

Commitments

made at the hearings of the

Commissioners-designate

Juncker Commission

November 2014 - October 2019



Foreword

Dear Members,

Before he was elected as the President of the European Commission on 15 July, Mr Jean-Claude Juncker presented his ten-point plan setting out political guidelines as the basis of a political contract at the beginning of the new term. This was further developed in the mission letters he sent to all Commissioners-designate on the eve of their hearings before parliamentary committees.

What you have before you is a compilation of the salient points and essential commitments made by the new Members of the European Commission during those hearings. This document was drawn up by the Policy Departments of the Directorate General for Internal Policies and of the Directorate General for External Policies of the European Parliament.

By answering challenging and insightful questions, the new Commissioners presented their policy priorities and objectives and made specific commitments towards their fulfilment.

These commitments concern on-going legislative procedures, the preparation of future legislative proposals as well as the scrutiny of the implementation of existing legislation. They also touch upon the crucial issue of inter-institutional cooperation.

On 22 October, the European Parliament approved the new college of Commissioners thus paving the way for the Juncker Commission to take office as from 1 November 2014. On this occasion, Mr Juncker reiterated in his address "Setting Europe in Motion", his ambition to lead "a political, executive Commission at the service of the common good and of Europe's citizens" and announced a number of initiatives thereto.

Against this background, the compilation at hand is intended to provide you with a practical and concise tool to monitor the efforts of the new Commission towards setting Europe in motion.

We truly hope that you will find it useful for your parliamentary work over the course of the new term.

Klaus WELLE
Secretary General

Riccardo RIBERA D'ALCALÁ
Director-General DG IPOL

Luis Marco AGUIRIANO NALDA
Director-General DG EXPO

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Commitments

made at the hearing of

FRANS TIMMERMANS

**First Vice-President of the Commission,
Commissioner for Better Regulation,
Inter-Institutional Relations,
the Rule of Law and
the Charter of Fundamental Rights**



In his answers to the questionnaire and during the hearing on 7 October 2014 before the Conference of Presidents, commissioner-designate Frans Timmermans made a number of commitments. These are summarised below¹.

Inter-institutional relations

Upholding the commitments under the Framework Agreement

"I want to work with the Parliament to give new vigour to our special partnership under the Framework Agreement of 2010".

Inter-institutional programming (Art. 17 TFEU)

"I am convinced we can have a thorough political debate on multiannual programming... and thus give meaning to Article 17 of the Treaty."

Follow-up to legislative initiative reports (Art. 225 TFEU)

"Concerning the follow-up to European Parliament positions and requests, I will make sure that the Commission responds to parliamentary resolutions or requests made on the basis of Article 225 TFEU within three months after their adoption."

"We could consider whether the Commission could react with a Communication (to this kind of initiative)".

Participation in trilogues

"I will also, both personally and within my team, pay particular attention to the importance of representation at political level in trilogues."

Better Regulation

Pledge to conclude a new Inter-Institutional Agreement on Better Law-Making

"...By the end of next year, I hope to conclude an Inter-Institutional Agreement on better law-making that will hopefully align and reinforce our efforts to better serve Europe's interests."

EP consultation on proposed withdrawal of legislation

"...By the beginning of next year, I will propose to the College a list of pending proposals which should be withdrawn, after consulting this Parliament".

Pledge to take steps to clarify the "subsidiarity" principle

"For legislative proposals at European level...the onus is on the Commission in the first instance to

examine and explain in understandable terms exactly why its proposals are needed and how they comply with the principle of subsidiarity. I will pay particular attention to this."

Pledge to engage with national parliaments

"When a yellow or orange card is used, the Commission should consider this carefully. I see it as part of my role to encourage colleagues to take the discussion directly to national parliaments and listen to remarks and provide justified replies. The results of these debates should also be shared with the European Parliament."

High-quality, independent impact assessments

"It is important that the Commission's Impact Assessment Board is composed of people who can act independently of vested interests and bring in outside expertise. And I will personally express my view on the quality of impact assessments when they are brought to the College."

"I will encourage the Council to follow the European Parliament's lead in making sure that the impact of proposals is not only assessed by the Commission and not only at the beginning of the legislative procedure."

