

Edmund Stoiber
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Dear Mr Stoiber,

On November 21, ALTER EU filed a complaint to EU President Barroso about your role as chairman of the High-Level Group on Administrative Burdens (HLG). According to an article in Euractiv you used a recent High-Level Group meeting with then European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy John Dalli for lobbying purposes in relation to the Tobacco Products Directive. It is said that you dedicated fifteen minutes of the High-Level experts' meeting to raise the specific concerns of a Bavarian snuff producer regarding the upcoming piece of regulation.

ALTER EU believes that you might have overstepped your mandate as chair of the HLG in several ways:

- by operating as a lobbyist and providing privileged access to a high-level EU decision-maker on a new piece of legislation;
- by focussing on possible administrative impacts of upcoming legislation while the mandate of the HLG is to focus on existing legislation;
- by providing advice to the Commission without a formal request in writing from the Commission to do so, as the mandate of the HLG requires.

ALTER EU asked the President to investigate and make fully transparent what occurred and what was said during the meeting between the High-Level Group and Commissioner Dalli and to take appropriate measures to remedy a possible violation of your mandate and ensure that this does not happen again.

ALTER EU plans to publicise the complaint in one week. By means of this letter, we are giving you the opportunity to comment on the above points. We will take your response into consideration when we publish the complaint and any associated publicity materials providing it is received by November 28.

Yours sincerely,

Paul de Clerck