

## Corporate Europe Response

### 1. What specific tasks will your role as senior strategic counsel for Afore Consulting involve?

The title strategic counsel was carefully chosen so as to convey that my role is to have high level strategic overview discussions with Afore and that I am not an adviser/lobbyist in the sense that most people attach to the adviser role. From time to time I am consulted as to how I see various high level matters developing. This may be matters of U.K. political atmosphere such as Cameron's agreement, the referendum and Brexit or they may be policy or pre legislative discussions around issues such as capital market union. I have also facilitated or chaired round table 'think tank' type discussions that Afore organises that have as guests various representatives from the institutions, regulators and industry. I remain based in the UK.

### 2.. When did this position start and is it a paid role?

I started in April 2015 and continued to April 2016 and was contracted for an average of around 8 to 12 hours a month. Since then it has been on a more occasional ad hoc basis. It is remunerated.

### 3. As a senior strategic counsel for Afore, can you specify which clients you have or are currently working for?

I do not work for clients I provide a strategic overview on subjects to Afore. This may be of use to all their clients or some and in the context of round tables also to anyone else from the institutions. On a few occasions I have attended a meeting with Afore and with a client present so as to give direct feedback, usually about how the legislative process works.

### 4. What overlaps do you perceive in your work for Afore Consulting and your previous work as an MEP, especially considering your role as chair of the economic and monetary affairs committee?

Obviously I have knowledge and understanding concerning financial services legislation as does any person who has worked on it and an understanding of the politics that arises. I am not engaged in ongoing legislative matters other than at the 'innovative thinker' level (eg early capital markets union consultation stage), as a sounding board for ideas or to analyse consequences. There is no concrete overlap as all legislation except benchmarks and money market funds was completed before I left and I have not been engaged in level 2 matters relating to it.

### 5. Are there any specific issues which you have agreed with Afore Consulting that you will not work on because of the risk of conflicts of interest with your work as a former MEP?

It is quite clear with them that I do not wish to lobby and in particular that I do not engage with MEPs other than in the context of round table discussions where there are many others present.

### 6. What contacts, if any, did you have with Afore Consulting while you were still an MEP?

I was lobbied by them and attended a few round table 'think tank' discussions with commission officials and regulators of the type that I have done since. I also attended such events organised by think tanks and other lobby organisations.

### 7. What contact have you had or do you plan to have (formally or informally) with the European Parliament, MEPs or their staff on behalf of Afore Consulting or its clients? Do you intend to apply for a European Parliamentary lobbyist pass?

I have had no contact nor do I intend to do so other than as mentioned above regarding round table debates. I will not be applying for a lobbyist pass and am only in Brussels on rare occasions.

8. How do you respond to concerns that taking on the role of senior strategic counsel at Afore Consulting after having been an MEP could provoke the risk, perception or actuality of conflicts of interest?

First I would say they misunderstand the role. Second that I did not start work for Afore until after the end of my transitional allowance period. Third and more generally I think it is unreasonable to expect former MEPs not to seek to use their expertise given that they are not in receipt of any retainer not to do so and often, as in my case, serving as an MEP has interrupted other careers that it is hard to resume. It seems to me that excessive focus on real business expertise before election and not wishing procedural knowledge to be used subsequently is a significant deterrent to people of skill entering politics.

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

I do not believe that policy and legislation can be made in an ivory tower without consulting those with experience. It is appropriate to understand who meets with who, including NGOs, through transparency registers but MEPs are well aware that spin can be put on information if only one source is contacted. In ECON when I was chair we developed systems of sharing lobby information.

MEPs do not as a rule have commercially confidential information.

.