



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Cabinet of Commissioner Connie Hedegaard  
Head of Cabinet

Brussels, **03 DEC. 2010**  
Ares (2010) 8562600 -

Dear Ms Balanyá,

Thank you for your letter of 23 November expressing the concern of Corporate Europe Observatory of the European Commission part funding of the report "Options for institutional engagement in the UNFCCC process" published by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) with Ecofys and Climate Focus. Your organisation is concerned that funding such work might compromise the Commission's position in relation to the development of climate policy.

The Commission believes it is important to engage with all stakeholders in achieving the EU climate policy objectives. It is necessary to understand the arguments of stakeholders across the spectrum of opinion and to know how proposed policies will impact on business as well as their environmental effect. This engagement does not weaken the legislator's capacity or restrict the Commission's right of initiative and you can be reassured that, when developing policy and making proposals, the Commission is able to balance inputs from stakeholders without undue influence. NGOs such as Corporate Europe Observatory also play an important role in ensuring that organisations maintain the highest standards, but we will continue to champion the need for environmental integrity whilst promoting the sustainable development of European industry.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Vis

Ms Belén Balanyá  
Corporate Europe Observatory