



Strasbourg, 26.11.2024
C(2024) 9002

DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

**on Commissioner Elisa Ferreira's post term of office professional activity as university
teacher at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Porto**

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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,

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, notably as concerns academic activities (Article 11(3), second subparagraph, lit. (d)).
- 4) Commissioner Elisa Ferreira informed the Commission on 2 October 2024 about her intention to resume her former occupation as university teacher at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Porto, following her term of office as Member of the European Commission. She explained that the University of Porto was a public university whose financing came from the Portuguese Government. She furthermore indicated that her position would be remunerated in line with the salary grid of the Portuguese university career. Her teaching activity might also entail guest lectures at

other universities for a fixed period of time. Commissioner Ferreira underlined that she would not have any management responsibilities, nor would she be involved in fund-raising activities of the University of Porto.

- 5) The University of Porto was officially established on 22 March 1911. Its roots date back to the 18th century when a combination of training experiences would be transformed into a university. The University of Porto is a public foundation regulated by private law and with statutory, educational, scientific, cultural, administrative, financial, patrimonial and disciplinary autonomy.
- 6) According to the Financial Transparency System of the European Commission, the University of Porto has been a regular recipient of funding from the EU budget under several headings (circa 10.755 € in 2023), and notably via Erasmus + (circa 4.450 € in 2023).
- 7) The Commission notes that the notified post term of office 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 and does not present any risk of incompatibility with the former function of Member of the Commission.
- 8) Therefore, the activity complies with the obligations which will be applicable to Commissioner Ferreira after her term of office, provided she abides by the general provisions of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, notably Article 339, and of the Code of Conduct for the Members of the Commission, namely Article 11, 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 her term of office.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Commissioner Elisa Ferreira's envisaged post term of office teaching activity at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Porto is, after the end of her mandate, 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) of the Code of Conduct in conjunction with Article 5.

Article 2

In line with Article 13(2) of the Code of Conduct for the Members of the Commission, Ms Ferreira shall inform the President of the Commission, in a timely manner, if she has doubts on any situation regarding the application of the Code of Conduct for the Members of the Commission in relation to the University of Porto.

Done at Strasbourg, on 26 November 2024.

The President
Ursula von der Leyen