

Reply from Peter Skinner to CEO

Dear Vicky Cann,

Please find below my responses to the questions you posed on my move to Allianz.

Yours

Peter Skinner

Dear Mr Skinner,

I work for an NGO called Corporate Europe Observatory which is a research and campaign group concerned with the access and influence enjoyed by corporations and their lobby groups in EU policy-making:
<http://corporateeurope.org/>

I would like to ask you several questions about your move from the European Parliament to Allianz. It would be very useful to understand more about this from your side before we consider publishing an article on this issue.

I would appreciate receiving a response from you as soon as possible and before 12 noon Tuesday 9 December.

1. What will be your precise functions as senior advisor in the public policy and economic research unit at Allianz?

Senior Advisor on EU/International relations.

2. What overlaps do you perceive in your work for Allianz and your work as an MEP, specifically on the ECON committee and including your work on Solvency II?

The legislative work I was responsible for or had a significant role in has now been passed in Econ. The

Solvency II Directive was passed in May 2009, the Reinsurance Directive before that in 2005, also the EIOPA Regulation was passed in 2011, and finally the Omnibus 2 Directive was passed earlier this year in March 2014 although agreement was made some months before this in 2013. I did not play a direct role on IMD at the time nor in other specific consumer laws affecting policy holders legal rights. I refused to take on any other legislative work in 2013 because I considered that I would not be able to contribute to it past the election of May 2014.

3. Are there any specific issues which you have agreed with Allianz that you will not work

We discussed and it has been agreed at Allianz that there should be a 12 month period where I will not be going to the EU institutions on behalf of Allianz.

4. What contacts, if any, did you have with Allianz while you were an MEP?

Very little, which surprised me considering it was such a large group with a good deal to add to the EU dimension. Allianz SE is a European Company set up under European Statute and therefore it is arguable that its basic instinct is to talk to the Centre of decision making.

5. Did you discuss joining Allianz whilst still an MEP?

No. I was not looking for a future job with Allianz whilst being an MEP. Contact with Allianz was made only after I had left the Parliament and by Allianz to me.

6. Do you plan to have contact (formally or informally) with the European Parliament, MEPs or their staff on behalf of Allianz? If so, will you apply for a European Parliamentary lobbyist pass?

As already said, we agreed at Allianz that there should be a 12 month period where I will not be going to the EU institutions on behalf of Allianz. When this period is up and it is considered appropriate under the rules of the Parliament I shall of course apply for the correct pass for access to the European Parliament.

I am currently committed to have no formal meetings with MEPs as a representative of Allianz in my professional capacity until my 12 months is finished. I aim to be professional about what I can say and what I can do and not spoil friendships nor exploit relationships.

7. Have you claimed the transitional allowance for MEPs since leaving the European Parliament? If so, how much has this amounted to per month?

This is a matter of the rules and procedures in the Parliament and I conform to the rules of the Parliament in this respect.

8. How do you respond to concerns that your move from being an MEP to working for Allianz could provoke the risk, perception or actuality of conflicts of interest?

I agree and support that there should be vigilance over openness and transparency, it is part of a democratic value system I prefer and chose to live under. However, effective governance at all levels depends upon good knowledge from across a range of interested stakeholders. It would be unfortunate if we were to allow certain experience and knowledge to be put to one side. It is after all a pluralist society. But I do also understand differences of opinion on this issue and the strong feelings that exist. However, even your organization is a "lobby organization". Therefore, it is not just organization's that have a profit motive which need to be considered but those that do not currently fall under the scope of existing regulations concerning lobbying activities as they seek to affect the issues addressed by law makers and others. Transparency and openness are important to ensure acceptable practices in communications.

9. Do you have any other comments to make about these issues?