

**Question for written answer E-004579/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Christine Anderson (ID)

Subject: Former Commissioner Oettinger and the EU Ethical Committee

In response to Question E-002797/2020 ¹, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen stated that:

‘The Commission must consult its Independent Ethical Committee whenever notified professional activities of former Members are related to their former portfolios.’ ²

She also stated that: ‘... members and former members of the Commission observe the highest standards of ethical conduct.’ ³

Point 6 of the Commission’s Decision of 29 April 2020 regarding Oettinger ⁴ states that consultation of the Independent Ethical Committee is not considered necessary, since similar decision have previously been made in the case of individuals such as Jean-Claude Juncker.

Moreover, the agreement between Oettinger and the London Speakers Bureau is said to have existed only in oral form. ⁵

1. What oral agreements exist between the former Commissioner and the London Speakers Bureau?
2. Can the Ethical Committee be said to be independent if the Commission can decide whether to refer a procedure to it and – as in the case of Oettinger, for example – does not even involve that Committee?
3. In which cases has the Commission decided, concerning the outside activities of members and former members of the Commission, ‘that consultation of the Independent Ethical Committee is not considered necessary’?

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2020-002797_EN.html

² https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2020-002797-ASW_EN.html

³ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2020-002797-ASW_EN.html

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/commission-decision-c-2020-9016_en

⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/commission-decision-c-2020-9016_en