

EN
E-002641/2025
Answer given by Mr Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
(10.9.2025)

Article 17(3) of the Treaty on European Union provides, in particular, that the Commission shall be completely independent and that the members of the Commission shall neither seek nor take instructions from any Government or other institution, body, office or entity. They shall refrain from any action incompatible with their duties or the performance of their tasks. The Code of Conduct for the Members of the Commission¹ further details these rules. In this context, Article 2(5) of the Code of Conduct provides that members shall respect the dignity of their office and shall not act or express themselves, through whatever medium, in a manner which adversely affects the public perception of their independence, their integrity or the dignity of their office. Within those limits, neither the treaties nor the Code of Conduct prohibits the members of the Commission from expressing their personal opinions.

In the reply to the question raised by the Slovenian weekly *Mladina*, with regard to the outcome of the Slovenian upcoming elections, the Commissioner for Enlargement duly explained that she limited herself in the context of her reply to express her views in her personal capacity, which she is entitled to do. Therefore, the Commissioner's position as member of the Commission is not affected by her personal views concerning Slovenian elections.

¹ [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32018D0221\(02\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32018D0221(02)).