



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Cabinet of Vice-President Šefčovič

Head of Cabinet

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MR OLIVIER HOEDEMAN  
CORPORATE EUROPE OBSERVATORY  
MUNDO B  
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1050 BRUSSELS

**Subject: Transparency on revolving doors**

Dear Mr Hoedeman,

Commissioner Šefčovič has asked me to thank you for your letter of 12 September and to reply on his behalf.

First of all, let me stress that the Commission fully understands the mission and work of Corporate Europe Observatory and the interest you take in the treatment of authorisations for former Commission staff who intend to undertake an activity.

Nevertheless, I would like to point out that the Commission already ensures far-reaching transparency in the application of Article 16 of the Staff Regulations. As you know, there is a clear system for seeking approval under Article 16 for activities which take place during the two years after leaving the Commission and I believe that the transparency rules are respected in this domain. In the rare cases when it is found that approval has not been sought, the Commission has at its disposal appropriate means of enquiry, and if justified, legal sanctions.

Cases in other institutions or agencies, however, do not fall under the primary responsibility of the Commission, but have to be managed by these institutions and their governing bodies.

As you point out, any interested citizen can request information on an individual case under the Access to Documents Regulation N° 1049/2001<sup>1</sup> and receive the relevant papers once appropriate checks have been made to respect data protection. With regard to your suggestion to have an on-line list of all cases of professional activities of persons

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents

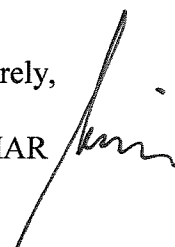
who left the Commission, I take note of the UK on-line list as an example, but I also take note that this list seems to apply to only the very highest rank of officials and not to all staff.

You ask for a public list which would not need to include dates of birth, personal addresses or other contact details. However, names and first names are also considered as personal data. In this respect the provisions of Regulations No 1049/2001 and No 45/2001<sup>2</sup> must be taken into account as the legal bases, and the protection of privacy and integrity of the individual linked to the protection of the personal data (and not only sensitive personal data) must be observed.

The Commission attaches great importance to the respect of Article 16 of the Staff Regulations and will carry out any review of its internal procedures in this regard with great care.

Yours sincerely,

Juraj NOCIAR



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<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data