

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

> Brussels, 6.5.2020 C(2020) 9021 final

DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

on former Commissioner Christos Stylianides' post term of office professional activity as member of the High-Level Steering Group of the Education Outcomes Fund for Africa and the Middle East

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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 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 Article 11(3), second subparagraph.
- 4) On 2 April 2020, Former Commissioner Christos Stylianides informed the Commission about his intention to accept, subject to the Commission's authorisation, a non-remunerated assignment as member of the High-Level Steering Group of the Education Outcomes Fund for Africa and the Middle East (EOF). Mr Stylianides stated his full awareness of his obligations arising from the treaties, namely Articles 245 and 339 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and from the Code of Conduct for the Members of the Commission.

- 5) The Education Outcomes Fund for Africa and the Middle East is an initiative of the Education Commission and the Global Steering Group for Impact Investment (GSG). The Fund's declared objective is to work towards the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4 ('SDG4' inclusive and quality education for all). In line with this goal, the Fund prioritises projects targeting under-served groups, including hard-to-reach rural populations, girls, children with disabilities and refugees. The Fund brings together education, impact investing, and innovative finance in a partnership involving donors, governments education organisations, investors and other stakeholders from civil society. It wants to fund innovative education and youth employment readiness programs and help improve their effectiveness.
- 6) The Fund works with governments to set learning objectives and to determine how results will be measured. In cooperation with education organisations, it strives to achieve the agreed learning outcomes and to strengthen the education systems. By making payments based on independently verified learning and employment results, the Fund ensures that resources only go to programs that work.
- 7) It aims to pool USD \$1 billion from public funds, aid, philanthropy, and corporate social responsibility contributions. From this pool, it wants to repay investors and delivering organisations their initial investment including a return if the objectives are reached. Its concept is to achieve success by paying for the learning and employment results that such programs deliver, once they are achieved, instead of paying for programs up front based on the number of students reached or learning materials purchased. The Fund wants to develop outcomes funds and impact bonds as development tools to be effective, efficient, scalable, and able to play a major role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in education and beyond.
- 8) Former Commissioner Stylianides was invited to join the High-Level Steering Group of the Education Outcomes Fund for Africa and the Middle East by its chairman, Sir Ronald Cohen, who is also the Chairman of the Global Steering Group for Impact Investment, one of the above-mentioned initiators of the Education Outcomes Fund.
- 9) The Global Steering Group for Impact Investment is an independent international network, which intends to catalyse 'impact investment to benefit people and the planet'. It was 'established in 2015 as the successor to and incorporating the work of the Social Impact Investment Taskforce established under the United Kingdom's presidency of the G8'. It brings together 'global leaders from the worlds of finance, business, and philanthropy' to promote measurable impact as driver in investment and business decision. The Global Steering Group for Impact Investment was registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for England and Wales in November 2017.
- 10) The Education Commission is a 'global initiative encouraging progress on Sustainable Development Goal 4 and ensuring inclusive and quality education and promoting lifelong learning for all'. Its declared goal is to 'help to create a pathway for reform and increased investment in education by mobilising strong evidence and analysis while engaging with world leaders, policymakers, and researchers'. The Commission is chaired by the United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education Gordon Brown.
- 11) In his former Commission portfolio, Mr Stylianides was responsible for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management. This included education aspects in emergencies or

humanitarian crises, but not aid to, or investment in, education in developing countries as such. His envisaged activity as member of the High-Level Steering Group of the Education Outcomes Fund for Africa and the Middle East is therefore not related to his portfolio in a manner, which would require an opinion of the Independent Ethical Committee.

12) The nature of the envisaged activity does not present any risk of incompatibility with Former Commissioner Stylianides' role as a Member of the Commission or the interests of the institution, provided that Mr Stylianides abides by the general obligations set out in Article 11(1), in conjuction with Article 5, of the Code of Conduct, and that he refrains from any lobbying towards the Commission on behalf of, or for the interests of, the Education Outcomes Fund for Africa and the Middle East for a period of two years after having ceased to hold office..

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Former Commissioner Christos Stylianides' envisaged activity as member of the High-Level Steering Group of the Education Outcomes Fund for Africa and the Middle East is compatible with Article 245(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union on the condition that Mr Stylianides abides by Article 11(1), in conjuction with Article 5, of the Code of Conduct for the Members of the Commission and refrains from lobbying the Commission on behalf of, or for the interests of, the Education Outcomes Fund for Africa and the Middle East in accordance with Article 11(4) of the Code of Conduct.

Done at Brussels, on 6 May 2020.

The President Ursula von der Leyen