

The New College 2024-2029

The European Commission proposed by von der Leyen

Preliminary College of Commissioners and Portfolios



Ursula von der Leyen
President



Teresa Ribera
Clean, Just and Competitive Transition



Henna Virkkunen
Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy



Stéphane Séjourné
Prosperity and Industrial Strategy



Kaja Kallas
High Representative/ Vice-President Foreign and Security Policy



Roxana Mînzatu
People, Skills and Preparedness



Raffaele Fitto
Cohesion and Reforms



Maroš Šefčovič
Trade and Economic Security Interinstitutional Relations and Transparency



Valdis Dombrovskis
Economy and Productivity Implementation and Simplification



Dubravka Šuica
Mediterranean



Olivér Várhelyi
Health and Animal Welfare



Wopke Hoekstra
Climate, Net Zero and Clean Growth



Andrius Kubilius
Defence and Space



Marta Kos
Enlargement



Jozef Síkela
International Partnerships



Costas Kadis
Fisheries and Oceans



Maria Luís Albuquerque
Financial Services and the Savings and Investments Union



Hadja Lahbib
Preparedness and Crisis Management Equality



Magnus Brunner
Internal Affairs and Migration



Jessika Roswall
Environment, Water Resilience and Competitive Circular Economy



Piotr Serafin
Budget, Anti-Fraud and Public Administration



Dan Jørgensen
Energy and Housing



Ekaterina Zaharieva
Startups, Research and Innovation



Michael McGrath
Democracy, Justice and the Rule of Law



Apostolos Tzitzikostas
Sustainable Transport and Tourism



Christophe Hansen
Agriculture and Food



Glenn Micallef
Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport

Key Changes as against the 2019-2024 Mandate

Key conclusions

- There are 6 EVPs compared to 3 in the previous term
- The VP layer has been removed
- 4 out of 6 EVPs are women.
- Two EVPs in the 2019-2024 term (Dombrovskis and Šefčovič) lose their EVP titles but get important portfolios, with double roles, reporting directly to von der Leyen
- Gender balance has deteriorated (40% women in the new team compared to 52% now)
- There is only one EVP and von der Leyen herself from EPP in the leadership of the proposed College. S&D has 2 EVPs, Renew Europe 2 EVPs, and ECR 1 EVP

Number of EVPs

2019-2024

Maroš Šefčovič,
Margrethe Vestager,
Valdis Dombrovskis

3

2024-2029

Teresa Ribera,
Henna Virkkunen,
Stephane Sejourné,
Roxana Minzatu,
Kaja Kallas,
Raffaella Fitto

6

Number of VPs

Josep Borrell,
Margaritis Schinas,
Vera Jourova,
Dubravka Suica

4

New Portfolios

Intergenerational fairness, youth, culture and sport; Sustainable transport and tourism; Startups, research and innovation; Defence and space; Health and animal welfare; Mediterranean.

Returning Commissioners

Valdis Dombrovskis, Maroš Šefčovič, Johannes Hahn, Dubravka Šuica, Olivér Várhelyi

5

Representation of Political Groups

- EPP (11)
- S&D (8)
- Renew (6)

- ECR (1)
- Greens (1)

- EPP (14)
- Renew (5)
- S&D (4)

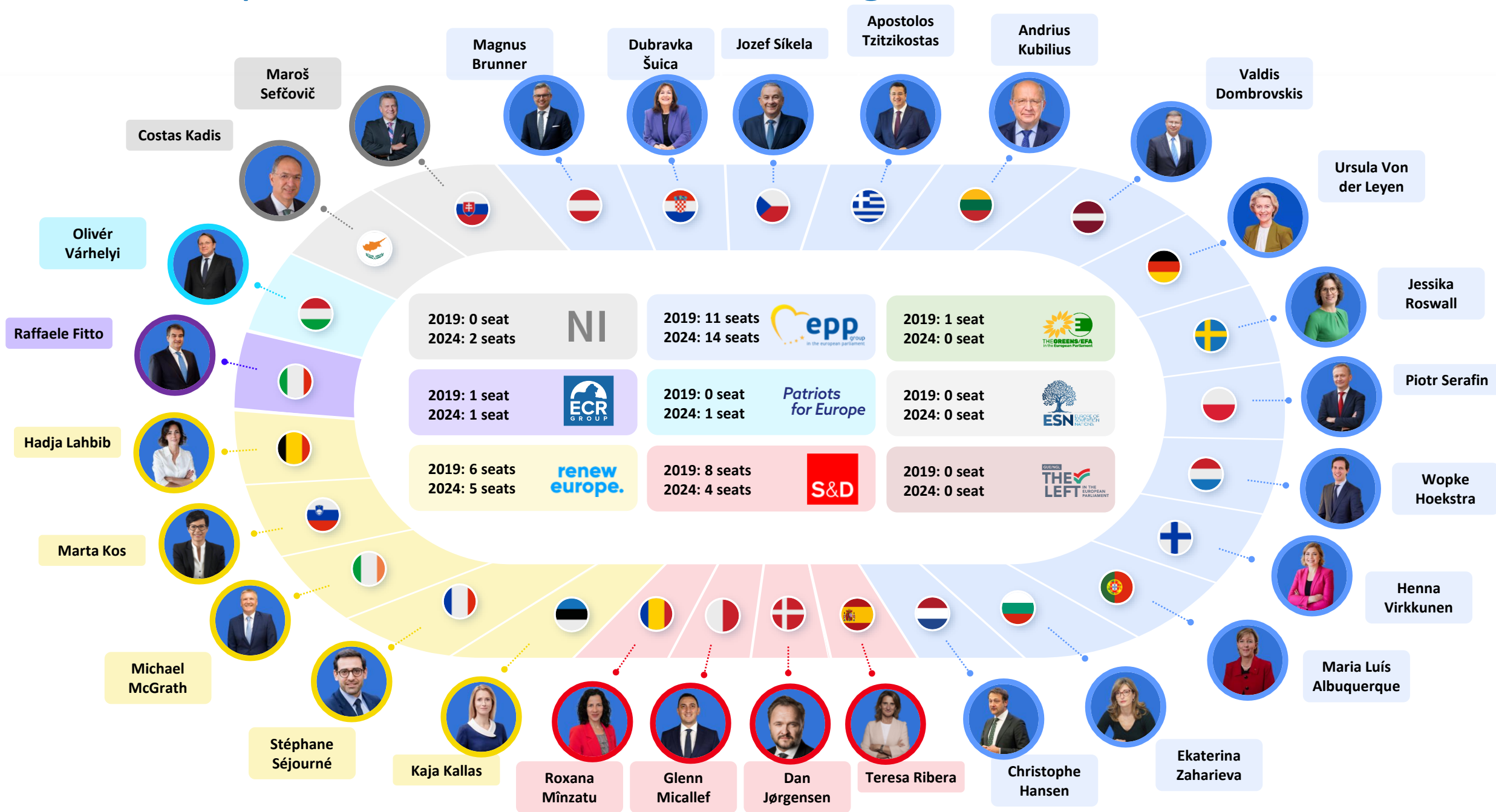
- Independent (2)
- ECR (1)
- Patriots for Europe (1)

Gender Balance

14 women – 13 men

16 men – 11 women

Political Group Affiliations in the New College



Note: The Slovenian Candidate may change. All candidates need to be approved by the Parliament.

