



The Alliance for Lobbying Transparency and  
Ethics Regulation in the EU (ALTER-EU)

Brussels, February 17, 2010

**To: Maroš Šefčovič, EU Commissioner for Inter-Institutional Relations and Administration**

Re: Meeting with ALTER-EU and invitation for Transparency Debate

Dear Commissioner Šefčovič,

As you have just been confirmed new Commissioner for Inter-Institutional Relations and Administration by the European Parliament, ALTER-EU<sup>1</sup> would like to congratulate you for your appointment. In your new capacity, you will be responsible for taking forward the European Transparency Initiative (ETI) that was launched by Commissioner Kallas in 2005. ALTER-EU has been deeply involved in the debate on lobby transparency that the ETI has opened up in the EU, regularly providing policy recommendations to the Commission and the Parliament to represent civil society interests in this dialogue. We have met several times with Commissioner Kallas and we have established a good working relationship with the Commission.

With this letter, we would like to solicit you on two different matters:

- We would like to request a meeting between ALTER-EU and yourself on lobby transparency and the Commission's approach to prevent conflicts of interest;
- We would like to invite you to speak at a debate on lobby transparency, organised by ALTER-EU this spring.

ALTER-EU very much welcomed your strong statement on transparency rules for lobbyists in the EU during your approval hearing in the European Parliament. In particular, we agree with you that large consultancies and law firms undertaking lobbying activities in the EU should not shun registration. We were also very encouraged by your intention to use the review of EU staff regulation as an opportunity to prevent new cases of revolving doors among EU officials, as well as your readiness to cooperate with

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<sup>1</sup> *The Alliance for Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Regulation (ALTER-EU) is a coalition of over 160 public interest groups, trade unions, academics and public affairs firms concerned with the increasing influence exerted by corporate lobbyists on the political agenda in Europe, the resulting loss of democracy in EU decision-making and the postponement, weakening, or blockage even, of urgently needed progress on social, environmental and consumer-protection reforms. [www.alter-eu.org](http://www.alter-eu.org)*

the Parliament to improve the current Code of Conduct for Commissioners. We have also learned that the Commission is preparing new rules on the creation and functioning of the 1,000+ expert groups that are advising the Commission on its policies. We would be very interested to hear how you envisage to prevent an unbalanced composition of these often very influential expert groups. **We would highly appreciate if you accept to meet with us to discuss the concrete steps you intend to take to address the issues mentioned above during your mandate and our proposals in these areas.**

Furthermore ALTER-EU plans to launch a book on lobbying in the EU. This event is scheduled for the last week of April. It will be combined with a public debate on the issues of the book, in particular conflicts of interests and privileged access. **We would like to invite you to participate in this debate. We will bring together a range of stakeholders to discuss this agenda and we would very much welcome your participation.** President Barroso, whom we invited to speak together with you, advised us to address you specifically. We have also approached MEP Graessle from the EPP to take part in the debate.

We are flexible as to the exact date of the debate and we would be delighted to find a time that fits with your very busy spring schedule. We would appreciate if you could let us know if you can accept this invitation at your earliest convenience so that we can progress planning and coordination of what promises to be a stimulating and engaging meeting. During the coming week, we will contact you for that.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Paul de Clerck', written over a light grey rectangular background.

On behalf of the Steering Committee of ALTER-EU  
Paul de Clerck, Head Economic Justice Program Friends of the Earth Europe

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