
■■■■■■■ **CONSIGLIERI' RUN VON DER LEYEN'S COMMISSION, EU TRANSPARENCY CHIEF SAYS**

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By Sarah Wheaton and Seb Starcevic

The EU ombudsman described a powerful unelected and untransparent culture at the top of the European Commission, laying the blame squarely at the feet of its president, Ursula von der Leyen.

Emily O'Reilly, whos served as the EUs accountability and transparency watchdog for more than a decade, told POLITICOs EU Confidential podcastthat the Commissions opacity has got worse over time.

O'Reilly, who leaves the post in February, said that over her 11-year tenure she didnt once meet von der Leyen, and was never at ease with the powerful consiglieri who sit in the Commission presidents cabinet. Consiglieri is typically used in English as a term for advisers of a mafia boss.

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