



## **MEPs and second jobs – Time to regulate**

**A report**

**By Corporate Europe Observatory in cooperation with LobbyControl, with additional research by Spinwatch**

**30 May 2011**

## Executive summary

New research by [Corporate Europe Observatory](#), [LobbyControl](#) and [Spinwatch](#) shows that 35 per cent of MEPs from across 13 member states have second jobs or paid outside financial interests. While not all of these jobs provoke concerns about conflicts of interests, it is possible that up to 14 per cent of MEPs surveyed *do* have second paid jobs which have the potential to bring about a conflict of interest. This includes up to 18 per cent of German MEPs, 18 per cent of Belgian MEPs, 22 per cent of Swedish MEPs and 31 per cent of Danish MEPs. These MEPs include a Member of the energy committee who also sits on the board of a major energy company and an environmental lawyer who sits on the environment committee. Below researchers highlight 18 cases to illustrate the situation.

The working group in the European Parliament being chaired by Jerzy Buzek MEP which is looking at developing a code of conduct for MEPs is urged to consider these issues and to implement the following measures:

- A ban on all paid second jobs held by MEPs which require them to act on personal or others' interests, including where there is the lobbying of any European institution or agency
- The mandatory declaration by MEPs of all additional earnings including the amount, where it comes from and what it is for
- A cap on the additional earnings of MEPs
- The introduction of well-resourced and effective processes to monitor and enforce these rules, which should involve independent expertise.

## Background

When the Sunday Times broke its cash-for-amendments story in March, at the heart of it was an offer to 60 MEPs to join the board of a fictional financial consultancy company, in a paid capacity. Fourteen MEPs were interested enough to hold a follow-up meeting with the undercover reporters and of these, four confirmed that they would accept: [Adrian Severin](#)<sup>1</sup>, [Ernst Strasser](#)<sup>2</sup>, [Zoran Thaler](#)<sup>3</sup> and [Pablo Zalba Bidegain](#). A look at the declarations of financial interest (DoFI) of the first three show that they already had a propensity to hold additional paid jobs, alongside their role as an MEP.

The phenomenon of MEPs holding down second jobs has attracted more attention in recent months and a number of cases have raised eyebrows amongst the media and voters. Prominent recent articles by [Reuters](#), [the BBC](#) and the [European Voice](#) have questioned how this situation has been allowed to go on for so long. There are some particularly high-profile cases of MEPs with significant second jobs including Sharon Bowles<sup>4</sup>, Elmar Brok<sup>5</sup>, Klaus-Heiner Lehne<sup>6</sup> and Edward Scicluna<sup>7</sup>. In each of these cases questions can be asked about the potential conflict of interest

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1 Adrian Severin MEP lists numerous paid second jobs including advising Unicredit International and Chayton Capital Duna Property Fund.

2 Ernst Strasser, whilst an MEP, co-owned the [consultancy firms CIN and CCE-Consulting](#), was employed by PR agency Hohegger and lobbied for companies including Rail Holding and Group4Securior.

3 Zoran Thaler, former MEP, was an adviser for Mednarodni Consulting.

4 UK MEP and partner in a law firm specialising in patents, run by her husband. Ms Bowles was also a key supporter of the EU software patents directive in 2005. Ms Bowles is also Chair of the Economic and Monetary Affairs committee.

5 German MEP and Vice President for media development of Bertelsmann. Mr Brok is also a member of the Foreign Affairs committee.

6 German MEP and partner at law firm Taylor Wessing where he works one day a week. Mr Lehne is also chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs and chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs.

7 Maltese MEP and non-executive chairmen of two investment funds with links to HSBC. Mr Scicluna is also vice chair of the EP's Economic and Monetary Affairs committee.

between their role as an MEP and their additional paid work. In 2008, Spinwatch's report "[Too Close for Comfort?](#)" raised this issue and it included what now seems a rather prescient quote from UK MEP Chris Davies: "The European parliamentary rules are 20 years behind those of Westminster. They really are a scandal waiting to happen."<sup>8</sup>

So how widespread is this practice: how many MEPs have paid second jobs? And how many of these paid jobs provide a potential conflict of interest with their work as an MEP, particularly for those serving on committees or delegations?