Transposition, Implementation and Enforcement

Commission to support Member States in drawing up implementation plans

"I would like the Commission to work intensively with Member States to develop implementation plans wherever useful."

Commitment to ensure enforcement through infringement proceedings

"The Commission must be ready to launch infringement proceedings and move more quickly to a referral to the Court if a Member State continues to fail to comply with EU law."

Delegated and Implementing Acts

Pledge to provide an objective rationale for the instrument proposed

"The Commission's job is to include in its proposal what it considers to be the right choice between the two procedures. I will ensure that the choice is made following objective criteria in full respect of the treaties."

EP participation in expert groups

"I can certainly recognise the wish for better consultation and more transparency. I will (...) consider whether the Commission could systematically publish draft measures at the point at which consultations with expert groups are due to start. This would allow the European Parliament and the Council as well as other stakeholders to express their views before formal adoption."

Commitment to review the use of the "regulatory procedure with scrutiny"

"...It is not acceptable that use of the obsolete "regulatory procedure with scrutiny" is still so common. I want to give renewed energy to secure an agreement, and I intend to propose to the Presidency to take this point up in the General Affairs Council."

Transparency

Commitment to deliver a cross-institution transparency register

"I will prepare a proposal for an Inter-Institutional Agreement creating a mandatory lobby register covering the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council."

Personal commitment to transparency

"I commit to making public all the contacts and meetings I hold with professional organisations or self-employed individuals on any matter relating to EU policy-making and implementation."

Treaty change and Eurozone governance

Pledge to exploit fully the Lisbon Treaty

"I don't think we have fully exploited the potential of the Lisbon Treaty yet".⁴

"We should not rule out being able to make the case for using the "passarelle" clauses allowing a shift to qualified majority voting or the ordinary legislative procedure."

Commitment to integrate the Fiscal Compact into EU law

"The full integration of the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the legal framework of the EU is something I intend to work towards with Member States."

Opposition to a Eurozone Parliament

"That is exactly my position (that there should be no stand-alone Eurozone parliament)"

Caution on external Eurozone representation

"Having a single representative for the whole Eurozone would right now diminish Europe's influence...As the Eurozone grows to encompass almost all Member States, the question will become more relevant and I know the Union will have to respond."

European Citizens' Initiative and Petitions

Pledge to take a more political stance on ECIs

"The Citizens' Initiative is clearly politically - rather than legally - driven. I propose taking a more political stance on future Citizens' Initiatives."

Commitment to explore restrictions for petitions under article 51 of the Charter

"I am happy to sit down and talk to the Chair of the European Parliament Petitions Committee to see where there are problems with article 51...If there are difficulties with article 51, I'm open to persuasion that we need to do something on that."

European Law of Administrative Procedure

Pledge to examine option of a European Law on Administrative Procedure

"I intend to examine the option of a European Law on Administrative Procedure."

Rule of Law

Support for the proposed Rule of Law Framework with equality for all Member States

"My first priority will be to seek to prevent a systemic threat to the rule of law from emerging in the first place. I strongly believe that prevention is better than cure. Engaging swiftly in a dialogue can itself help to defuse problematic situations"

"I would not hesitate to make use of the rule of law Framework, as well as to launch infringement proceedings where appropriate. Clearly, Article 7 TEU should be a last resort. I would hope that we never have a situation which requires its use. But if we do, I would be ready to make the necessary proposals."

Fundamental Rights

Pledge to mainstream fundamental rights and to apply the Charter in all EU actions

"There is no cultural excuse for fundamental rights, there is no cultural context which would justify a violation of human rights and every single Member State... has subscribed to the Charter."

"There must be systematic fundamental rights checks at different stages of the legislative process. I will look in particular at how to achieve this in respect of Commission proposals or other initiatives."

Cooperation with other key players

"I will work closely with all national, European and international organisations dedicated to the promotion and protection of fundamental rights... I will organise an annual colloquium on the state of play of fundamental rights in Europe."

Commitment to complete EU accession to the ECHR

"...Once the opinion of the European Court of Justice is received, I will swiftly take the necessary steps to conclude the European Convention of Human Rights accession by the EU."