Initial Political Group Reactions to the Commissioner Appointments

Socialists and Democrats



- > Candidates must show competence, integrity and a clear vision for their portfolio
- > Candidates must align with progressive values and uphold political guidelines
- > The S&D group is concerned that an EVP is assigned to the ECR-group
- > The group will work to ensure new rules on gender balance
- > Urgent solution and both EU and budget support for areas affected by natural catastrophes
- > Youth, employment and quality of jobs must be prioritised as part of S&D political program

The Greens EFA



- > The Greens are not represented in the College and need to work out how to be represented
- > The Greens are part of the VDL coalition and want to be part of the decision-making process
- > The group criticised the representation of ECR in the college as they are not part of the coalition
- > The group criticised the lack of gender balance amongst the college
- > The group notes positive developments in the mission letters as the green deal is not siloed
- > The Greens will present a plan on climate adaptation that will include an early warning system

European People's Party



- > European People's Party (EPP) congratulated its appointed Commissioners

Renew Europe



- > Candidates must show competence, integrity and a clear vision for their portfolio
- > Candidates must remain independent and focus on the EU's interests
- > EU values should be defended, and the candidate should support Treaty reforms
- > Renew will not leave room for the populists of the left and the right
- > The group will prioritise the implementation of the Green Deal
- > Support for the shared responsibility among Commissioners, advocated by von der Leyen

The Left



- > The group is surprised and angered by the presentation of the College
- > The methodology is wrong and shows a lack of respect for the European Parliament
- > The group disapproves the presence of Fitto, a "far-right candidate" in the College
- >
- >
- >

European Conservatives and Reformists



- > European Conservatives and Reformists group (ECR) has not yet made a statement on the appointments

DGs and Reporting Lines

Name	Role	Reporting to	DG
Teresa Ribera	Executive Vice-President for a Clean, Just and Competitive Transition	President	DG COMP
Henna Virkkunen	Executive Vice-President for Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy		DG CNECT DG DIGIT
Stéphane Séjourné	Executive Vice-President for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy		DG GROW
Kaja Kallas	High Representative/ Vice-President Foreign and Security Policy		EEAS FPI
Roxana Mînzatu	Executive Vice-President for People, Skills and Preparedness		DG EMPL DG EAC
Raffaele Fitto	Executive Vice-President for Cohesion and Reforms		DG REGIO
Piotr Serafin	Budget, Anti-Fraud and Public Administration		DG BUDG DG HR DG DIGIT DG DGT OLAF
Maroš Šefčovič	Trade and Economic Security Interinstitutional Relations and Transparency	President EVP for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy	DG TRADE DG TAXUD
Valdis Dombrovskis	Economy and Productivity Implementation and Simplification	President EVP for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy	DG ECFIN EUROSTAT
Dubravka Šuica	Mediterranean	EVP for People, Skills and Preparedness	DG for the Mediterranean
Glenn Micallef	Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport		DG EAC
Olivér Várhelyi	Health and Animal Welfare	EVP for a Clean, Just and Competitive Transition	DG SANTE DG HERA
Wopke Hoekstra	Climate, Net Zero and Clean Growth		DG TAXUD DG CLIMA

DGs and Reporting Lines

Name	Role	Reporting to	DG
Jessika Roswall	Environment, Water Resilience and Competitive Circular Economy	EVP for a Clean, Just and Competitive Transition	DG ENV
Dan Jørgensen	Energy and Housing		DG ENER
Andrius Kubilius	Defence and Space	EVP for Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy	DG DEFIS
Magnus Brunner	Internal Affairs and Migration		DG HOME
Michael McGrath	Democracy, Justice and the Rule of Law		DG JUST
Marta Kos	Enlargement	High Representative/ Vice-President Foreign and Security Policy	DG NEAR
Jozef Síkela	International Partnerships		DG INTPA
Hadja Lahbib	Preparedness and Crisis Management Equality	High Representative/ Vice-President Foreign and Security Policy EVP for People, Skills and Preparedness	DG ECHO DG HERA Taskforce on Equality
Costas Kadis	Fisheries and Oceans	EVP for Cohesion and Reforms	DG MARE
Apostolos Tzitzikostas	Sustainable Transport and Tourism		DG MOVE
Christophe Hansen	Agriculture and Food		DG AGRI
Maria Luís Albuquerque	Financial Services and the Savings and Investments Union	EVP for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy	DG FISMA
Ekaterina Zaharieva	Startups, Research and Innovation	EVP for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy EVP for Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy	DG RTD JRC

Priorities

Executive Vice-President for a Clean, Just and Competitive Transition (Responsible for the Competition Portfolio)



Teresa Ribera
Socialists and Democrats



PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

- 2020 – Present: Fourth (until 2021) & Third Deputy Spanish Prime Minister
- 2018 – Present: Spanish Minister for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge
- 2014 – 2018: Director of the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI)

KEY POINTS MISSION LETTER

- Responsible for leading a **new approach to competition policy** in line with the driving purpose of the **European Green Deal**, designed as the EU's **growth strategy** and central to the EU's new **industrial policy**. Ensure business is incentivised to invest, innovate and grow and protect consumers from rising prices.
- Stay on course for Green Deal goals, coordinate on Clean Industrial Deal. Implement legislation to achieve 2030 targets, enshrine 90% emission-reduction target for 2040, work towards net-zero by mid-century.
- Guide work to bring down energy prices, eliminate fossil fuel dependencies, address energy poverty. Guide work to ensure tax measures support a just transition, steer investments via Social Climate Fund and Just Transition Fund. Collaborate to develop a clean, circular economy.
- **Modernise EU competition policy:** Develop a new State Aid framework to accelerate roll-out of Green Deal initiatives, further simplify existing State Aid, allow State Aid rules to enable housing support measures.
- Review the Horizontal Merger Control Guidelines; address risk of small companies being eliminated as a source of future competition by way of killer acquisitions.
- Strengthen and speed up enforcement of competition rules, vigorously enforce the **Foreign Subsidies Regulation**, tackle anticompetitive practices, rapid enforcement of **Digital Markets Act**.

Link: [Mission Letter to Teresa Ribera](#)

Reporting line & relevant DGs: President von der Leyen; DG COMP



Henna Virkkunen
European People's Party



PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

- 2014 – Present: Member of the European Parliament (EPP)
- 2014 – 2014: Finnish Minister for Transport
- 2011 – 2014: Finnish Minister of Public Administration and Local Government

KEY POINTS MISSION LETTER

- Strengthen border management, implement the **Pact on Asylum and Migration**, enhance democracy resilience through the **European Democracy Shield**, and support the **European Defence Union**.
- Drive **AI innovation**, support the implementation of the **AI Factories initiative**, develop an **Apply AI Strategy**, and establish a **European AI Research Council**. Lead efforts in **emerging technologies** such as supercomputing, semiconductors, IoT, quantum, genomics, and space tech.
- Oversee the EU's **2023 Digital Decade** targets. Develop an **EU Cloud and AI Development Act** to boost high performance computing. Follow up on the **Chips Act** and develop a long-term **Quantum Chips Strategy** to boost digital and tech competitiveness.
- Enforce the **Digital Services Act (DSA)** and **Digital Markets Act (DMA)** and address **unethical online practices** such as dark patterns, addictive designs, and cyberbullying. Approach **media** recognising its unique place in **democracies and culture** while supporting its **commercial development**. Consider improvements to **copyright framework** to address challenges posed by new technologies.
- Present a **European Data Union Strategy**. Strengthen **cybersecurity** standards. Promote **secure, fast, and reliable connectivity** by developing a new **Digital Networks Act** to boost secure, high-speed broadband. Incentivise and encourage **investments in digital infrastructure**.