### **The extent of MEPs holding second jobs**

It is hard to be precise about these issues because of [the huge imperfections in the declaration of financial interest \(DoFI\) system](#) but [Corporate Europe Observatory](#) (CEO) in cooperation with [LobbyControl](#), and with additional analysis by [Spinwatch](#), looked at the DoFIs of 13 countries' MEPs – a total of 433 members or 58 per cent of the current parliament. Within this sample, 35 per cent of Members were found to have second jobs.

Of course, of the 35 per cent of MEPs surveyed with second jobs (a total of 151) some are receiving this additional income as local politicians, writers, doctors, lecturers or farmers. While some people might take the approach that the job of being an MEP should be sufficient for anyone, it is hard to argue that these roles would be, in themselves, problematic in terms of providing conflicts of interest with their work as an MEP.

But many other MEPs are working as lawyers or consultants, or are serving on the boards of companies in a paid capacity. Again, it is hard to be precise about numbers because of the insufficient detail provided in the declarations, but based on our research, there could be as many as 14 per cent of those surveyed who work in such a capacity, including 18 per cent of German MEPs, 18 per cent of Belgian MEPs, 22 per cent of Swedish MEPs and 31 per cent of Danish MEPs.

### **Second jobs and conflicts of interest**

What differentiates the former group of paid jobs (writers and lecturers) from the latter group (lawyers and consultants), is that the latter require the post-holder to act in their own interest or in the interests of another individual or organisation. Lawyers, consultants, board members and lobbyists have a representative function – that is in the nature of the job - and it is this which has the potential to create a conflict of interest with their work as an MEP. In the US this is called having a 'fiduciary relationship' and US Congressmen are banned from all paid jobs where a fiduciary relationship applies.<sup>9</sup>

Research by CEO and LobbyControl has identified numerous cases where MEPs have declared a second paid job which require them to act in their own or another's interests. At the same time, they have been taking part in formal parliamentary activities where there is a risk of a potential conflict of interest. Annexe 1 includes 18 such examples. This is not an exhaustive list and there are many other cases of MEPs with potential conflicts of interest related to their second jobs. These are not necessarily well-known cases, and while – unless explicitly stated to the contrary – we do not make suggestions of impropriety, these cases highlight the *potential* for such conflicts.

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<sup>8</sup> Spinwatch. 2008. *Too Close for Comfort*. Andy Rowell. July 2008. <http://www.spinwatch.org/articles-by-category-mainmenu-8/63-european-politics/5112-are-meps-too-close-to-business-asks-new-report>

<sup>9</sup> More information on the rules applying to US Congressmen can be found here: [http://ethics.house.gov/Subjects/Topics.aspx?Section=153#emp\\_receipt\\_of\\_compensation](http://ethics.house.gov/Subjects/Topics.aspx?Section=153#emp_receipt_of_compensation)

Afterall, according to the OECD's useful definition, it is the risk or the potential of improper influence taking place, rather than the fact of it, which is at the heart of a conflict of interest. The OECD says a conflict of interest is "a conflict between the public duty and private interests of a public official, in which the public official has private interests which *could* improperly influence the performance of their official duties and responsibilities" [emphasis added].<sup>10</sup>

The MEPs highlighted by CEO and LobbyControl include:

[Bendt Bendtsen](#) – A member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy as well as on the board of SeaMall, Team Online, Esvagt, Realkredit Danmark in Odense and Danske Bank.