¹ Quotes are either taken from the commissioner-designate's answers to the questionnaire or from the hearing held on 7 October 2014. In case of multiple quotes on the same issue, only one is reported here to enhance legibility. Some quotes may be free translations of the original language spoken.

Highlights

from the European Parliament hearing of

FEDERICA MOGHERINI

**High Representative of the Union
for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,
Vice-President of the Commission**



Federica Mogherini, the recently-confirmed High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission, appeared before the European Parliament on 6 October 2014 to answer MEPs' questions.

In that hearing and in her answers to the questionnaire prepared for the meeting, High Representative/Vice-President Mogherini made a number of statements of interest to the European Parliament.

This document provides a summary of her most salient points¹.

On cooperation with the European Parliament

The European Parliament as an indispensable partner in CFSP

"I consider my relationship with the EP an essential and valuable component of my work. As High Representative and Vice-President of the Commission I am and will be accountable to the European Parliament. I acknowledge the invaluable contributions and political support given by the EP to the creation of the post of HRVP and the EEAS from the very first day. It is in our mutual interest, and most of all in the interest of a strong and coherent European foreign and security policy, to build on this and work together as closely as possible".

On obligations towards the European Parliament as the High Representative for CFSP

"In my capacity as High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and in accordance with Article 36 TEU, I will keep the Parliament regularly informed of the main aspects of my work and consult the Parliament on the fundamental choices of our Common Foreign and Security Policy. In accordance with my obligations under the inter-institutional agreement, I will consult the EP on forward-looking documents setting out the main features and basic choices of the CFSP, including financial implications for the general budget of the Union".

On obligations towards the European Parliament as the Vice President of the Commission

"In performing my duties I will fully implement the Framework Agreement between the European Parliament and the European Commission (FA), in particular as regards the follow-up to European Parliament's positions and requests. In my areas of responsibility, I will make sure that the Commission responds to parliamentary resolutions or requests made on the basis of Article 225 TFEU, within 3 months after their adoption."

On fully implementing provisions of the Declaration of Political Accountability (DPA)

"The DPA was negotiated with the EP together with the EEAS Decision back in 2010 to adapt the institutional relationship with the EP to the new Treaty. It remains an important achievement and has proven its value, but I am convinced that we can and should improve the concrete implementation of some of its elements. I undertake to find pragmatic solutions with the EP to implement it more fully and systematically, for instance with regard to information on international agreements and exchanges prior to the adoption of new strategies and mandates".

On access to classified information

"With respect to the issue of access by the EP to classified information in the area of CFSP, I will support the early resumption of the negotiations on the review of the 2002 CFSP Inter-Institutional Agreement in close cooperation with the Council Presidency so that we can reach a satisfactory agreement as soon as possible."

On reinvigorating the Special Committee

"I am also ready to reinvigorate the Inter Institutional Agreement (IIA) 2002 Special Committee with more frequent meetings to share confidential information on CSDP missions and operations as well as on CFSP matters generally in full implementation of points 4 and 8 of the DPA."

On improving a system for deputising contacts with the European Parliament

"I believe that, in full openness and transparency, it is in our mutual interest to agree on how to better organise my presence in the EP and the system of deputising. That will benefit the organisation of parliamentary work and will ensure that I am able to respond to different demands in an organised and fully satisfactory way. As part of this general understanding, I agree with your suggestion and undertake that either I or my representative will hold meetings with the EP prior to and/or after FAC meetings."

On animating the format on Joint Consultation Meetings on CFSP/CSDP

"I would also like to breathe new life into Joint Consultation meetings. It is my intention to keep the Parliament fully informed of the planned mandates of civilian CSDP missions and I will also instruct the services to show flexibility regarding the scope of the Joint Consultation meetings to keep the EP informed on military missions and more broadly on the work and the agendas of the PSC."

