

**Question for written answer E-008388/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Hugues Bayet (S&D)**

Subject: Mr Barroso and the Code of Conduct for Commissioners

We learned in July that the former President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, had accepted the position of adviser and non-executive chairman of the international division of the US investment bank Goldman Sachs. Following the storm caused by that announcement, the Ad Hoc Ethical Committee was consulted as to the compatibility of this decision with the rules of the Code of Conduct for Commissioners (CCC).

In a report published on Monday, 31 October, the Committee considered that the former President of the Commission had not breached the Code of Conduct by accepting this position and that it was not a matter for the committee to decide whether the Code is stringent enough. In an independent study in 2014, the law firm Blomeyer & Sanz took the view that the 2011 reform of the CCC had not taken into account 19 out of 28 recommendations made by the European Parliament in 2009.

Given that many options are open and that the disenchantment of citizens with the European project has reached a peak:

1. Is it the Commission's intention to revise and strengthen the Code of Conduct?
2. If so, does the Commission intend to follow the recommendations of the European Parliament?