

**Question for written answer E-001777/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Giorgos Georgiou (The Left)

Subject: Code of Conduct for Members of the European Commission (2018/C 65/06)

During the 14th New Democracy Congress of 6-8 May 2022 in Athens, Commission Vice-President Margaritis Schinas, addressing the head of the Democratic Rally and candidate in the upcoming presidential elections in Cyprus, brought up the possibility of interference in the presidential elections to be held in Cyprus ('Phileleftheros' newspaper of 9 May 2022). In particular, he declared: 'Averof, my friend, I want you to know that we will not let them play games in Cyprus, in the elections for the President of Cyprus. Cyprus will remain a European and Western country. You (Averof) will be the standard bearer in this great endeavour and we will be by your side.'

In view of this:

1. Can the Commission say whether the Vice-President's utterances are in line with Article 9(3) (Participation in national political life during the term of office) of the Commission Decision of 31 January 2018 on a Code of Conduct for Members of the European Commission (2018/C 65/06)?
2. On what basis is the Commission Vice-President entitled to intervene in the internal politics of an EU Member State of which he is not a national in support of a candidate?
3. To whom is the Vice-President referring when he speaks of those 'playing games in Cyprus'?