

**Question for written answer E-001540/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Auke Zijlstra (ENF) and André Elissen (ENF)

Subject: Appointment of Commission Secretary-General

At the plenary sitting of 12 March 2018, when the appointment of the Commission Secretary-General (SG) was being discussed in Parliament, Commissioner Oettinger undertook to give detailed factual replies to all questions on the matter.

1. Commission President Juncker has, on a number of occasions, declared that the Commission is a political body. With the appointment of his campaign manager and chief of staff to the post of Secretary-General, the political appointment of senior civil servants in the Commission has accordingly become a reality. What are the implications of this in terms of their neutrality?
2. Does the political appointment of the SG mean that he will relinquish his post following a change in the composition of the Commission?
3. Is the (political) appointment of the SG in accordance with the principle of sound management and the public service principles for the EU civil service drawn up by the European Ombudsman¹?

¹ <https://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/nl/resources/publicserviceprinciples.faces>