

## The Commission's ad hoc Ethical Committee

Case opened

**Case** 297/2013/FOR - **Opened on** 12/03/2013 - **Decision on** 19/12/2013 - **Institutions concerned** European Commission ( Settled by the institution ) | European Commission ( No further inquiries justified ) |

### Allegation(s)

- 1) The Commission's decision to reappoint one of the members of its ad hoc Ethical Committee breaches Article 4 of the 2003 Commission decision establishing the Committee.
- 2) The activities of the ad hoc Ethical Committee are not sufficiently transparent.

### Claim(s)

- 1) The Commission should revoke the said re-appointment and appoint a replacement who meets, and *appears to* meet, the requirement for independence.
- 2) The Commission should introduce a pro-active transparency policy of (a) publishing the CVs and Declarations of Interest of the members of the ad hoc Ethical Committee online, as is the case for Commission Special Advisers; (b) improving online transparency regarding both the members of the ad hoc Ethical Committee and its decisions.
- 3) In order to ensure that decisions about Commissioners' ethics are truly independent, the Commission should – in the longer term – set up an independent ethics committee, with a broader and better defined mandate than the existing Committee, which deals primarily with post-employment issues. This committee should be fully independent and composed of experts on public administration ethics.