

Ref. Ares(2015)692413 - 18/02/2015



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

The Secretary General

18 FEB. 2015

Brussels,
SG/B3 Ares(2015)

Note to the Members of the Ad-Hoc Ethical Committee

Mr Nikolaus Van der Pas
Mr Rafael García-Valdecasas
Mr Terry Wynn

Subject: Former Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou's post-mandate activities:

Former Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou informed the Commission, by e-mail to me of 9 February 2015, about her intention to accept three post Commission-office positions:

and the latter as member
of the Board of Trustees of the Cyprus Research and Educational Foundation.

In accordance with paragraphs 1.2 and 2.3 of the Code of Conduct for Commissioners, may I ask you to provide the Commission with your opinion about the compatibility with article 245(2) of the TFEU of Ms Vassiliou's envisaged activities

You will find enclosed two fiches prepared by the Secretariat General providing you with a summary of the relevant information

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Catherine Day

Encl: Ms Vassiliou's e-mail of 9 February 2015 (Ares(2015) 53744) annexes
concerning
2 Information Fiches



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

The Secretary General

DOCUMENT 4

Brussels, **09 MARS 2015**
SG/B3 Ares(2015)

Note to the Members of the Ad-Hoc Ethical Committee

Mr Nikolaus Van der Pas
Mr Rafael García-Valdecasas
Mr Terry Wynn

Subject: Former Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou's post-mandate activity as member of the High Council of the European University Institute

Please find enclosed former Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou's e-mail to me of 4 March 2015, whereby she informs the Commission about her wish to accept a *non-remunerated assignment* as the *official representative of Cyprus* in the High Council of the European University Institute.

In view of the link between this envisaged activity and Ms Vassiliou's former Commission portfolio (Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth), and in accordance with paragraph 1.2 of the Code of Conduct for Commissioners, may I ask you to provide the Commission with your opinion about the compatibility of this activity with article 245(2) of the TFEU .

For all useful purpose, and in addition to the information provided by Ms Vassiliou, you will also find enclosed an information fiche prepared by the Secretariat General containing additional information on Ms Vassiliou's envisaged activity.

Catherine Day

Encl: Ms Vassiliou's e-mail of 4 March 2015 (Ares(2015) 955116)
Information Fiche

Catherine DAY, Secretary General of the European Commission

DOCUMENT 6

cc.: /

i.G.,

Subject: Request from the European Commission of 18 February 2015, Ref. Ares (2015)692413, concerning post-office activities planned by former Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou.

The Committee has examined the Commission's request for an opinion on post-mandate activities Ms Vassiliou's wishes to pursue. In this Opinion, the Committee pronounces itself on invitations extended to Ms Vassiliou to become

and a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Cyprus Institute (Cyl) and the Cyprus Research and Educational Foundation (CREF).

The Committee takes note of the information provided by Ms Vassiliou in her notification of 9 February 2015 and by the Commission itself.

1.

2. Board of Trustees of the Cyprus Institute (Cyl) and the Cyprus Research and Educational Foundation (CREF)

- a. According to its web site, the Cyprus Institute (Cyl) "operates under the aegis of the Cyprus Research and Educational Foundation (CREF), which is governed by a Board of Trustees comprising leading personalities of the international academic, political and business worlds. The principal objectives of CREF are the advancement of knowledge and its humane and benevolent application and the establishment of a new research and educational public-benefit organization that shall generally promote research and education in Cyprus and abroad and aim primarily at benefitting the public interest at large".
- b. Among its objectives and achievements, the Cyprus Institute lists "strong collaborations with academic research organizations and strong links with industry internationally", "three licensed and accredited doctoral programs (by the Ministry of Education and Culture)", "outreach programs for education and community relations, focusing on the specific needs of Cyprus and the region", "engaging more than 130 scientists and professionals from around the world (... with "faculty and researchers over 80% of the total staff" including "mainly EU nationals (over 10 different EU nationalities), but also nationals from other countries such as the United States, Russia and Egypt".
- c. The Committee notes that Ms Vassiliou's intended activity would not be remunerated. Although showing a link with the education dimension of Ms Vassiliou's former portfolio, the not for profit activities of the Cyprus Institute seem to be much wider, serve the public interest and support EU objectives in the field of research development at many levels, including reinforced cooperation with industry. The EU recognizes these efforts through FP7 funding selection (according to the Institute's web site).
- d. In view of the wider scope of the Cyprus Institute, its not for profit objectives in the public interest and the absence of remuneration for Ms Vassiliou's intended activity, the Committee sees no incompatibility with her former Commission mandate. Ms Vassiliou should, however, abstain from any activity, in particular lobbying, in case

the Cyprus Institute should wish to benefit from EU funding in all areas related to education and research.

Opinion:

The Ad-Hoc Ethical Committee is of the opinion that Ms Vassiliou's acceptance of the invitation to become Member of the Board of Trustees of the Cyprus Institute (Cyl) and the Cyprus Research and Educational Foundation (CREF) is compatible with the second paragraph of Article 245 of the TFEU.

