

Committee on Legal Affairs  
The Chair

Ref. D(2019)33760

ACCESS LIMITE

Mr David Maria Sassoli  
President of the European Parliament  
PHS 09B11  
Brussels

***Subject: Assessment of actual or potential conflict of interests: Commissioner-designate Rovana Plumb***

Dear President,

I am writing in connection with the examination of the declaration of interests and the assessment of actual or potential conflict of interests of Commissioner-designate for Transport, Ms Rovana Plumb.

In accordance with Rule 125 of the Rules of Procedure and Article 2 of Annex VII thereto, at its meetings of 19 September, 25 September and 26 September 2019, the Committee on Legal Affairs assessed, on the basis of the documents presented, i.e. declaration of interests, response to the request for additional information dated 24 September 2019, and a discussion held with Ms Rovana Plumb by the Committee on Legal Affairs on 26 September 2019, the question of potential or actual conflict of interests in connection with the portfolio of Commissioner for Transport.

At its meeting of 26 September 2019, the Committee on Legal Affairs decided that it is necessary to address to the President elect of the Commission its concerns that there is a potential conflict of interest in connection with the portfolio of Commissioner for Transport. This stems from a loan received by the Commissioner-designate from a physical person operating professionally in the area of tourism, as well as from the fact that on the basis of information the Committee received, it is not clear how this outstanding loan is to be paid back in an open and transparent manner. Therefore, the Committee on Legal Affairs considers that at this stage and until this conflict of interests is resolved, there is a serious doubt as to whether the Commissioner-designate can exercise her role as a Commissioner for Transport. The Committee on Legal Affairs is also concerned that the issues related to the paying back of the outstanding loan might remain such as to continue to create a potential conflict of interests also in relation to other portfolios.

I would be most grateful if you could inform the President elect of the Commission of those concerns and keep the Committee on Legal Affairs informed of the steps the President-elect intends to take in order for this conflict of interest to be resolved.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lucy Nethsingha". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the "Yours sincerely," text.

Lucy Nethsingha