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DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

**on Former Commissioner Elisa Ferreira's post term of office professional activity as
member of the Board of the House of Architecture ('Casa da Arquitectura')**

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on Former Commissioner Elisa Ferreira's post term of office professional activity
as member of the Board of the House of Architecture (*'Casa da Arquitectura'*)

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 exceptions set out in Article 11(3), second subparagraph.
- 4) Former Commissioner Elisa Ferreira informed the Commission, on 12 March 2026, of her intention to accept a post term of office activity as a non-executive member of the Board of the House of Architecture (*'Casa da Arquitectura'*). The Former

Commissioner explained that the ‘House of Architecture’ is a cultural non-profit organisation, centred on the cultural and social role of architecture. The assignment proposed to Former Commissioner Ferreira with the Board is of an advisory, strategic, and non-executive nature, and it will not be remunerated. Former Commissioner Ferreira indicated that the Board of the House of Architecture meets, in principle, twice a year.

- 5) According to its website ⁽¹⁾ the House of Architecture is a Portuguese non-profit cultural institution dedicated to the promotion, preservation, and dissemination of architecture and architectural culture. Founded in 2007, the organisation was created to address the absence in Portugal of a central institution capable of collecting, preserving, and making accessible architectural archives and documentary collections. Its objective is to safeguard the documentary heritage of architects, while also fostering broader public understanding of architecture as a cultural, artistic, and social practice. The institution has received the official recognition of ‘Cultural Interest’ (*Interesse Cultural*) from the Portuguese State.
- 6) The House of Architecture receives, archives, and manages documentary collections donated or entrusted by architects and institutions, including drawings, models, photographs and other materials documenting architectural practice. These archives form the basis for research activities and exhibitions aimed at expanding knowledge of both Portuguese and international architecture. In addition to archiving functions, the institution develops cultural programming intended to stimulate debate and public engagement with architecture and organises exhibitions, conferences, colloquia, workshops, public talks and educational initiatives. Another aspect of the House of Architecture’s activities is the management and promotion of cultural spaces and properties placed under its responsibility. These spaces host exhibitions and events and serve as platforms for collaboration with cultural, academic and professional communities.
- 7) The House of Architecture’s institutional partners are primarily public bodies and professional organisations connected to architecture and regional development. These include the Municipality of Matosinhos, which hosts the House of Architecture and plays a central role in its governance structure, as well as other Portuguese municipalities represented within its governing bodies. Professional and institutional partners also include the Portuguese Architects’ Association and regional or economic organisations that support cultural and architectural initiatives.
- 8) The House of Architecture relies on a patronage system involving private individuals and companies. Patrons provide financial and logistical support for the institution’s activities and programming. The patronage framework allows supporters to contribute in several ways: they may become general patrons of the institution, sponsor specific spaces (such as the archive or educational services), support particular exhibitions, or

⁽¹⁾ <https://casadaarquitectura.pt/en/sobre-nos/>

fund individual activities and events. Support provided through the patronage scheme may also benefit from tax incentives under the Portuguese Tax Benefits Statute, provided that the contributions comply with the legal framework governing cultural patronage.

- 9) The Governance structure of the House of Architecture relies mainly on its Board (Board of Directors), notably entrusted with providing strategic and operational leadership. An Executive Commission is responsible for the day-to-day management of the institution.
- 10) The House of Architecture is not registered in the EU Transparency Register, and there is no evidence in the EU Transparency Register of any links between the House of Architecture and the Commission.
- 11) The House of Architecture has benefitted from European funding under the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) for the programming period 2014–2020, implemented in Portugal through the Portugal 2020 framework. Within this framework, a project carried out by the House of Architecture ran from 1 February 2021 to 31 January 2023, with a total operational cost of €762,872.73, of which €648,441.82 were financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).
- 12) The Commission has assessed the envisaged activity and finds that it is not linked to Former Commissioner Ferreira’s former portfolio responsibilities on ‘Cohesion and Reforms’.
- 13) On the substance, the Commission concludes that the envisaged activity does not present any risk of incompatibility with the interests of the institution, provided that Former Commissioner Ferreira respects the duties imposed on her by Article 11 of the Code of Conduct for the Members of the Commission, including the duty of integrity and discretion as well as the duty to refrain from lobbying the Commission, on behalf of the House of Architecture, notably to obtain Community funding, for a period of two-years following her term of office, ie until 30 November 2026.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

Former Commissioner Elisa Ferreira’s envisaged post term of office activity as member of the Board the ‘House of Architecture’ (*Casa da Arquitectura*) is compatible with Article 245 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, subject to the respect of the duties of integrity and discretion and of the duty to refrain from lobbying the Members of the Commission or Commission staff on behalf of the House of Architecture, for a period of two years following her term of office.

Done at Brussels, on 13 April 2026.

The President
Ursula von der Leyen