Nikolaus van der Pas
Rafael Garcia-Valdecasas
Terry Wynn

Date: 27 February 2015

Catherine DAY, Secretary General of the European Commission

cc.: S.G.,

Subject: Request from the European Commission of 9 March 2015, Ref. SG/B3 Ares(2015)2015, concerning post-office activities planned by former Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou.

1. The Committee has examined the Commission's request for an opinion on a post-mandate activity Ms Vassiliou's wishes to pursue by accepting an invitation to become the official representative of Cyprus in the High Council of the European University Institute (EUI).
2. The Committee takes note of the information provided by Ms Vassiliou in her notification of 4 March 2015 and by the Commission itself. According to Ms Vassiliou's notification, the invitation has been extended to her by the President of the EUI in agreement with the Cyprus Minister of Education.
3. The Committee notes that the envisaged activity will be non-remunerated and that the Cypriot government will only cover
in the High Council's meetings.
4. According to the information provided by the Commission and by the web site of the EUI, the latter is an intergovernmental organization. The High Council is its Governing Board consisting of contracting Member states' representatives. It is responsible for the main guidance of the Institute and for drawing up the rules governing its activities. It adopts the budget and appoints the President and the Secretary General.
5. The EUI provides advanced academic training for doctoral researchers and promotes research in economics, history and civilization, law and the political and social sciences. Its doctoral programmes for the social sciences are amongst the most important in Europe, welcoming applicants from the EU, Switzerland, Norway and Turkey, eastern countries beyond the EU, the Mediterranean area and Latin America. The EUI is funded principally by contracting Member states and by the EU budget (respectively 44.1% and 17.3% in 2012: latest internet-accessible annual report of the EUI President).
6. The Committee has closely examined the direct link between Ms Vassiliou's former Commission portfolio and the envisaged EUI activity, as well the EU's budgetary contribution, which starts as a proposal from the European Commission with overall responsibility (and thus Ms Vassiliou's collegial co-responsibility) for the EU's budget execution.
7. However, the Committee is of the opinion that these elements of possible incompatibility are outweighed by (1) the not-for-profit, non-commercial, public service nature of the EUI's activities in support of Europe's academic and research ambitions, (2) the non-executive role of the High Council, (3) the absence of remuneration for Ms Vassiliou's envisaged activity, (4) the intergovernmental nature

of the EUI, principally funded by the contracting Member states and (5) Ms Vassiliou's public service support for the Cypriot authorities (Ministry of Education). Nevertheless, Ms Vassiliou should remain aware of her obligations as former Commissioner and abstain from any activity, e.g. related to EUI's requests for EU funds, contrary to the Code of Conduct for Commissioners.

Opinion:

The Ad-Hoc Ethical Committee is of the opinion that in accepting the invitation to become the official representative of Cyprus in the High Council of the European University Institute (EUI), Ms Vassiliou acts in accordance with the second paragraph of Article 245 of the TFEU.

Nikolaus van der Pas
Rafael Garcia-Valdecasas
Terry Wynn

Date:

DOCUMENT 9

■ Ref. Ares(2015)979005 - 05/03/2015

From: (SG)
Sent: Wednesday 4 March 2015 18:56
To: (SJ)
Cc: (SG); (SG)
Subject: FW: URGENT - Projet de décision de la Commission sur une activité post-mandate de Mme Vassiliou
Attachments: 04.03.2015 Draft Decision activités Mme Vassiliou : Cyl CREF. rév doc.doc; Cyl -CREF) Cadhoc 27.02.2015.pdf; E-mail Mme Vassiliou à CD (Lettre) du 09.02.2015.pdf; E-mail Mme Vassiliou à CD (Annexe 5 Cyl) du 09.02.2015.pdf; E-mail Mme Vassiliou à CD (Annexe 6 Cyl) du 09.02.2015.pdf

Chère

Je te prie de bien vouloir trouver ci-joint notre projet de décision relatif à une activité de Mme Vassiliou en tant que membre du Board of Trustees du Cyprus Research and Educational Foundation pour le Cyprus Institute.

Je t'envoie également la lettre que Mme Vassiliou a envoyée à la Commission le 9 février, portant sur trois activités envisagées.

Entretemps, Mme Vassiliou a fait savoir à la Secrétaire générale qu'elle renonçait à deux de ces activités. Le projet de Décision porte donc sur l'activité maintenue par Mme Vassiliou, ainsi que l'avis correspondant du Comité éthique ad hoc.

Merci de bien vouloir donner l'accord ou les observations du SJ.

Cette consultation sera également envoyée via ARES.

Si possible, nous aimerions soumettre cette décision à la prochaine réunion du Collège (mardi 11 mars) et l'avis du SJ serait dès lors apprécié si possible avant demain 17 H.

