

Answers from Neil McMillan, received 15.7.15

Dear Mr McMillan,

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 about your move from the United Kingdom's cabinet office. In particular, I would like to ask you about your roles at the Brunswick Group and now at EuroCommerce. It would be very useful to understand more about this from your side before we consider publishing an article on this issue. I would appreciate receiving a response from you as soon as possible and before Monday 13 July .

1. What specific tasks has your role as partner at Brunswick involved? Which sectors and/or clients did you work with? *As a partner, I covered a wide range of clients' business, dealing with almost all the clients listed in Brunswick's declaration in the Transparency Register.*
2. What overlaps do you perceive in your work for Brunswick and your previous work for the UK government, especially considering your role on trade issues? *None – I did no specific work for clients on trade: we focused on EU regulatory matters, and none of our clients were involved or greatly interested in issues surrounding this. I was active in the AmCham trade committee, as I had a personal interest in trade, and believe strongly that European citizens will only be able to maintain their present prosperity through free and open trade. My work on trade for the UK government ended 11 years ago, hence that personal interest, but I had no contact on this with the UK government during my time with Brunswick, except attending an AmCham lunch with Ivan Rogers to discuss mainly non-trade matters.*
3. Are there any specific issues which you have agreed with Brunswick that you will not work on because of the risk of conflicts of interest with your work as a former civil servant? *I left the UK civil service in 2008. I started with Brunswick in 2011 and left last year. My work there was advising clients on how to engage with decision-makers in Brussels, not the UK, so no conflicts arose. None of the work I do now conflicts with what I did with Brunswick.*
4. What contacts, if any, did you have with Brunswick while you were still a civil servant? *None at all.*
5. What are your responsibilities as director of advocacy and political affairs at EuroCommerce? *To coordinate our work with decision-makers on EU regulation and to present our ideas to a wider public.*
6. Do you perceive there to be any overlaps between your work for EuroCommerce and your previous roles at the UK government? *None - none of my 13 jobs in the civil service dealt with the retail or wholesale sector.*
7. Are there any specific issues which you have agreed with EuroCommerce that you will not work on because of the risk of conflicts of interest with your work as a former civil servant? *No – I left the civil service over 7 years ago, and as in 6 above, I've never dealt with retailers before.*
8. What contacts, if any, did you have with EuroCommerce while you were still working for the UK

government? None

9. What contact have you had or do you plan to have (formally or informally) with the UK Government, European Commission or their staff on behalf of Brunswick or EuroCommerce? As I hope is clear from the LinkedIn profile you looked at, I left Brunswick last year, and have therefore no working relationship with them. With EuroCommerce, my focus is in Brussels, so I have no contact with the UK government in London, and have only briefly met one member of the UK representation here. Like I did, all UK civil servants move jobs on average every 3 years, so most of the contacts I had when I left the UK civil service in October 2008 have moved to other jobs, retired and in some cases died, so my ability to leverage those contacts is to say the least limited. Nor, since neither my present or past job has involved lobbying the UK government, I have not needed to try any such leverage. It is part of my job at EuroCommerce to facilitate dialogue with the EU institutions, which of course includes the European Commission.

10. Were you involved with transatlantic trade issues, specifically TTIP, during your time in the UK government? If so, what did this involve? My time in Geneva predates TTIP by some 9 years, so no.

11. Have you or will you be working with TTIP issues at EuroCommerce and/or Brunswick and if so, for which specific clients and topics? I am not directly responsible for trade policy, which is covered by another Director. Answer on Brunswick as in 9 and 3.

12. How do you respond to concerns that your move from being a civil servant to becoming a partner at Brunswick and then director of advocacy and political affairs at EuroCommerce could provoke the risk, perception or actuality of conflicts of interest? Easily – I left the civil service so long ago, and have not maintained any professional contact with people I worked with there, so it would be quite difficult to construct a suggestion that my time as a civil servant somehow creates a conflict with the entirely different work I do now.

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

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

Yours sincerely,
Margarida Silva