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**DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

**on Former Commissioner Paolo Gentiloni's Distinguished Fellowship at the School of  
Politics, Economics and Global Affairs of the IE Universidad**

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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 17 February 2025, Former Commissioner Paolo Gentiloni informed the Commission of his decision to engage in a remunerated Distinguished Fellowship at the School of Politics, Economics and Global Affairs of the IE Universidad, which will take place during the two first terms of 2025.
- 5) The IE Universidad, commonly known as IE University, is a private university based in Spain, with its main campus located in Segovia. It is part of the IE Foundation and affiliated with IE Business School, offering undergraduate and graduate programs in various disciplines, including business, law, international relations, architecture, and technology. The University is known for its focus on innovation, entrepreneurship, and a global perspective. It operates under Spanish higher education regulations and is recognized for its strong emphasis on practical learning and interdisciplinary education.
- 6) IE University provides undergraduate, postgraduate, and executive education programs across various disciplines, including business, law, international relations, architecture, humanities, and technology. The University also conducts research through its various centres and institutes, covering areas such as artificial intelligence, sustainability, governance, and digital transformation. The University collaborates with international institutions and industry leaders. Through its affiliation with IE Business School, the University fosters entrepreneurship by supporting startups, incubating business ideas, and offering mentorship and funding opportunities via initiatives like the IE Venture Lab. IE University maintains partnerships with top universities worldwide, allowing students to participate in exchange programs, dual degrees, and global academic collaborations. IE University hosts conferences, panel discussions, and networking events on topics such as leadership, digitalization, sustainability, and global affairs, featuring renowned experts, policymakers, and industry leaders. The University promotes social responsibility through volunteer programs, sustainability initiatives, and projects aimed at addressing global challenges, in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- 7) In the framework of his Distinguished Fellowship, Former Commissioner Gentiloni is expected to collaborate, as a Consultant, with the School of Politics, Economics and Global Affairs of IE University. More precisely, Mr Gentiloni will provide advice and support to the School of Politics, Economics and Global Affairs of IEU at the launch of a new Distinguished Fellows program for 5 business days, commencing on 10th February 2025 and ending on 15th February of the same year.
- 8) In practice, Mr Gentiloni's duties will consist of: (1) participating in a certain number of high-level face-to-face meetings organized by the School of Politics, Economics and Global Affairs, both with internal and external guests, including a networking cocktail with members of the IE Management Group; (2) teaching classes and seminars, both public and private, to students and faculty of the IE Group, including four advanced seminars with Master students; a masterclass with a select group of students from all schools in; and a public lecture in the School of Politics, Economics

and Global Affairs' auditorium; (3) participating in business lunches with faculty members, members of think tanks and policy-makers; (4) participating in a cocktail party with students from the School of Politics, Economics and Global Affairs; (5) participating in potential bilateral meetings organized by IEU; (6) interacting with press members and record a video; (7) preparing two documents related to the content of the sessions to be given to the students; (8) participating in an interview and audiovisual materials.

- 9) The Commission noted the academic nature of Former Commissioner Gentiloni's Distinguished Fellowship and considered that it 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 and the interdiction of lobbying the Members of the Commission or their Staff, as set out in Article 11(4) of the Code.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Sole Article*

Former Commissioner Paolo Gentiloni's notified Distinguished Fellowship at the School of Politics, Economics and Global Affairs of the IE Universidad 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, in Article 11(4) of the Code of Conduct for the Members of the Commission and in Article 11(1) of the Code in conjunction with Article 5.

Done at Strasbourg, on 11 March 2025.

*The President*  
*Ursula von der Leyen*