

REQU LE 27 MAI 2005

SIIM KALLAS

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 20 May 2005
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Ms Carola Fischbach-Pyttel
EPSU General Secretary
45 rue Royale
B-1000 Brussels

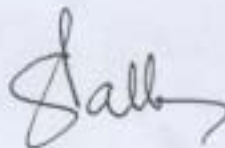
Dear Ms Fischbach-Pyttel,

Thank you for your letter of 13 May and your very positive support to the transparency initiative, which the Commission discussed on 18th of May.

I do recognise the need to make a distinction between corporate lobbying and non profit NGOs and I acknowledge and support the role civil organisations (including trade unions and employer's organisations) are playing in the consultation process. However, I feel that all the actors should be subject to the same level of transparency, including also the EU institutions themselves. My aim is greater transparency, not any group in particular. By applying the same criteria for transparency on funding sources the difference in resources available that you mention would become public knowledge. This would enable a discussion based on facts rather than on assumptions.

Let me also assure you that the debate on whether a mandatory legislation or a voluntary code of conduct would best serve the aims of transparency, is just starting. No decision has been taken. I am grateful for your suggestions and would like to welcome you to share your views in the forthcoming Round Table, which will hopefully be held later this year.

Yours sincerely,



Siim Kallas

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