

Written Comment by Rolf Linkohr, 19.02.2007

I would like to make a few corrective comments with regards to the allegations raised against me in various newspapers, claiming that I have a «conflict of interest» because I am advising the EU Commissioner for Energy as well as companies.

- 1) When I was asked two years ago by Commissioner Piebalgs to become one of his special advisors, I made it clear from the very beginning that I was also advising companies. The consultancy contract I signed with the Commission did explicitly allow these activities. Incidentally, everybody who wishes to do so was able to look at my website, where all my other activities are listed.

If the Commission was to change its rules now, it is its choice. I have by all means stuck to the rules that applied when signing the contract, a contract that provides a daily allowance and also a tight travel allowance.

- 2) Different parties are accusing me of a «conflict of interest». The Commission has until today not raised this accusation. At least I have no written evidence for that. If according to the Financial Times the spokesman of Commissioner Kallas claims this to the FT, why does he not say so to me, too ?

Two weeks ago, I was informed by telephone that my contract will be ended early from 1st February 2007. This is why I did not sign the «Declaration of Honour» that was in the meantime sent out to everybody. I personally do not see a «conflict of interest» and would have therefore also signed the «Declaration of Honour».

- 3) An advisor gives advice, but the Commission has to decide for itself. In order to be able to give competent advice, an advisor has to be anchored in a professional environment. Otherwise a Commissioner could only nominate his hairdresser to be his advisor. In this case, he could be sure that his hairdresser is not advising someone else. However, he has no clue about energy policy. By the way, Chancellor Merkel does not ask Lars Josefsson, whom she nominated to be her climate advisor, to give up his position as CEO of Vattenfall AB.

- 4) Finally some personal remarks. I am not a lobbyist, or a nuclear lobbyist. I have no ability for that. I have however an opinion. And I stand by it. With or without a consultancy contract.

However, one has to ask why at this particular time and why my person is used as yardstick. It has been a couple of months now that there is an orchestrated campaign against me as «nuclear lobbyist». This campaign culminated temporarily in open letters written by the Dutch organisation «Corporate Europe Observatory» to the President of the Commission Barroso, as well as to Commissioner Kallas and Piebalgs. The website of this organisation is loaded with references to statements that I have made with regards to the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Everyone was able to read these statements throughout the years on my website. It can be assumed that there is a link between this campaign and the reaction of the Commission. This assumption cannot be proven, however it stands to reason.

It would be detrimental for the energy policy debate in Europe, which got a new impetus with the energy package released by the Commission, if the discussion was to be held in such an indecent way. Europe deserves better than this.