



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

SG/B – Administrative Policies
The Director

12 DEC. 2011

Brussels,
SG/B.4/DCB/JTB

Mr Olivier Hoedeman

By e-mail to:

ask+request-32-71c38a84@asktheeu.org

GESTDEM 2011/6140

Dear Mr Hoedeman,

I refer to your request of 2 December 2011 of access to all opinions delivered by the Ad hoc Ethical Committee in 2011 about post-Commission office occupations of former Commissioners as well as to all memoranda and communications from the President of the Commission to the College on the same subject.

1. As concerns the opinions delivered by the Ad hoc Ethical Committee in 2011, please note the following:

The Ad hoc Ethical Committee delivers its opinions on the basis of a request by the Commission, when the latter is informed, by a former Commissioner, of her or his intention to accept a post-Commission office assignment during the notification period set by the Code of Conduct for Commissioners.

The former Members of the Barroso I Commission are bound by the Code of Conduct for Commissioners adopted in November 2004 (document SEC(2004) 1487/2). This code foresees that Commissioners shall inform the Commission whenever they intend to engage in an occupation *during the year after they have ceased to hold office*. This one-year period ended on 9 February 2011.

None of the former Commissioners has therefore informed the Commission about new professional assignments starting after the end of the one-year period, with the exception of Mrs Fischer-Boel and Mr Orban, who informed the Commission about public assignments within their respective Governments.

2. As concerns President Barroso's memoranda and communications to the Commission on post-Commission office occupations of former Members of the Barroso I Commission, the Commission still approved three such communications in January and February 2011 concerning post-Commission office occupations notified by the Commissioners concerned during the period foreseen by the relevant Code of Conduct for Commissioners.

You will find enclosed the three above-referred communications, concerning Mr Verheugen's occupation with "The European Experience Company GmbH" (SEC(2011) 158 of 31 January 2011), Mrs Ferrero-Waldner's occupation with "Alpine Holding GmbH" (SEC(2011) 81 of 14 January 2011) and Mrs Kuneva's occupation with the "Trilateral Commission" (SEC(2011) 157 of 31 January 2011).

Finally, and in conformity with the Commission's commitment in the context of the adoption, in April 2011, of its new code of conduct, I am pleased to confirm the Commission's intention to publish, on its Europa web site, its upcoming decisions on post-Commission office occupations of former Commissioners.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized initial 'H' followed by a long horizontal stroke that ends in a small upward tick.

Hubert Szlaszewski

Encl: SEC(2011) 81, SEC(2011) 157, SEC(2011) 158