



Brussels, 16.7.2025
C(2025) 9021 final

DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

**on Former Commissioner Paolo Gentiloni's teaching activity at the Johns Hopkins
School of Advanced International Studies**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community,

Having regard to the Commission Decision of 31 January 2018 (C(2018) 700 final) on a Code of Conduct for the Members of the European Commission, and in particular Article 11(3) thereof,

Whereas:

- 1) According to the second paragraph of Article 245 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the Members of the Commission, when entering upon their duties, shall give a solemn undertaking that, both during and after their term of office, they will respect the obligations arising therefrom and, in particular, their duty to behave with integrity and discretion as regards the acceptance, after they have ceased to hold office, of certain appointments or benefits.
- 2) Article 339 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union provides that the Members of the institutions of the Union shall be required, even after their duties have ceased, not to disclose information of any kind covered by the obligation of professional secrecy, in particular information about undertakings, their business relations or their cost components.
- 3) Article 11 of the Code of Conduct for the Members of the European Commission establishes a specific procedure for the assessment of planned professional activities which the Members or former Members of the Commission intend to take up after they have ceased to hold office. The Commission shall examine the information provided in order to determine whether the nature of the planned activity is compatible with Article 245 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. If the planned activity is related to the portfolio of the Member or former Member, the Commission shall decide only after having consulted the Independent Ethical Committee, unless the planned activity falls within the scope of the exceptions set out in paragraph (3), notably as concerns academic activities (lit. (d)).

- 4) On 8 July 2025, Former Commissioner Gentiloni informed the Commission of his intention to accept a remunerated assignment with the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies for a teaching activity as Adjunct Professor during the academic year 2025/2026.
- 5) Former Commissioner Gentiloni's envisaged activity will consist of six ad hoc participations in the School's courses, namely two on 'The Geoeconomics of Europe', one on 'EU Politics in time of Crisis', two on 'Political and Geoeconomic risks in Europe' and one on 'EU Foreign Policy'.
- 6) Founded in 1876 in Baltimore (US State of Maryland), Johns Hopkins University is generally recognised as being among the first research universities in the United States, combining teaching and advanced research from its inception to promote academic excellence and scientific discovery.
- 7) Based in Bologna, the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies is the European branch of the Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, which is itself part of the Johns Hopkins University.
- 8) Founded in 1955, the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies offers graduate-level education focused on international relations, economics, political science, and global policy, as well as master and diploma programmes that combine academic study with practical policy analysis, attracting a diverse body of students from around the world.
- 9) In its Bologna Campus, the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies hosts lectures, conferences, and seminars featuring policymakers, academics, and experts to foster discussion on European and international affairs. It also engages in research projects and partnerships that address global economic and political challenges, supporting scholarly work and policy-relevant analysis.
- 10) The Commission noted the academic nature of Former Commissioner Gentiloni's envisaged activity for the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies which does not require the consultation of the Independent Ethical Committee.
- 11) On the substance, this activity does not present any risk of incompatibility with his former function as Member of the European Commission or with the interests of the institution, provided he abides by all the relevant provisions of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, namely Article 339, and of the Code of Conduct for the Members of the Commission, in particular the duties of collegiality and discretion with respect to the Commission's decisions and activities during his term of office, as provided for by Article 11(1) of the Code in conjunction with Article 5.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

Former Commissioner Gentiloni's teaching activity for the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies is compatible with the second paragraph of Article 245 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, subject to the respect of the duties set out in Article 339 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and in Article 11(1) of the Code in conjunction with Article 5.

Done at Brussels, on 16 July 2025.

The President
Ursula von der Leyen