Link: [Mission Letter to Henna Virkkunen](#)

Reporting line & relevant DGs: President von der Leyen; DG CNECT, DG DIGIT

Executive Vice-President for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy

KEY POINTS MISSION LETTER



Stéphane Séjourné
Renew Europe



PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

- 2022 – Present: Secretary General of Renaissance Party in France
- 2024: French Minister for Europe & Foreign Affairs
- 2019 – 2024: Member of the European Parliament (Renew)

Europe's prosperity and industrial strategy

- Launch a **new industrial strategy** focused on productivity, innovation, and competitiveness through a bolder use of the Single Market and trade policies to tackle unfair competition. Implement a **Clean Industrial Deal** to decarbonize industry via better policy coordination.
- Prioritize innovation in **critical technologies** with increased public/private financing and capital market support. Protect European competitiveness with **trade and economic security policies** to ensure our sovereignty and reform **customs system** by implementing the CBAM.

Industry, SMEs and the Single Market

- With the Commissioner for Climate, implement the **Clean Industrial Deal** in the first 100 days. As part of this work, an **Industrial Decarbonization Accelerator Act** will be presented to ramp-up clean tech in industry and implement the **Net Zero Industry Act**. A **Circular Economy Act** will be presented to create demand for secondary materials and a **Chemicals Industry Package** will be presented to address PFAS.
- Develop the **European Competitiveness Fund** with the EVP for a clean, just and competitive transition. This will be paired with the implementation of new **Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEIs)** for the most strategic sectors, along with a revision of the **Public Procurement Directives** to ensure the supply for vital technologies and products. An **EU Critical Raw Materials Platform** will be created, and a **European Biotech Act** presented to leverage the potential of biotechnologies.
- Develop a **horizontal Single Market Strategy** for a deeper, more modern single market. As part of this, consider the need for a **Market Barriers Prevention Act**, work on a **dedicated SME passport**, introduce **small midcaps**, and strengthen the **Digital Single Gateway**.

Link: [Mission Letter to Stéphane Séjourné](#)

Reporting line & relevant DG: President von der Leyen; DG GROW

High Representative/Vice-President for Foreign and Security Policy



Kaja Kallas
Renew Europe



PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

- 2018 – Present: Leader of the Estonian Reform Party
- 2021 – 2024: Prime Minister of Estonia
- 2019 – 2021, 2011 – 2014: Member of the Estonian Parliament

KEY POINTS MISSION LETTER

- Continue **the EU's efforts in supporting Ukraine** – economically, politically and militarily – and addressing both the long and short-term needs and reconstruction efforts to work toward peace.
- Coordinate the establishment of the **European Defence Union**, developing a **White Paper on the Future of European Defence** within the first 100 days of the mandate and support the EU's reactivity to new threats, including hybrid threats.
- Develop an extensive **EU Middle East Strategy** to ensure long-lasting peace after a two-state solution is achieved, in addition to establishing **strategies for partnerships across various geographical regions** with the relevant members of the College of Commissioners.
- Strengthen the EU's role in safeguarding multilateralism and reforming the international rules-based system.
- Shape the **new foreign economic policy** in collaboration with the Executive Vice-President for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy, which will focus on economy, trade and the external financial instruments.
- Strengthen the EU's role in safeguarding multilateralism and reforming the international rules-based system.

Link: [Mission Letter to Kaja Kallas](#)

Reporting line & relevant DGs: President von der Leyen; EEAS and FPI

Executive Vice-President for People, Skills and Preparedness



Roxana Mînzatu
Socialists and Democrats



PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

- 2024 – Present: Member of the European Parliament (S&D)
- 2022 – 2024: State Secretary for the Department for the Integrated Evaluation and Monitoring of Programs Financed from Public & European Funds
- 2016 – 2020: Member of the Romanian Parliament (Social Democratic Party, PSD)

KEY POINTS MISSION LETTER

- Strengthen Europe’s human capital to empower people and enhance the EU’s societies and social model.
- Address **skills and labour gaps** that thwart the EU’s productivity and competitiveness, by focusing on training and education and the opportunities that technology and innovation offer to the professional work sphere.
- Develop a new **Action Plan on the Implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights** to achieve the EU’s social headline targets by 2025.
- Contribute to the **European Affordable Housing Plan** while leading the work on a new **EU Anti-Poverty Strategy**.
- Develop a Union of Skills, focused on investment, life-long learning, skill retention and enhancing skills intelligence, including an **Action Plan on Basic Skills** and a **STEM Education Strategic Plan**.

Link: [Mission Letter to Roxana Mînzatu](#)

Reporting line & relevant DGs: President von der Leyen; DG EAC & DG EMPL

Executive Vice-President for Cohesion and Reforms



Raffaele Fitto
ECR



PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

- 2022 – Present: Minister for European Affairs & Minister for the South and Cohesion Policies
- 2014 – 2022, 1999 – 2000: Member of the European Parliament (ECR, EPP)
- 2006 – 2014: Member of the Italian Parliament (Forza Italia, FI & The People of Freedom, PdL)

KEY POINTS MISSION LETTER

- Support **reforms and investments** to ensure the EU's economic growth by prioritising the implementation of NextGenerationEU through dialogue with stakeholders and authorities.
- Develop a **strengthened cohesion and growth policy** by collaborating with authorities to help mobilise reforms and investments.
- Strengthen the **competitiveness, resilience, and sustainability of Europe's regions**, including that of the food, fisheries and farming industries.
- Contribute to the **European Affordable Housing Plan** and the new **European Bauhaus**, in addition to tackling regional disparities by providing tailored solutions.
- Implement the **Cohesion Policy** and putting forward a policy agenda for cities to address issues such as housing, climate action, digitalisation, mobility, social inclusion and equality.
- Support the Eastern border regions, affected by Russian aggression, in the reorientation of their local economy.

Link: [Mission Letter to Raffaele Fitto](#)

Reporting line & relevant DGs: President von der Leyen; DG REGIO

Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security – Interinstitutional Relations and Transparency

Returning Commissioner



Maroš Šefčovič
NI



PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

- 2023 – Present: European Commission Vice-President for the European Green Deal
- 2019 – Present: European Commission Vice-President for Interinstitutional Relations & Foresight
- 2014 – 2019: European Commission Vice-President for the Energy Union & EU Space Policy

KEY POINTS MISSION LETTER

- Deliver a new foreign economic policy to boost EU prosperity, considering dependencies. Defend against unfair competition and security risks, **ensuring competitiveness, security, and sustainability.**
- **Strengthen the WTO, finalize trade agreements, and enhance dialogue with global partners.** Build clean trade and investment partnerships, enforcing climate, environmental, and labour standards.
- **Modernize the customs system** by finalising the Customs Reform Package, establish an EU Customs Authority, and shift to a **fully digital customs environment.**
- **Achieve balanced economic relationships** with EU partners. Focus on de-risking relationship with China. Advance the EU-India agenda and strengthen relations with the Indo-Pacific, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Africa.
- Develop a **new economic security doctrine** with supply chain standards and ensure effective sanctions.
- Revise the EP-EC Framework Agreement. **Strengthen dialogue with the EP, enhance collaboration with the Council and lead EC relations with national parliaments** and other relevant bodies. Focus on ethics and transparency.

