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Juncker violates promises to combat conflict of interest former Commissioners

A new report from Corporate Europe Observatory and Lobby Control reveals that many members of the Barroso II Commission accepted jobs which should have been rejected. The ITCO intergroup calls upon President Juncker to no longer permit Commissioners to go through the revolving door and misuse their former position.

In November 2014, the European Parliament intergroup on *Integrity, Transparency, Corruption and Organised crime* (ITCO) asked Mr Juncker in a letter to take responsibility for former Commissioners going through the revolving door. When former Commissioners accept a role in corporations or other organisations, a conflict of interest is constantly lurking. Dennis de Jong, co-president of the ITCO intergroup states: "I simply can't understand how a former Commissioner like Viviane Reding argues that her activities at the Bertelsmann Foundations aren't directed at influencing EU institutions. Sadly, she received permission for the position from the Juncker Commission. This is exactly why citizens in Europe don't trust EU institutions: the lobby of large corporations reaches the highest level."

The European Ombudsman recently asked Mr Juncker for more transparency regarding the decision making in post term-of-office activities of former Commissioners. Unfortunately, Mr Juncker does not want to go further than stressing that the judgment of new activities is according the highest ethical standards. The CEO report illustrates that former Commissioners can accept almost all positions they want even if it stimulates a conflict of interest.

The ITCO intergroup calls upon Mr Juncker to ensure an independent evaluation of all post term-of-office activities. In addition, the cooling off period in which former Commissioners are obliged to report new activities should be extended from 1.5 to 3 years. The European Parliament will put pressure on the Commission to improve the integrity policy for former Commissioners in the discharge procedure. Co-president of ITCO intergroup Elly Schlein: "The current revolving door cases illustrate that not only the implementation of the rules should be improved, but also new rules should be created for Commissioners who leave the office."

You can find the CEO report at: <http://corporateeurope.org/revolving-doors/2015/10/revolving-doors-spin-again>