On facilitating the European Parliament's role in international agreements

"I will instruct the services and Chief Negotiators in particular to consistently and proactively offer to the European Parliament (by means of a letter to the AFET Committee as the competent Committee and the focal point) to brief and inform the EP in the appropriate and agreed format. This will apply at the beginning of negotiations (including prior to the start of negotiations), during the conduct of negotiations (after each negotiating round or when significant developments occur) and upon the finalisation of negotiations (whenever negotiations are completed, an agreement is initialled, provisional application is proposed or there is the intention to suspend or modify an agreement. During the implementation phase of an agreement, I will instruct the EEAS competent services to accept the requests from the Parliament to discuss the implementation and the state-of-play of the agreements. (...) I agree that signed agreements should be referred to the EP as soon as possible. I will work closely with the Council and the Commission to ensure that the EP is informed immediately after the adoption of a decision on signature and provisional application if appropriate."

On sharing the EU Delegations' political reporting with the European Parliament

"I recognise the value of reporting from EU Delegations for the work of the EP as a precious source of information. I am ready to explore arrangements for the transmission of specific reports originating in the EEAS to specific EP office holders, as necessary for the exercise of Parliament's

prerogatives and competences. Such arrangements should respect the existing IIAs and FA to prevent unwarranted disclosure of information".

On the European External Action Service (EEAS)

On streamlining the EEAS decision-making structures

"The streamlining of the EEAS decision-making structures will be one of my first priorities. (...) For this, I will build upon the ideas in the 2013 EEAS review. (...) In structural terms, and as highlighted in the EEAS review, there is still work ahead towards improving the integration of the crisis management structures into the EEAS. I intend to streamline the internal delineation of work, to avoid overlaps and enhance civil/military synergies."

On restructuring the EEAS management system

"More generally on the organisation of the service, the top management team that was put in place for the launch of the EEAS could be streamlined in the future, now that the establishment phase has been completed. I will want to undertake an overall assessment of priorities and resources before taking any decision."

On the role of EU delegations

"EU Delegations will be an essential tool of our work, as they represent the Union abroad, manage community policies and are of key direct service of information. As with Headquarter structures, the decisions regarding deployment of staff in delegations has to be dynamic and responsive to changing political priorities and circumstances on the ground. Equally the overall budget constraints may require tough decisions. Eventual changes will be agreed in the network with the Council and the Commission and the full transparency with the European Parliament."

On the 'double-hatted' role as the Vice President of the Commission

As an active member of the College of Commissioners

"The High Representative is also Vice-President of the Commission, and I intend to play this role to the full. I will be responsible for steering and coordinating the work of all Commissioners with regard to external relations will chair a Commissioners' group on external Action to develop a joint approach."

As with regard to the deputising system within the Commissioners' Group on External Action

"Furthermore as agreed with President Juncker, I intend to ask the Commissioner for European Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations as well as other Commissioners as appropriate to deputise for me if and when necessary in areas related to the Commission's competence."

On relations with the Member States

On the need for a close coordination in CFSP/CSDP

"Cooperation with Member States is also vital at all levels and on regular basis. I intend to discuss with Foreign Ministers how best they can all contribute to EU's external action. As the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) remain largely intergovernmental and since decisions in these areas are subject to unanimity among Member States, it is important to set strategic priorities of the EU foreign policy with the full co-ownership by all member states."

On the possibility of enlarging the scope for qualified majority voting (QMV) in CFSP/CSDP

"With regard to the Council's decision making procedures, the Treaty of Lisbon has enlarged the possibilities as decisions have been taken by consensus. Together we can achieve objectives that individual Member States cannot. As High Representative, I have a mandate to contribute to the development of the CFSP and I will not hesitate to recommend the use of qualified majority voting as provided by the Treaty as long as it can help us to better achieve our goals."

On making use of the Lisbon Treaty provisions regarding permanent structured cooperation

"The provisions of the Treaty on permanent structured cooperation have not been used yet and therefore are part of the untapped potential of the Treaty. Military capabilities remain with the Member States, and in line with the Treaty, it is for Member States that fulfil the criteria and which have made the commitments on military capabilities and out in the relevant Protocol to notify their intentions. I will work towards creating a better understanding of the potential usefulness of this provision to support deeper defence cooperation among the Member States in line with the guidance from the European Council of December 2013."