MEMORANDUM FROM THE PRESIDENT TO THE COMMISSION

According to Article 245(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the members of the Commission 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.

Further to this Treaty provision, the Code of Conduct for Commissioners (C (2011) 2904 final) establishes a specific procedure for the assessment of planned occupations which former Commissioners intend to take up during the eighteen months after they have ceased to hold office. The Commission shall examine the nature of the planned occupation and, if the activity is related to the content of the Commissioner's portfolio, it shall seek the opinion of the Ad hoc Ethical Committee.

On 9 February 2015, former Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou informed the Commission about her intention to accept a post mandate position as member of the Board of Trustees of the Cyprus Institute (CyI) and the Research and Educational Foundation (CREF). Ms Vassiliou's activity will not be remunerated.

On 27 February, the Committee provided the Commission with its opinion on this activity.

According to the public information available, the Cyprus Institute is an internationally recognized research institution, which operates under the aegis of the Cyprus Research and Educational Foundation. The latter is governed by a Board of Trustees, comprised of leading personalities of the international academic, political and business world.

The Cyprus Institute is a world-class research and technology institution, carrying out pioneering research programs involving cutting-edge high throughput technologies, in order to address problems of regional as well as international significance. At the same time, it provides training for future researchers and scholars through its high quality doctoral programs.

The Ad hoc Ethical Committee considered Mrs Vassiliou's envisaged activity against the background of the Cyprus Research and Educational Foundation's and the Cyprus Institute's institutional setting, scope and activities. The Committee noted that, although showing a link with the education dimension of Ms Vassiliou's former portfolio, the not-for-profit activities of the Cyprus Institute seem to be much wider, serve the public interest and support EU objectives in the field of research development at many levels, including reinforced cooperation with industry.

In view of the wider scope of the Cyprus Institute, its not-for-profit objectives in the public interest and the absence of remuneration for Ms Vassiliou's intended activity, the Committee saw no incompatibility with her former Commission mandate. The Committee noted however that Ms Vassiliou should abstain from lobbying activities, in case the Cyprus Institute should wish to benefit from EU funding in all areas related to education and research.

The Services of the Commission considered the nature of this non remunerated envisaged activity whose scope is compatible with the interests of the European Union and with Article 245(2) of the TFEU.

The Commission is invited:

- (1) to decide that Ms Vassiliou's non remunerated envisaged activity as Member of the Board of Trustees of the Cyprus Research and Educational Foundation is compatible with Article 245(2) of the TFEU on the condition that Ms Vassiliou refrains from any lobbying with the Commission and its services, during eighteen months after the end of her mandate as member of the Commission, should the Cyprus, Institute and/or the Cyprus Educational and Research Foundation decide to request any funding from the EU Budget.
- (4) to instruct the Secretary General to inform Ms Vassiliou about the present decision, yet drawing her attention to the condition contained therein.

(SG)

From: (SG)
Sent: Tuesday 10 March 2015 17:37
To: (SJ)
Cc: (SG); (SG)
Subject: post mandate activity of Mrs Vassiliou.
Importance: High

Bonjour

Nous venons de recevoir l'avis du Comité Ethique ad hoc concernant la participation de Mme Vassiliou en tant que représentante de Chypre au sein du High Council de l'Institut Universitaire Européen (Florence). (Tu trouveras ci-dessous la notification de Mme Vassiliou et l'avis du Comité)



E-mail Mme



Avis Cadhoc

Vassiliou à CD d... (Texte envoyé le...)

Compte tenu du fait que la Commission n'a toujours pas été saisie du projet de décision concernant le 'Board of Trustees of the Cyprus Research and Educational Foundation/ Cyprus Institute', nous proposons de soumettre un seul projet de Décision à la Commission, pour ces deux activités.

Tu trouveras donc ci-joint le projet de décision envisagé. (Rien n'a été changé en ce qui concerne l'activité pour le Cyprus Research and Educational Foundation pour laquelle le SJ a déjà été consulté.



10.03.2015 Draft
Decision Mme...

Cette consultation sera également envoyée via ARES.

Je te remercierais de bien vouloir nous communiquer l'accord ou les observations du SJ au plus tard pour le jeudi 12 mars à 15 H afin que le dossier puisse être soumis au Collège la semaine prochaine.

