



Brussels, 19.2.2020
C(2020) 9003 final

DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

**on former Commissioner Christos Stylianides' post term of office professional activity at
the Ruhr Universität Bochum Research School**

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 Article 245(2) 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 exceptions foreseen in subparagraphs 3(a) to (f), notably as concerns academic activities (Art. 11(3)(d)).
- 4) On 16 October 2019, former Commissioner Christos Stylianides was informed by the Ruhr Universität Bochum that his application for a fellowship as International Visiting Professor at the Ruhr Universität Bochum Research School was under consideration.
- 5) On 15 November 2019, the Ruhr Universität Bochum informed the former Commissioner about the envisaged scope of his future activity in the framework of the fellowship: former Commissioner Stylianides was supposed to contribute to the education of doctoral students at the Ruhr Universität Bochum by offering workshops, providing contacts of experts and sitting down with selected PhD students for intensive coaching sessions on issues related to humanitarian action, development cooperation and governance within the European Union.

- 6) The former Commissioner's tentative schedule with the Ruhr Universität Bochum Research School would consist of three visits per year in 2020 and 2021, with a total of six visits.
- 7) Former Commissioner Stylianides might also be involved, in the future, in an editorial project of the Ruhr Universität Bochum on Humanitarian Action and Development Cooperation.
- 8) On 17 January 2020, the former Commissioner was eventually informed of the Ruhr Universität Bochum Research School's final confirmation of his Visiting International Professor Fellowship.
- 9) The Commission has considered the nature of former Commissioner Stylianides' envisaged post term of office activity with Ruhr Universität Bochum Research School and concluded that it is an academic activity which does not present any risk of incompatibility either with former Commissioner Stylianides duties as a Member of the Commission or with the interests of the institution, provided Mr Stylianides 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, namely the duties of collegiality and discretion, as laid down in Articles 5 and 11(1).

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Former Commissioner Christos Stylianides' envisaged activity in the context of his Visiting International Professor Fellowship with the Ruhr Universität Bochum Research School is compatible with Article 245(2) 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 Articles 5 and 11(1) of the Code of Conduct for the Members of the European Commission.

Done at Brussels, on 19 February 2020.

The President
Ursula von der Leyen