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## **DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

**on Former Executive Vice-President Margrethe Vestager's post term of office  
professional activity as member of the Advisory Board of the Augusta Victoria Hospital**

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### **on Former Executive Vice-President Margrethe Vestager's post term of office professional activity as member of the Advisory Board of the Augusta Victoria Hospital**

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 21 October 2025, Former Executive Vice-President Vestager informed the Commission of her intention to accept a non-remunerated professional activity as member of the Advisory Board of the Augusta Victoria Hospital. Former Executive

Vice-President Vestager explained that the Augusta Victoria Hospital is a healthcare institution owned and operated by the Lutheran World Federation on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, which primarily serves the Palestinian population in the provision of diagnostic, clinical and community health services, with an annual budget of approximately 45-60 million euros.

- 5) Former Executive Vice-President Vestager further noted that the Advisory Board provides advice and support to the Chief Executive Officer of the Augusta Victoria Hospital and to the Lutheran World Federation Augusta in matters of advocacy, networking and financial risk management. The Advisory Board meets at a minimum twice a year, once physically in Jerusalem and once via virtual platforms. Membership is personal and based on professional competence and expertise in areas such as finance, health, public relations, fundraising and advocacy.
- 6) Former Executive Vice-President Vestager added that she intends to accept this assignment for an initial term of three years and underlined her commitment to scrupulously abide by the ethical rules to which she remains submitted following her term of office.
- 7) Built between 1907 and 1914 and named after the penultimate German consort Empress, the Augusta Victoria Hospital is a non-profit institution whose modern hospital operations began in 1950, following the 1948 Palestinian refugee crisis. According to open sources, it has become, over decades, a pillar of Palestinian tertiary health care, providing services for conditions (such as radiotherapy and paediatric dialysis) not available elsewhere in the region. It is operated by the Lutheran World Federation, in partnership with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and other international stakeholders.
- 8) The Augusta Victoria Hospital's mission is to provide high-quality diagnostic, clinical and community health services effectively, efficiently and sustainably, with a special focus on the Palestinian health care system. Its major specialised services include a comprehensive cancer care centre (covering medical oncology, surgical oncology and radiotherapy), a dialysis and kidney care unit, diabetes outreach programs and long-term/skilled nursing care.
- 9) The Augusta Victoria Hospital is governed and managed under the framework of the Lutheran World Federation, which operates humanitarian and development programs worldwide. The Hospital's governance is overseen by the Department for World Service, the humanitarian arm of the Lutheran World Federation. At the institutional level, the hospital is led by a Chief Executive Officer, supported by a senior management team composed of medical, administrative, and financial directors. The Lutheran World Federation, headquartered in Geneva, maintains supervisory authority over the Augusta Victoria Hospital's governance, financial oversight and strategic direction, ensuring that its healthcare mission remains consistent with humanitarian and ethical principles.
- 10) The Augusta Victoria Hospital works in cooperation with other partners, including foundations and universities. It is primarily funded through a combination of

international donors, humanitarian aid and public funding, mainly including the following: (1) The Lutheran World Federation, as the hospital's parent organisation; (2) The European Union <sup>(1)</sup>; (3) the United States Agency for International Development (USAID); (4) several Governments from Northern European countries, which provide financial assistance for hospital operations, infrastructure, and specialised medical services; (5) other third countries, and notably the Government of Japan (via a renovation project executed with the United Nations Office for Project Services); (6) The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which funds treatment for Palestine refugees and supports access to the Augusta Victoria Hospital's specialised oncology and nephrology services; (7) The World Health Organization (WHO), through partnerships related to cancer care and public health programs; (8) Private donations and church-based contributions, particularly from Lutheran and ecumenical partners in Europe and North America.

- 11) The Commission has assessed the envisaged activity and finds that it is not linked to Former Executive Vice-President Vestager's former portfolio responsibilities as Vice-President for 'A Europe Fit for the Digital Age'.
- 12) 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 Executive Vice-President Vestager respects the duties imposed on her by 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 Augusta Victoria Hospital and of the Lutheran World Federation, notably to obtain Community funding, for a period of two-years following her term of office, cf. Article 11 of the Code.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

#### Sole Article

Former Executive Vice-President Margrethe Vestager's envisaged post term of office activity as member of the Advisory Board of the Augusta Victoria Hospital is compatible with Article 245 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, subject to the respect of the duty of integrity and discretion and the obligations imposed on her by Article 11(4) of the Code of Conduct for the Members of the Commission, both as concerns the Augusta Victoria Hospital and the Lutheran World Federation.

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<sup>(1)</sup> In May 2023, the European External Action Service informed that the EU contributed €13 million to the East Jerusalem Hospitals via a referral-support programme for Palestinian patients, which includes Augusta Victoria Hospital among the networks. In March 2024, the European External Action Service informed that the EU and Finland jointly provided €19.7 million to support health referrals to East Jerusalem hospitals, including Augusta Victoria Hospital. A July 2024 agreement between the EU and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) specifically named Augusta Victoria Hospital.

Done at Brussels, on 12 November 2025.

*The President*  
*Ursula von der Leyen*