[Jean-Luc Dehaene](#) – A member of the Special committee on the policy challenges and budgetary resources for a sustainable European Union after 2013, whilst also being on the board of directors of Thrombogenics and Dexia where he is President of the governing board and earns up to 100,000 euro per year.<sup>11</sup>

[Nirj Deva](#) - Vice-Chair of the Committee on Development and a member of the Delegation for relations with the countries of South Asia. He is also Chairman of Symphony Plastics, director of Distilleries Corporation of Sri Lanka and Aitken Spence Ltd of Sri Lanka. In 2006, Mr Deva used "his position as an MEP to the benefit of Symphony"<sup>12</sup> during an official visit to Barbados.

[Christian Ehler](#) - A member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and on the Security and Defence sub-committee. He is also general manager of the Cobios Technology Centre which houses 20 or more companies working in the bio-technology and other fields.

[Gunnar Hökmark](#) - A member of the Conference of Delegations Chairs and a member of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs. He is also a board member of insurance company Dina Försäkringar and chairman of Svenska Försäkringsförmedlarnas förening (the Swedish association of insurance intermediaries).

[Anne E. Jensen](#) -Vice-chair of the Special committee on the policy challenges and budgetary resources for a sustainable European Union after 2013 and a member of the Committee on Budgets. She is also a substitute on the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee. She is a member of the board of Nordea Invest which is the investment arm of Nordea bank.

[Philippe Juvin](#) - A member of the committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection and a substitute member on the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety. He is also vice-president of Le Syndicat intercommunal pour le gaz et l'électricité en Île-de-France (SIGEIF) which has long-term concession contracts with subsidiaries of EDF and GDF Suez.<sup>13</sup>

[Angelika Niebler](#) - A member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy. She is also chairman of the supervisory board of Metabion Intl Ag, a company selling products and services in the bio-technology field, and a practising freelance lawyer for Bird & Bird.

[Herbert Reul](#) - Chair of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and also a member of the board of RheinEnergie AG as well as being a lawyer.

[Robert Rochefort](#) - A member of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection and also a director of Eurotunnel and of Cetelem .

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10. OECD, *Guidelines for Managing Conflicts of Interest in the Public Service*. (Paris: 2003), para 10.

11 In "Dehaene pikt kritiek op Dexialoon niet", De Morgen, 14 May 2009, the salary is quoted at 80,000 euro while in Metro "Dexia maakt weer winst", Metro, 14 May 2009 it is quoted at 100,000 euro.

12 The Times. 29.5.2009 – website viewed 26.5.2011: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article6382953.ece>

13 Information from Sigeif website viewed on 26.5.2011: <http://www.sigeif.fr/>

[Paul Rübzig](#) – A member of the Committee on Budgetary Control and the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and also has paid positions at the WKO (Chamber of Commerce), Oberösterreichischer versicherungsverein (an insurance firm) and Rübzig-PRO-Gruppe.

[Andreas Schwab](#) - A member of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection and was rapporteur on the consumer rights directive. He is also retained by CMS Hasche Sigle Berlin, part of the international law firm Cameron McKenna as a lawyer specialising in EU competition.

### **Transparency is not enough...**

Some people, including a number of MEPs themselves, argue that simply improving the declaration of financial interests system would be enough to stop conflicts of interest and that a ban on paid second jobs with fiduciary relationships or lobbying potential would be impractical, would deny the parliament important expertise, and would somehow be against the rights of MEPs. But knowing an MEP's private financial interests is not enough to prevent a conflict of interest from taking place.

If an MEP acts as rapporteur on a report looking at intellectual property rights, but is also a practising lawyer with clients who have a business interest in the area, improved transparency rules will still not fully reveal the extent to which this second job had “improperly influenced their official duties and responsibilities”. The only way for MEPs themselves and their voters to be sure that such improper influence had not taken place, is for there to be a ban on all MEPs accepting and holding paid second jobs which require acting on personal or others' interests, including where there is the lobbying of any European institution or agency, or advising for and / or preparing such lobby activities.

