

EN
E-003177/2020
Answer given by Mr Hahn
on behalf of the European Commission
(20.8.2020)

1. The decision relating to the former executive director of the European Banking Authority (EBA) was a decision taken by the EBA Board of Supervisors. The Commission representative does not vote in the Board of Supervisors.

EU Agencies are separate and independent legal entities from the Commission and they bear responsibility for the implementation of the Staff Regulations. Subsequently to the European Parliament resolution in relation to possible conflicts of interest for Mr Farkas in his new role at the Association for Financial Markets in Europe (AFME) dated 16 January 2020, the Commission put in place a two-year Commission-wide cooling-off period (Members of the College of Commissioners, Cabinets and services) on meetings with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of AFME. On this basis, the Commission representatives will not meet or have contacts with Mr Farkas as CEO of AFME until 1 February 2022. The Commission does not wish to comment on the outcome of the European Ombudsman inquiry regarding another independent EU body.

2. European Supervisory Authorities are decentralised agencies. As separate legal entities, they are independently responsible for the implementation of the Staff Regulations. The European Central Bank is an independent separate EU institution and has its own specific Staff rules¹. It is for each institution or body to analyse the recommendations of the European Ombudsman, in light of its own rules.

3. The Commission has strong rules in place for its own staff, that are actively implemented. The Staff Regulations have been further reinforced with the 2014 reform². In particular, senior managers are now subjected to a ‘cooling off’ period of one year in case they intend to engage in lobbying or advocacy vis-à-vis staff of their former institution on matters for which they were responsible during the last three years in service. The Commission revised its Decision on outside and post service activities in 2018³, and will continue to integrate as far as possible lessons learnt from experience, best practices as well as suggestions and recommendations from the European Ombudsman, the European Parliament and the European Court of Auditors.

¹ European Central Bank Staff Rules (31 January 2020):
https://www.ecb.europa.eu/careers/pdf/staff_rules_fixedterm.pdf

² Regulation (EU, Euratom) no 1023/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2013 amending the staff regulations of officials of the European Union and the conditions of employment of other servants of the European Union.

³ Commission Decision of 29.6.2018 on outside activities and assignments and occupational activities after leaving the Service C(4048) 2018.