

**Question for written answer E-002424/2023  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Virginie Joron (ID)**

**Subject:** Scandal surrounding the appointment of the American Fiona Scott Morton as chief economist, and status of the 500 non-EU citizens currently working in the Commission

On 11 July 2023, the Commission announced the appointment of Fiona Scott Morton, an American national, as chief economist<sup>1</sup>. This post would have given her a say in any fines or sanctions imposed on Big Tech firms, the US digital giants, under the Digital Markets Regulation.

In the wake of our protests, Ms Morton withdrew<sup>2</sup>. However, rather than contacting the next candidate on the list, a Spanish economist, the Commission decided to opt for a new selection procedure, but not before approaching another US national, Florian Ederer, a newly minted US citizen, who has almost never worked in Europe. This opaque and incomprehensible procedure demonstrates the EU's worrying drift towards servitude<sup>3</sup>.

The EU administration is required by law to employ only Europeans. However, it states that it has 445 British and 53 other non-EU citizens on its staff, with 229 of them – mostly men – earning at least EUR 10 000 net per month<sup>4</sup>.

1. Can the Commission indicate how many British or non-EU citizens it employs, almost 10 years after the 2016 Brexit referendum, in non-auxiliary posts, which gives them the right to exercise official authority (as director, head of unit, etc.) within the meaning of Article 51 TFEU<sup>5</sup>?
2. What posts are held by the non-EU citizens who are not British, in particular the citizens of the EU's main competitors (the US, China, India, Israel)?

Submitted: 18.8.2023

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/comp/items/795568>; <https://www.politico.eu/article/us-antitrust-economist-fiona-scott-morton-under-fire-over-eu-job/>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.politico.eu/article/commission-reopen-chief-economist-vacancy-scott-morton-withdraws/>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.politico.eu/article/not-another-american-meet-the-new-favorite-for-eu-competition-economist/>; [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>4</sup> For officials who have reached grade AD10 or AST10 (<https://urlz.fr/ng7W>). Statistical Bulletin for Commission – staff grade and first nationality as of 1 July 2023 ([https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/518667ba-d961-44d3-97c2-0735764cc11c\\_en?filename=statistical-bulletin-20230701.zip](https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/518667ba-d961-44d3-97c2-0735764cc11c_en?filename=statistical-bulletin-20230701.zip)).

<sup>5</sup> Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (<https://urlz.fr/ng80>); Judgment of 21 June 1974, Reyners, 2/74, EU:C:1974:68, paragraphs 53-55; EPRS, p. 16 (<https://urlz.fr/ng86>).