

**Question for written answer E-006701/2020
to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs
and Security Policy**

Rule 138

Bart Groothuis (Renew)

Subject: Future deficiencies in enforcing EDA Staff Regulations

On 8 December 2020, an investigative journalist from the website *Follow the Money* published an article on the post-employment activity of former European Defence Agency (EDA) CEO Jorge Domecq¹. In February 2020, Mr Domecq left the EDA and joined Airbus a few months later.

According to EDA Staff Regulations, he should have obtained approval for his new position before signing a contract in order to mitigate or prevent possible conflicts of interest. Documents obtained under Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents show that Mr Domecq did not do so.

A formal EDA recommendation to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR), which was subsequently adopted, stated that punitive measures were renounced because ‘the impact of any action to sanction this breach will have a limited effect²’. This raises serious concerns about the current and future effectiveness and enforcement of the EDA Staff Regulations.

1. On what exact grounds was the assessment made that imposing punitive measures on Mr Domecq for violating the staff regulations would have limited effect and were therefore not applied?
2. How can the VP/HR ensure that this will not happen again?
3. Will he assure Parliament and EDA staff that the EDA Staff Regulations will be effectively enforced in future job transfers?

¹ https://www.ftm.nl/artikelen/ex-defensiechef-eu-airbus?share=k9HWvgBeeJDZIFwd1b/oGX7uQJld5hvR9k5WF91eByv3o5STZ3jsUZnZPXkMxhU=&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=Peter-Teffer&utm_source=mail

² <https://www.asktheeu.org/en/request/8648/response/29155/attach/23/04%20Email%20EDA%20to%20CAB%2004.09.2020%20annexes%20REDACTED.pdf>