

Attention: Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament

**Ref: European Parliament Former Members Association Dinner Debate
4 June 2013 – breach of code of conduct for MEPs**

Brussels, 26 April 2013

Dear President Martin Schulz,

Friends of the Earth Europe and Corporate Europe Observatory hereby submit an official complaint over a breach of the code of conduct for Members of the European Parliament (MEPs).

We have become aware that the European Parliament Former Members Association (FMA)¹ is organising a dinner debate in the European Parliament on 4th June 2013, for which speakers include Mrs Cecilia Malmström, European Commissioner for Home Affairs. The invitation, signed by former MEP Mr Pat Cox on behalf of the FMA, is reaching out to corporate sponsorship.

Corporate sponsorship is being advertised in the following way:

“at € 2,500 per table of eight persons, with your name and logo prominent on the evening’s programme will assure a ‘meet and greet opportunity’ with our distinguished guest, [...] and a possibility to pose questions after Mrs Cecilia Malmström’s speech. Upon your request, if so you wish, we will seek to arrange for a serving or former MEP, or a Commission Official to join your table.”

We consider that this invitation constitutes a breach of the Code of Conduct for MEPs, the implementation of which you are responsible for.

According to article 6: “Former Members of the European Parliament who engage in professional lobbying or representational activities directly linked to the European Union decision-making process may not, throughout the period in which they engage in those activities, benefit from the facilities granted to former Members under the rules laid down by the Bureau to that effect.”

By openly seeking corporate sponsorship for activities of the EP FMA, and asking money in exchange of access to Members of the European Parliament and Commission officials, Mr Pat Cox – on behalf of the FMA – is engaging in activities falling within the category of lobbying or representational

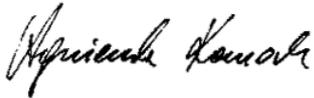
¹ See Annexe

activities directly linked to the EU decision-making process. This is in breach of article 6 of the code, which clearly forbids former members from using the facilities granted to them to do so.

We call on you to take this complaint into consideration and act upon this information.

We look forward to your response on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,



Agnieszka Komoch
Head of Operations (Acting Director)
Friends of the Earth Europe



Olivier Hoedeman
Research and Campaigns Coordinator
Corporate Europe Observatory

Contact: Natacha Cingotti, Friends of the Earth Europe,
natacha.cingotti@foeeurope.org , +32-2-893-1023

Annexe: FMA email about event 4 June 2013