

**Question for written answer E-000216/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Mathilde Androuët (ID)

Subject: Lobbying undertaken by former Commissioners: Günther Oettinger

The news website *Politico* published an article on the lobbyist Günther Oettinger who since leaving his position as Commissioner in 2019 has piled up private sector jobs¹. The Commission's code of conduct prohibits, inter alia, former Members from lobbying the Commission. Nevertheless, the latter approved Oettinger's request to join Deloitte Germany's advisory council, despite the fact that the firm held two meetings with Oettinger in 2016 and that Deloitte branches have done significant work for the Commission. This is what the article says, among other things. In response to questions asked by *Politico*, the Commission said that it thoroughly scrutinises activities undertaken by Members after their mandate to protect public interests and avoid conflicts of interest. However, Oettinger's request to join Hungary's National Science Policy Council, which advises Viktor Orbán, is the only one not to have been accepted thus far.

1. How long does the Commission legally have to oppose an appointment?
2. Why has it taken so long to respond?
3. On what basis can it extend the deadline for a response?

¹ https://www.politico.eu/article/gunther-oettinger-europe-mr-revolving-door-lobbying-transparency/?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Twitter#Echobox=162073051