¹ Quotes are either taken from HR/VP Mogherini's answers to the questionnaire or from the hearing held on 6 October 2014. In case of multiple quotes on the same issue, only one is reported here. Some quotes may be free translations of the original language spoken.

Commitments

made at the hearing of

KRISTALINA GEORGIEVA

**Vice-President of the Commission,
Commissioner for Budget and Human Resources**



In her answers to the questionnaire and during the hearing on 2 October 2014 before the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on Budgetary Control and the Committee on Legal Affairs, the commissioner-designate Kristalina Georgieva made a number of commitments. They are highlighted in this document.¹

Multiannual Financial Framework post-electoral revision

Revision together with review

"The new Commission would take up on the promise of the outgoing Commission, which I am a member of, to table a proposal for the revision of the MFF."

Four issues to be tackled

"I intend to examine, in particular, four issues in this context:

- (1) The global margin for payments;*
- (2) The global margin for commitments;*
- (3) The requirements of Horizon 2020 and*
- (4) The possible alignment of the duration of the post-2020 MFF with the political cycles of the institutions. I will fully honour this commitment."*

Prior and wide consultations

"Ahead of making proposals for the next MFF, I will, of course, intensively consult with Parliament and all other relevant stakeholders."

Own resources

Wish to contribute to the High level group on own resources

"I look forward to participating actively in this group. I aim to seek very early contact with its chairman, Prof. Mario Monti, as well as with all the members."

Own resource initiative if appropriate

"I will fully honour the commitment made by the Commission to assess, in parallel with the mid-term review of the MFF, if new Own Resource initiatives are appropriate on the basis of the results of the Group's work."

Unpaid bills in the EU budget (payments issues)

Three-fold approach

"We can start to melt down the snowball of unpaid bills. I am in my heart of hearts convinced that not doing so is self-inflicted injury (...) my second

point: we have to be very careful about managing how we structure projects and programmes so we can implement them successfully. (...) thirdly, and this is where the mid-term review is so important, we have to look into the future and say, given the challenges we face, how we approach delivery of the European budget."

Applying flexibility

"In the next few months we must apply flexibility to be able to stabilise payments and provide scope for what is absolutely crucial – an ability to use our budget more productively without delays, without postponements."

Applying prioritisation

Example from her current DG ECHO: "we have prioritised life-saving activities and we looked activity by activity, at what can be postponed (...) we have structured our partners into two categories: those who could bear a slower payment schedule and those who cannot (...) look at the implementation of these projects in the context of our partners."

Investment package, Juncker's proposal

Details in 3 months

"We will come in three months, as promised with the details of how we think about the EUR 300 billion. We are a team, we should do it together and then come to you".

Role of the EU budget

"My job would be to make sure that as much as possible we will lean forward with European budget to contribute to generating more investments.(...) We have tripled the so-called innovative financial instruments. How can we use them to generate more investments? We have a very, very good project on SMEs.(...) To assess this experience – say this is good, this is not so good – and move forward would be a big priority for me and for the other Commissioners."

Discharge procedure

Compliance with budgetary procedure and treaty requirements

"I am committed to improving compliance and respect of procedures, quality accounting and reporting."

In favour of national declaration

"I am very much in favour of national declaration. It is regrettable that only four Member States have decided to adopt it."

Zero tolerance toward fraud

"Zero tolerance to fraud. Zero, zero, zero. And again I would repeat it."

Suspension of payments in repeated cases of persistent irregularities and fraud

"On freezing categorically yes, especially if it is repetitive, and especially when it could have been seen but was not, or it was seen and it was not acted upon."

Control of funds:

locate problems where they are

"My approach would be to put information out. Make sure that it is very visible and the red light is flashing, and then work as hard as possible to create more knowledge, more conditions and more understanding of that problem at the level of Member States."

Pursuit and simplification of risk-based control

"I want to pursue risk-based control. The Commission has committed itself to report regularly on the implementation and I fully and personally assume this responsibility. (...) We are moving towards a risk-based control system more and more. We are looking very carefully where the risks are repetitive, where they are bigger, what are the origins of these risks and what needs to be done. But we also are very mindful that we have to simplify."