Bien à toi



European Commission
Secretariat General

» (SG)

From: EC-NOTIS-SERVICE-NOREPLY@ec.europa.eu
Sent: Thursday 12 March 2015 15:38
To: (SG)
Subject: Ares: New Document - sj.f(2015)1237978/Title: Accord du SJ- Projet de décision de la Commission sur une activité post-mandate de Mme Vassiliou

You received a new document:

My Documents

Title	<u>Accord du SJ- Projet de décision de la Commission sur une activité post-mandate de Mme Vassiliou</u>
Recipient(s)	
Sent by	(SJ.F)
Save number	sj.f(2015)1237978
Registration number	Ares(2015)1100869
Document date	12/03/2015
Registration date	12/03/2015
Sensitivity level	Handling restriction
Marking information	Opinion of the Legal Service
Comment(s)	
Attachment(s)	Accord_sj_post mandate activiy of Mrs Vassiliou.rtf

Remark: the hyperlinks work only from the Commission's computer network. If you want to access Ares via the Internet or the scientific network (JRC), use the following link: <https://myremote.ec.europa.eu/app/>
The EEAS staff located in the KO buildings will have to connect to ARES by using the following link: <http://intracomm.ec.testa.eu/Ares>

Please click on 'Preferences' in Notis Web interface <http://www.cc.cec/notis> to set your notification options, including preferred language.

dc

MEMORANDUM FROM THE PRESIDENT TO THE COMMISSION

According to Article 245(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the members of the Commission 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.

Further to this Treaty provision, the Code of Conduct for Commissioners (C(2011) 2904 final) establishes a specific procedure for the assessment of planned occupations which former Commissioners intend to take up during the eighteen months after they have ceased to hold office. The Commission shall examine the nature of the planned occupation and, if the activity is related to the content of the Commissioner's portfolio, it shall seek the opinion of the Ad hoc Ethical Committee.

On 9 February 2015, former Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou informed the Commission about her intention to accept a post mandate position as member of the Board of Trustees of the Cyprus Institute (Cyl) and the Cyprus Research and Educational Foundation (CREF).

On 4 March, Ms Vassiliou informed the Commission about her wish to accept a non-remunerated assignment as the official representative of Cyprus in the High Council of the European University Institute.

The Committee provided the Commission with its opinions on these activities respectively on 27 February and 10 March.

Member of the Board of Trustees of the Cyprus Research and Educational Foundation / Cyprus Institute

According to the public information available, the Cyprus Institute is an internationally recognised research institution, which operates under the aegis of the Cyprus Research and Educational Foundation. The latter is governed by a Board of Trustees, comprised of leading personalities of the international academic, political and business world.

The Cyprus Institute is a world-class research and technology institution, carrying out pioneering research programmes involving cutting-edge high throughput technologies, in order to address problems of regional as well as international significance. At the same time, it provides training for future researchers and scholars through its high quality doctoral programmes.

The Ad hoc Ethical Committee considered Mrs Vassiliou's envisaged activity against the background of the Cyprus Research and Educational Foundation's and the Cyprus Institute's institutional setting, scope and activities. The Committee noted that, although showing a link with the education dimension of Ms Vassiliou's former portfolio, the not-for-profit activities of the Cyprus Institute seem to be much wider, serve the public interest and support EU objectives in the field of research development at many levels, including reinforced cooperation with industry.

In view of the wider scope of the Cyprus Institute, its not-for-profit objectives in the public interest and the absence of remuneration for Ms Vassiliou's intended activity, the

Committee saw no incompatibility with her former Commission mandate. The Committee noted however that Ms Vassiliou should abstain from lobbying activities, in case the Cyprus Institute should wish to benefit from EU funding in all areas related to education and research.

The Services of the Commission considered the nature of this non remunerated envisaged activity whose scope is compatible with the interests of the European Union and with Article 245(2) of the TFEU.

Representative of Cyprus in the High Council of the European University Institute

The European University Institute (EUI) is an intergovernmental body created in 1972 by an international convention signed by the then six Member States of the European Communities. With time, 15 additional EU Member States signed the 1972 Convention.

The EUI is under the threefold authority of the High Council, the President of the Institute and the Academic Council. The High Council is the EUI's governing board. It consists of representatives from the Contracting States to the Institute's Convention.

Ms Vassiliou's activity will consist, upon appointment by the Cypriot Government, to represent the Republic of Cyprus within the EUI's High Council. Her activity will not be remunerated and the Cypriot Government will only cover participating, twice per year, in the High Council's meetings.

The Ad hoc Ethical Committee closely examined the link between Ms Vassiliou's former Commission portfolio and her envisaged activity with the EUI and considered that the Institute receives an EU budgetary contribution.

However, the Committee was of the opinion that these elements of possible incompatibility are outweighed by (1) the not-for-profit, non-commercial, public service nature of the EUI's activities in support of Europe's academic and research ambitions, (2) the non-executive role of the High Council, (3) the absence of remuneration for Ms Vassiliou's envisaged activity, (4) the intergovernmental nature of the EUI, principally funded by the contracting Member States and (5) Ms Vassiliou's public service support for the Cypriot authorities (Ministry of Education). The Committee came therefore to the conclusion that this activity is compatible with article 245(2) of the TFEU.

The Committee considered nevertheless that Ms Vassiliou should remain aware of her obligations as former Commissioner and abstain from any activity, e.g. related to EUI's requests for EU funds, contrary to the Code of Conduct for Commissioners.

