



Brussels, 29.4.2020
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DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

**on Former Commissioner Tibor Navracsics' post term of office professional activity as
Head of a Research Group at the National University of Public Services**

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on former Commissioner Tibor Navracsics' post term of office professional activity as Head of a Research Group at the National University of Public Services

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), lit. (a) to (f), notably as concerns academic activities (Art. 11(3) (d)).
- 4) Former Commissioner Tibor Navracsics informed the Commission, on 25 March 2020, about a new post-mandate activity in which he had engaged as Head of a research group at the National University of Public Services. He underlined that this Group performs purely academic research on strategic issues of European integration.
- 5) The National University of Public Service is a Hungarian higher educational institution located in Budapest. It was established in 2012 by merging the National

Defence University, the Police College and the Faculty of Public Administration of Corvinus University of Budapest. The University's primary goal is to develop highly trained and efficient personnel in the field of public administration, law enforcement, defence and other areas of public service. The University also functions as a think tank for the public service.

- 6) The University is led and managed by a rector who is supported by vice-rectors with separate portfolios. The rector chairs the Senate of the University. The most important decisions regarding the operation of the University are taken by the Governing Board, which consists of the Ministers of the Prime Minister's Office, of the Ministry of Defence, of the Ministry of Interior, and of the Ministry of Justice; the Public Administration Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has participation and consultation rights.
- 7) The University of Public Service received modest funding from the European Union via a Commission department, which was not under former Commissioner Navracsics' political authority.
- 8) The Commission recalls that, according to Article 11(2) of the Code of Conduct, any new professional activity needs to be notified to the Commission with a minimum of two months' notice before engaging in the activity.
- 9) In the present case, the activity is an academic activity which, in accordance with Article 11(3), second subparagraph, lit. (d) of the Code of Conduct, does not entail the consultation of the Independent Ethical Committee.
- 10) The activity does not present any risk of incompatibility with former Commissioner Navracsics' former function as Member of the Commission or with the interests of the institution provided he abides by the general provisions of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, notably Article 339, and the Code of Conduct for the Members of the Commission, namely Article 11(1), in conjunction with Article 5, as concerns the protection of confidentiality of sensitive information and the duties of collegiality and discretion with respect to the Commission's decisions and activities during his term of office.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Former Commissioner Tibor Navracsics' envisaged activity as Head of a research group on strategic issues of European integration at the National University of Public Services is compatible with Article 245(2) 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 and in Article 11(1) of the Code of Conduct in conjunction with Article 5.

Done at Brussels, on 29 April 2020.

The President
Ursula von der Leyen