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DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

**on Former Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen's post term of office professional activity as
Chairperson of the Advisory Board of the Global Education Monitoring Report**

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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,

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 scope of the exceptions set out in paragraph (3). In the present case, the activity falls under the exception of letter (c) of paragraph 3 ('engagement with international organisations or other international

bodies dealing with public interests and in which the either the EU or one or several of its Member States are represented’).

- 4) On 25 November 2024, Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen informed the Commission of her intention to continue, after the end of her mandate, her assignment as Chairperson of the Advisory Board of the Global Education Monitoring Report (hereafter ‘GEM Report’).
- 5) In her notification, Ms Urpilainen recalled that the GEM Report had been established in 2002 and was an editorially independent report, hosted and published by UNESCO. Following the 2015 World Education Forum, UNESCO had been mandated to monitor and report on progress on education in the Sustainable Development Goals.
- 6) Ms Urpilainen furthermore indicated that the Advisory Board of the Global Education Monitoring Report was composed of representatives from UN multilateral agencies, bilateral agencies, non-governmental organisations, civil society groups and networks, directors of UNESCO education institutes and individuals from developing countries in all world regions with an expertise in education issues. The Advisory Board meets once a year to provide guidance and feedback to the report team. Topics covered range from the outline of upcoming editions to the overall development of the Report, future themes and communications strategies.
- 7) Ms Urpilainen underlined that the GEM Report was funded by a group of governments, multilateral agencies and private foundations and facilitated and supported by UNESCO. Funding partners include: Unesco, the European Union, Australia, Canada, France, Monaco, Ireland, New Zealand, Norway. Switzerland, Sweden, United Kingdom and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- 8) In her capacity as Chairperson of the Advisory Board, Ms Urpilainen will also author the foreword of the Report and give visibility to the contributions to the Report. Ms Urpilainen’s position is not remunerated and is expected to continue until the end of 2025.
- 9) In accordance with its Terms of Reference, the Board is chaired, for a period of two to three years, by an eminent Chairperson nominated by UNESCO’s Director-General in consultation with the Assistant Director-General for Education. The Chairperson is therefore not a representative of any UNESCO-Member State or organisation but rather an individual chosen in his or her personal capacity.
- 10) On 10 June 2024, Ms Urpilainen had already sought and obtained the agreement of the President of the Commission to accept the assignment as Chairperson of the Advisory Board of the Global Education Monitoring Report within her portfolio responsibilities as Commissioner. In her reply of 25 June 2024 to Commissioner Urpilainen, the President acknowledged the alignment between the goals of the GEM Report with those of the Commission. She considered that the activity could be performed within

the framework of her portfolio responsibilities as Member of the Commission, also in view of the non-binding nature of the expected output, which would consist in presiding over the annual meeting, authoring the foreword of the Report, and providing visibility to the Report.

- 11) The Commission understands that Ms Urpilainen has been asked to continue as Chairperson of the Advisory Board of the Global Education Monitoring Report after the end of her mandate and until the end of 2025. The Commission considers first that the Chair of that Board does not represent any State or international organisation but is nominated by UNESCO's Director-General in his or her personal capacity. This has been the case during the time of Ms Uripilainen's former function as Member of the European Commission as well as for the remaining time until the end of her mandate as Chairperson of the Board. Second, the contiunation of this assignment does not present any risk of incompatibility with Ms Uripilainen's former function as Member of the European Commission or with the interests of the institution, provided Ms Urpilainen abides by all the relevant provisions of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, namely Article 339 and of the Code of Conduct for the Members of the Commission, in particular the duties of collegiality and discretion with respect to the Commission's decisions and activities during her term of office, as provided for by Article 11(1) of the Code in conjunction with Article 5 and the interdiction of lobbying the Members of the Commission or their Staff, as set out in Article 11(4) of the Code. Ms Urpilainen should inform the Team and Advisory Board of the Global Education Monitoring Report that she is no longer a Member of the European Commission.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

Former Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen's envisaged post term of office activity as Chairperson of the Advisory Board of the Global Education Monitoring Report is compatible with the second paragraph of Article 245 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, subject to the respect of the duties set out in Article 339 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, in Article 11(4) of the Code of Conduct for the Members of the Commission and in Article 11(1) of the Code, in conjunction with Article 5, and on the condition that Ms Urpilainen informs the Team and Advisory Board of the Global Education Monitoring Report that she is no longer a Member of the European Commission.

Done at Strasbourg, on 17 December 2024.

The President
Ursula von der Leyen