Independent OLAF

*"On the policy side I have responsibility and on the investigation side I have none, actually. I **do believe** that **OLAF's independence** is paramount and thus I would be the last person to do anything that in any way can even create an impression that I might be stepping out of lines as regards my responsibility...What I see that I can do in my position as responsible for policies is to **engage very closely** with OLAF and see whether we are prioritising well."*

Transparency

In favour of a Mandatory Transparency Register

"I will strive to achieve a mandatory register covering all three institutions."

Full personal transparency

"I commit to making public all contacts and meetings I hold with professional organisations or self-employed individuals on any matter relating to EU policy making and implementation."

Financial transparency system on beneficiaries of EU funds

Increase transparency, improve quality and comparability of data, assessment of costs

"I would like to further increase this transparency – and am committed to two tangible steps. First, improving the quality and comparability of data provided."

I want to make the information available in an interactive way, on all modern devices, while fully respecting personal data protection. Secondly, I will ask for a full assessment of the costs and requirements for a single searchable database. As I will be responsible for the budget, optimizing the cost/benefit equation will be an important concern for me."

Equal treatment of legislators

In line with procedure

"I fully intend to treat the European Parliament and the Council equally, as required in the context of the ordinary legislative procedure but also as Commissioner who is accountable to the directly elected Members of the European Parliament."

Follow up to legislative initiative reports

In line with framework agreement and treaty requirement

"...make sure that the Commission responds to parliamentary resolutions or requests made on the basis of article 225 TFEU, within 3 months after their adoption."

Global warming

20% of MFF climate related

"I am convinced... that climate change is for real. Obviously, my objective is to see that we achieve the 20% and I would be very happy if we exceed that."

Gender balance

Target 40% female in management

"I take to heart the task I am given to achieve 40% of female senior and middle managers in the Commission by the end of our mandate."

Geographical balance

Take care of

"I will watch this very carefully because it is a matter of genuine fairness and also because everybody can and must make a contribution."

¹ Quotes are either taken from the commissioner-designate's answers to the questionnaire or from the hearing held on 2 October 2014. In case of multiple quotes on the same issue, only one is reported here to enhance legibility. Some quotes may be free translations of the original language spoken.

Commitments

made at the hearing of

ANDRUS ANSIP

Vice-President for the Digital Single Market



In his answers to the questionnaire and during the hearing on 6 October 2014 before the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection, the commissioner-designate Andrus Ansip made a number of commitments.

Commitments relevant to the Committee on Internal market and Consumer Protection are highlighted in this document¹.

Digital Single Market

Addressing fragmentation of the Single Market

"We need to remove obstacles, tackle fragmentation, technical standards and interoperability, and sometimes heavy bureaucracy [...]."

"Dealing with fragmented markets [...] is my top priority [...] and will get my attention from day one."

"We have to create a real digital single market."

"Within the first 6 months I will build support amongst EU institutions, stakeholders and public opinion and ensure the design of an ambitious programme and clear delivery dates."

Access to content

"One of my priorities will be to make sure consumers have access to content across borders."

Mr Ansip made a commitment "to prepare a targeted proposal on the reform of copyright, taking into account new technologies, new uses and new market conditions, supporting innovation, fair remuneration for creators and better consumer choice beyond national borders."

"I will work to abolish geoblocking."

Digital government and public e-services

"Digital government and public e-services [...] has always been important for me."

"I will make sure that the Commission accepts e-invoices and e-procurement by 2015 and e-signatures [...]."

"The e-Call system is a top priority."

"The European Commission has to support the usage of open source software."

We need to tackle [...] vested interests in e-health.

Universal services

"We have to look very carefully at the scope of the Universal Services Directive: we have to frame regulations so that people will be treated equally [...]"

Text and data mining

"We have to find solutions, which will allow our research institutes and universities to deal with text mining and data mining."

Consumer trust

Mr Ansip made a commitment "to modernise consumer rules for digital purchases, ensuring that consumers are equally well protected online and offline and that they can easily shop online without borders; to address unfair commercial practices and to ensure adequate levels of data protection within the online market place as a basis of trust in the digital economy."