### **... although transparency is important**

The process of researching this report has shown the numerous problems with the DoFIs that MEPs make. Aside from the illegibility of many hand-written declarations, that they are not translated into common languages or processed into a database, there is the fact that no one appears to police the system to ensure that all MEPs submit up-to-date declarations. Of the DoFI which we looked at, 15 per cent had not been submitted within the past year and thus were in breach of European parliamentary transparency rules. Of the specific MEPs included in annexe 1 of this report, two (Nirj Deva and José Manuel García-Margallo) do not have up-to-date DoFI on the parliament's website.

In addition, the quality of the information provided by many MEPs is, in many cases, very poor. For paid jobs, MEPs rarely bother to specify how much they are paid. In the US, all income received additional to the public salary of Congressmen must be declared, including the source, the reason it was given and the amount. Such income is also limited to 15 per cent of their public salary. Are MEPs paid so poorly that Brussels could not introduce a similar cap?

Finally, there are concerns that some MEPs do not declare all of their outside paid interests. The solution to these issues has to be the strengthening of the rules governing MEPs financial interest declarations, as well as effective enforcement by well-resourced and independent auditors.

## Recommendations

The President of the Parliament Jerzy Buzek MEP is currently working with nine other MEPs to address some of the issues that arose as a result of the Sunday Times' exposé. According to [recent reports](#), they are looking at introducing a code of conduct for MEPs and tightening rules for lobbyists active in the parliament. CEO believes that while a code of conduct for MEPs will be a very important step, its success or failure can only be judged on the strength of the rules it contains.

CEO's recommendations to the working group in this area are that:

- All paid second jobs by MEPs which require acting on personal or others' interests, including where there is the lobbying of any European institution or agency should be banned
- All additional earnings by MEPs should be clearly declared in terms of the amount, where it comes from and what it is for
- All additional earning for MEPs should be capped at a percentage of an MEP's salary
- Well-resourced and effective processes to monitor and enforce the rules which involve independent expertise are introduced.

CEO, LobbyControl and Spinwatch are all part of the [ALTER-EU alliance](#) and the list of ALTER-EU's recommendations to the Buzek working group are [available on-line](#).

## Annexe 1

### **Burkhard Balz**

Germany, EPP

Mr Balz is a member of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and a member of the Special Committee on the Financial, Economic and Social Crisis. He is also a substitute member of the Delegation with China.

Mr Balz is a member of the advisory board of MuP Ingenieurgesellschaft Holding GmbH & Co. KG in Munich which according to its website is "one of the leading German engineering companies in the range of environment, construction, infrastructure, real estate and paper industry".<sup>14</sup> In 2005, it set up MuP Environmental Consulting in Beijing, China.<sup>15</sup> Mr Balz shares his nationality, party grouping, committee membership and MuP financial interest with Mr Markus Ferber MEP, who is also listed below.

In addition, Mr Balz is also a member of the advisory board of Apaton Capital AG, Hannover, a German investment company which supports start-up businesses in Germany<sup>16</sup> and a member of the Supervisory Board of Stadtwerke Schaumburg-Lippe GmbH.

### **Bendt Bendtsen**

Denmark, EPP

Mr Bendtsen is a member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, as well as a former Danish deputy prime minister. In March 2010, Mr Bendtsen made a contribution to a plenary debate in Strasbourg which urged the EU to oppose steps by Canada to set up a compulsory register for all large ships passing through the Northwest Passage of the Arctic.<sup>17</sup>

His DoFI (2011) sets out that he is a farmer but also a paid member of SeaMall (a consultancy on shipping), Team Online (which provides IT services, including for public administration), Esvagt (shipping equipment), Realkredit Danmark in Odense (real estate financing), and Danske Bank repræsentsantskab.

### **Jean-Luc Dehaene**

Belgium, EPP

Mr Dehaene is a former deputy Belgian prime minister, and in the European parliament, Mr Dehaene is vice-chair for the budget committee, plus a member of the special committee on the policy challenges and budgetary resources for a sustainable European Union after 2013.

