



Vice President Siim Kallas
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels

02 October 2006

Dear Commissioner,

Re: CEO response to ETI Green Paper Consultation.

I am writing to make an important correction concerning a false statement in the response of the lobby office Corporate European Observatory (CEO) to the Green Paper on the ETI. We believe it unacceptable that responses to Commission consultations should be abused to promulgate inaccurate criticisms of other bodies.

On page 4 of the CEO paper, it is claimed that with regards to EPACA's disciplinary procedures and recently established Professional Practices Panel (PPP): 'there are no mechanisms for NGOs to file complaints'.

This is not true. In public statements on the PPP and its disciplinary mechanisms, EPACA has repeatedly made it clear that it will consider complaints from any individual or organisation. Indeed, I confirmed this in writing to a researcher from Friends of the Earth in an email change on 31 March 2006, after she wrote to EPACA raising this precise question. I quote below:

'Questions:

- Does EPACA accept complaints about their members' conduct from any citizen or other association/organization? Or is the right to complain reserved for fellow EPACA members (and maybe MEPs and/or EU officials)?
- In case EPACA accepts complaints from non-members, are they dealt with in the same way as complaints from EPACA members? Or are there different procedures in place?



Response: Yes, we would accept complaints about our members conduct from any citizen or association/organization on the basis that it is properly substantiated and evidenced. Complaints whether from members or non-members would be dealt with in the same way.....'

Given the close relationship between CEO and FOE in the Alter-EU group, it is difficult to escape the conclusion that this false statement was knowingly published, and is designed to manufacture an excuse for the failure of radical NGO's to file a single complaint against our members, while persisting with a variety of mud-slinging activities.

We hope that the Commission will not publish the CEO response on its website without withdrawal of this false statement from the text.

In the interests of transparency I will be publishing this letter on the EPACA website.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Houston', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Houston
Chairman

Cc:

Jean-Claude Thebault (Cabinet Barroso)
Kristian Schmidt (Cabinet Kallas)
Catherine Day (Secretary General)
Jen Nymand-Christensen (Secretariat General)
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