

**Priority question for written answer P-005509/2021/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Susanna Ceccardi (ID)

Subject: Transgender Virgin Mary – call for the Commission to clarify a German influencer's appointment and role as EU ambassador

German activist Riccardo Simonetti – who, according to reports appearing in a number of daily newspapers, has been made a special EU ambassador for LGBT rights¹ – recently posed as a transgender version of the Virgin Mary.

Until a few days ago, the influencer described himself on his Instagram profile as 'EU Ambassador for Civil Rights' – a title which has now been removed.

Anonymous EU sources quoted by the press reportedly repudiated Simonetti's claims but said that, on account of his popularity, he would be helping to raise awareness about the institutions' work in the LGBT community.

Subsequently, however, Simonetti repeated the claims on social media that he had been made an EU ambassador and decried the confusion that had been created.

In view of this:

1. Can the Commission clarify whether it has previously worked or is currently working with Mr Simonetti? If so, could it state the tasks assigned to him and any remuneration he has received?
2. In the light of the controversy sparked by Mr Simonetti's actions, is it considering stripping him of any role he may have been given, and will it give more thought in future to the roles it assigns influencers and celebrities?

¹ <https://www.ilgiornale.it/news/cronache/vergine-maria-diventa-trans-provocazione-choc-dellattivista-1994227.html>