



Brussels, 10.12.2025  
C(2025) 9039 final

**DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

**on Former Commissioner Elisa Ferreira's post term of office professional activity with  
the Bissaya Barreto Foundation (Fundação Bissaya Barreto)**

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**on Former Commissioner Elisa Ferreira's post term of office professional activity**  
**with the Bissaya Barreto Foundation (*Fundação Bissaya Barreto*)**

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 exceptions set out in Article 11(3), second subparagraph.
- 4) Former Commissioner Elisa Ferreira informed the Commission, on 30 November 2025, of her intention to accept a post term of office activity as member of the Board of Curators of the Bissaya Barreto Foundation (*Fundação Bissaya Barreto*). Former Commissioner Ferreira underlined the humanitarian and cultural nature of this non-for-profit Foundation and explained that the Board of Curators, which meets in principle twice a year, has a non-executive, advisory role near the Foundation's Board of Directors. She added that her activity will not be remunerated, yet noting that her travelling expenses will be reimbursed.

- 5) The Bissaya Barreto Foundation is a private social welfare foundation of public utility located in Coimbra (Portugal). It defines itself by a set of core values: philanthropy, humanism, ethics and citizenship, knowledge and innovation, social cohesion, sustainability, dedication, and social responsibility. It was established in 1958 to carry forward the social work and legacy of its founder, Fernando Bissaya Barreto, a well-known and respected personality who had already developed an extensive network of social, educational, and healthcare services in the central region of Portugal. The Foundation's statutes outline its mission as promoting solidarity and social justice in Portugal's central region, by supporting and developing activities across social welfare, education, health, culture, professional training, and other initiatives that align with the founder's vision.
- 6) The Bissaya Barreto Foundation provides social support services targeted at children, families, the elderly, individuals with disabilities, victims of abuse or violence and other groups in vulnerable situations. Its services encompass temporary accommodation for at-risk minors, elderly care via geriatric homes and support services and home care services for those unable to meet basic needs. The Foundation also operates numerous childcare facilities and nurseries for children from infancy to preschool age, accommodating hundreds of youngsters. Education is another fundamental pillar of the Bissaya Barreto Foundation: the Foundation offers vocational and professional training through its training centre, aiding skill development and employability within the central region of Portugal. The Bissaya Barreto Foundation is also committed to the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage and manages several cultural institutions and attractions
- 7) The Bissaya Barreto Foundation's governance structure is composed of a Board of Directors, an Executive Committee, an Audit Board and a Board of Curators. The Board of Directors is its main governing organ: it sets strategy, decides on the scope of the Foundation's activities, approves the annual budget and is authorised to decide on the extension of Foundation's activities beyond its core activities. The Foundation's daily management is carried out by an Executive Committee, which answers to the Board of Directors. Financial oversight and control are entrusted to an Audit Board. Finally, the Board of Curators has a supervisory/advisory role regarding the Foundation's patrimony and mission. The Foundation's Curators are asked to provide institutional legitimacy and long-term stewardship over the Foundation's mission and assets.
- 8) The Bissaya Barreto Foundation receives significant public and private funding for its social, educational and cultural activities, some of its public funding stemming from the European Budget, namely from the European Regional Development Fund (€13,026.33 in 2022, €38,557.97 in 2023, €75,273.38 in 2024). The Foundation's educational, cultural and welfare activities also generate substantial revenue.
- 9) The Bissaya Barreto Foundation is not registered in the EU Transparency Register and there is no evidence in the EU Transparency Register of any links between the Foundation and the Commission.
- 10) The Commission has assessed the envisaged activity and finds that it is not linked to Former Commissioner Ferreira's former portfolio responsibilities on 'Cohesion and Reforms'.

- 11) 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 Commissioner Ferreira respects the duties imposed on her by Article 11 of 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 Bissaya Barreto Foundation, notably to obtain Community funding, for a period of two-years following her term of office, ie until 30 November 2026.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

Former Commissioner Elisa Ferreira's envisaged post term of office activity as member of the Board of Curators the Bissaya Barreto Foundation (*Fundação Bissaya Barreto*) is compatible with Article 245 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, subject to the respect of the duties of integrity and discretion and of the duty to refrain from lobbying the Members of the Commission or Commission staff on behalf of the Bissaya Barreto Foundation, for a period of two years following her term of office.

Done at Brussels, on 10 December.

*The President*  
*Ursula von der Leyen*