

**Question for oral answer O-000067/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 136

**Daniel Freund** (Verts/ALE), **Damian Boeselager** (Verts/ALE), **Marie Toussaint** (Verts/ALE), **Eleonora Evi** (Verts/ALE), **Ernest Urtasun** (Verts/ALE), **Rasmus Andresen** (Verts/ALE), **Karen Melchior** (Renew), **Anna Júlia Donáth** (Renew), **Sabrina Pignedoli** (NI), **Katalin Cseh** (Renew), **Ivan Štefanec** (PPE), **Pascal Durand** (Renew), **Michèle Rivasi** (Verts/ALE), **Anna Cavazzini** (Verts/ALE), **Sarah Wiener** (Verts/ALE), **Niklas Nienaß** (Verts/ALE), **Helmut Scholz** (The Left), **Danuta Maria Hübner** (PPE), **Vlad Gheorghe** (Renew), **Katrin Langensiepen** (Verts/ALE), **Damien Carême** (Verts/ALE), **Sven Giegold** (Verts/ALE), **Ramona Strugariu** (Renew), **Philippe Lamberts** (Verts/ALE), **Alexandra Geese** (Verts/ALE), **Reinhard Bütikofer** (Verts/ALE), **Jutta Paulus** (Verts/ALE), **Michael Bloss** (Verts/ALE), **Sergey Lagodinsky** (Verts/ALE), **Lara Wolters** (S&D), **Anna Deparnay-Grunenberg** (Verts/ALE), **Ciarán Cuffe** (Verts/ALE), **Moritz Körner** (Renew), **Stelios Kouloglou** (The Left), **Terry Reintke** (Verts/ALE), **Fabio Massimo Castaldo** (NI), **Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz** (S&D)

Subject: Enforcement of revolving door rules by the Commission

Compared to many of the Member States, the EU institutions have some of the most advanced rules and standards to govern revolving door cases. Former commissioners and all senior officials are prohibited from engaging in lobbying vis-à-vis their former institution for a specified time period varying from 12 to 36 months after leaving office.

In 2019, the Commission rejected only 3 out of 363 requests from former EU officials for permission to take up a new job. Instead, it authorised a range of new activities which are at high risk of being incompatible with the prohibition to engage in lobbying right after leaving the service. One former commissioner was recently granted permission to take up 17 different occupations within his cooling-off period, of which seven are with organisations/companies registered as lobbyists in the Transparency Register, including his own consultancy firm. In September 2021, another former commissioner joined a lobbying law firm in the middle of his cooling-off period, without the Commission having given any form of approval for the activity. Another prominent case is that of the former Head of Regulatory Coordination and Markets Unit at the Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology, who was granted leave to work for Vodafone. The company had hired him for his 'knowledge and skills in the field of regulation' and he was later seen at several lobbying events organised by Vodafone, despite the restrictions on lobbying imposed on him by the Commission.

While the Commission has imposed certain restrictions when granting many requests for further employment, it is not clear how it ensures that these conditions are adhered to. Against this background, we would like to ask the Commission the following questions:

1. How does it monitor and enforce compliance with the conditions it has imposed on the new professional activities of former officials and commissioners?
2. In cases where it became aware that a former official or commissioner was not adhering to the conditions imposed on their new occupation, what action was taken?
3. How does it plan to enforce revolving door rules for both commissioners and senior officials in the future through an independent EU ethics body?

Submitted: 15.10.2021

Lapses: 16.1.2022