

**Question for written answer P-001146/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Louis Aliot (ENF)

Subject: Questionable new roles for former commissioners - conflicts of interest

A report published in October 2015 by the NGO Corporate Europe Observatory revealed that 9 out of the 27 Barroso II commissioners currently hold positions in organisations with links to big business, raising questions about potential conflicts of interest and their involvement in the TTIP negotiations.

The commissioners acted in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Commissioners and notified the Commission of the roles they intended to take up in the private sector. Given that there was a direct link between their new positions and their Commission portfolios, the cases were referred to an ethics committee and each one was approved.

How can the Commission justify, for example, authorising a former trade commissioner to take up a position in the digital sector, a former environment commissioner to move to the agrochemical sector and another former commissioner to join an American bank? How does the Commission intend to prevent similar conflicts of interest arising in the future?

Given that all of the commissioners in question have taken on new roles in the sectors that have most to gain from TTIP, how closely involved have they been in the treaty negotiations?