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**DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

**on Former President Jean-Claude Juncker's post term of office professional activity as  
member of the Strategic Council of the European Policy Centre**

## DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

### on Former President Jean-Claude Juncker's post term of office professional activity as Member of the Strategic Council of the European Policy Centre

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 subparagraphs 3(a) to (f).

- 4) Former President Jean-Claude Juncker informed the Commission by letter of 19 February 2020 about his intention to become a member of the Strategic Council of the European Policy Centre. The former President underlined his full awareness of his obligations arising from the treaties, namely Articles 245 and 339 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and from the Code of Conduct for the Members of the Commission.
- 5) The European Policy Centre is a widely known think-tank on European affairs. It presents itself as an independent, not-for-profit think tank dedicated to fostering European integration through analysis and debate, supporting and challenging European decision-makers at all levels to make informed decisions based on sound evidence and analysis, and providing a platform for engaging partners, stakeholders and citizens in EU policymaking as well as in the debate about the future of Europe. Its Strategic Council is composed of personalities from diverse backgrounds and nationalities, expected to bring fresh insights and forward-looking perspectives on the major challenges facing the European Union. Former President of the European Council Count Herman Van Rompuy, Former Commission Vice-President Joaquín Almunia, Former Commissioner Janez Potočnik and Former Commission Secretary-General Catherine Day are currently Members of the Strategic Council of the European Policy Center, together with, inter alia, several former Members of the European Parliament.
- 6) The Commission has already taken decisions authorising former Members to join the European Policy Centre (former Vice-President Almunia in 2015, and former Commissioners Potocnik and Andor in 2014).
- 7) The Commission takes note of the nature of former President Juncker's envisaged post term of office activity and the commitment expressed in his letter to the President of the Commission to respect the obligations imposed on him by Articles 245 and 339 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and by the Code of Conduct for the Members of the Commission.
- 8) The consultation of the Independent Ethical Committee is not necessary in view of the previous decisions and of President Juncker's commitments above mentioned.
- 9) The former President's envisaged activity does not present any risk of incompatibility with his former function as President of the Commission or with the interests of the institution.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Former President Jean-Claude Juncker's envisaged activity as member of the Strategic Council of the European Policy Centre is compatible with Article 245(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, subject to the respect by the former President of the obligations imposed on him by Articles 245 and 339 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and by the Code of Conduct for the Members of the Commission, in particular Articles 5 and 11(1) and (4).

Done at Brussels, on 8 April 2020.

*The President*  
*Ursula von der Leyen*