

**Question for written answer E-009759/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Marie-Christine Arnautu (ENF)

Subject: No penalty for former European Commissioner Neelie Kroes

Ms Kroes served as a European Commissioner for two terms. Before taking up her duties as a Commissioner, she should have stepped down from her post as director of an offshore firm in the Bahamas. However, she failed to do so and continued to hold that post throughout her time in office. The Commission declined to punish her for this breach of the Code of Conduct for Commissioners on the grounds that Ms Kroes was 'unaware' of the fact that she held the directorship.

After leaving her job as European Commissioner, Ms Kroes failed to declare her earnings for 2015, as a result of which she received allowance payments to which she was not entitled. Following the leaking of the Bahamas files, she reported her income to the Commission, which did no more than to issue an official reprimand.

- What breach of its rules would the Commission consider serious enough to warrant a penalty other than an official reprimand or a requirement to make a public apology?
- How can someone be unaware of their role in a firm?
- How does the Commission intend to go about justifying its leniency towards one of its former members to the EU public?