

**Question for written answer E-002297/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Emmanuel Maurel (The Left)

Subject: Repercussions of Ms Scott Morton not accepting the position as Chief Economist of DG Competition

We have learned that Ms Scott Morton has decided not to join the Directorate-General for Competition. This welcome choice owes much to the mobilisation of MEPs from across the spectrum.

Ms Vestager, at her hearing before the Committee on Economic Affairs, which many considered disappointing, provided only vague answers to relevant questions from Members, in particular on conflicts of interest and the recruitment process for EU officials. We believe that the Commission ought to provide a response on this matter.

1. Why did the Commission remove the nationality clause from the job description of DG Competition's Chief Economist between 2018 and 2023?
2. In future, does it intend to provide MEPs with a list of conflicts of interest of officials holding key positions in the EU?
3. Does it intend to provide an explanation to MEPs in plenary on the matter of this controversy?

Submitted: 19.7.2023