Link: [Mission Letter to Maroš Šefčovič](#)

Reporting line & relevant DGs: President von der Leyen, EVP Séjourné; DG TRADE, DG TAXUD

Commissioner for Economy and Productivity – Implementation and Simplification

 Returning
Commissioner



Valdis Dombrovskis
European People's Party



PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

- 2019 – Present: Executive Vice-President of the European Commission for an Economy that Works for People
- 2020 – Present: Commissioner for Trade
- 2014 – 2019: Vice-President of the European Commission for the Euro and Social Dialogue

KEY POINTS MISSION LETTER

- Ensure the implementation of the **reformed fiscal rules** under the Stability and Growth Pact and ensure the smooth integration of the European Semester and the multilateral fiscal surveillance in the context of the **reformed EU economic governance framework**.
- Ensure the successful implementation of **NextGenerationEU** and the acceleration of the implementation of the **Recovery and Resilience Facility**.
- Develop a **new Competitiveness Coordination Tool** to operate in conjunction with the future European Competitiveness Fund and enhance the **role of the European Investment Fund** for European companies.
- Strengthen the **international role of the euro** as a reserve currency and make quick progress on the **digital euro project**.
- Put forward **proposals to simplify legislation** in coordination with the College following a screening exercise starting with areas identified by stakeholders, including **to reduce administrative and reporting burden**.
- Implement a **new “Reality Checks” process** and **better integrate stakeholders** in the policy-making process by reviewing the system of Expert Groups. Review interinstitutional rules on simplification and better regulation and ensure good implementation of the **SME and competitiveness check**.

Link: [Mission Letter to Valdis Dombrovskis](#)

Reporting line & relevant DGs: President von der Leyen, EVP Séjourné; DG ECFIN, EUROSTAT

Commissioner for Health and Animal Welfare

Returning
Commissioner



Olivér Várhelyi
Patriots for Europe



PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

- 2019 – Present: Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement
- 2015 – 2019: Permanent Representative to the European Union
- 2011 – 2015: Deputy Permanent Representative to the European Union

KEY POINTS MISSION LETTER

- Complete the **European Health Union**, by concluding the work and implementation of the revision of the EU Pharmaceutical legislation, further diversifying supply chains, improving advanced treatment access, boosting competitiveness and working on strategic inventories.
- Continue the work on **antimicrobial resistance (AMR)** building on **the One Health Approach**, recognising the connection between people, animals and plants.
- Propose a **Critical Medicines Act** to address severe shortages of medicines and medical devices, and reduce dependencies relating to critical medicines and ingredients.
- Lead the work on a **new European Biotech Act**, focusing on the need for a regulatory environment conducive to innovation in areas of health technology assessment, clinical trials and others.
- Ensure the implementation of the **European Beating Cancer Plan**.
- Complete the **European Health Data Space**, and make proposals to **scale up genome sequencing capacities**.
- Step up the work on prevention health by leading an **EU-wide inquiry on the broader impacts of social media on wellbeing**.

Link: [Mission Letter to Olivér Várhelyi](#)

Reporting line & relevant DGs: Teresa Ribera and Roxana Mînzatu; DG SANTE and HERA

Commissioner for Climate, Net Zero and Clean Growth



Wopke Hoekstra
European People's Party



PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

- 2023 – Present: Commissioner for Climate Action
- 2022 – 2023: Minister of Foreign Affairs & Deputy Prime Minister
- 2020 – 2023: Leader of the Christian Democratic Appeal (NL political party)
- 2017 – 2022: Minister of Finance

KEY POINTS MISSION LETTER

- Oversee the **implementation of the existing 2030 climate framework** (Fit for 55) in the "simplest, fairest and most cost-efficient way", in dialogue with industry and other stakeholders.
- Propose to enshrine the **90% emission-reduction target for 2040** in the EU Climate Law, and prepare climate policy framework beyond 2030, which should be informed by strategic dialogues.
- Work with EVP for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy on Clean Industrial Deal and in particular the **Industrial Decarbonisation Accelerator Act**.
- Support innovative clean technologies and flagship decarbonisation projects by channelling funding from the Innovation Fund and revenues from ETS.
- Accelerate the establishment of a **Single Market for CO2** and support uptake of carbon removal technologies, particularly for hard-to-abate sectors.
- Lead work on the **European Climate Adaptation Plan** and assess need for further legislation on climate resilience and preparedness.
- Strengthen EU **climate diplomacy**, notably in preparation for COP30 in Brazil next year.
- Implement recommendations of the Draghi report with regard to **energy taxation** and conclude negotiations on the Energy Taxation Directive.

Link: [Mission Letter to Wopke Hoekstra](#)

Reporting line & relevant DGs: EVP Ribera; DG CLIMA, DG TAXUD

Commissioner for Defence and Space



Andrius Kubilius
European People's Party



PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

- 2019 – Present: Member of the European Parliament (EPP)
- 2008 – 2012, 1999 – 2000: Prime Minister
- 1992 – 2019: Member of the Lithuanian Parliament

KEY POINTS MISSION LETTER

- Under a **true European Defence Union**, increase support to industry, procurement, research and innovation, **incentivise public and private investment**, and present the next **White Paper on the Future of European Defence within the first 100 days** of the mandate.
- Remove remaining barriers to transport, **hence strengthening military mobility**, and identify and harness the **EU's dual-use and civil-military potential** across all relevant domains.
- Work on creating a **Single Market for Defence**, foster joint procurement of European equipment, improve the **integration of SMEs** in supply chains, **increase the aggregation of demand** for defence assets and **propose Defence Projects of Common European Interest**.
- **Implement** the EU Defence Industrial Strategy (**EDIS**), handling the **negotiations** on the European Defence Industry Programme (**EDIP**), **reinforce** the European Defence Fund (**EDF**), **rapidly implement** the European Defence Industry Reinforcement through Common Procurement Act (**EDIRPA**) and the Act in Support of Ammunition Production (**ASAP**).
- **Strengthen EU/NATO partnership**, hence cooperating to cover all threats, including those linked to cyber, hybrid or space.
- Continue to implement the **EU Space Strategy for Security and Defence**, foster a strong and **innovative space industry**, propose an **EU Space Law** and a **Space Data Economy Strategy**.

Link: [Mission letter to Andrius Kubilius](#)

Reporting line & relevant DGs: HR/VP Kallas, Ursula Von der Leyen; DG DEFIS

Commissioner for International Partnerships



Jozef Síkela
European People's Party



PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

- 2021 – Present: Minister of Industry and Trade
- 2015 – 2020: Member of the Supervisory Board, Erste Group Bank
- 2010 – 2014: CEO of Slovenská Sporiteľňa (Slovak Savings Bank)

KEY POINTS MISSION LETTER

- Strengthen Europe's international partnerships to ensure long-term prosperity, resilience, and security, with a focus on aligning European interests in a more contested global landscape.
- Scale up the **Global Gateway** initiative, refine and accelerate the EU's offer to its partners, enhance fund disbursement, and establish Global Gateway as a trusted global brand for infrastructure, trade, and investment.
- Ensure synergy between Global Gateway investments and **Clean Trade and Investment Partnerships**, secure raw materials, clean energy, and tech supply while supporting decarbonization through Just Transition Partnerships.
- Build on the Team Europe approach to mobilize resources from Member States, public and private institutions, and development banks, ensuring effective coordination and impact across partnerships.
- Promote the **United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, ensure gender equality remains a top priority, and support reforms in the international system to foster more inclusive and effective multilateralism.