His (2011) DoFI shows that he is a member of the board of Thrombogenics (a bio-pharmaceutical company focussed on vascular medicine) and Dexia (a finance group) where he is President of the governing board. According to Belgian media reports, Mr Dehaene's salary for his work at Dexia is in the region of 80,000 – 100,000 euro per year.<sup>18</sup> Mr Dehaene is also chairman of the financial

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14 According to MuP website viewed on 26.5.2011: <http://www.mup-group.com/en/home.html>

15 According to MuP website viewed on 26.5.2011: <http://www.mup-group.com/en/mup-group/history.html>

16 More information at: <http://www.apaton-capital.com/>

17 European parliamentary debate 10.3.2010: [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+CRE+20100310+ITEM-011+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN&query=INTERV&detail=3-348)

[pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+CRE+20100310+ITEM-011+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN&query=INTERV&detail=3-348](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+CRE+20100310+ITEM-011+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN&query=INTERV&detail=3-348)

18 In "Dehaene pikt kritiek op Dexialoon niet", De Morgen, 14 May 2009, the salary is quoted at 80,000 euro while in



control panel of UEFA (the European Football Association) which conducts financial audits across the 53 UEFA member associations.

### **Nirj Deva**

UK, ECR

Mr Deva is the Vice-Chair of the Committee on Development, a member of the Subcommittee on Human Rights, a member of the Delegation for relations with the countries of South Asia and a substitute on the Committee on Foreign Affairs. In February 2011, Mr Deva was one of seven MEPs who visited Sri Lanka as part of an official delegation.

Mr Deva's DoFI dates from 2009 and indicates that he has substantial business interests in Sri Lanka. Remunerated activities include: Chairman (non-executive) of Symphony Plastics, director (non-executive) of Distilleries Corporation of Sri Lanka, and Director (non-executive) of Aitken Spence Ltd of Sri Lanka. He also has an interest in several family companies in Sri Lanka and he is the owner of several property companies.

He is also an 'Honourable Ambassador at Large for the Government of Sri Lanka' and a Honorary Life President of the EU-India chamber of commerce.

According to The Times, Mr Deva used an official trip to Barbados in 2006 to lobby developing countries against a ban on plastic bags, which was in the interests of the company he chairs, Symphony. The official trip was for a Joint Parliamentary Assembly which sees MEPs meet with MPs from developing countries and because of his role on the development committee, Mr Deva would have been seen as an influential person on the issue of European aid for poor countries.

The Times reports that: "Mr Deva used the opportunity to promote the business he chairs. Symphony's executives flew out to host a cocktail and dinner reception at the Barbados Hilton where about 100 guests were told about the company's biodegradable plastic bags. Symphony urged developing countries against banning plastic."<sup>19</sup>

According to a Symphony insider, speaking on condition of anonymity to The Times, "He [Mr Deva] was the one that told us who to send all the invitations out to and he made the opening remarks at the function. It was his idea. It was an opportunity for Symphony to present themselves and their technology to the visiting delegates from all their countries. That's a recent example of him using his position as an MEP to the benefit of Symphony."<sup>20</sup>

### **Christian Ehler**

Germany, EPP

As an MEP, Mr Ehler is a member of the committee on industry, research and energy and on the security and defence sub-committee.

Mr Ehler's current (2011) DoFI says that he is general manager of the Cobios Technology Centre which, according to its website, "was established in 1998 under the name of Biotech GmbH, with the aim to promote the structural transformation of the economic region of Berlin-Brandenburg, to

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Metro "Dexia maakt weer winst", Metro, 14 May 2009 it is quoted at 100,000 euro.

19 The Times. 29.5.2009 – website viewed 26.5.2011: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article6382953.ece>

20 The Times. 29.5.2009 – website viewed 26.5.2011: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article6382953.ece>



one of today's most advanced life science centers in Germany. [...]With our holistic approach combining settlement, development, construction and licensing issues to the point of traditional management consulting, we successfully gave home to more than 20 companies providing a total of about 500 jobs."<sup>21</sup>

According to his website, Mr Ehler's salary as general manager of Cobios is about 2500 euro.<sup>22</sup>

### **Markus Ferber**

Germany, EPP

Mr Ferber is a member of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and a substitute member of the Special Committee on the Financial, Economic and Social Crisis.