While sharing the Ad hoc Ethical Committee's overall conclusion, the services of the Commission considered that Ms Vassiliou's role as the representative, in the EUI's High Council, of one of the Contracting Parties of the 1972 Convention will not expose her to any risk of conflicts with her obligations deriving from Article 245 (2) of the TFEU.

The Commission is invited:

- (1) to decide that Ms Vassiliou's non remunerated envisaged activity as Member of the Board of Trustees of the Cyprus Research and Educational Foundation is compatible with Article 245(2) of the TFEU on the condition that Ms Vassiliou refrains from any lobbying with the Commission and its services, during eighteen months after the end of her mandate as member of the Commission, should the Cyprus Institute and/or the Cyprus Educational and Research Foundation decide to request any funding from the EU Budget;
- (2) to decide that Ms Vassiliou's non remunerated envisaged activity as representative of the Republic of Cyprus at the High Council of the European University Institute is compatible with Article 245(2) of the TFEU;
- (3) to instruct the Secretary General to inform Ms Vassiliou about the present decision, yet drawing her attention to the condition contained therein as regard her activity with the Cyprus Research and Educational Foundation / Cyprus Institute.

(SG)

From: (SJ)
Sent: Thursday 12 March 2015 15:22
To: (SG)
Cc: (SG); 1 (SG)
Subject: RE: post mandate activiy of Mrs Vassiliou.

Le Service juridique peut marquer son accord.

Bien à vous,



COMMISSION EUROPÉENNE

SECRÉTARIAT GÉNÉRAL

Bruxelles, le 13 mars 2015

C(2015) 1611

COMMISSION INTERNE

OJ 2120

**ACTIVITES APRES CESSATION DE FONCTION
D'UN MEMBRE DE LA COMMISSION**

Communication de M. le PRESIDENT

Cette question est inscrite à l'ordre du jour de la 2120^{ème} réunion de la Commission le 18 mars 2015.

Destinataires : Membres de la Commission

MEMORANDUM FROM THE PRESIDENT TO THE COMMISSION

According to Article 245(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the members of the Commission 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.

Further to this Treaty provision, the Code of Conduct for Commissioners (C(2011) 2904 final) establishes a specific procedure for the assessment of planned occupations which former Commissioners intend to take up during the eighteen months after they have ceased to hold office. The Commission shall examine the nature of the planned occupation and, if the activity is related to the content of the Commissioner's portfolio, it shall seek the opinion of the Ad hoc Ethical Committee.

On 9 February 2015, former Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou informed the Commission about her intention to accept a post mandate position as member of the Board of Trustees of the Cyprus Institute (Cyl) and the Cyprus Research and Educational Foundation (CREF).

On 4 March, Ms Vassiliou informed the Commission about her wish to accept a non-remunerated assignment as the official representative of Cyprus in the High Council of the European University Institute.

The Committee provided the Commission with its opinions on these activities respectively on 27 February and 10 March.

Member of the Board of Trustees of the Cyprus Research and Educational Foundation / Cyprus Institute

According to the public information available, the Cyprus Institute is an internationally recognised research institution, which operates under the aegis of the Cyprus Research and Educational Foundation. The latter is governed by a Board of Trustees, comprised of leading personalities of the international academic, political and business world.

The Cyprus Institute is a world-class research and technology institution, carrying out pioneering research programmes involving cutting-edge high throughput technologies, in order to address problems of regional as well as international significance. At the same time, it provides training for future researchers and scholars through its high quality doctoral programmes.

The Ad hoc Ethical Committee considered Mrs Vassiliou's envisaged activity against the background of the Cyprus Research and Educational Foundation's and the Cyprus Institute's institutional setting, scope and activities. The Committee noted that, although showing a link with the education dimension of Ms Vassiliou's former portfolio, the not-for-profit activities of the Cyprus Institute seem to be much wider, serve the public interest and support EU objectives in the field of research development at many levels, including reinforced cooperation with industry.

In view of the wider scope of the Cyprus Institute, its not-for-profit objectives in the public interest and the absence of remuneration for Ms Vassiliou's intended activity, the

Committee saw no incompatibility with her former Commission mandate. The Committee noted however that Ms Vassiliou should abstain from lobbying activities, in case the Cyprus Institute should wish to benefit from EU funding in all areas related to education and research.

The Services of the Commission considered the nature of this non remunerated envisaged activity whose scope is compatible with the interests of the European Union and with Article 245(2) of the TFEU.

Representative of Cyprus in the High Council of the European University Institute

The European University Institute (EUI) is an intergovernmental body created in 1972 by an international convention signed by the then six Member States of the European Communities. With time, 15 additional EU Member States signed the 1972 Convention.

The EUI is under the threefold authority of the High Council, the President of the Institute and the Academic Council. The High Council is the EUI's governing board. It consists of representatives from the Contracting States to the Institute's Convention.

Ms Vassiliou's activity will consist, upon appointment by the Cypriot Government, to represent the Republic of Cyprus within the EUI's High Council. Her activity will not be remunerated and the Cypriot Government will only cover participating, twice per year, in the High Council's meetings.