Link: [Mission letter to Jozef Síkela](#)

Reporting line & relevant DGs: HR/VP Kallas; DG INTPA



Maria Luís Albuquerque
European People's Party



PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

- 2022 – Present: Member of the Supervisory Board & Audit, Risk and Nomination Committees at Morgan Stanley Europe
- 2022 – Present: Member of the Portuguese Parliament (Social Democratic Party, PSD)
- 2016 – 2018: Vice-President of the Portuguese Social Democratic Party

KEY POINTS MISSION LETTER

Building on the Letta and Draghi reports, the mission letter focus on unlocking the financing needed for the twin transition, whilst promoting the development of private capital to address Europe's shallow markets. Maria Luis Albuquerque is tasked to:

- Develop EU-wide low-cost **savings/investment products** and channel **pensions**;
- Review **SME finance** to scale up, attract private funding, and boost venture capital;
- Expand **EU's sustainable finance** and **taxonomy**;
- Build **EU-level financial supervision** and strengthen **Banking Union** (EDIS);
- Address the macro-prudential risks of **Non-Bank Financial Institutions** (NBFIs);
- Revive **securitization** to boost bank lending;
- Ensure **consumer protection** notably by promoting **financial literacy**;
- Improve **digital finance and payments** by supporting innovation, implementing an **open finance** framework and assess the deployment of **artificial intelligence** in the financial sector.
- Ensure the implementation of **AML-CTF** packages and prepare the launch of the **AMLA**.
- Strengthen the strategic approach to **sanctions**.

Link: [Mission Letter to Maria Luís Albuquerque](#)

Reporting line & relevant DG: EVP Séjourné; DG FISMA

Commissioner for Preparedness and Crisis Management – Equality



Hadja Lahbib
Renew Europe



PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

- 2022 – Present: Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Affairs and Foreign Trade and the Federal Cultural Institutions
- 2000 – 2009: Special Envoy & Reporter in the Middle East, Chad, Morocco, and Afghanistan
- 1993 – 2002: Journalist for the public broadcaster RTBF

KEY POINTS MISSION LETTER

Preparedness and Crisis Management

- Enhance the capacity of the EU to better anticipate, prevent and prepare for crises inside and outside Europe through the development and implementation of an **EU Preparedness Union Strategy**, regular **EU comprehensive preparedness exercise**, and a future **EU Preparedness Law** setting joint standards and guidelines.
- Work towards a **European Civil Defence Mechanism** to address disaster management and lead on strengthening the **Emergency Response Coordination Centre** and **EU's humanitarian response tools**.
- Develop a **new strategy to support medical countermeasures against public health threats** through joint procurement and stockpiling tools, and support the development of a wider **EU stockpiling strategy**.
- Boost efforts on **humanitarian diplomacy**.

Equality

- Develop a **Roadmap for Women's Rights** for International Women's Day 2025, a **new Gender Equality Strategy**, a **renewed LGBTIQ Equality Strategy**, and a **new Anti-Racism Strategy**.
- Lead on the full implementation of the **Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disability** and the **Istanbul Convention** on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

Link: [Mission Letter to Hadja Lahbib](#)

Reporting line & relevant DGs: HR/VP Kallas, EVP Mînzatu; DG ECHO & HERA

Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy



Jessika Roswall
European People's Party



PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

- 2022 – 2024: Minister for European Union Affairs & Minister for Nordic Cooperation
- 2010 – 2024: Member of the Swedish Parliament
- 2016 – 2022: Member of the advisory council in the Uppsala County Administrative Board

KEY POINTS MISSION LETTER

- Oversee the implementation of the **European Green Deal legal framework** by focusing on incentives, investment and effective, simple implementation.
- Alongside the Vice-President for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy, lead on the **Circular Economy Act** proposing an updated bioeconomy strategy, and on the new **chemicals industry package** as part of the zero-pollution ambition. The package intends to simplify REACH and provide clarity on PFAS, working with sustainability, competitiveness and safety considerations. Accelerate efforts to develop a **single market for sustainable products**.
- Prioritise the design of incentives for **nature positive actions and private investment** by leading the work on nature credits in close cooperation with Member States. Enhance the dialogue with stakeholders, industries and financial institutions.
- Lead on the **European Water Resilience Strategy** to strengthen water security in Europe. Facilitate public and private investment and strengthen Europe's global water leadership. Contribute to United Nations Water Conferences and the G7 Coalition on water.
- Ensure that the EU reaches its **international biodiversity commitments**, strive for an ambitious **global plastic treaty** and support the implementation of the High Seas Treaty.
- Contribute to the **Climate Adaptation Plan**, focus on an integrated wildfire risk management through landscape ecosystem and prevention and to the **Vision for Agriculture and Food**.

Link: [Mission Letter to Jessika Roswall](#)

Reporting line & relevant DGs: EVP Ribera; DG ENV

Commissioner for Energy and Housing



Dan Jørgensen
Socialists and Democrats



PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

- 2022 – 2024: Minister for Development Cooperation & Minister for Global Climate Policy
- 2019 – 2022: Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities
- 2013 – 2015: Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries

KEY POINTS MISSION LETTER

- Boost the roll out of renewable energy and energy storage while also focusing on **improving demand flexibility** and implementing the **energy efficiency first principle**. Improving the integration of the energy system will be considered a priority.
- Propose a **Clean Energy Investment Strategy for Europe**, which is set to include **de-risking initiatives** to unlock private capital. Investments will be prioritised in clean energy infrastructure, including grids, storage and transport infrastructure, cross-border energy infrastructure, energy efficiency, digitalisation of the energy system and deployment of a hydrogen network.
- **Adapt the legal framework on European Grids** to upgrade and expand grids by **speeding up permitting**, rewarding citizen participation in the transition and ultimately **support rapid electrification**. This would also be coupled with the proposal of an **Electrification Action Plan**.
- **Level the energy taxation playing field** and the strategic use of taxation measures to incentivise clean technologies as recommended by the Draghi Report.
- Adopt a **Strategic Roadmap for Digitalisation and AI** in the energy sector to leverage digital technologies.
- Improve housing supply and provide technical assistance to cities and Member States through a **European Affordable Housing Plan** and a **European Strategy for Housing Construction**.
- **Tackle systemic issues with short-term accommodation rentals** and make proposals to tackle the inefficient use of the current housing stock.

Link: [Mission Letter to Dan Jørgensen](#)

Reporting line & relevant DGs: EVP Ribera; DG ENER

Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation



Ekaterina Zaharieva
European People's Party



PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

- 2021 – 2024: Member of the Bulgarian National Assembly
- 2017 – 2021: Deputy Prime Minister for Judicial Reform and Minister of Foreign Affairs
- 2015 – 2017: Minister of Justice

KEY POINTS MISSION LETTER

- Support researchers by expanding the **European Innovation Council (EIC)** and the **European Research Council (ERC)**, and young researchers by strengthening the **University Alliances**
- Reinforce the European dimension of R&I through a **European Research Area Act** to guarantee the free movement of researchers, knowledge, and technology, and a long-term **strategy to boost European Research Infrastructure**
- Support startups and scaleups through a **European Innovation Act** to reduce red tape and facilitate access to VC funding, an **EU startup and scaleup strategy** to foster favourable framework conditions, and a network of **Trusted Investors** to co-fund deep tech startups with EIC Fund
- Support the green and digital transition through a multi-disciplinary **Strategy for European Life Sciences** and an **Advanced Materials Act**, develop the new **European Bauhaus** for innovation and bio-based materials, and contribute to the **EU Biotech Act** and the updated bioeconomy strategy
- Address EU dependencies in strategic sectors through reinforced **international R&I cooperation**, including through Global Gateway, safeguard security while partnering with like-minded partners, and contribute to identifying and harnessing the EU's **dual-use and civil-military potential**
- Lead on funding allocation from EU R&I programmes such as **Horizon Europe**, ensure that **EU Missions** achieve their goals by 2030, and instruments of the **Framework Programmes** are exploited to their full potential

Link: [Mission letter to Ekaterina Zaharieva](#)

Reporting line & relevant DGs: EVP Séjourné, EVP Virkkunen; DG RTD and JRC

Commissioner for Democracy Justice and the Rule of Law



Michael McGrath
Renew Europe



PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

- 2022 – 2024: Minister for Finance
- 2020 – 2022: Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform
- 2007 – Present: Member of the Irish Parliament (Fianna Fáil)