As his 2011 DoFI shows, he is a member of the MuP Ingenieurgesellschaft Holding GmbH & Co. KG in Munich mentioned above.<sup>23</sup> Mr Ferber shares his nationality, party grouping, committee membership and this financial interest with Mr Burkhard Balz MEP, who is listed above.

### **José Manuel García-Margallo**

Spain, EPP

Mr García-Margallo is vice-chair of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, a member of the Conference of Delegation Chairs, a member of the Special Committee on the Financial, Economic and Social Crisis, and a member of the Special committee on the policy challenges and budgetary resources for a sustainable European Union after 2013.

Mr García-Margallo's DoFI dates from 2009 and it states that he is a member of García-Margallo y Mendez de Vigo, a law firm. This is something that he shares with Mr Mendez de Vigo. Mr García-Margallo's European parliamentary website page states that he has been a practising lawyer since 1990.

As well as sharing a party political background and a law firm, Mr García-Margallo and Mr Mendez de Vigo also have their membership of the economic and monetary affairs committee in common. In addition, Mr García-Margallo and Mr Mendez de Vigo have undertaken speaking engagements together, including on the EU's economic governance agenda to El Círculo de Empresarios (Business Circle).<sup>24</sup>

### **Gunnar Hökmark**

Sweden, EPP

Mr Hökmark is a member of the conference of Delegation Chairs, a member of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, a member of the Special Committee on the Financial, Economic and Social Crisis, a member of the Special committee on the policy challenges and budgetary

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21 According to the Biotop website viewed on 25.5.2011:

<http://www.biotop.de/biocapital/bioparks/cobios/index+M52087573ab0.html>

22 Information from Mr Ehler's website viewed on 26.5.2011: [http://www.christian-ehler.de/8\\_32\\_Person\\_Abgeordnetenverguetung.html](http://www.christian-ehler.de/8_32_Person_Abgeordnetenverguetung.html)

23 MuP website: <http://www.mup-group.com/en/home.html>

24 Information from the Circulo de Empresarios website viewed on 26.5.2011: <http://www.circulodeempresarios.org/sala-de-prensa/noticias/encuentro-circulo-con-jose-manuel-garcia-margallo-e-inigo-mendez-de-vigo/>

resources for a sustainable European Union after 2013, and a substitute on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy.

Mr Hökmark's DoFI (2011) shows that he is a board member of insurance company Dina Försäkringar and chairman of Svenska Försäkringsförmedlarnas förening (the Swedish association of insurance intermediaries).

### **Anne E. Jensen**

Denmark, EPP

Ms Jensen is vice-chair of the Special committee on the policy challenges and budgetary resources for a sustainable European Union after 2013 and a member of the Committee on Budgets. She is also a substitute on the economic and monetary affairs committee.

Ms Jensen's most recent DoFI (2011) shows that she is a member of the board of Nordea Invest which is the investment arm of Nordea bank. It is one of the three largest investment funds in Denmark and it manages more than 100 billion krone (13 billion euro) worth of investment. As of January 31, 2010, the fund's portfolio apparently included such companies as Vodafone, Royal Dutch Shell, Novartis, Eni and Banco Santander.<sup>25</sup>

### **Philippe Juvin**

France, EPP

Mr Juvin is a member of the committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection and a substitute member on the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety.

Mr Juvin's DoFI (2011) is vice-president of Le Syndicat intercommunal pour le gaz et l'électricité en Île-de-France (SIGEIF). This is an inter-municipal public body which ensures the provision of gas and electricity to over five million people. SIGEIF has long-term concession contracts with subsidiaries of EDF and GDF Suez.<sup>26</sup>

### **Inigo Mendez de Vigo**

Spain, EPP

Mr Mendez is a member of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs.

