



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
SECRETARIAT- GENERAL

The Secretary General

Brussels, **06 FEB. 2014**  
SG/B.3/ ARES(2014)

Dear Sir or Madam

Subject: Your letter of 21 January 2014 – ARES(2014) 126774

President Barroso has asked me to reply on his behalf to your letter of 21 January 2014 concerning post-Office activities of former Commissioners.

The Commission goes to great lengths to avoid situations of conflict of interest and any perception of conflict of interest and has developed procedures to ensure that former Commissioners respect their Treaty obligations to behave with integrity and discretion. The legal framework that applies to the activities of Commissioners who have left the Commission is based on the Treaties and the Code of conduct for Commissioners is fully in line with the best practices and OECD guidelines for managing conflict of interest<sup>1</sup>.

Given the high standards and careful scrutiny undertaken by the Commission I cannot share your view that "revolving door scandals" dominated the end of the previous college.

The Commission considers that the ad hoc Ethical Committee is able to play a fully independent and impartial role in the advising the Commission on activities which outgoing Commissioners may wish to undertake once they have left the Commission. The Commission is planning to provide more information on the work of the Committee and to publish the CVs and statements regarding non conflict of interest of its members – these improvements have been indicated recently by Vice President Sefcovic.

Yours sincerely

Catherine Day

Copy: Mr J. Laitenberger, Head of Cabinet of President Barroso

<sup>1</sup> OECD 2010 – Post-Public Employment – Good practices for preventing conflict of interest