



Jean-Claude Juncker – President of the European Commission
Berlaymont, 200 rue de la Loi
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Re: Mid-term review of recommendations for Commissioners

Brussels, 15 septembre 2017

Dear President Juncker,

When you launched your *Communication from the President to the Commission*, November 11 2014, we were strongly encouraged with some of your proposals related to increasing transparency and taking measures against corporate capture of decision-making processes. We had particularly high expectations when you recommended the following: ‘A commitment to transparency should characterise the work of all the Members of the Commission and of their Cabinets. While contact with stakeholders is a natural and important part of the work of a Member of the Commission, all such contacts should be conducted with transparency and *Members of the Commission should seek to ensure an appropriate balance and representativeness in the stakeholders they meet.*’

Since 2005, ALTER-EU has been criticising the privileged access that big business interests enjoy to the Commission – and its resulting impact on decision making. We saw your statement as a clear recognition of the risks of decision makers excessively meeting with, and listening to, mainly one section of society - corporate lobbyists - at the expense of other interests.

At the midway point in your term in office, ALTER-EU took a closer look at how your recommendation for ensuring balance has been implemented. We looked at 19 Commissioners who have had more than 50 lobby meetings in total since November 2014. Of these 19, 12 (which is around two thirds) have had 60 percent or more of their lobby meetings with business interests ie. corporations, trade associations, law firms, lobby consultancies. 6 of them, Commissioners Bienkowska, Oettinger, Katainen, Ansip, Sefcovic and Hogan, had 3/4 or more of their meetings with business interests.

We also highlighted two Commissioners, Thyssen and Andriukaitis, who have met with a broader range of interest representatives, indicating that corporate bias in meetings does not have to be inevitable.

ALTER-EU also [asked](#) all 25 directorates-general of the Commission for all documents setting out the measures put in place to implement your instruction and for all communications between officials on this particular issue. The answer we received was that no single document had been found. So, there doesn't seem to be a system in place to instruct, support and enforce your recommendation.

You can find more information about the research we conducted at: <https://www.alter-eu.org/yellow-card-for-team-juncker>

Considering that your Communication has been implemented by very few Commissioners, and given the importance of avoiding corporate capture of EU decision-making processes, ALTER-EU would like to request a meeting with you to discuss the following questions:

1. Do you still consider implementation of your recommendation a crucial part of your Commission's transparency agenda?
2. What steps are you planning to take to ensure that each Commissioner ensures an appropriate balance and representativeness in the stakeholders they meet?
3. Are you planning to develop a system, including trainings and other tools, in order to achieve a better meeting balance for the whole college?

We are looking forward to your answer.

For further information, please contact Paul de Clerck, Friends of the Earth Europe, paul.declerck@foeeurope.org, phone: 0494380959.

Yours sincerely,



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