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## **DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

**on Former High Representative / Vice President Federica Mogherini's post term of office professional activity as member of the Board of Trustees of 'Friends of Europe'**

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**on Former High Representative / Vice President Federica Mogherini's post term of office professional activity as member of the Board of Trustees of 'Friends of Europe'**

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 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 3 (a) to (f).
- 4) Former High Representative / Vice-President Federica Mogherini informed the Commission on 10 June 2020 of her intention to accept an assignment as member of the Board of Trustees of 'Friends of Europe'.

- 5) 'Friends of Europe' is a Brussels-based, not-for-profit, think-tank, established in 1999, devoted to carry out analysis and promote debate on the European Union, its policies and challenges. The organisation presents itself as having no political or national allegiance and its current President is former Vice-President Etienne Davignon (Count Davignon). At present, several other former Members of the Commission are also members of the Board of Trustees of 'Friends of Europe'.
- 6) On 19 February 2020, the Commission authorised Former President Jean-Claude Juncker to join the Board of Trustees of 'Friends of Europe', in line with its previous decisions authorising other Former Members to take-up the same position with 'Friends of Europe' (Former Vice-President Almunia in 2015, Former Commissioners Monti in 2005, Andor in 2014, Piebalgs and Vassiliou in 2015 and Füle in 2016).
- 7) The Commission has considered that the consultation of the Independent Ethical Committee was not necessary in view of its previous decisions above mentioned.
- 8) The Commission has concluded that Ms Mogherini's envisaged activity does not present any risk of incompatibility with her former functions as High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and as Vice-President of the Commission, or with the interests of the institution.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*

Former High Representative / Vice-President Federica Mogherini's activity as member of the Board of Trustees of 'Friends of Europe' is compatible with Article 245(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, subject to the respect by Ms Mogherini of the obligations imposed on her by Articles 245 and 339 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and by the Code of Conduct for the Members of the Commission, in particular Articles 5 and 11(1) and (4).

Done at Brussels, on 24 June 2020.

*The President*  
*Ursula von der Leyen*