

**Question for written answer E-002278/2023/rev.1  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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**Subject:** Appointment of Ms Morton as Chief Economist of the Commission's Directorate-General for Competition

On Tuesday, 11 July 2023, the Commission announced that it had appointed Fiona Scott Morton, an American economist, as Chief Economist of its Directorate-General for Competition.

Following the legitimate protests against her appointment, Ms Morton decided, on Wednesday, 19 July 2023, not to take up the post.

While there was no doubt as to Ms Morton's skills and experience, it was nevertheless surprising and inappropriate to choose a non-EU citizen for such an important role.

Given that Ms Morton has lobbied for Pfizer, Apple, Microsoft and Amazon, it is astonishing that she was to be entrusted with a post in which she would have been responsible, among other things, for overseeing the application of the rules regulating digital markets and services. Those rules are widely criticised by Big Tech companies, her former employers.

Despite Ms Morton's decision not to take up the post, questions around her appointment and the procedure remain:

1. Given that the European Union has a population of 450 million, can the Commission explain why it did not choose a European for this post?
2. Why was the EU nationality requirement removed from the job description<sup>1</sup> for the first time ever?
3. In the Commission's view, why did Ms Morton announce to her Yale colleagues in April that she had been recruited by the Commission, even though the selection procedure had not been finalised?

**Supporter<sup>2</sup>**

Submitted: 19.7.2023

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.liberation.fr/international/europe/a-bruxelles-la-nomination-de-fiona-scott-morton-est-une-faute-politique-majeure-20230718\\_ERZQKUMZVFHE7NN4JOVYT3R6F4/](https://www.liberation.fr/international/europe/a-bruxelles-la-nomination-de-fiona-scott-morton-est-une-faute-politique-majeure-20230718_ERZQKUMZVFHE7NN4JOVYT3R6F4/)

<sup>2</sup> This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Annika Bruna (ID)