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Emily O'Reilly
European Ombudswoman

Brussels, 26 September 2016

Subject: New facts concerning former President Barroso's links with Goldman Sachs

Dear Emily,

In light of the probe that the European Commission is currently conducting, at your request, on whether former President of the European Commission, José Manuel Durão Barroso, broke EU laws by taking a job at investment bank Goldman Sachs, I bring to your attention the article by journalist Paulo Pena published this weekend in Portuguese newspaper "Público", which highlights former President Barroso's contacts with Goldman Sachs' representatives during his mandate.

The article, which draws information from the Archive of the European Commission following a formal request, highlights that:

- A letter of 30 September 2013 signed by the head of Goldman Sachs, Lloyd Blankfein, makes reference to a discreet visit of Mr. Barroso to the bank's headquarters in New York, where he met with senior partners of the bank, which was neither mentioned in his official agenda nor in the Commission's archives;
- Representatives of Goldman Sachs submitted confidential proposals for changes to EU policies to the office of Mr. Barroso;

The documents reveal several contacts and meetings with representatives of Goldman Sachs, but they do not give the full picture of the relationship developed between Mr. Barroso and his cabinet and representatives of Goldman Sachs; the article makes reference, for instance, to non-registered informal meetings in a football match in 2007 and a breakfast meeting in Davos in 2014 with other business representatives.

Best regards,

Ana Gomes

Ana Gomes
Member of the European Parliament