According to his (2011) DoFI, Mr Mendez (like Mr García-Margallo listed above) is a member of the same firm as Mr García-Margallo, namely García-Margallo y Mendez de Vigo. Mr Mendez is also a member of the Spanish court of arbitration.

As mentioned above, Mr García-Margallo and Mr Mendez de Vigo have undertaken speaking engagements together, including to El Círculo de Empresarios (Business Circle).<sup>27</sup>

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25 Information from Onesource website viewed on 26.5.2011: <http://www.onesource.com/free/Nordea-Invest-Europa/Company/Profile/48222850>

26 Information from Sigeif website viewed on 26.5.2011: <http://www.sigeif.fr/>

27 Information from the Circulo de Empresarios website viewed on 26.5.2011: <http://www.circulodeempresarios.org/sala-de-prensa/noticias/encuentro-circulo-con-jose-manuel-garcia-margallo-e-inigo-mendez-de-vigo/>

### **Angelika Niebler**

Germany, EPP

Ms Niebler has significant parliamentary responsibilities as she is Chair of the delegation for relations with the Arab Peninsula, a member of the Conference of Delegation Chairs, a member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and a member of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality.

But amongst other interests listed on her (2011) DoFI is that she is chairman of the supervisory board of Metabion Intl Ag. Metabion is a company selling products and services in the bio-technology field, including around DNA, antibodies and enzymes.<sup>28</sup> This is not a lucrative position (at 85 euros per month) according to the DoFI.

Ms Niebler is also working as a freelancer for the law office Bird & Bird in Munich. Her income is apparently a small fraction of that which she receives as an MEP.<sup>29</sup> Bird & Bird is an international law firm which represents their clients at the European Court of Justice, the European Commission and before the national competition authorities and in the courts of other EU member states.<sup>30</sup> According to Bird & Bird information, Ms Niebler works in the fields of IT and the media.<sup>31</sup>

### **Herbert Reul**

Germany, EPP

Mr Reul is Chair of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy.

As his (2011) DoFI specifies, he is a member of the board of RheinEnergie AG. RheinEnergie is associated with the internationally-active companies GWE and RWE. German energy giant RWE is a shareholder at RheinEnergie with a 20 per cent holding. Furthermore, he works for the law firm Kanzlei Wilhelm Wallmann.

### **Robert Rochefort**

France, ALDE

Mr Rochefort is a member of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection.

Mr Rochefort's September 2010 DoFI shows that he is a director of Eurotunnel and of Cetelem which is a BNP Paribas personal finance company.

### **Paul Rübzig**

Austria, EPP

Mr Rübzig is on the Committee on Budgetary Control and the Committee on Industry, Research and

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28 Information from Metabion website viewed on 25.5.2011: <http://www.metabion.com/home/index.php>

29 Information from Ms Niebler's website viewed on 26.5.2011: <http://www.angelika-niebler.de/htm/verdienst.htm>

30 Information from Bird & Bird website viewed 26.5.2011:  
[http://www.twobirds.com/English/AboutUs/Pages/About\\_Us.aspx](http://www.twobirds.com/English/AboutUs/Pages/About_Us.aspx)

31 Information from Bird & Bird website viewed 29.5.2011:  
[http://www.twobirds.com/German/News/PressReleases/Seiten/Angelika\\_Niebler\\_wechselt\\_zu\\_Bird\\_Bird.aspx](http://www.twobirds.com/German/News/PressReleases/Seiten/Angelika_Niebler_wechselt_zu_Bird_Bird.aspx)

Energy.

His DoFI (2011) shows that he has substantial outside financial interests with paid positions such as: WKO (Chamber of Commerce), Oberösterreichischer versicherungsverein (an insurance firm) and Rübzig-PRO-Gruppe. Apparently Mr Rubig also has parliamentary staff paid by the WKO (Chamber of Commerce), Energie Österreich and Institut für Bildung und Innovation.

