

Subject: Urgent questions regarding your declarations of interest

Dear Mr Vella,

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 in advance of you taking up the position of European commissioner. It would be very useful to understand more about your outside interests before we consider publishing an article.

I would appreciate receiving a response from you as soon as possible and before 12 noon Monday 8 September.

1. Did you complete either a ministerial or parliamentary declaration of interest in 2014 and if so, please could you send it to me?

In 2014 I submitted the declaration of interest for year ending 2013. Ministerial declaration for attached.

2. Your parliamentary website page (<http://www.parlament.mt/vella-karmenu>) says that you were a director of the Betfair Group Ltd. Your declaration of interests (dated 9 May 2013) says you were a director of Betfair Malta Ltd. Which Betfair companies have you been a director of and what were the start and end dates of your directorship(s)?

I was a Non Executive Director on the Betfair Maltese Board to the Below entities:

· **Betfair Holding (Malta) Limited – Appointed Director 9th October 2007 & Resigned 13th April 2013**

· **Betfair Poker Holdings Limited – Appointed Director 9th October 2007 & Resigned 13th April 2013**

· **Betfair International Plc – Appointed Director 27th January 2012 & Resigned 13th April 2013**

3. Do you have any remaining links with any Betfair company?

None

4. When did you cease to be chairman of the Orange Travel Group?

13th March 2013

5. Do you have any remaining links with the Orange Travel Group?

None

6. Whilst Maltese tourism minister 2013-14, what contacts did you have with the Orange Travel Group or Betfair?

None

7. How do you respond to concerns that your role as minister for tourism and your recent chairmanship of the Orange Travel Group and directorship(s) at Betfair provoke the strong perception of a conflict of interest?

My Chairmanship with Orange Travel Group and Directorship with Betfair were before my being appointed Minister for Tourism and none of these companies had or have any business related to government.

8. What is the Multi Joint Projects Co Ltd; what is its purpose and activities; do you still own 50 per cent of this company; if yes, what is the value of your stake; and is it true that your wife owns the other half?

This is a family company where my wife and myself own 50% each. The company has only been used in a few property projects. My share value is €1.

9. Why did your personal declared bank assets jump in value from €140,000 (declared 31 December 2011) to €350,000 (declared 31 December 2012)?

The difference is from the sale of a property.

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

No

I look forward to hearing from you; thank you in advance for your time.

Yours sincerely,

Vicky Cann