

**Question for written answer E-003163/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Mathilde Androuët (ID)**

**Subject:** Suitability of choosing Madeleine Albright's name for a room at the College of Europe in Bruges

The College of Europe specialises in training on European affairs, and a number of leading figures have studied there<sup>1</sup>. The college's rector, Federica Mogherini, who has held prestigious positions in the Commission, has decided to name a room for its new European Diplomatic Academy at the Bruges campus after Madeleine Albright<sup>2</sup>. US ambassador to the United Nations from 1993 to 1997 and US Secretary of State from 1997 to 2001 under the Clinton administration, Ms Albright, who passed away in 2022, was a great supporter of US military interventions that have had disastrous geopolitical consequences. She was particularly criticised for the 1999 bombing of Belgrade<sup>3</sup>, her notable hostility towards the Serbs<sup>4</sup>, and her legitimisation of the American sanctions against Iraq (1996-2003) that cost 500 000 children their lives and her claim that it was 'worth it'<sup>5</sup>.

At a time of worrying international tensions, when the EU's decisions are under particular scrutiny, and given that 'the Commission funds around half the College of Europe's budget'<sup>6</sup>, does the Commission believe it suitable to choose such a figure?

Submitted: 25.10.2023

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<sup>1</sup> College of Europe, Postgraduate Institute of European Studies (<https://www.coleurope.eu>).

<sup>2</sup> 'Sur le campus du Collège d'Europe, des murs sous influence', *La Lettre*, 24 October 2023.

<sup>3</sup> 'Madeleine Albright, adepte d'une diplomatie musclée au nom de la démocratie', by Adrien Jaulmes, *Le Figaro*, 23 March 2022.

<sup>4</sup> 'Aktivisté dali trestní oznámení na Albrightovou kvůli 'odporným Srbům'', *Idnes.cz*, 13 November 2012 ([https://www.idnes.cz/zpravy/domaci/pravni-kroky-kvuli-potyccce-na-autogramiade-albrightove.A121113\\_102523\\_domaci\\_jw](https://www.idnes.cz/zpravy/domaci/pravni-kroky-kvuli-potyccce-na-autogramiade-albrightove.A121113_102523_domaci_jw)).

<sup>5</sup> "'A trailblazer": political leaders pay tribute to Madeleine Albright', by Gloria Oladipo, *The Guardian*, 23 March 2022.

<sup>6</sup> 'Le Collège d'Europe accusé de "copinage"', by Anna Hubert, *Ouest-France*, 20 May 2020.