

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004159/25
to the Commission
Tomáš Zdechovský (PPE)
(22 October 2025)**

Subject: Commissioners' accountability under the Code of Conduct in an age of misinformation

Article 5 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the European Commission requires Commissioners to uphold the dignity of their office, act with integrity and discretion and avoid any conduct that might adversely affect public confidence in the Commission's independence, impartiality or credibility.

1. Given the growing spread of misinformation and its impact on public trust, would the Commission consider it incompatible with Article 5 if a serving Commissioner were to publicly contradict established scientific consensus in order to promote a personal or political position?
2. For example, if a Commissioner were to deny the existence or human causes of climate change, claim that vaccines cause autism or assert that exposure to 5G mobile networks causes cancer, would this be regarded as a breach of the code?
3. What mechanisms exist to review and address such cases, and how does the Commission ensure that Commissioners' public statements remain consistent with evidence-based and science-informed policymaking?

Submitted: 22.10.2025

**Answer given by President von der Leyen on behalf of the European Commission
(3 March 2026)**

The Commission is committed to evidence-based policymaking. Furthermore, the Commission attaches the utmost importance to the adherence by the members of the Commission to the ethical framework applicable to them and notably to their full observance of the Code of Conduct for the Members of the European Commission ⁽¹⁾.

Pursuant to Article 5 of the Code of Conduct, the members of the Commission must comply with the duty of loyalty towards the Commission. Without prejudice to their fundamental freedom of expression and the right of members to express their personal opinions, they are expected to abide by the restraint that their office requires. In particular, members shall not make any comments that would call into question a decision taken by the Commission or which may harm the Commission's reputation.

This being said, it is the Commission policy not to comment on hypothetical situations such as captured in the Honourable Member's written question. The Commission does not have sufficient details to provide a relevant reply of the substance.

⁽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)).