

New European Commission Stacked With Corporate Lobbyists

By [Colin Todhunter](#)

Global Research, October 06, 2014

Region: [Europe](#)

Theme: [Environment](#), [Global Economy](#)

Europeans require the European Commission (EC) to act in the interests of ordinary people and the environment, not a handful of powerful private corporations. The previous Barosso Commission was accused of being a willing but captive servant of a corporate agenda and a disgrace to Europe's democratic traditions. It pursued an agenda on behalf of big business [1].

The EC is the executive body of the European Union (EU) and is responsible for proposing legislation, implementing decisions, upholding the Union's treaties and the day-to-day management of the EU. Commissioners pledge to be completely independent in carrying out their duties during their mandate.

The Commission operates as a cabinet government and comprises 28 members (informally known as commissioners). The European Council nominates a candidate to be president of the Commission, who must be approved by a majority of the members of the European Parliament. The president-elect (currently Jean-Claude Juncker) chooses the commissioners from candidates put forward by the EU countries.

As the EC is the fulcrum of power within the EU, the people of Europe have a right to know just who the new commissioners are and their suitability in terms of any conflicts of interest.

In the images below, courtesy of Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO) and Attac Austria, basic insight is provided into the backgrounds of some of the prospective members of the new Juncker Commission, which will be in office from November 2014 to 2019. The information reveals serious conflicts of interest.

More in-depth evidence of these conflicts are provided with regard to the wholly unsuitable corporate backgrounds of candidates Jonathan Hills and Arias Canate on the CEO website [2,3].

A COMMISSION FOR CORPORATIONS / KOMMISSION DER KONZERNE



CANDIDATE FOR / KANDIDAT FÜR:

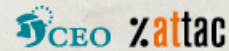
Climate action and energy /
Klimapolitik und Energie

BACKGROUND / HINTERGRUND:

Ex-president of two Spanish oil companies, where son and brother-in-law are still directors; has expressed sexist views / Ex-Präsident zweier spanischer Ölkonzerne, wo Sohn und Schwager heute Manager sind; bekannt für sexistische Aussagen

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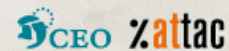
Financial stability, financial services and capital markets union / Finanzstabilität, Finanzdienstleistungen und Union der Kapitalmärkte

BACKGROUND / HINTERGRUND:

Co-founded UK lobby firm; made regular trips through revolving door between UK politics and lobby industry / Mitbegründer einer britischen Lobbyagentur; wechselte regelmäßig zwischen Politik und Lobbyindustrie

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Věra Jourová

CANDIDATE FOR / KANDIDATIN FÜR:

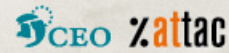
Justice, consumers and gender equality /
Justiz, Konsumentenschutz und Gleichstellung

BACKGROUND / HINTERGRUND:

Deputy leader of oligarch Andrej Babiš' party, whose business empire covers media, food, chemicals and finance / Vizechefin der Partei des Oligarchen Babiš, dessen Imperium Finanzen, Lebensmittel, Chemie und Medien umfasst

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Karmenu Vella

CANDIDATE FOR / KANDIDAT FÜR:

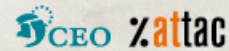
Environment, maritime affairs and fisheries /
Umweltschutz, Meerespolitik und Fischerei

BACKGROUND / HINTERGRUND:

Several board positions while in parliament: Maltese tourism company and gambling firm Betfair which lobbies in Brussels /
Parlamentarier, „nebenbei“ Vorstandsmitglied einer Tourismusfirma und des Glücksspielkonzerns Betfair, der in Brüssel lobbyiert

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Carlos Moedas

CANDIDATE FOR / KANDIDAT FÜR:

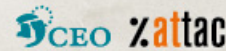
Research, science and innovation /
Forschung, Wissenschaft und Innovation

BACKGROUND / HINTERGRUND:

Implemented Troika-led austerity in Portugal after a career in finance (eg Goldman Sachs) /
Umsetzung der Troika-Kürzungspolitik in Portugal nach einer Karriere in der Finanzindustrie (z.B.: Goldman Sachs)

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Pierre Moscovici

CANDIDATE FOR / KANDIDAT FÜR:

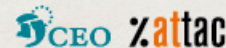
Economic and financial affairs, taxation and customs union /
Wirtschafts- und Finanzangelegenheiten, Steuern und Zollunion

BACKGROUND / HINTERGRUND:

Until 2012, was vice-president of major industry lobby group which also carries out Brussels lobbying /
War bis 2012 Vizepräsident einer großen Industrie-Lobbygruppe, die auch in Brüssel aktiv ist

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Can it be right that an ex-corporate lobbyist is put in charge of regulating the financial services sector or that an ex-petroleum industry insider becomes responsible for climate action?

The previous Barosso Commission sold out ordinary people's interests to powerful corporations. The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) [4] could well be the ultimate outcome of this.

With a new Commission being stacked with former corporate lobbyists and people from the

world of big business, Europeans have every right to be sceptical and feel that the Juncker Commission will continue to serve a corporate agenda.

Notes

- 1] http://corporateeurope.org/sites/default/files/record_captive_commission.pdf
- 2] <http://corporateeurope.org/revolving-doors/2014/07/uk-prime-minister-david-cameron--nominates-revolving-door-ex-lobbyist-eu>
- 3] <http://corporateeurope.org/power-lobbies/2014/09/many-business-dealings--commissioner-designate-miguel-arias-canete>
- 4} <http://www.globalresearch.ca/the-transatlantic-trade-and-investment-partnership--ttip-trojan-horse-selling-out-europe-to-us-corporate-plunder/5405170>

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