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Financing Democracy

Funding of Political Parties and Election Campaigns and the Risk of Policy Capture

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Corrigendum

Page 51-52:

Description of correction in the language of the book, in roman.

Despite wide variety of regulations on foreign donations, there are still cases in which foreign interests might have unduly exerted influence over national interests. For example, it was revealed that "anti-Islam groups in the United States have provided financial support to Dutch politician, Geert Wilders, an anti-immigration campaigner. While this is not illegal in the Netherlands, it sheds light on the international connections of Mr. Wilders, whose Freedom Party is the least transparent Dutch parliamentary group and a rallying point for Europe's far right. Wilders' party is self-funded, unlike other Dutch parties that are subsidised by the government. It does not, therefore, have to meet the same disclosure requirements" (Deutsch and Hosenball, 2012). In addition According to the same source, a director of the Philadelphia-based think tank, said his organisation provided Mr. Wilders' legal defence fund in 2010 and 2011. It sent an undisclosed amount of money directly to his lawyer. Another conservative activist also admitted that he paid Wilders "a good fee" for making speeches in the United States. The same activist also paid for security costs and for hotel accommodations for Wilders' Dutch bodyguards in 2009. Both "denied funding Wilders' political activities in the Netherlands. Both run non-profit, tax-exempt research and policy organisations which, under US tax laws, are forbidden from giving direct financial backing to any political candidate or party. US law does allow such groups to support policy debates financially. Wilders has not revealed how his political activities are paid for. Former Freedom Party officials have said he has no personal funds and relies almost entirely on foreign donations" (ibid.).