

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0575/04  
by Philip Claeys (NI)  
to the Commission

Subject: Electioneering activities of Mrs Diamantopoulou

According to press reports, Mrs Anna Diamantopoulou plans to resign temporarily from the Commission so that she can campaign in the parliamentary elections in Greece. The Commissioner is apparently to play an important role in the socialist party PASOK. Press reports suggest that during the campaign she will no longer receive her salary as a Member of the European Commission. In the intervening period, her duties in the Commission would be taken over by somebody else.

Is it usual for members of the European Commission to leave office temporarily in order to take part in election campaigns in their home country? Are there precedents for this and, if so, what are they?

Does the Commission regard situations of this kind as good for its work?

Is there any truth in the reports that Mrs Diamantopoulou will receive no salary from the Commission during the Greek election campaign?

During this period will she have access to the facilities afforded to her in her capacity as a Commissioner (official car and driver and so on)?