



## PRESS RELEASE No 58/25

Luxembourg, 5 May 2025

Sitting of the Court

### **Solemn undertaking of Ms Kaja Kallas, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission**

At a sitting of the Court of Justice on 5 May 2025, Ms Kaja Kallas, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, gave the solemn undertaking prescribed by the Treaties.

Whilst the Treaties make no express provision for the manner in which the solemn undertaking is to be given, the Commission has always attached great importance to the undertaking being given before the Court of Justice of the European Union.

The solemn undertaking given by the Members of the Commission is as follows:

‘Having been appointed as a Member of the European Commission by the European Council, following the vote of consent by the European Parliament, I solemnly undertake:

to respect the Treaties and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union in the fulfilment of all my duties;

to be completely independent in carrying out my responsibilities, in the general interest of the Union;

in the performance of my tasks, neither to seek nor to take instructions from any Government or from any other institution, body, office or entity;

to refrain from any action incompatible with my duties or the performance of my tasks.

I formally note the obligation laid down under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, by virtue of which each Member State is to respect this principle and is not to seek to influence Members of the Commission in the performance of their tasks.

I further undertake to respect, both during and after my term of office, the obligation arising therefrom, and in particular the duty to behave with integrity and discretion as regards the acceptance, after I have ceased to hold office, of certain appointments or benefits.’

Unofficial document for media use, not binding on the Court of Justice.

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Images of the formal sitting are available on [the CVRIA website](https://curia.europa.eu).

## Annex

### Address by President Koen Lenaerts

High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In declaring this sitting open, I warmly welcome you on behalf of the Court of Justice.

Today the Court will receive the solemn undertaking of the Vice-President of the European Commission, Kaja Kallas, who was unable to attend at the time of the formal sitting of 27 January 2025 during which the President and the Members of the Commission who took up their duties on 1 December 2024 gave that undertaking.

That solemn undertaking is provided for in Article 245 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and it is well-established practice that it is given before the Court. This practice has a dual symbolism. It expresses the commitment to respect for the law which characterises the European Union and the functioning of its institutions, including the Commission. It also underlines the importance of the tasks which the Commission is called upon to carry out, in the general interest of the Union, in accordance with the Treaties.

Before inviting you to give the solemn undertaking connected with you taking up your duties, allow me very briefly to place the event reuniting us here today in context.

By a decision of 24 July 2024, the European Council appointed you, Ms Kallas, to the post of High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

On 27 November 2024, the European Parliament gave its approval to the appointment, as a College, of the Members of the new Commission.

The decision of the European Council of 28 November 2024 appointing the European Commission, which was read at the formal sitting of 27 January 2025, paved the way for the exercise, by that Commission, of its powers under the Treaties for the period from 1 December 2024 to 31 October 2029.

The post of High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy was established by the Treaty of Lisbon in December 2007. Since then, you are, Ms Kallas, the fourth person to wear the 'hat' of what is often termed the 'Minister of Foreign Affairs of the European Union'.

The particular significance of your tasks is apparent from the very wording of the Treaty on European Union.

Article 18 of that treaty states that the High Representative is to 'conduct' the Union's common foreign and security policy, by contributing, by his or her proposals, to the development of that policy and by carrying it out as mandated by the Council. The same is to apply to the common security and defence policy.

Article 18 of that treaty also provides that the High Representative is to preside over the Foreign Affairs Council and that he or she is automatically one of the Vice-Presidents of the Commission. On that twofold basis, he or she is to ensure the consistency of the Union's external action and he or she takes on, within the Commission, the responsibilities incumbent on it in external relations and in the coordination of other aspects of the Union's external action.

Article 27 of the Treaty on European Union furthermore assigns to the High Representative, assisted by the European External Action Service, political dialogue with third parties on the Union's behalf and entrusts him or her

with the responsibility of expressing the Union's position in international organisation and at international conferences.

In the light of the very tense current geopolitical context, in particular since the initiation of the war in Ukraine in February 2022, the crucial importance for the European Union of reinforcing its common defence policy and conveying and conducting, through its High Representative, the messages and actions of European diplomacy internationally, goes without saying.

Ms Kallas, we have no doubt that you are armed perfectly to deal with the major challenges currently confronting the European Union in this difficult global environment. As former lawyer, a Member of the European Parliament from 2014 to 2018 and Prime Minister of Estonia from 2021 until your entry into office at the European Commission, you have, in those various stages of your career, clearly demonstrated your personal and professional qualities and your ability to take on high political responsibilities.

On behalf of the Court and its members, I extend to you our warmest congratulations and I sincerely wish you every success in your efforts to contribute to a more peaceful world, in these times when peace can no longer be considered an unassailable *acquis*, even on the European continent.