Cybersecurity

"I will look at closely are cyber-security and cyber-crime [...] I will promote initiatives to strengthen Europe's capacity to respond to this worldwide threat."

Mr Ansip made a commitment "to foster trust of consumers and citizens and strengthen security and protection from cyber-threats; to strengthen the EU's capacity to respond to such threats; and to such end work towards the swift adoption of the proposed Directive on Network and Information security;"

Data protection

"During the first six months of the Commission's mandate, I will support Commissioner designate Jourová and work with you and the Council to finalise the reform of data protection rules."

"We have to be absolutely sure that the National Security Exception will be used as an exception, not on a regular basis or scaling for all the data."

"We have to make safe harbour really safe."

Net neutrality

"I intend to work [...] to enshrine the all-important principle of net neutrality into legislation."

Internet rights and governance

"There is a need to have a charter of Internet rights in Europe [...]"

"The role of the European Union [in Internet governance] needs to be bigger."

Internet access

"We need to make sure that Europe will have the infrastructure that it needs to benefit from the digital economy."

"We have to give people the opportunity to have really good access to high-speed Internet, including in rural areas and areas where the population density is low."

"We have to support, to build up, this last mile to create a really good broadband network also in rural areas."

"With regards to spectrum allocation, of course maximum harmonisation is needed."

Financial package

"We can use our multiannual financial framework monitor to support development of new IT solutions.""

"I hope we will get approximately EUR 35 billion from that package for digital purposes.[...] With leverage it is possible to increase this amount of money to EUR 130 billion."

Cooperation with the European Parliament

Interinstitutional programming

"I value the role that the European Parliament plays in delivering results that are akin to what the people expect. I will therefore maintain, and where possible enhance, a constructive and open dialogue with the European Parliament. "

Follow up to legislative initiative reports

"I will ensure that this is the case within the areas of my responsibility, including paying particular attention to those requests made by the Parliament under Article 225 of the Treaty on the Functioning of

the European Union. I will also ensure that Resolutions of the Parliament falling within my area of responsibility will be responded to within the timeframe foreseen in the Framework Agreement."

Equal treatment of co-legislators

"The European Parliament can count on my support and commitment to fully implement the principle of equal treatment for the European Parliament and the Council regarding [...] the flow of information in accordance with the provisions of the Framework Agreement."

"I want to work closely, openly and in a climate of trust with this Parliament so that we can achieve these ambitions that I know you share with me. I will work together with all political groups."

Access to information on negotiations of international agreements

"We have to learn from this ACTA case. We have to act in a much more inclusive way."

¹ Quotes are either taken from the commissioner-designate's answers to the questionnaire or from the hearing held on 6 October 2014. In case of multiple quotes on the same issue, only one is reported here to enhance legibility. Some quotes may be free translations of the original language spoken.

Commitments

made at the hearing of

MAROŠ ŠEFČOVIČ

**Vice-President of the Commission,
Commissioner for Energy Union**



In his answers to the questionnaire and during the hearing on 20 October 2014 before the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food safety, the commissioner-designate Maroš Šefčovič made a number of commitments.

Commitments relevant to the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and to the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety are highlighted in this document¹.

Energy security and supply

Energy security

"I will address the issue of energy security with the utmost attention and with the general European interest in mind."

Security of Supply

"A further important element is the diversification of supply, both as regards routes and energy suppliers. We should work intensely on the Southern Corridor to get Caspian gas to Europe. We must further develop our partnership with Norway and promote the Mediterranean gas hub project, including developing energy cooperation with Algeria. Moreover, the development of LNG terminals opens new import possibilities."

"So my clear preference is to diversify energy sources and to do our utmost to get the Southern Corridor project well under way and to put our financial and political support firmly behind this project."

Nuclear Safety

"I believe that all the expertise we have in the Commission and all the stress test results and verification of the safety of these installations will be properly done and I can assure you that if there were any doubts from the Commission's side that this nuclear power plant is not up to the highest level of security and safety, the Commission would clearly make its views public and we will deal (...) to make sure that all steps taken in this direction respect the highest level of security and safety for nuclear power plants."

