

**Question for written answer E-002291/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Marco Campomenosi (ID), Antonio Maria Rinaldi (ID), Paolo Borchia (ID) and Marco Zanni (ID)

Subject: EU officials who stand for election

EU officials carry out important and delicate tasks at the service of EU citizens in various sectors.

That is why the Staff Regulations¹ stipulate that an official 'shall carry out the duties assigned to him objectively, [and] impartially'.

In this regard, without prejudice to the right of every individual to stand for public office, it has been noted that a growing number of EU officials², even at the most senior levels³, have decided to stand for election⁴ at both national and EU level.

In view of the above, does the Commission not think it needs to review or update the measures and guidelines governing these cases, in order to fully protect the necessary neutrality required of officials and avoid potential conflicts of interest?

Will the Commission not consider the possibility of introducing, in future, minimum *cooling off*⁵ periods for officials who decide to stand for election and who sometimes become involved in long and bitter election campaigns?

¹ Regulation No 31 (EEC), 11 (EAEC), laying down the Staff Regulations of Officials and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community.

² <https://www.startmag.it/mondo/elezioni-europee-il-capo-rappresentanza-in-italia-della-commissione-europea-nella-lista-del-pd/>

³ <https://emigrazione-notizie.org/?p=11098>

⁴ <https://catania.meridionews.it/articolo/78018/europee-2019-puzzolo-in-lista-con-la-spinta-di-calenda-il-manifesto-siamo-europei-scossoni-al-centrosinistra/>

⁵ By cooling off we mean a minimum period of leave before an official is able to return to the institution in which he or she was previously working.