



Brussels, 21 September 2011,

Dear Members of the College of Quaestors:

I am writing to ask you for clarification about the Kangaroo Group's use of European Parliament facilities. The Kangaroo Group has an office inside the European Parliament (The Kangaroo Group aisbl, c/o The European Parliament, Rue Wiertz 60 EAS 260), which seems a very unusual situation for a private entity. The Kangaroo Group is not a registered Intergroup nor does it, as far as I can judge, have any other official status vis-a-vis the European Parliament. The Kangaroo Group also holds many of its events on the Parliament's premises.

All in all, the group seems to enjoy a remarkable and unjustified privileged position. This is worrying as the organisation is clearly used as a vehicle for lobbying to influence MEPs and - ultimately - the Parliament's decision-making. The Kangaroo Group has - in addition to its MEP members - more than 50 corporate members from different sectors, including Goldman Sachs, BP, Volkswagen but also arms manufacturers such as EADS, Thales, and Saab. The arms industry uses the Kangaroo Group as one of its channels of lobbying to shape EU security and defence policies, via the Kangaroo Group's working group on "Space, Defence & Security". It is highly problematic that such activities are coordinated from an office inside the European Parliament. I would therefore like to request that you assess how far the Kangaroo Group's use of European Parliament facilities is justifiable and in line with Parliament rules.

I was under the impression that it was previously decided that the Former Members' Association and the Voluntary Pension Scheme were the only two outside bodies deemed appropriate to have office space in the European Parliament. This would lead to the conclusion that the Kangaroo Group should vacate its office and seek new office space outside the European Parliament.

Yours sincerely,

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