

**Question for written answer E-004658/2021/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: 'Revolving doors': 250 cases of EU officials moving to the non-European digital sector (the Big Five, etc.)

The Brussels administration likes to talk about Europe's strategic autonomy but the French have not forgotten how the Commission bizarrely approved the acquisition of Nokia by Microsoft, and WhatsApp and Instagram by Facebook, after having rejected projects put forward by French companies (such as Pechiney).

Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon and Microsoft (the Big Five) have gobbled up over 400 companies in the last decade. Half of these were 'killer acquisitions'¹, ending in the closure of the firms. Not even a giant like Nokia could escape this fate.

According to LinkedIn, over 250 former Commission officials are now working for Amazon (130), Google (89), Microsoft (55), Facebook (51) and Apple (23).

In view of the above:

1. How many Commission officials now work for the tech giants (the Big Five) while their posts remain open for their return?
2. How many former Commissioners and former Commission contract or temporary staff members now work for the tech giants (the Big Five)?
3. What procedures has the Commission implemented, particularly through its anti-fraud office OLAF, to look into whether staff who have played a role in making critical decisions for the Commission (on competition rules, legislation, etc.) have received unwarranted payments in cash or in kind?

¹ Source: Big tech acquisitions - towards empirical evidence. Pauline Affeldt and al. (11/02/2021)