

**Priority question for written answer P-001371/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Dirk Gotink (PPE), Daniel Freund (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Lobbying and transparency rules regarding the new position of Diederik Samsom

Diederik Samsom started as Supervisory Board President of Gasunie on 1 July 2024. Samsom used to be Head of Cabinet of former Commissioner Frans Timmermans, but he did not ask the Commission for permission to take up this new role, which is against the rules.

1. Samsom was obliged to inform the Commission about his new position, but did not do so before assuming it. What will be the consequences of this infringement?
2. Does the Commission agree that Samsom's new position seems to be in violation of the lobbying rules and represents a possible conflict of interest, given the fact that Samsom was the Head of Cabinet of Commissioner Timmermans and that he has profound knowledge of the networks and in-house information inside the Commission related to issues that could be relevant to Gasunie?
3. Does the Commission agree that a cooling down period is appropriate to safeguard the credibility and image of the European institutions, given the fact that Gasunie is a recipient of EU funds and that Samsom was in touch several times during his work at the Commission and has in-depth knowledge of the Commission's work and teams as they relate to topics that directly affect the interests and activities of Gasunie?

Submitted: 17.7.2024