



The Secretary-General

11-09-2008

Mr. Giles CHICHESTER, MEP  
European Parliament  
ASP 14E261

**PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL**

Dear Mr Chichester,

Subject: Parliamentary assistance allowance

Following my letter to you dated 5 June 2008 concerning the issue of a possible existence of a conflict of interest in relation to the company Francis Chichester Limited, and following the different meetings held with my Head of Cabinet and the responsible services, as well as the additional supporting documents that you have provided for the period 2003 to 2007 following our requests, I can inform you that I have come to the conclusion that although your contract with that company constituted a potential case of conflict of interest, you have had no personal financial benefit from that contract, and that no conflict of interest has ever materialised.

Indeed, from the extensive file you have provided, which has been examined in great detail, it is clear that all the allowances received have indeed been used to pay the salaries and fees of your employees and related overhead expenses.

I am therefore in a position to confirm to you that all these expenses come within the scope of article 14 PEAM, and I am fully satisfied that this has been the case since the beginning of your contract and in particular in relation to the period 2003 to 2007.

Furthermore, I understand that you have ceased to use Francis Chichester Limited as your service provider and that all relevant actions have been taken to bring the contract deposited with the management service to a lawful end.

In view of the above, I am content that there was no personal gain arising out of a conflict of interest in breach of the relevant rules and that the use of the money received from your parliamentary assistance allowance has been fully justified by the extensive documentation that you have presented.

I would like to thank you once more for your full cooperation, and I want again to apologise for the delay in bringing this matter to a positive conclusion.

Yours sincerely,

  
Harald RØMER