

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

on former Commissioner Carlos Moedas' post term of office professional activity at the University College London

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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,

Considering that:

- 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 the 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 (Article 11(3)(d)).
- 4) Former Commissioner Carlos Moedas informed the Commission, on 28 November 2019, about his intention to accept an honorary apppointment as Visiting Professor at the European Institute of the University College London, with effect until 31 October 2024.

- 5) The former Commissioner's appointment may involve academic activities such as lectures, seminars and tuition as well as participation in the research and/or other activities of the European Institute of the University College London.
- 6) The University College London is a recipient of EU funding for specific projects, notably from Directorate-General Research and Innovation and EU Executive Agenciessuch as the European Research Council Executive Agency or the Research Executive Agency.
- 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 Commission considered the nature of the honorary appointment and envisaged accompanying activities and came to the conclusion that these activities correspond to the category mentioned in Article 11(3)(d) of the Code of Conduct for the Members of the Commission. The Commission also noted that the envisaged activities mentioned above do not present any risk of incompatibility with the former Commissioner's function as Member of the Commission or with the interests of the Institution, provided that Mr Moedas fully abides by the duties of collegiality and discretion laid down in Articles 5 and 11(1) of the Code of Conduct for the Members of the Commission.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Former Commissioner Carlos Moedas' envisaged honorary apppointment as Visiting Professor at the European Institute of the University College London, as well as the academic activities which this appointment may include, namely lectures, seminars and tuiton as well as participation in the research and/or other activities of the Institute are compatible with Article 245(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union provided that Mr Moedas abides by the obligations set out in Articles 5 and 11(1) and (4) of the Code of Conduct for the Members of the Commission

Done at Strasbourg, on 17 December 2019.

The President Ursula von der Leyen