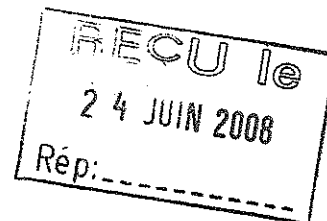


SIIM KALLAS

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 16 June 2008  
Our ref KS:kms D(2008) 393

Olivier Consolo, Director CONCORD  
Ilona Kish, Secretary General culture action europe  
Kirsti Kolthoff, President EWL  
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Conny Reuter, President Social Platform  
Jorgo Riss, Green10 Representative  
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Liz Scurfield, HRDN Representative  
EU Civil Society Contact Group  
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Dear Sirs and Madams,

Thank you for the letter you have sent on 28 May 2008 to President Barroso, to Vice-President Wallström, Commissioners Fischer Boel and Hübner as well as to the Secretary-General of the European Commission and to myself. I shall answer on behalf of all those.

As you surely know, the purpose of the Commission's Register for interest representatives is to improve transparency in the relations between interest representatives and lobbyists, so as to allow citizens to see what interests are represented and against what financial background.

Given that the different organisations that are expected to register are diverse in their nature and financing, the Commission decided, after a public consultation, to ask for different types of financial information. This decision, which I consider balanced and appropriate, was taken on 21 March 2007 and has been made public.

The European Commission has also decided that it will be organisations, not individual lobbyists, who would be subject to the new voluntary registration system. I believe this information is necessary and sufficient to achieve transparency on the interests represented.

The Commission has decided that the Register it will launch on 23 June 2008 is a pilot scheme and that it will evaluate how it has worked after one year i.e. in the spring or early summer 2009.

I am therefore looking forward to see the EU Civil Society Contact Group and its members registering and to continue this dialogue on how to improve transparency.

Yours sincerely,

Siim Kallas