

**Question for written answer E-015997/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Beatrix von Storch (ECR)

Subject: Code of conduct - pro-'same-sex marriage' statements by Commissioners

Commissioner Violeta Bulc of Slovenia has publicly backed 'same-sex marriage' in a referendum that could overturn a largely controversial 'gay marriage' law in Slovenia. Moreover, Commissioner Bulc and members of her staff have broadcast a video for the 'Yes' campaign.

According to publicly reported information, Commissioner Bulc has breached the Code of Conduct for Commissioners, which states: 'In respect of the principle of independence that must guide the performance of their duties, Commissioners should abstain from making public statements or interventions on behalf of any political party or trade union of which they are members [...]'. Commissioner Bulc is an active member of the governing Modern Centre Party, which is promoting the 'same-sex marriage' act. Moreover, the Commission and the Council have constantly repeated that the definition of marriage does not fall within the EU's remit.

Back in June 2015, Commission First Vice-President Frans Timmermans called publicly for EU-wide 'same-sex marriage'.

What measures will the President of the Commission take to sanction these breaches of the Code of Conduct by Commissioners Bulc and Timmermans?

What measures will the Commission take to ensure that Commissioners such as Frans Timmermans and Violeta Bulc do not publicly campaign during their time in office on policy issues for which the EU has no competence, e.g. the definition of marriage?