

Dear Vicky,

As you know former Commissioners are not personally subject to Regulation 1049/2001, which applies to the EU Institutions. The issues you are raising have already been assessed by the Commission in the framework of its decision concerning the relevant post-mandate activities.

The authorisation by the College of my post-mandate activities declares their compatibility with Article 245 (2) TFEU. Commission has considered that there is no conflict of interest between the activity in question and my former portfolio, and has adopted its authorisation decision on 10 December 2014.

I have notified some additional activities but the decision has not yet been taken. When this will be the case, and if authorised, I'm sure the same rules about public availability of the Commission decisions will be applied.

Concerning my transitional allowances I would like to inform you that you can find the public information available in this regard on

http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/pdf/entitlements_en.pdf

The work the Commission has authorised me for UNEP and FFA is pro bono, and for the EPC I assume that it will be too.

I was as Commissioner for Environment participating quite regularly on FFA since I have believed, and I still do so, that this is one of the best opportunities to prepare agricultural community to necessary changes arising from the need to respect sustainability. The world is challenged by the very fact that we humans are with our number and activities seriously influencing on the balance of the finite planet. Our responsibility has enormously increased, as individuals, but also collectively and I want to contribute to this inevitable change.

I hope this message will find you well.

All the best,
Janez Potocnik

Dear Mr Potočnik,

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 new professional activities since leaving the Commission. 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 by 12noon Monday 19 January.

1. What specific tasks does your new work involve?

A. Co-chair - UN International resource panel

B. Chairman - Forum for the Future of Agriculture

C. Advisory council member - European Policy Centre

2. Which of these roles are remunerated?

3. What overlaps do you perceive in your work for the Forum for the Future of Agriculture

and your previous work as commissioner for the environment?

4. What contacts, if any, did you have with Forum for the Future of Agriculture and European Policy Centre while you were commissioner?

5. Which of your new roles did you discuss and / or agree whilst in office as commissioner?

6. Is there any conflict between you accepting any of these roles and the requirement in the commissioners' code of conduct to not undertake any lobby activities vis a vis the Commission in the 18 months after leaving office?

7. How do you respond to concerns that your move from being environment commissioner to becoming chairman of the Forum for the Future of Agriculture could provoke the risk, perception or actuality of conflicts of interest?

8. Are there other additional professional activities for which you have also applied to the Commission for authorisation? If so, what are they and what was the response?

9. Have you claimed the transitional allowance for commissioners since leaving the Commission? If so, how much does this amount to per month?

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

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