



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT INTERGROUP
INTEGRITY, TRANSPARENCY
CORRUPTION AND ORGANISED CRIME

Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker
President of the European Commission

Brussels, 15 July 2016,

Dear Mr. President,

We write to you as Members of the European Parliament's Intergroup on Integrity Transparency, Corruption and Organised Crime in view of the recent announcement that Mr. José Manuel Barroso, former President of the European Commission, has been appointed as chairman and a senior adviser at the international arm of the American investment bank Goldman Sachs.

In our previous letter, sent in November 2014, we asked you to extend the notification period for former commissioners from 1.5 to 3 years. Secondly, we asked you to extend the lobbying ban to 3 years. Thirdly, we asked you to replace the ad hoc ethical committee with a professional and fully independent ethics committee. The recommendations from the Ombudsman to proactively publicise decisions on post term-of-office activities of former Commissioners, as well as opinions of the ad hoc ethical committee. We regret that today, none of our questions have been dealt with in a satisfactory way.

The recent example of Mr. Barroso illustrates once again the necessity of a revision of the revolving-doors rules. Mr. Barroso has not infringed any revolving door rules from the European Commission. However, we believe that this move from Mr. Barroso to Goldman Sachs, after presiding the European Commission for two terms, during which important banking regulation was enacted by EU institutions, damages the reputation of the European Commission and threatens the credibility of the EU as a whole among EU citizens.

Article 245 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU states that European commissioners must "respect the obligations arising therefrom and in particular their duty to behave with integrity and discretion as regards the acceptance, after they have ceased to hold office, of certain appointments or benefits." The same provision allows the Commission to apply to the Court of Justice for the removal of Mr. Barroso's pension or other benefits.

We hereby ask you to launch this legal procedure towards the removal of Mr. Barroso's pension/any other benefits and proceed with the revision of the code of conduct for commissioners in order to extend the cooling-off period, within which former officials cannot take lobbying jobs, from 18 months to 36 months. The extension of the period can ensure, in our view, that the ready access to EU officials, diplomats, and national leaders obtained by a former Commissioner would no longer be as relevant to the private sector trying to influence EU policies after five years.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

Dennis de Jong, co-president ITCO intergroup
Elly Schlein, co-president ITCO intergroup
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