



Brussels, 17.12.2019
C(2019) 9005 final

DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

**on former High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini's post term of office
professional activity at the College of Europe (Bruges)**

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on former High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini's post term of office professional activity at the College of Europe (Bruges)

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 High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini informed the Commission, on 28 November 2019, about her intention to serve as Visiting Professor at the EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies Department of the College of Europe (Bruges), as from 22 January 2020. In this capacity, she intends to hold a

course on “EU Diplomacy and the new Geopolitics”, for which she will be remunerated.

- 5) The former High Representative/Vice-President furthermore confirmed that her function as Visiting Professor does not involve other tasks than the mentioned teaching activity.
- 6) The Commission considered the nature of the envisaged activity and concluded that it corresponds 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 academic activity does not present any risk of incompatibility with the former function as Member of the Commission or with the interests of the institution, provided that Ms Mogherini 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 High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini's envisaged activity as Visiting Professor at the EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies Department of the College of Europe (Bruges), and in particular the course she envisages to hold on “EU Diplomacy and the new Geopolitics” are compatible with Article 245(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union provided that Ms Mogherini abides by the obligations set out in Articles 5 and 11(1) of the Code of Conduct for the Members of the Commission

Done at Strasbourg, on 17 December 2019.

The President
Ursula von der Leyen