



Brussels, 4.3.2020
C(2020) 9007 final

DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

**on former Commissioner Sir Julian King' post term of office professional activity as
Visiting Policy Fellow at the Oxford Internet Institute (University of Oxford)**

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 11(3)(a) to (f), notably as concerns academic activities (Article 11(3)(d)).
- 4) Former Commissioner Sir Julian King informed the Commission on 3 February 2020 about his appointment as Visiting Policy Fellow at the Oxford Internet Institute (University of Oxford), for the period 1 March 2020 to 28 February 2022.
- 5) The former Commissioner's envisaged activity will consist of playing an active role in the Oxford Internet Institute's intellectual community and contributing notably to the Institute's research, teaching, events, publications and fundraising initiatives. Playing an active role in the Institute's intellectual community will for example entail visiting the Institute, giving talks and participating in seminars and events.

- 6) The notified activity is predominantly of academic character. It should be noted that the Oxford University has been a recipient of EU funds managed by Commission departments which were not under Former Commissioner King's political responsibility.
- 7) Article 11(4) of the Code of Conduct provides that former Members of the Commission shall not lobby Members or their staff on behalf of their new employer on matters for which they were responsible within their portfolio for a period of two years after ceasing to hold office.
- 8) The former Commissioner's envisaged 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 Sir Julian King 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 Sir Julian King's envisaged activity as Visiting Policy Fellow at the Oxford Internet Institute of the University of Oxford 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) and (4) of the Code of Conduct for the Members of the European Commission.

Done at Brussels, on 4 March 2020.

The President
Ursula von der Leyen