

**Question for written answer E-003084/2019
to the Council**
Rule 138
Guido Reil (ID)

Subject: Regulation on transitional allowances (Council Regulation (EU) 2016/300 of 29 February 2016 determining the emoluments of EU high-level public office holders)

Regulation (EU) 2016/300 includes provisions regarding transitional allowances for office holders in the European Council, the Commission, the Court of Justice and the European Investment Bank, entitling them to a monthly payment of between 40% and 65 % of their basic salary for between six months and two years after they cease to hold office,

the justification for this being the need to give them a certain level of financial security for a transitional period after their departure. However, this argument based on need is hardly convincing. All office holders are highly qualified and receive salaries that are higher than average. In Sweden and Switzerland, transitional allowances are only paid to those in genuine need.

A distinction should also be made between voluntary resignation and departure at the end of the term of office.

Thirdly, there should be a requirement to substantiate the justification given. To date, payment of transitional allowances has been a matter of good faith. Office holders are not even required to submit a tax return¹.

1. What solid evidence exists to justify the official purpose of an EU system of transitional allowances based on need?
2. Is there in fact any evidence to suggest that public office holders actually need such high transitional allowances?
3. Why does the same system apply to office holders who resign voluntarily and those who wait until the end of their term of office before departing?

¹ Study requested by the CONT Committee, Transitional allowances for former EU office holders – too few conditions? December 2017, pp 11–15.