

Brussels, 5 October 2022

Dear President,

Dear Vice-Presidents,

According to your [website](#), on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September you appointed Mr Alessandro Chiocchetti – President Metsola’s current Head of Cabinet – as the Parliament’s new Secretary-General. According to news reports, this appointment was decided as part of a political package deal that also involved a number of other senior appointments at DG and Director level, including the creation of a whole new DG. On behalf of Transparency International EU and The Good Lobby, we are writing to request that **you rescind these appointments and proceed with a new process that** follows the principles of transparency, integrity, and accountability.

### A flawed appointment

It has been reported by several [news media](#) that, in the two months leading up to the appointment, a secret deal was reached between a number of political groups that would see Mr. Alessandro Chiocchetti installed as Secretary-General, in return for top jobs being given to other individuals from various political groups – including through the creation of a brand-new Directorate-General in the Parliament’s Secretariat. This package of top job appointments is said to have included several other individuals being selected to occupy the positions of Director-General and Director. Although the EU Staff regulations do allow for a procedure other than a competition to be adopted for the recruitment of senior officials, the existence of a political deal is contrary to the spirit if not the letter of the Staff Regulations and certainly not in line with the principles of good administration. This particular deal effectively combined several appointments into a single package, where each appointment was conditional on all others also being agreed, and where there appears to have been little to no effort to put candidates through a thorough (or indeed any) vetting process.

### A flawed process

TI EU and The Good Lobby also consider that the entire process has been conducted with a shocking lack of transparency and accountability. While the appointment procedures may or may not have satisfied the formal requirements, it was impossible for the public to ascertain whether the appointments were handled correctly, and the strong suggestion emanating from media reports is that they were not. In our opinion, this is in contravention of the Parliament’s Rule 121, which requires that "Parliament shall ensure that its activities are conducted with the utmost transparency, in accordance with the second paragraph of Article 1 of the Treaty on European Union, Article 15 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and Article 42 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union", as well as being in direct contravention of the Treaty and Charter Articles cited in this Rule. It also goes against the principle of an "open, efficient, and independent European administration" established by [article 298\(1\) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#).

Finally, we believe that the appointment of Mr Chiocchetti in particular was not carried out in a fair and transparent manner. The role was advertised for applicants at AD 15 level, one grade below that of current and past Secretaries-General. In addition, according to [reports](#), Mr. Chiocchetti was only

promoted to the AD 15 level in May, just a few months before the political deal was struck, suggesting he was being positioned for the role of Secretary-General, in a manner reminiscent of the Selmayr appointment at the European Commission. Furthermore, the chosen candidate manifestly does not have proven experience of managing a large number of staff. This is in stark contrast with the other [reported internal candidates](#) who are all current Directors-General in the Parliament. This means the candidate chosen by the Parliament lacks the requisite qualifications and is therefore unsuited to fulfil his role.

Based on these points, TI EU and The Good Lobby argue there has been maladministration by the Parliament in its appointment process for the new Secretary-General and the related senior appointments. This procedure is in stark contrast with the Parliament's own position as stated its resolution on "[Integrity policy of the Commission, in particular the appointment of the Secretary-General of the European Commission](#)". In the aforementioned resolution, the Parliament called on **all institutions** to "put an end to the practice of 'parachuting' people into positions which runs the risk of damaging procedures and thus the credibility of the EU" and also stressed that "political influence must not undermine the application of the Staff Regulations."

We therefore urge you to respect your 2018 resolution, reconsider your decision, cancel the appointments and launch a truly transparent process for the appointment of a new Secretary-General and the other senior roles that were part of the alleged secret package.

Your sincerely,



**Michiel van Hulten – Director**  
Transparency International EU



**Alberto Alemanno – Director**  
The Good Lobby