The Ad hoc Ethical Committee closely examined the link between Ms Vassiliou's former Commission portfolio and her envisaged activity with the EUI and considered that the Institute receives an EU budgetary contribution.

However, the Committee was of the opinion that these elements of possible incompatibility are outweighed by (1) the not-for-profit, non-commercial, public service nature of the EUI's activities in support of Europe's academic and research ambitions, (2) the non-executive role of the High Council, (3) the absence of remuneration for Ms Vassiliou's envisaged activity, (4) the intergovernmental nature of the EUI, principally funded by the contracting Member States and (5) Ms Vassiliou's public service support for the Cypriot authorities (Ministry of Education). The Committee came therefore to the conclusion that this activity is compatible with article 245(2) of the TFEU.

The Committee considered nevertheless that Ms Vassiliou should remain aware of her obligations as former Commissioner and abstain from any activity, e.g. related to EUI's requests for EU funds, contrary to the Code of Conduct for Commissioners.

While sharing the Ad hoc Ethical Committee's overall conclusion, the services of the Commission considered that Ms Vassiliou's role as the representative, in the EUI's High Council, of one of the Contracting Parties of the 1972 Convention will not expose her to any risk of conflicts with her obligations deriving from Article 245 (2) of the TFEU.

The Commission is invited:

- (1) to decide that Ms Vassiliou's non remunerated envisaged activity as Member of the Board of Trustees of the Cyprus Research and Educational Foundation / Cyprus Institute is compatible with Article 245(2) of the TFEU on the condition that Ms Vassiliou refrains from any lobbying with the Commission and its services, during eighteen months after the end of her mandate as member of the Commission, should the Cyprus Institute and/or the Cyprus Educational and Research Foundation decide to request any funding from the EU Budget;
- (2) to decide that Ms Vassiliou's non remunerated envisaged activity as representative of the Republic of Cyprus at the High Council of the European University Institute is compatible with Article 245(2) of the TFEU;
- (3) to instruct the Secretary General to inform Ms Vassiliou about the present decision, yet drawing her attention to the condition contained therein as regards her activity with the Cyprus Research and Educational Foundation / Cyprus Institute.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
SECRETARIAT GENERAL

the following areas:

SS

hydrological situation

inform you that the Commission decided during its 120th meeting of the Board of Governors, held in Brussels on 11 and 12 December 2014, that your envisaged activity as member of the Board of Trustees of the Cyprus Educational Council is compatible with the Commission's policy on the condition that you refrain from any kind of political activities during eighteen months after the end of your mandate as member of the Board of Trustees of the Cyprus Educational Council. Should the Cyprus Educational Council decide to re-nominate you, you will need to re-apply for the Board of Trustees.

It is noted that your envisaged activity as a research fellow at the Cyprus European University Institute is compatible with the Commission's policy on the condition that you refrain from any kind of political activities during eighteen months after the end of your mandate as member of the Board of Trustees of the Cyprus Educational Council.

Decision C(2015) 1197937

after the Day

22.9.14

ht
a



COMMISSION EUROPÉENNE

SECRÉTARIAT GÉNÉRAL

Bruxelles, le 13 mars 2015

C(2015) 1611

COMMISSION INTERNE

OJ 2120

**ACTIVITES APRES CESSATION DE FONCTION
D'UN MEMBRE DE LA COMMISSION**

Communication de M. le PRESIDENT

Cette question est inscrite à l'ordre du jour de la 2120^{ème} réunion de la Commission le 18 mars 2015.

Destinataires : Membres de la Commission

MEMORANDUM FROM THE PRESIDENT TO THE COMMISSION

According to Article 245(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the members of the Commission 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.

Further to this Treaty provision, the Code of Conduct for Commissioners (C (2011) 2904 final) establishes a specific procedure for the assessment of planned occupations which former Commissioners intend to take up during the eighteen months after they have ceased to hold office. The Commission shall examine the nature of the planned occupation and, if the activity is related to the content of the Commissioner's portfolio, it shall seek the opinion of the Ad hoc Ethical Committee.

On 9 February 2015, former Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou informed the Commission about her intention to accept a post mandate position as member of the Board of Trustees of the Cyprus Institute (CyI) and the Cyprus Research and Educational Foundation (CREF).

On 4 March, Ms Vassiliou informed the Commission about her wish to accept a non-remunerated assignment as the official representative of Cyprus in the High Council of the European University Institute.

The Committee provided the Commission with its opinions on these activities respectively on 27 February and 10 March.

Member of the Board of Trustees of the Cyprus Research and Educational Foundation / Cyprus Institute

According to the public information available, the Cyprus Institute is an internationally recognized research institution, which operates under the aegis of the Cyprus Research and Educational Foundation. The latter is governed by a Board of Trustees, comprised of leading personalities of the international academic, political and business world.

