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DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

on Former Commissioner Paolo Gentiloni 's post term of office involvement in a United Nations group of experts on the Debt Crisis

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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:

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 exceptions foreseen in paragraph 3, second subparagraph, lit. (a) to (f).

- 4) On 14 February 2025, Former Commissioner Paolo Gentiloni informed the Commission about the invitation sent to him by the Secretary General of the United Nations to integrate a restricted group of four leading experts in charge of promoting policy solutions to resolve the debt crisis and thereby contributing to the preparation of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4).
- 5) More precisely, the initiative launched by the Secretary-General of the United Nations aims at building consensus and driving momentum on the debt crisis critical agenda with two precise objectives: first, to develop a consolidated set of actionable policy recommendations, drawing from current proposals, to resolve today's debt challenges; second, to galvanize political and public support around these recommendations to prompt urgent action.
- 6) The outcome of the Secretary-General's initiative is designed to contribute to the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4), an intergovernmental process facilitated by the United Nations, which will take place from 30 June to 3 July 2025, in Sevilla, Spain. This conference aims at addressing emerging challenges and the pressing need to fully implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as supporting reforms in the international financial architecture. The participants to this Conference will assess the progress made since the adoption of the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha Declaration, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The event will convene leaders from governments, international and regional organizations, financial and trade institutions, the private sector and civil society.
- 7) The nature of the notified activity is related to Mr Gentiloni's former responsibilities as Commissioner for the Economy. However, the consultation of the Independent Ethical Committee is not necessary as the activity corresponds to the category mentioned in Article 11(3), second subparagraph, letter (c) of the Code of Conduct for the Members of the Commission as it concerns an engagement with international organisations or other international bodies dealing with public interests and in which either the European Union or one or several of its Member States are represented.
- 8) On substance, the notified activity does not present any risk of incompatibility with Mr Gentiloni's former functions as Commissioner for the Economy or with the interests of the Institution.
- 9) The continued obligation to respect the duties of collegiality and discretion with respect to the Commission's decisions and activities during Mr Gentiloni's term of office, as set out in Article 11(1) of the Code of Conduct for the Members of the Commission, in conjunction with Article 5 of the Code, is fully applicable.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

Former Commissioner Paolo Gentiloni's assignment with the United Nations as member of a restricted group of experts in charge of promoting policy solutions to resolve the debt crisis is compatible with the second paragraph of Article 245 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), in conjunction with Article 5, of the Code of Conduct for the Members of the European Commission.

Done at Strasbourg, on 11 March 2025.

The President
Ursula von der Leyen