

**Question for written answer E-000483/2016/rev.1
to the Council**

Rule 130

Alberto Cirio (PPE) and Fulvio Martusciello (PPE)

Subject: Appointment of the Italian Permanent Representative to the EU

The Italian Government has appointed Carlo Calenda to head the Italian Permanent Representation to the EU.

Under the presidential decree on the organisation of the foreign affairs administration (DPR 18/67) no appointment may be made to the above post until the President has issued the necessary decree (Article 36(1)). Article 36(4) of DPR 18/67 stipulates that heads of permanent representations to international institutions and organisations have the title and rank of ambassador or minister plenipotentiary; and Articles 99, 99 bis, 109, and 109 bis provide that persons are debarred from pursuing a diplomatic career, especially in the most senior positions, if they have not been recruited on the basis of an entrance examination leading to appointment as a legation secretary. This restriction stems from the understandable desire to ensure that those representing Italy are properly qualified to do so, having acquired the necessary ability, knowledge, and (diplomatic and language) skills in the course of appropriately long experience.

Bearing in mind the relevant Italian legislation, can the Council say whether there are any criteria applying to acceptance of the credentials of heads of permanent representations?