The Cyprus Institute is a world-class research and technology institution, carrying out pioneering research programs involving cutting-edge high throughput technologies, in order to address problems of regional as well as international significance. At the same time, it provides training for future researchers and scholars through its high quality doctoral programs.

The Ad hoc Ethical Committee considered Mrs Vassiliou's envisaged activity against the background of the Cyprus Research and Educational Foundation's and the Cyprus Institute's institutional setting, scope and activities. The Committee noted that, although showing a link with the education dimension of Ms Vassiliou's former portfolio, the not-for-profit activities of the Cyprus Institute seem to be much wider, serve the public interest and support EU objectives in the field of research development at many levels, including reinforced cooperation with industry.

In view of the wider scope of the Cyprus Institute, its not-for-profit objectives in the public interest and the absence of remuneration for Ms Vassiliou's intended activity, the

Committee saw no incompatibility with her former Commission mandate. The Committee noted however that Ms Vassiliou should abstain from lobbying activities, in case the Cyprus Institute should wish to benefit from EU funding in all areas related to education and research.

The Services of the Commission considered the nature of this non remunerated envisaged activity whose scope is compatible with the interests of the European Union and with Article 245(2) of the TFEU.

Representative of Cyprus in the High Council of the European University Institute

The European University Institute (EUI) is an intergovernmental body created in 1972 by an international convention signed by the then six Member States of the European Communities. With time, 15 additional EU Member States signed the 1972 Convention.

The EUI is under the threefold authority of the High Council, the President of the Institute and the Academic Council. The High Council is the EUI's governing board. It consists of representatives from the Contracting States to the Institute's Convention.

Ms Vassiliou's activity will consist, upon appointment by the Cypriot Government, to represent the Republic of Cyprus within the EUI's High Council. Her activity will not be remunerated and the Cypriot Government will only cover participating, twice per year, in the High Council's meetings.

The Ad hoc Ethical Committee closely examined the link between Ms Vassiliou's former Commission portfolio and her envisaged activity with the EUI and considered that the Institute receives an EU budgetary contribution under Ms Vassiliou's collegial co-responsibility.

However, the Committee was of the opinion that these elements of possible incompatibility are outweighed by (1) the not-for-profit, non-commercial, public service nature of the EUI's activities in support of Europe's academic and research ambitions, (2) the non-executive role of the High Council, (3) the absence of remuneration for Ms Vassiliou's envisaged activity, (4) the intergovernmental nature of the EUI, principally funded by the contracting Member States and (5) Ms Vassiliou's public service support for the Cypriot authorities (Ministry of Education). The Committee came therefore to the conclusion that this activity is compatible with article 245(2) of the TFEU.

The Committee considered nevertheless that Ms Vassiliou should remain aware of her obligations as former Commissioner and abstain from any activity, e.g. related to EUI's requests for EU funds, contrary to the Code of Conduct for Commissioners.

While sharing the Ad hoc Ethical Committee's overall conclusion, the services of the Commission considered that Ms Vassiliou's role as the representative, in the EUI's High Council, of one of the Contracting Parties of the 1972 Convention, will not expose her to any risk of conflicts with her obligations deriving from Article 245 (2) of the TFEU.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

The Secretary General

Brussels,
SG/B3 Ares(2015)

Note to the Members of the Ad-Hoc Ethical Committee

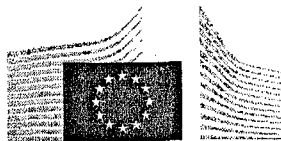
Mr Nikolaus Van der Pas
Mr Rafael García-Valdecasas
Mr Terry Wynn

Subject: Commission Decisions on post-mandate activities of former
Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou

Please find enclosed, for your information, Commission Decisions C(2015) 1328 and C(2015) 1611, adopted at its 2120th meeting of 18 January 2015, on former Commissioner: Androulla Vassiliou's envisaged post Commission-office activities.

Catherine Day

Encl:
Commission Decision C(2015) 1611 (Ms Vassiliou)



COMMISSION EUROPÉENNE

SECRÉTARIAT GÉNÉRAL

Bruxelles, le 13 mars 2015

C(2015) 1611

COMMISSION INTERNE

OJ 2120

**ACTIVITES APRES CESSATION DE FONCTION
D'UN MEMBRE DE LA COMMISSION**

Communication de M. le PRESIDENT

Cette question est inscrite à l'ordre du jour de la 2120^{ème} réunion de la Commission le 18 mars 2015.

Destinataires : Membres de la Commission

MEMORANDUM FROM THE PRESIDENT TO THE COMMISSION

According to Article 245(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the members of the Commission 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.

Further to this Treaty provision, the Code of Conduct for Commissioners (C(2011) 2904 final) establishes a specific procedure for the assessment of planned occupations which former Commissioners intend to take up during the eighteen months after they have ceased to hold office. The Commission shall examine the nature of the planned occupation and, if the activity is related to the content of the Commissioner's portfolio, it shall seek the opinion of the Ad hoc Ethical Committee.

