

**Question for written answer E-006165/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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**Subject:** Jose Manuel Barroso and Goldman Sachs

Jose Manuel Barroso, former Commission President, has taken up the position of Chairman of Goldman Sachs International and adviser on the impacts of Brexit.

Given Mr Barroso's role as head of the Commission during the 2008 financial meltdown and the Eurozone crisis that followed, the move represents a serious conflict of interests, which would seem to be in breach of Article 245 of the TFEU.

At such a sensitive time, when Euroscepticism and populist nationalism are on the rise across Europe, the EU must be accountable, work with and for its citizens, and be able to rely on their trust. This type of conduct not only sets the wrong incentives for EU officials and decision-makers, but also undermines citizens' trust in European institutions.

1. What steps will the Commission take to strengthen codes of conduct and transparency norms for Commissioners and officials at all levels, including with regard to employment after their period of service, and to give greater powers and independence to the Ad-Hoc Ethics Committee for Commissioners?
2. Will the Commission extend the 18-month cooling period for Commissioners and senior officials?
3. Will the Commission consider appealing to the Court of Justice on Barroso's case in accordance with Article 245 of the TFEU?