



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

**Dennis DE JONG**

European Parliament, Member

Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, Member

Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection, Substitute

Committee on Budgetary Control, Substitute

Brussels, November 5 2012,

Dear President of the European Commission,

In February you announced after a meeting with Mr. Stoiber, your intention to prologue the mandate of the High Level Group on Administrative Burden Reduction. The exact mandate has not been published yet, nor public calls for membership. Therefore we would like to bring to your attention, the recent commitments made by the Commission to the European Parliament on expert groups during budget negotiations. They include commitments to ensure balanced composition of different interests in expert groups, to avoid conflict of interests of experts participating in 'personal capacity, to provide for full transparency over the participants, documents, agenda's and minutes of meetings. (see attachment)

In the context of these recent commitments we would like to know how you will ensure that the conditions are met for the High Level Groups on Administrative Burden Reduction? More specifically:

- What will be the exact mandate of the group and what unique contribution will it make, that cannot be achieved through the normal transparent consultation processes of the Commission, that have a legal base in the Treaty of the European Union?
- In the light of this mandate, do you intend to change the composition of the group as it currently operates to come to a balanced composition?
- Will calls for membership be announced publically?
- Will your services do an active conflict of interest check for the members participating, especially those appointed in 'personal capacity'?
- Will you provide for full transparency for this group, when it comes to publishing of the agenda, meeting notes, contributions made by members and experts and include minority opinions on the final report?
- In its current composition the Group is not equipped to properly deal with the areas of environment, health, safety and social policy. What safeguards do you implement, to make sure that the focus on SMEs and national public administration (as formulated in your press statement on the prolongation of the Group), does not lead to advise that goes against current standards for environmental, health, safety and social policy legislation?

We look forward to your earliest response and remain at your disposal for clarifications,

Yours Sincerely,

Dennis de Jong (GUE/NGL)

Monica Macovei (EPP)

Michael Cashman (S&D)

Helga Trüpel (Greens)

Corinne Lepage (ALDE)

[dennis.dejong@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:dennis.dejong@europarl.europa.eu)

Wiertzstraat 60, ASP 7F 254, B-1047 Brussel - Tel 0032 2 28 47664 - Fax 0032 228 49664