### **Andreas Schwab**

Germany, EPP

As an MEP, Mr Schwab is a member of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection, whose mission is to “ensure safe products, improve consumer rights, keep consumers fully informed about products or services, and crack down on anti-competitive behaviour”.<sup>32</sup> As part of this committee, in 2011 Mr Schwab was rapporteur on the consumer rights directive.

The present (2011) DoFI shows that Mr Schwab is retained by CMS Hasche Sigle Berlin, part of the international law firm Cameron McKenna. Mr Schwab has specialised in procurement and competition law and is currently working for Cameron McKenna in the capacity of 'Of Counsel'. The CMS website lists Mr Schwab's fields of competence as EU and EU competition.<sup>33</sup> In fact the CMS website says: “Our Brussels lawyers have established excellent working relationships, some of them over a number of years, with the decision-makers of the European Commission, the European Parliament and other European institutions. Our legal team includes a Member of the European Parliament”.<sup>34</sup> In a 2009 press release, Mr Schwab makes clear the value that he will bring to his clients: “CMS serves a wide range of international companies who are confronted with European law issues on a daily basis, particularly in relation to the EU internal market. They need to anticipate future European developments in order to plan accordingly. This is where I can apply my experience and specialist knowledge on a practical level.”<sup>35</sup>

### **Jutta Steinruck**

Germany, S&D

Jutta Steinruck is a member of the European Committee on Employment and Social Affairs and the Delegation for relations with the Arab Peninsula.

According to her most recent (2011) DoFI, she is also the Chair of the DGB trade union federation for the Vorder- und Südpfalz district in a part-time (25 per cent) capacity.

### **Anja Weisgerber**

Germany, EPP

Ms Weisgerber is a member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety.

According to her most recent (2010) DoFI, Ms Weisgerber is a lawyer ('Of Counsel') at GSK Stockmann and colleagues. Their fields of interest include European community law,

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32 European parliament website viewed on 25.5.2011:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/presCom.do?language=EN&body=IMCO>

33 CMS website viewed on 25.5.2011: [http://www.cms-hs.com/Andreas\\_Schwab\\_en](http://www.cms-hs.com/Andreas_Schwab_en)

34 CMS website viewed on 26.5.2011: <http://www.cms-hs.com/Competition-EU/EU>

35 CMS website viewed on 30.5.2011: [http://www.cms-hs.com/090721\\_PM\\_Personalie\\_Schwab\\_en](http://www.cms-hs.com/090721_PM_Personalie_Schwab_en)

environmental law and energy and her own professional areas are European law, environmental law and labour law.

## Annexe 2

The findings of the survey of MEPs' DoFI\*

Country	No of MEPs	Declaration within last year (without an up-to-date declaration)	Number with second jobs/ additional paid work or income	Percentage with a second job	Number and percentage of MEPs with a paid second job which raises potential conflict of interest issues
Austria	17	16 (1)	3	18%	3 - 17%
Belgium	22	21 (1)	17	77%	4 - 18%
Cyprus	6	5 (1)	3	50%	1 - 17%
Denmark	13	10 (3)	6	46%	4 - 31%
France	72	68 (4)	43	59%	7 - 10%
Germany	99	85 (14)	37	37%	18 - 18%
Greece	22	20 (2)	2	9%	2 - 9%
Ireland	12	8 (4)	1	8%	0
Malta	5	3 (2)	4	80%	4 - 80%
Netherlands	25	19 (6)	2	8%	1 - 4%
Spain	50	39 (11)	12	24%	8 - 16%
Sweden	18	15 (3)	6	33%	4 - 22%
UK	72	61 (11)	15	21%	4 - 6%
<b>Total 13 countries</b>	<b>433 MEPs or 58% of the EP</b>	<b>63 MEPs or 15% of those surveyed do not have up-to-date DoFI</b>	<b>151 MEPs</b>	<b>35% of those surveyed</b>	<b>60 MEPs or 14% of those surveyed</b>

\* This research was conducted April-May 2011 and based on the information available at the time in MEPs' DoFI, which in some cases was very limited. Any inaccuracies are unintentional.