

25 November 2013

by email

Dear Mrs Cann,

Thank you very much for your e-mail from November 20, 2013 and for your interest in my life after politics. Unfortunately, I was travelling and couldn't answer your mail last week.

First of all, let me repeat what I have always said. I am not involved in lobbying-activities of any kind. The same is true for the European Experience Company, of which I am a shareholder. This company explicitly rules out lobbying as it is stated on its website. This rule is part of every contract, which the Company made in the past or still has. The same is true for all my personal activities. Consequently, neither the EEC nor I myself did ever contact the European Commission, the European Parliament or the Council on behalf of a client. If you may wish to check that with the Commission – I have no objections.

Following the applicable rules of the Commission I needed the authorisation for engagements during the first 2 years after my departure from office. Furthermore, as the European Commission has repeatedly explained, I have never asked for and I have never got a transitional allowance.

Therefore I have informed the commission about my activities and got the authorization. Since then I am under no restrictions but I have maintained the non-lobbying-principle. For the European Experience Company the same holds true and the non-lobbying policy of the company remains unchanged.

I have never considered the foundation of a private company and my advisory role for different entities as a potential conflict of interests with my former responsibilities. I share my life-long experience in politics since 1969 with the general public by publishing articles, giving interviews, delivering speeches, participating in conferences and seminars and, as the most time consuming of my activities, teaching at the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder) (without financial compensation by the way). I cannot see which conflict could arise if I share the same experience with institutions or companies.

I am well aware that different organizations simply ignore my statements – but they also ignore the facts. I was a public figure and I accept that there is still an interest in what I am doing. But please be aware that I am now nothing but a private citizen who is no longer involved in policy-making at European or national level.

Sincerely yours

Günter Verheugen