KEY POINTS MISSION LETTER

- Responsible for presenting the next **Consumer Agenda 2025-2030** and developing a **Digital Fairness Act** to tackle dark patterns, marketing by social media influencers, addictive design of digital products and online profiling. Propose a new **Action Plan on consumers in the Single Market**, tackle challenges with **e-commerce platforms** to protect consumers and modernise **product safety policies**.
- Step up fight against **foreign information manipulation and interference**, coordinate work on **disinformation** and reinforce work on **digital and media literacy** to enhance ability to detect, analyse and counter threats. Focus on the **implementation of the European Media Freedom Act** and further support and protect independent media and journalists.
- Ensure full **enforcement of GDPR** across Member States and promote trusted **data flows** with international partners. Ensure GDPR responds to law enforcement and commercial needs.
- Develop a strategy on **the use of digital technologies** to make **EU civil and criminal justice systems** more efficient and secure. Strengthen the **European Arrest Warrant** to step Eurojust/Europol cooperation.
- Consolidate the **Rule of Law Report** and add a Single Market dimension to it to address rule of law issues affecting companies, especially SMEs, operating across borders. Ensure **effective enforcement** and support effort for a reinforced application of the **Article 7 mechanism**.

Link: [Mission letter to Michael McGrath](#)

Reporting line & relevant DGs: EVP Virkkunen; DG JUST

Commissioner for Agriculture and Food



Christophe Hansen
European People's Party



PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

- 2018 – 2023 & 2024: Member of the European Parliament (EPP)
- 2017 – 2018: Member for Luxembourg in the European Economic and Social Committee
- 2016 – 2018: Head of the European Affairs Office at the Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce

KEY POINTS MISSION LETTER

- Strengthen competitiveness, resilience and sustainability of the agricultural sector, based on the 'Strategic Dialogue on the Future of Agriculture in the EU', by preparing a **Vision for Agriculture and Food**, in the first 100 days.
- **Efficient and effective implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)**, by providing support for small-scale farmers, rewards and incentives for ecosystem services and finding the right balance between incentives, investments and regulation.
- Protect farmers against **unfair trading practices** and diversify and **reduce imports of critical inputs** and commodities.
- Foster investment and innovation by **leveraging and de-risking private capital**, together with the European Investment Bank funding.
- Design a new approach to support farmers in decarbonisation and preserving biodiversity, including a proposal of an **EU-wide benchmarking system** in the agri-food sector.
- Present a **Strategy for Generational Renewal** in agriculture.
- Contribute to the **Climate Adaption Plan** and **European Water Resilience Strategy**, to develop instruments for climate risk preparedness.

Link: [Mission letter to Christophe Hansen](#)

Reporting line & relevant DGs: EVP Fitto; DG AGRI

Commissioner for Sustainable Transport and Tourism



Apostolos Tzitzikostas
European People's Party



PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

- 2014 – Present: Governor of the Region of Central Macedonia
- 2020 – 2022: President of the European Committee of the Regions
- 2017 – 2020: Vice-President of the European Committee of the Regions

KEY POINTS MISSION LETTER

- Ensure transport is safe, accessible and affordable; support Member States and industry to implement and **strengthen the single market for transport**, increase competitiveness and digitalisation and move towards sustainable transport.
- Ensure that all remaining elements of the **Trans-European Transport (TEN-T)** corridor are completed by 2030, making use of the Connecting Europe Facility.
- Propose a **Single Digital Booking and Ticketing Regulation** and promote a resilient and competitive tourism sector based on the EU Agenda for Tourism 2030.
- Develop an **EU Industrial Action Plan for the Automotive Sector**, oversee implementation of electrification of road transport by building-up charging infrastructure, and develop a proposal for **Clean Corporate Fleets**.
- Develop a new **Industrial Maritime Strategy** and develop a comprehensive **EU Port Strategy**.
- Propose a plan for a **European high-speed rail network** and a **Sustainable Transport Investment Plan**.
- Propose a strategy for **cutting edge technologies** e.g., hyperloop technologies.

Link: [Mission Letter for Apostolos Tzitzikostas](#)

Reporting line & relevant DGs: EVP Fitto; DG MOVE

Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport



Glenn Micallef
Socialists and Democrats



PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

- 2020 – 2024: Head of Secretariat of the Office of the Prime Minister
- 2020 – 2024: European Affairs Advisor to the Prime Minister
- 2019 – 2020: Director-General of Malta's EU Coordination Department

KEY POINTS MISSION LETTER

- Focus on the **impact of social media and excessive screen time** on your people and contribute to an EU wide inquiry on **broader impact of social media**. Lead a plan against **cyberbullying**.
- Take forward the work on **strategic foresight** to identify **trends, research and technology** developments that will shape economies and societies and will impact future generations
- Develop a **New Culture Compass**, an overarching strategic framework to guide and harness the multiple dimensions of culture.
- Improve the **working conditions of artists and cultural professionals** and unlock the **competitiveness** potential of the **cultural and creative industries**. Develop an **AI Strategy for cultural and creative sectors**.
- Prepare a new strategy to strengthen the **European Sport Model**. Strengthen **European Sport Diplomacy** and focus on the impact of **major sporting events**.

Link: [Mission letter to Glenn Micallef](#)

Reporting line & relevant DGs: EVP Minzatu; DG EAC

RELEVANT COMMISSIONERS



Olivér Várhelyi
Commissioner for
Health and Animal
Welfare



Hadja Lahbib
Commissioner for
Preparedness and
Crisis Management –
Equality



**Ekaterina
Zaharieva**
Commissioner for
Startups, Research
and Innovation



Jozef Sikela
Commissioner for
International
Partnerships

PRIORITIES

- Complete the **European Health Union**, by concluding the work and implementation of the revision of the EU Pharmaceutical legislation, further diversifying supply chains, improving advanced treatment access, boosting competitiveness and working on strategic inventories.
- Echoing focus on competitiveness and security set out in von der Leyen's political guidelines for the 2024-2029 mandate:
 - Bolster **competitiveness** and **innovation** through a **European Biotech Act**, as well as a multi-disciplinary **Strategy for European Life Sciences** and an **Advanced Materials Act**.
 - Support security through a **Critical Medicines Act**, including medicines and medical devices.
- Following the recommendation from the Draghi report, place a focus on the implementation of the **European Health Data Space**, including proposals to scale up genome sequencing capacities.
- Continue the work on **preventive health** by implementing Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and revising the tobacco legislation.
- Develop a **new strategy to support medical countermeasures against public health threats** through joint procurement and stockpiling tools, and support the development of a wider **EU stockpiling strategy**.
- Recognising the connection between human, animal, and plant health and their shared environment, the Commissioner post holds formal responsibilities for animal health.

Sectoral perspective: Energy and Industry

RELEVANT COMMISSIONERS



Teresa Ribera
EVP for a Clean, Just
and Competitive
Transition



Stéphane Séjourné
EVP for Prosperity and
Industrial Strategy



Dan Jørgensen
Commissioner for
Energy and
Housing



Wopke Hoekstra
Commissioner for
Climate, Net Zero and
Clean Growth

PRIORITIES

- Propose a package of measures to boost the competitiveness of the EU economy, under the banner of a **Clean Industrial Deal**.
- Enshrine a **90% emissions reduction target for 2040** and set out climate policy framework for the period 2030-40.
- Implement and **enforce existing climate and environment** frameworks (EU Green Deal) in an effective, fair, and cost-efficient manner.
- Bring down **energy prices** while limiting reliance on fossil fuels and reducing fuel poverty across Europe.
- Propose **new Circular Economy Act**, focusing efforts to create true market for secondary materials in the EU.
- Put forward **Water Resilience and Climate Adaptation** plans and consider the need for further legislation on climate preparedness.

