-letter-on-revolving-doors>

Do you agree that if departing commissioners are entitled to a very generous transitional allowance for three years that they should also be banned from taking up lobby jobs for the same period? Will you work with your commissioner colleagues to change the code of conduct for commissioners accordingly?

Commissioner Šefčovič has previously promised that there will be online transparency about any future revolving door moves by departing commissioners which are to be assessed by the commission. Will you ensure that this happens in real-time (ie. that a commissioner's application is immediately placed on-line as soon as it is received) so as to ensure full openness and accountability to the public?

Do you agree that the only way to ensure that there is full public confidence in the process of assessing former commissioners' proposed revolving door moves is to introduce a fully independent committee to analyse the applications? Will you replace the current ad hoc ethics committee with a fully independent body of ethics experts from the EU member states?

Revolving doors and commission staff

Background information:

<http://www.alter-eu.org/revolving-doors/>

<http://corporateeurope.org/pressreleases/2014/09/european-ombudsman-demands-far-reaching-changes-commissions-handling-revolving>

Will you implement all 16 of the European Ombudsman's recent recommendations and suggestions to improve the handling of the Commission's revolving doors cases? (See here: <http://corporateeurope.org/pressreleases/2014/09/european-ombudsman-demands-far-reaching-changes-commissions-handling-revolving>)

The current EU Staff Regulations implements a one-year ban on lobbying for top EU officials who leave office. For senior officials with decades of experience in the EU institutions one year is not very long to prevent the risk of conflicts of interest from arising. Will you extend the lobby ban for very senior departing EU staff to three years and introduce a shorter lobby ban of two years on less senior officials?

The commission has no commonly-agreed definition of 'conflicts of interest'. Will you implement a review of the Commission's thinking and practice in the area of conflicts of interest?

Expert groups

Background information:

<http://www.alter-eu.org/sites/default/files/documents/ALTER-EU.NoteforMEPs.Expertgroups.pdf>

<http://www.alter-eu.org/documents/2014/09-5>

How will you ensure that a horizontal review of expert group rules will take place in 2015, incorporating the European Ombudsman's recommendations?

How will you ensure that the Commission enacts all four conditions tabled by the European Parliament as an amendment to the 2015 budget, with proposed reserve of €3.9 million? These conditions were no corporate dominance, no lobbyists in a personal capacity, public calls for application with clear selection criteria, and full transparency.

How will you ensure that law-breaking corporations who currently sit within expert groups are adequately dealt with in order to protect the reputation and regulatory abilities of the European Commission, for example by temporarily banning them from groups and adding them to a revamped black-list that applies across all Commission departments? (for more information see <http://corporateeurope.org/expert-groups/2014/05/crooked-counsel-how-law-breaking-corporations-are-advising-european-commission>)

Better regulation

Will you commit to ensure that the pursuit of the “Better Regulation”/”Smart Regulation” agenda is not used to weaken existing standards and/or prevent new public interest regulatory initiatives, under the guise of promoting higher competitiveness and reducing red-tape?

Questions for Karmenu Vella

Portfolio: Environment, maritime affairs and fisheries

Career background

Background information:

<http://corporateeurope.org/revolving-doors/2014/09/dont-bet-commissioner-case-karmenu-vella-malta>

In recent years, whilst an MP in Malta, you have declared substantial private interests which include serving as a non-executive director on several Betfair boards and as chairman of the Orange Travel Group. So as to avoid the appearance that you are doing favours in support of companies and private organisations with which you have recently had private interests, will you ensure that you have no professional or private contacts with any of these companies, or their representatives, while you are commissioner?

Considering your recent directorships at the Betfair Group Ltd and in the tourism industry, as commissioner will you refuse all professional or private contacts with the gambling and tourism industries?

Brussels is the biggest lobbying capital in the world second only to Washington DC.

Considering your recent directorships with several private companies, what specific steps will you take to ensure that you are not seen as a private industry insider within the European commission?

Lobby transparency

Jean-Claude Juncker has asked all commissioners to publish on-line all the contacts and meetings held with professional organisations or self-employed individuals on any matter relating to EU policy-making and implementation. Will you extend this commitment to cover all the meetings held by your DG staff and will you make sure that this information is published on a monthly basis?

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?

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?

Questions for Margrethe Vestager

Portfolio: Competition

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