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**DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

**on Former Vice-President Jourová's post term of office professional activity as Director  
of the Václav Havel Library**

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### **on Former Vice-President Jourová's post term of office professional activity as Director of the Václav Havel Library**

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,

Considering that:

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 exceptions foreseen in paragraph 3, second subparagraph, lit. (a) to (f).

- 4) With her letter of 25 November 2024, Vice-President Věra Jourová informed the Commission about her intention to accept, as from 1 February 2025, for an indefinite period, an assignment as Director of the Václav Havel Library. Her assignment will be remunerated, however only after an initial non-remunerated two-year period.
- 5) Ms Jourová indicated that the Václav Havel Library was dedicated to preserving and promoting the legacy of Václav Havel in his roles as a writer, playwright, and political leader, with a particular focus on his lifelong commitment to freedom, democracy, and human rights. The Library supported research and education on Václav Havel's life, values, and the era in which he lived, emphasising the contemporary relevance of his ideas. It aimed to foster civil society and active civic engagement, serving as a platform for dialogue on issues related to liberty and democracy both within the Czech Republic and internationally.
- 6) According to the information provided by the Former Vice-President, key aims of the Václav Havel Library include: (a) conducting archival, research, documentation, museum, and library activities focused on Václav Havel's work, and analyzing its societal impact; (b) organizing exhibitions, events, and educational initiatives to highlight the historical significance of the fight for human rights and freedoms during the totalitarian period, as well as the development of civil society in democratic contexts; (c) undertaking scientific research and publication activities within its areas of interest.
- 7) Ms Jourová furthermore indicated that the Václav Havel Library was primarily funded through a combination of grants, private donations, and project-specific funding, including support from public institutions, private benefactors and cultural organizations.
- 8) As Director of the Václav Havel Library, the Former Vice-President would be responsible for: (a) overseeing the Library's strategic direction, operations, and programming; (b) ensuring the effective preservation and promotion of Václav Havel's legacy through research, education, and cultural initiatives; (c) representing the Library at public and international events to advance its mission and strengthen partnerships; (d) managing the organization's financial and administrative functions, including fundraising and stakeholder relations.
- 9) The Václav Havel Library received modest grants from the European budget, managed by the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).
- 10) In view of the general political and cultural nature of the Library, the Commission considered that the consultation of the Independent Ethical Committee was not necessary.
- 11) The Commission concluded that Former Vice-President Jourová's envisaged post term of office activity does not present any risk of incompatibility with her former function as Vice-President of the Commission or with the interests of the institution, provided

she respects the duties imposed on her by the Code of Conduct for the Members of the Commission. This includes namely the respect of collegiality and discretion as set out in Article 11(1) in conjunction with Article 5, as well as the duty to refrain from lobbying the Commission on behalf of the Library on matters for which she was responsible within her portfolio for a period of two years after ceasing to hold office, as it results from Article 11(4) of the Code.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

Former Vice-President Věra Jourová's envisaged post term of office activity as Director of the Václav Havel Library is compatible with Article 245 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, subject to the respect of the obligations imposed on her by Article 11(4) of the Code of Conduct for the Members of the Commission.

Done at Brussels, on 11 December 2024.

*The President*  
*Ursula von der Leyen*