Sectoral perspective: Digital

RELEVANT COMMISSIONERS



Henna Virkkunen
EVP for Tech
Sovereignty, Security
and Democracy



Stéphane Séjourné
EVP for Prosperity and
Industrial Strategy



Michael McGrath
Commissioner for
Democracy, Justice and
the Rule of Law



Glenn Micallef
Commissioner for
Intergenerational
Fairness, Youth, Culture
and Sport

PRIORITIES

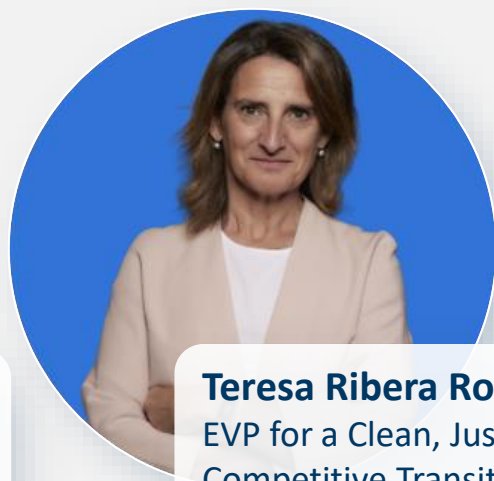
- Drive innovation on AI and other "frontier" technologies, e.g. via a **new EU Cloud and AI Development Act** containing several measures (including steps in the first 100 days).
- Develop an **AI strategy for cultural and creative sectors**.
- Continue to tackle disinformation and cybersecurity concerns, e.g. via a new **European Democracy Shield** to counter harmful disinformation and a cybersecurity action plan for hospitals in the first 100 days.
- Develop the telecoms sector via a new **Digital Networks Act** to boost secure, high-speed broadband and stimulate investment.
- Ease data-induced obstacles to innovation with a new **European Data Innovation Strategy**.
- Continue to tackle online harms, via both legislative (e.g. a new **Digital Fairness Act** to address problems such as dark patterns) and non-legislative measures (e.g. social media inquiry)
- Enforce/implement existing, ambitious digital regulations, including the Digital Services Act and the Digital Markets Act, as well as the GDPR.

Sectoral perspective: Financial Services

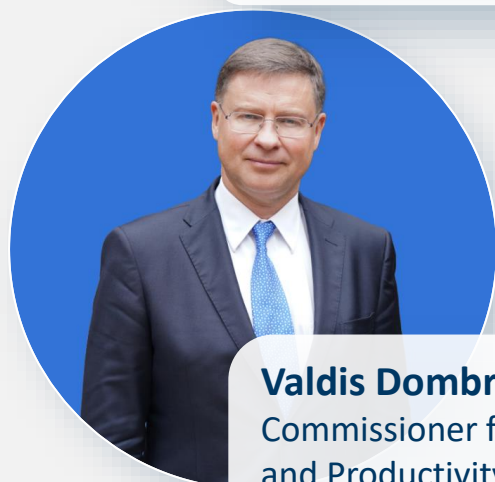
RELEVANT COMMISSIONERS



Stéphane Séjourné
EVP for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy



Teresa Ribera Rodríguez
EVP for a Clean, Just and Competitive Transition



Valdis Dombrovskis
Commissioner for Economy and Productivity – Implementation and Simplification



Maria Luís Albuquerque
Commissioner for Financial Services and the Savings and Investments Union

PRIORITIES

- Following the Letta report, establish a **European Savings and Investments Union** by supporting accessible savings and investment products at the EU level, alongside pensions.
- To unlock public and private investments, adopt a **new competition policy**, and introduce competitiveness tools to support strategic common projects.
- Further development of the **Banking Union**, addressing the European deposit insurance scheme, and unlocking bank financing, especially through the advancement of the securitisation framework.
- Continue work to support the **integration of new technologies** in the financial system, especially in the area of payments.
- Support **financial literacy** to strengthen consumer protection and ensure consumers are equipped with the right tools.
- Efforts to ensure the smooth implementation of the **sustainable finance framework** while maintaining the EU's global leadership.



The Hearings Process

What to expect from the candidates' hearings

Member State	Name	Suggested Portfolio	Potential Committee for hearing	Anticipated Challenges in Hearings	Likelihood of success
	Ekaterina Zaharieva 	Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation	Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)	Political profile without clear research and innovation background experience. Ekaterina Zaharieva was previously Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Justice and Minister for Regional Development. Challenges can be expected regarding the technicity of the files that she will have to oversee, as well as the high expectations that the Member of the European Parliament and the EU Member States have regarding innovation as a main pillar of the EU Competitiveness.	
	Jozef Síkela 	Commissioner for International Partnerships	Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET)	As Czech Minister for Industry and Trade, Josef Síkela was very active during the 2022 energy crisis, where he made significant contribution to the EU's response to rising energy prices. Under the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU, he successfully made various compromises. Therefore, he will certainly be seen as competent to oversee new Clean Trade and Investment Partnerships in the frame of the Global Gateway and EU's engagement in supporting partner countries' commitments in decarbonising the power sector. As affiliated to the EPP affiliate, he should also easily get the support of the party group.	
	Henna Virkkunen 	Executive Vice-President for Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy	Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO)	EVP Virkkunen is a well-regarded former MEP with years of experience within the European Parliament and no highly controversial stances on tech policy – she is largely aligned with the dominant EU narrative, calling for a mix of selective regulatory intervention to address potential harms, initiatives to push forward European competitiveness or protect against third-country industries, and efforts to reduce administrative burdens and combat over-regulation. Being from the mainstream of the EPP and having been successful in the past at negotiating with other political groups, it is unlikely that she would be heavily opposed.	
	Apostolos Tzitzikostas 	Commissioner for Sustainable Transport and Tourism	Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN)	As his Mission letter only states the electrification of automotive transport, MEPs will likely question his position on alternative fuels, such as e-fuels. Challenges are likely to come especially from liberal and conservative German MEPs.	

What to expect from the hearings for the various candidates

Member State	Name	Suggested Portfolio	Potential Committee for hearing	Anticipated Challenges in Hearings	Likelihood of success
	Valdis Dombrovskis 	Commissioner for Economy and Productivity, Commissioner for Implementation and Simplification	Committee on Economic & Monetary Affairs (ECON)	Valdis Dombrovskis has an extensive track record within the Commission, serving as Executive Vice-President following his role as Vice-President in the Juncker Commission. In short, he is the embodiment of stability. Having said that, he will likely be challenged by the left wing of the Parliament on its capacity to implement reformed fiscal rules, being a supporter of a strict implementation of the rules.	
	Andrius Kubilius 	Commissioner for Defence and Space	Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET) (subcommittee on Security and Defence (SEDE))* Possibility that after the announcements the political groups agree that SEDE is a separate new Committee.	Political profile without clear defence background experience. There is a lack of clarity in his portfolio as President von der Leyen appointed him as Commissioner for "Defence and Space" removing "Industry", thus concerns may arise on how to avoid overlapping of duties with the new EVP for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy, Commissioner Séjourné. The same will apply concerning the division of labour between him and HR/VP Kallas on Foreign and Security Policy, as there are clear limits established in the Treaties for who is responsible for Foreign and Defence policies. Approach to the negotiations of the negotiations on the European Defence Industry Programme (EDIP), especially considering potential implications for third States.	
	Christophe Hansen 	Commissioner for Agriculture and Food	Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development	On the back of farmers' protests across Europe, an important topic will be how he envisages strengthening farmers' position in the sector to achieve a fair and competitive food value chain. Furthermore, an overhaul of the Common Agricultural Policy's (CAP) mechanisms has been touted as necessary by the recently published Strategic Dialogue on the Future of EU Agriculture report. MEPs will likely question what his priorities for the CAP in seeking to drive the transition of agri-food systems towards more sustainable, competitive, profitable, and diverse futures. Lastly, the food-health nexus remains in the spotlight, as MEPs will likely want to know how he will balance making sustainable and healthy choices the easy choice for consumers, while supporting the food value chain's transition towards providing less resource intensive diets.	
	Wopke Hoekstra 	Commissioner for Climate, Net Zero and Clean Growth	Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) Possibly ENVI, AFET, DEVE	Commissioner Hoekstra retains the portfolio he inherited from EVP Timmermans last year and so is unlikely to face serious challenges to his candidacy this time around, especially given climate action is a less prominent topic under this Commission. His lack of climate credentials was tested during his 2023 hearing, but he has since established himself in the role. In the medium term, his most serious challenges may be domestic, where his party is no longer part of the Dutch governing coalition.	

