QUESTIONS TO COMMISSIONER CAÑETE

- 1. Commissioner Cañete, you have had an unfortunate path before appearing before the European Parliament. We would like to remind you that you did not include your shares in two oil companies in your declaration of interests before the European Parliament. You sold these shares to Miguel Domecq, your wife's brother, just a few days before you had to undergo the evaluation of suitability for becomingg a European Commissioner. Since then, your name has not been away from controversy. While you were Minister of Agriculture in the Spanish government, the Spanish Council of Ministers approved a tax amnesty for individuals and legal entities who own assets outside Spain. The beneficiaries of this amnesty paid a tax rate of around 3%, much lower than the Spanish income tax and savings tax rates. You voted in favour of this tax amnesty both in the Council of Ministers and in the Spanish Parliament. Some weeks later your wife, Micaela Domecq, benefited from the tax amnesty. Were you aware Mr. Commissioner that you were violating the Spanish law when you voted for instead of abstaining? Did you urge, as an influential person close to the Prime Minister, the approval of the tax amnesty?
- 2. Commissioner Cañete, according to our information, you managed, until you were appointed Minister, a company controlled by "Havorad BV", a firm considered as a "front company" by the Spanish tax authorities, with branches in Panama and Costa Rica. In fact, the name of your wife, Micaela Domecq, is listed in the so-called "Panama Papers" as a shareholder of Rinconada Investments Group, a Panama-based firm created in 2005, and was empowered to approve its financial transactions. Why did you choose not to specify in your declaration of interest of 2014 and 2015 the shares that your wife holds or at the time held in Rinconada Investments Group while you did mention her shares in two other companies, namely "Agrícola Micaela Domecq S.L" and "NOVA 19 S.L"? Could you please provide us with the documentation declaring the existence of this opaque entity to the Spanish tax authorities? Could you confirm that the money that your wife legalized through the Spanish tax amnesty in 2012 came from the companies in Panama?
- 3. Commissioner Cañete, during your time as Minister of Agriculture, high officials appointed directly by you, benefited building companies in exchange for money and presents, in a clear violation of Spanish law. A Chief Executive Officer appointed by you, Arcadio Mateo, appears among the many people that were arrested in relation to the case called "Acuamed". He was sent

to prison after the police found 120,000 euros in 500 euro bills at his home. In relation to this case, on the 24th February 2014, a few months before you were appointed Commissioner, you held a meeting with the construction company FCC in your office. As a result of that meeting (as shown in the judicial inquest) you decided to condone a debt of 40 million euros to the company, despite the technical reports of the Ministry advising otherwise. On the 13thJune in Santander, you said that all decisions that you took were backed by independent technical reports. Could you please provide us with the independent technical reports and the technical reports of the Ministry of Agriculture which supported your decision to condone the payment of 40 million to FCC for the work in the Almanzora desalination plant?

Back-up questions

- 1. Commissioner Cañete, in May 2015 you, in your capacity as Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy signed a positive opinion on behalf of the Commission to approve plans by Berkeley Minera España to operate an opencast uranium mine in Retortillo, Salamanca. Do you know who Berkeley's single lobbyist for dealing with the Commission in Brussels was at that time? Can you tell us who Mr. Manuel Lamela is and what function he had in the Ministry of Agriculture? When did Mr Manuel Lamela hold this function and what was your function at that time? At the time of signing the opinion, were you aware of the fact that Mr Lamela worked for Berkeley? Did you or your office have any contacts with Mr Lamela in the course of negotiations leading to the outcome of the Commission's decision regarding the uranium mine in Retortillo?
- 2. Commissioner Cañete, what are your feelings about whom you have met most during your first year in office? What are the instructions you gave regarding the priorities whom to meet from your Cabinet? Who would you describe as your most valuable interlocutors when it comes to stakeholder consultations? Do you consult civil society and by that we mean above all NGOs and Trade Unions as much as you consult the private sector? Is the research of the Corporate Europe Observatory correct when saying that during the first 11 months of office you and your cabinet had 6 times more meetings with the private sector than with public interests groups (269 vs 45)? Could you please tell us how do you personally ensure a proportionate consultation of various stakeholders' during decision-making processes in order to draw

unbiased and balanced policy conclusions, in particular in the sensitive sector of energy and climate?