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DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

**on Former Commissioner Stella Kyriakides' post term of office professional activity as
member of the University Council of the University of Cyprus**

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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,

Considering that:

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 foreseen in paragraph 3, second subparagraph, lit. (a) to (f).

- 4) With her e-mail of 7 May 2025, Former Commissioner Kyriakides informed the Commission about her intention to accept an assignment, from 1 July 2025 to 31 December 2027, as member of the University Council of the University of Cyprus, this position being offered to her by the University's Senate.
- 5) The University of Cyprus is considered as the leading public university in Cyprus, was established in 1989 and is headquartered in Nicosia. Its facilities span multiple sites, including the main university campus, the former Pedagogical Academy, the Shacolas Educational Centre for Clinical Medicine, and various buildings in Latsia and the walled city of Nicosia. The University aims to position itself as a pioneer research institution with international scientific recognition in the European Higher Education Area, aspiring to become a Centre of Excellence in the Euro-Mediterranean region.
- 6) The University of Cyprus's mission is twofold: (1) to promote scholarship and education through high-quality teaching and impactful research, and (2) to support the cultural, social, and economic development of Cyprus. The University upholds rigorous academic standards and encourages active student participation, critical thinking, and civic engagement as integral components of higher education.
- 7) The University of Cyprus offers undergraduate and postgraduate education, conducts advanced research across multiple disciplines and promotes both basic and applied research, often in collaboration with European and international partners. The University strives to contribute to policy innovation and sustainable development through academic and institutional cooperation. It also supports cultural and civic initiatives in Cyprus and the broader Euro-Mediterranean region.
- 8) The University of Cyprus is a member of the European University alliance YUFE (Young Universities for the Future of Europe), which promotes transnational cooperation in higher education and contributes to shaping the European Education Area.
- 9) The University of Cyprus' governance is structured around two principal bodies: the University Council and the University Senate.
- 10) According to the information added by Former Commissioner Kyriakides to her notification, the University Council of the University of Cyprus is an executive and control body for the University of Cyprus. The University Council is responsible for the management and control of the administrative and financial affairs of the University and its property. Its responsibilities include drawing up the University's annual budget, determining the level of salaries and other benefits of the University's staff, managing the important issue of developing its building infrastructure and validating promotions and appointments.
- 11) The University Senate is the highest academic body, responsible for overseeing teaching, research, academic programmes, examinations, and the awarding of degrees.

It also advises on university development and inter-institutional cooperation. The Senate includes the Rector, Vice-Rectors, Deans, elected faculty representatives, student representatives, and key administrative staff in non-voting roles.

- 12) The University of Cyprus is registered to the Transparency Register, therein described as a public research university committed to academic excellence, international collaboration, and the advancement of education and research in Cyprus and beyond.
- 13) The University actively engages in European initiatives, particularly in the context of *Erasmus+*, *Horizon Europe*, and the European Universities initiative. It has also contributed to several public consultations, including the Erasmus+ 2021–2027 interim evaluation, the Erasmus+ 2014–2020 final evaluation, the final evaluation of the Structural Reform Support Programme, the Digital Education Action Plan update, and the EU farm policy impact on society and the economy in rural areas.
- 14) On substance, Former Commissioner Kyriakides' notified activity does not present any risk of incompatibility with her former responsibilities as Member of the Commission or with the interests of the Institution.
- 15) The continued obligation to respect the duties of collegiality and discretion with respect to the Commission's decisions and activities during Former Commissioner Kyriakides' term of office, as set out in Article 11(1) of the Code of Conduct for the Members of the Commission, in conjunction with Article 5 of the Code, is fully applicable.
- 16) In addition, in order to rule out any possible lobbying concerning future decisions of the Commission on the allocation of funds, it is appropriate to set the same restriction as in previous decisions on post term of office activities in the field of university management.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

Former Commissioner Kyriakides' post term of office professional activity as member of the University Council of the University of Cyprus is compatible with the second paragraph of Article 245 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, subject to the following conditions and restrictions :

- In accordance with Article 11(4) of the Code of Conduct for the Members of the Commission, during a period of two years following her term of office, Former Commissioner Kyriakides shall refrain from lobbying the Members of the Commission or their staff on behalf of the University of Cyprus, on matters for which she was responsible as Commissioner in charge of Health and Food Safety, in particular as concerns future decisions of the Commission on the allocation of funds.

This prohibition on lobbying does not affect participation in public events or general exchanges of, and on, publicly available information with Members of the Commission or Commission staff.

- In accordance with Article 339 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Former Commissioner Kyriakides shall refrain from participating in any activity or decision-making procedure within the University of Cyprus which might involve using information of the kind covered by the obligation of professional secrecy regarding, in particular, undertakings, their business relations or their cost components.
- In line with Article 11(1), in conjunction with Article 5, of the Code of Conduct for the Members of the Commission, Commissioner Kyriakides remains bound by the duties of collegiality and discretion, with respect to the Commission's decisions and activities during her term of office.

Done at Brussels, on 14 May 2025.

The President
Ursula von der Leyen