

1



International experience has shown us that this "revolving doors" phenomenon can at times potentially have a corrupting influence on senior staff, which damages public trust immensely. It is very important that we ensure that such a situation does not develop in Brussels. I will step up my supervisory powers accordingly."

Officials leaving EU employment must inform their institution of any proposed new employment during the period of two years after leaving their institution. Furthermore, former senior officials are not allowed to lobby their former colleagues for a period of 12 months following their departure.

EU institutions have the right to take disciplinary measures if an official takes a job which gives rise to a conflict of interest.

The Commission should reply by 31 December 2014.

The full text of the Ombudsman's recommendation is available at:

<http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/en/cases/draftrecommendation.faces/en/56216/html.bookmark>
[Link]

The Ombudsman's Annual Report 2013

The Ombudsman is placing increasing emphasis on ethical issues, such as conflicts of interest. Ethical issues are, alongside issues related to the transparency of the EU institutions, citizens' participation in EU decision-making and fundamental rights, of most concern to EU citizens.

More information is available in the Ombudsman's Annual Report 2013 at:

<http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/en/activities/annualreports.faces> [Link]