

Brussels, 5.2.2020
C(2020) 9001 final

DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

**on former Commissioner Carlos Moedas' post term of office professional activity as
Chairman of the 'Science Diplomacy' Board of Directors at the Paris Institute of
Political Studies ('Sciences Po')**

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,

Considering that:

- 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 11(3) (a) to (f), notably as concerns academic activities (Article 11(3)(d)).
- 4) Former Commissioner Carlos Moedas informed the Commission about the invitation sent to him by the Dean of the Paris School of International Affairs of the Paris Institute of Political Studies ('Sciences Po') to become Chairman of the 'Science Diplomacy' Board of Directors. This non-remunerated assignment is foreseen for a period of two years and will entail Mr Moedas' participation in two board meetings per year.
- 5) The 'Science Diplomacy' Group aims notably at helping develop a more complete definition of 'science diplomacy', at contributing to the formation and the valorisation of a specifically European scientific diplomacy and at increasing the information, reflection and teaching around science diplomacy.

- 6) The Commission considered the nature of the notified activity and concluded that, while linked to former Commissioner Moedas' portfolio on Research, Science and Innovation, it is an academic activity which, in accordance with Article 11(3)(d) of the Code of Conduct for the Members of the Commission, does not require the consultation of the Independent Ethical Committee. The Commission furthermore considered that the activity does not present any risk of incompatibility with Mr Moedas' former function as Member of the Commission or with the interests of the institution, provided Mr Moedas fully abides by the duties of collegiality and discretion laid down in Articles 5 and 11(1) of the Code of Conduct for the Members of the Commission.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Former Commissioner Carlos Moedas' envisaged activity as Chairman of the 'Science Diplomacy' Board of Directors of the Paris Institute of Political Studies ('Sciences Po') is compatible with Article 245(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union provided Mr Moedas abides by the obligations set out in Articles 5 and Article 11(1) of the Code of Conduct for the Members of the Commission.

Done at Brussels, on 5 February 2020.

The President
Ursula von der Leyen