



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT INTERGROUP
INTEGRITY, TRANSPARENCY
CORRUPTION AND ORGANISED CRIME

Mr. Frans Timmermans,
Vice-President of the European Commission, European Commissioner for Better Regulation,
Inter-Institutional Relations, Rule of Law and Charter of Fundamental Rights

Brussels, 2nd March 2017

Subject: Expert Groups

Dear Mr. Vice-President,

First of all, we thank you for your work in regard to the new horizontal rules on expert groups (C 2016 3301, 30th of May 2016). The new rules have led to improvements in transparency, as well as guided more interest representatives toward signing up for the transparency register.

However, a recent study by Corporate Europe Observatory (14/02/17) revealed that in the case of ten important expert groups, which were the subject of CEO's study, their representatives of big business still dominate. CEO also finds that in the case of experts who have been nominated in their personal capacity, conflicts of interests persist. It is especially worrying that this has happened under the new horizontal rules. On top of that, Le Monde reported a case of conflict of interests involving the Scientific Committee on Occupational Exposure Limits, of which of the 22 experts, 15 have ties with the industrial sectors concerned (24/02/17), pushing for acceptance of dangerously high levels of carcinogenics.

With the adoption of the report De Jong on Expert Groups (A8-0002/2017, 14th of February 2017) with an overwhelming majority (663-16, with 13 abstentions), the Parliament re-iterated that a fair and balanced composition of Commission expert groups remains one of its priorities. The resolution of the Parliament also contains a number of concrete recommendations to improve the implementation of the new horizontal rules.

The ITCO Intergroup would like to build on the good relations that we have had in the past, and resume our dialogue, kicking off with a meeting between a delegation of our Bureau Members and yourself focusing, in particular, on the Commission's follow-up action concerning the above-mentioned EP-resolution and the study by CEO. Further informal meetings could then usefully follow at a more technical level.

We hope that you will be able to agree with our request for a renewed informal dialogue, and are looking forward to a continuation of our constructive co-operation in this regard.



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Yours Sincerely,

Dennis de Jong, co-President ITCO
Elly Schlein, co-President ITCO
Benedek Jávor
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Monica Macovei
Tomáš Zdechovský

GUE/NGL

S&D

Greens/EFA

S&D

EFDD

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