What to expect from the hearings for the various candidates

Member State	Name	Suggested Portfolio	Potential Committee for hearing	Anticipated Challenges in Hearings	Likelihood of success
	Maria Luís Albuquerque 	Commissioner for Financial Services and the Savings and Investments Union	Committee on Economic & Monetary Affairs (ECON)	Maria Luís Albuquerque brings extensive experience both as a Finance Minister and from her work in the private sector, as highlighted by von der Leyen. This background should give her strong credibility for her assigned portfolio. In the past, she has been a vocal supporter of robust and integrated European financial markets, advocating for initiatives to improve market efficiency and capital access. During the parliamentary hearings, she may face challenges in delivering concrete action points, particularly in developing a European Savings and Investment Union, which is often viewed as a rebranding of the existing Capital Markets Union, lacking substantial new content.	
	Jessika Roswall 	Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy	Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)	Jessika Roswall served in Kristersson's Cabinet since 2022 as minister for EU affairs as well as Minister for Nordic cooperation. She is not new to Brussels dynamics although she has less experience on environment and climate policies. The main anticipated challenge will be to demonstrate her intention to combine environmental goals in maintaining EU competitiveness, and strategies to mobilise private investments for nature positive actions.	
	Dan Jørgensen 	Commissioner for Energy and Housing	Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)	Dan Jørgensen has a firm position to become a Commissioner and strong background credentials related to his previous ministerial roles in Denmark, connected to climate policy, energy and utilities. However, since he will be the first Commissioner holding a portfolio dedicated to housing, hearing questions related to the topic may prove challenging to address.	
	Glenn Micallef 	Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport	Committee on Culture and Education (CULT)	He might be challenged by Members of the European Parliament considering that his level of experience is less compared to other candidates, e.g. he did not hold any ministerial position in the past. In addition, Malta was the country that despite von der Leyen ask for a replacement, they did not forward a new candidate.	

What to expect from the hearings for the various candidates

Member State	Name	Suggested Portfolio	Potential Committee for hearing	Anticipated Challenges in Hearings	Likelihood of success
	Roxana Mînzatu 	Executive Vice-President for People, Skills and Preparedness	Committee on Culture and Education (CULT) Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL)	Since topics as productivity, education and retention have increased in importance in the context of Europe’s competitiveness, Mînzatu can expect questions on how her initiatives will contribute to this matter while retaining skilled workers in Europe.	
	Teresa Ribera 	Executive Vice-President for Clean, Just and Competitive Transition	Committee on Economic & Monetary Affairs (ECON) Possibly ENVI, IMCO, ITRE and JURI	As the Commissioner responsible for the competition portfolio, Ribera is likely to be asked how she will balance the mandate for achieving growth with a new approach to competition policy. Query whether Draghi's objectives for mergers in some sectors can be achieved in a legally watertight fashion by just amending guidelines: it seems that von der Leyen does not want the European Merger Control Regulation amended. Ribera will likely be questioned about the resources she will need in DG COMP to carry out her mission effectively.	
	Kaja Kallas 	High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission	Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET)	Kallas is expected to receive questions on her approach to the ongoing conflicts, such as the Russian aggression towards Ukraine. Another critical point is her approach toward the conflict in Gaza, as her predecessor Josep Borrell was perceived to have a strong position on the issue.	
	Stéphane Séjourné 	Executive Vice-President for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy	Committee on Economic & Monetary Affairs (ECON), Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)	Stéphane Séjourné, a former Member of the European Parliament from 2019 to 2024, is well-regarded, having served as president of the Renew Europe group—although, as we saw with Sylvie Goulard, being a former MEP is no guarantee of success. Known for his close ties to French President Emmanuel Macron—often described as Macron’s emissary in Brussels—he may face scrutiny over this, particularly since von der Leyen has made it clear that “Commissioners are not representatives of their country.” He is also likely be challenged due to the broad scope of his portfolio, which risks being seen as encompassing everything yet lacking clear focus.	
	Michael McGrath 	Commissioner for Democracy, Justice, and the Rule of Law	Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI), Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO)	Michael McGrath has limited experience with regards to the responsibilities within his portfolio – e.g. data protection, rule of law, consumer protection – and could incur some specific scrutiny related to the GDPR (given his nationality and the ire in the Parliament over Ireland’s enforcement of the regulation). Nonetheless, there are no indications that he is a controversial political figure – he is considered a “technocratic” politician – and he is not from a political group that will inspire widespread opposition, so he will likely be able to survive the expected scrutiny unless an unexpected scandal/controversy is uncovered.	

What to expect from the hearings for the various candidates

Member State	Name	Suggested Portfolio	Potential Committee for hearing	Anticipated Challenges in Hearings	Likelihood of success
	Hadja Lahbib 	Commissioner for Preparedness and Crisis Management; Equality	Committee on Development (DEVE), Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM)	Hadja Lahbib has relatively limited political experience as she was only appointed as Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs in mid-2022. The domestic criticism she received on her nomination will likely be replicated in the Committee hearings. She has been criticised for visiting Crimea as a journalist, which was paid for by an organisation that is tied to the Russian regime. Furthermore, she provided visas to an Iranian delegation that visited Brussels in 2023, for which she received backlash.	
	Raffaele Fitto 	Executive Vice-President-designate for Cohesion and Reforms	Committee on Regional Development (REGI)	In May 2024, the Socialists & Democrats, Renew Europe, The Greens, and The Left issued a formal appeal to the President of the European Commission and all democratic European parties, urging them to reject the normalisation of and cooperation with far-right and radical political parties. Given that Raffaele Fitto's party is part of the European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) and abstained from supporting Ursula von der Leyen's reappointment, it is anticipated that these political groups will subject Fitto to rigorous questioning during his hearing.	
	Olivér Várhelyi 	Commissioner for Health and Animal Welfare	Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) Possibly SANT and AGRI	Olivér Várhelyi completed his first term as European Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement (2019-2024). At the end of July 2024, Viktor Orbán nominated him as a candidate, despite the controversies during his previous mandate notably on enlargement position, and on his reaction regarding the Hamas attack on Israel. Beyond his experience of working on the European Commission on the European Patent, he does not have direct background on health policy. His hearing is expected to be challenging.	
	Maroš Šefčovič 	Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security; Interinstitutional Relations and Transparency	Committee on International trade (INTA) Committee for Constitutional Affairs (AFCO) Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI)	No anticipated challenges at this stage.	