A chronology of alleged conflicts of interests of Miguel Arias Cañete

1992: As an MEP Arias Cañete inquires about regulations governing the import of vehicles into the EU. (1)

1993: Arias Cañete becomes a board member in the car dealer Italcar España, which specialises in vehicle imports. (2)

1996: Arias Cañete asks parliamentary questions on monopolies in the car repair market and plans for European Commission initiatives in the area. In his declaration of interests, he fails to state his board membership in Italcar España. (3)

1996: As an MEP Arias Cañete fights for subsidies for bull breeding in the European Parliament, while his wife owns a bull breeding business. The business is still run by their two sons. (4)

2001: It emerges that Arias Cañete did not declare his roles in various companies, including Italcar España, two gambling companies and an agricultural holding company, in his declarations of interest he made as a parliamentarian. Arias Cañete argues that he is not guilty of infringing the Spanish anti-corruption law as it is claimed that he was named as a board member without his agreement or knowledge. (5)

2001: As Spain’s Agriculture Minister, Arias Cañete meets with the bull breeders association, despite saying he would not engage in matters related to bull breeding due to his wife’s business interest. (6)

2002: Arias Cañete’s wife has to appear before a Spanish parliamentary inquiry on suspicion of having received privileged access to information from her husband – who was Agriculture Minister for Spain at the time – about a change in EU agricultural subsidies. (7)

2004: Arias Cañete offers his services to the US government to lobby Spanish MEPs in support of pro-GMO legislation. (8)

2008: The oil supply company Petrolífera Dúcar - which Arias Cañete at the time is chairman of – is awarded a concession from public authorities for operating on public lands. The concession gives it access to a fuel market worth hundreds of millions Euros. (9)
2011: The oil company Petrologis Canaris – which Arias Cañete at the time is chairman of – confirms a contract worth €41,000 with the public authorities in Gran Canaria to supply public institutions with fuel. (10)

2012: After taking up his position as a minister for agriculture and environment, Arias Cañete submits a declaration of interest to the Spanish parliament in which he states the companies Petrolífera Dúcar and Petrologis Canaris do not have any direct or indirect relationship with the public sector. (11)

2012: As a minister Arias Cañete presents a reformed coastal law that is criticised for favouring private interests over environmental protection. Between 2009 and 2011 Arias Cañete was a board member of the large real estate and construction company Bami Newco. His wife and wider family continue to have investments in the real estate sector. (12)

2014: The contract between the Canary Island authorities and Petrologis Canaris is uncovered. Arias Cañete claims that he was not aware of the contract being made – despite his position as chairman of the company at that time. (13)

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(1) http://elpais.com/diario/2001/02/09/espana/981673218_850215.html
(2) http://www.losgenoveses.net/Personajes%20Populares/canete/especialinterviu.htm
(3) http://elpais.com/diario/2001/02/09/espana/981673218_850215.html
(5) http://www.elmundo.es/elmundo/2001/02/05/espana/981364278.html; http://elpais.com/diario/2001/02/05/espana/981327619_850215.html; http://www.abc.es/hemeroteca/historico-17-02-2001/abc/Nacional/el-informe-de-la-inspeccion-concluye-que-ca%C3%83%C2%B1ete-no-cometio-irregularidades_13000.html
(8) http://wikileaks.org/cable/2004/12/04MADRID4777.html