On 9 February 2015, former Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou informed the Commission about her intention to accept a post mandate position as member of the Board of Trustees of the Cyprus Institute (Cyl) and the Cyprus Research and Educational Foundation (CREF).

On 4 March, Ms Vassiliou informed the Commission about her wish to accept a non-remunerated assignment as the official representative of Cyprus in the High Council of the European University Institute.

The Committee provided the Commission with its opinions on these activities respectively on 27 February and 10 March.

Member of the Board of Trustees of the Cyprus Research and Educational Foundation / Cyprus Institute

According to the public information available, the Cyprus Institute is an internationally recognised research institution, which operates under the aegis of the Cyprus Research and Educational Foundation. The latter is governed by a Board of Trustees, comprised of leading personalities of the international academic, political and business world.

The Cyprus Institute is a world-class research and technology institution, carrying out pioneering research programmes involving cutting-edge high throughput technologies, in order to address problems of regional as well as international significance. At the same time, it provides training for future researchers and scholars through its high quality doctoral programmes.

The Ad hoc Ethical Committee considered Mrs Vassiliou's envisaged activity against the background of the Cyprus Research and Educational Foundation's and the Cyprus Institute's institutional setting, scope and activities. The Committee noted that, although showing a link with the education dimension of Ms Vassiliou's former portfolio, the not-for-profit activities of the Cyprus Institute seem to be much wider, serve the public interest and support EU objectives in the field of research development at many levels, including reinforced cooperation with industry.

In view of the wider scope of the Cyprus Institute, its not-for-profit objectives in the public interest and the absence of remuneration for Ms Vassiliou's intended activity, the

Committee saw no incompatibility with her former Commission mandate. The Committee noted however that Ms Vassiliou should abstain from lobbying activities, in case the Cyprus Institute should wish to benefit from EU funding in all areas related to education and research.

The Services of the Commission considered the nature of this non remunerated envisaged activity whose scope is compatible with the interests of the European Union and with Article 245(2) of the TFEU.

Representative of Cyprus in the High Council of the European University Institute

The European University Institute (EUI) is an intergovernmental body created in 1972 by an international convention signed by the then six Member States of the European Communities. With time, 15 additional EU Member States signed the 1972 Convention.

The EUI is under the threefold authority of the High Council, the President of the Institute and the Academic Council. The High Council is the EUI's governing board. It consists of representatives from the Contracting States to the Institute's Convention.

Ms Vassiliou's activity will consist, upon appointment by the Cypriot Government, to represent the Republic of Cyprus within the EUI's High Council. Her activity will not be remunerated and the Cypriot Government will only cover participating, twice per year, in the High Council's meetings.

The Ad hoc Ethical Committee closely examined the link between Ms Vassiliou's former Commission portfolio and her envisaged activity with the EUI and considered that the Institute receives an EU budgetary contribution.

However, the Committee was of the opinion that these elements of possible incompatibility are outweighed by (1) the not-for-profit, non-commercial, public service nature of the EUI's activities in support of Europe's academic and research ambitions, (2) the non-executive role of the High Council, (3) the absence of remuneration for Ms Vassiliou's envisaged activity, (4) the intergovernmental nature of the EUI, principally funded by the contracting Member States and (5) Ms Vassiliou's public service support for the Cypriot authorities (Ministry of Education). The Committee came therefore to the conclusion that this activity is compatible with article 245(2) of the TFEU.

The Committee considered nevertheless that Ms Vassiliou should remain aware of her obligations as former Commissioner and abstain from any activity, e.g. related to EUI's requests for EU funds, contrary to the Code of Conduct for Commissioners.

While sharing the Ad hoc Ethical Committee's overall conclusion, the services of the Commission considered that Ms Vassiliou's role as the representative, in the EUI's High Council, of one of the Contracting Parties of the 1972 Convention will not expose her to any risk of conflicts with her obligations deriving from Article 245 (2) of the TFEU.

The Commission is invited:

- (1) to decide that Ms Vassiliou's non remunerated envisaged activity as Member of the Board of Trustees of the Cyprus Research and Educational Foundation / Cyprus Institute is compatible with Article 245(2) of the TFEU on the condition that Ms Vassiliou refrains from any lobbying with the Commission and its services, during eighteen months after the end of her mandate as member of the Commission, should the Cyprus Institute and/or the Cyprus Educational and Research Foundation decide to request any funding from the EU Budget;
- (2) to decide that Ms Vassiliou's non remunerated envisaged activity as representative of the Republic of Cyprus at the High Council of the European University Institute is compatible with Article 245(2) of the TFEU;
- (3) to instruct the Secretary General to inform Ms Vassiliou about the present decision, yet drawing her attention to the condition contained therein as regards her activity with the Cyprus Research and Educational Foundation / Cyprus Institute.