Energy Governance

EU Energy Diplomacy

"It is time for a more assertive European Energy diplomacy, where our energy interests feature permanently among our top foreign and trade policy priorities. Better energy policy coordination is necessary to resist undue pressure from third countries and to avoid market distortions due to agreements with third countries not respecting EU rules. I am in favour of a European debate leading to

a consensus, in order to give a mandate to the European Commission to negotiate international agreements on behalf of the EU with third countries".

Coordination of Energy Union

"Of course it would be very important to work very closely with all the services that are responsible for environmental legislation, so I can promise you that from my point of view the role of the Vice-President is the role of a coordinator, to make sure that services are cooperating together from the outset."

"I will make sure that Europe is moving in one direction, speaks with one voice and has a very clear framework for what we want to achieve, not only between now and the Paris meeting, but up to 2030 and up to 2050."

Paris conference

"I think that the top priority would be to have a successful outcome and to have an international legally binding agreement in Paris. I think we owe it to the planet, we owe it to our citizens and we have to make sure that the industry is on a level playing field with its international partners."

Relation with Russia

"We have to very clearly state our positions. When it comes to the operation of Russian companies on European soils, they have to respect European rules. I think that is absolutely unequivocal and very clear."

Competitiveness and prices

Competitive and completed internal market

"A completed internal market will represent the backbone of the new European Energy Union. This means increasing cross-border flows, more regional cooperation and a better connected infrastructure. EU legislation needs to be improved, reinforced and fully applied. We need to maintain the competitiveness of EU industry and secure affordable energy prices for households, especially the most vulnerable ones."

Energy poverty

"I think we could also do a lot at European level, at first to learn from each other what we can do in terms of social policies for the most vulnerable people, for the most vulnerable households."

"We can use the European Social Fund, we can use the Structural Funds in this matter."

"Therefore I think it is very important that we also adopt state aid guidelines for the energy environment because this framework would allow us to also consider schemes which could be helpful for people who are in dire need of help in their situation and who should have access to affordable energy."

Efficiency and Emissions reductions

Energy efficiency

"Energy efficiency has to be perceived more as a 'first energy source'. The cleanest megawatt is the one saved. Energy efficiency should be significantly enhanced beyond 2020. Improving energy efficiency will not only increase energy security, but also enhance the competitiveness of European industry. (...) our priority areas should be buildings, transport and products."

Decarbonisation of the EU energy mix

"We must decarbonise the economy in line with the long-term goal set out in the EU's 2050 Roadmap. This will involve reducing greenhouse gas emissions as well as increasing the share of renewable energy resources and reducing energy consumption. A strengthened EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) – through the introduction of the Market Stability Reserve – will ensure that these targets can be achieved at least cost." "I want to continue the successful reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. We need to be ambitious with our targets for 2030 and I am fully committed to making the EU the world's number one in renewable energies."

Research and innovation

"Further investment in research and innovation is crucial, in particular because the European Union needs to step up its efforts to bring new, high performance, low-cost, low-carbon energy technologies to the market. New technologies and solutions are vital to achieving the EU 2030 objectives in energy, climate, economic and social policy, and beyond."

Renewables

"I believe that we will see more research and development results in this domain, which will increase the efficiency of energy sources even more. So this clearly would be one of the priorities of the European Commission because if we are talking about indigenous sources, if we are talking about energy independence in Europe and if we are talking about our international obligations, which we entered into as a developed part of the world, relating to 2015, renewable energy is clearly the key way to achieve them."

"I can tell you that already right now that I am very convinced that we will exceed the 27% target, because from the discussions we had with the Member States there are several countries which would like to go over that 27% target."

Carbon leakage

"I think that in this respect it is quite clear that the carbon leakage mechanism will have to stay in our policy toolbox, not only now but also for the post-2020 period, because otherwise our industry will move to the territories where they do not respect environmental legislation and pollute much more than in our countries, and on top of this we would lose our competitiveness and jobs in Europe."

Carbon capture and Storage

"I believe that we can use the support for new carbon capture and storage technologies, and also the investment fund, which I believe will be created, in helping Poland to renew the power stations so that they are much, much cleaner than they are right now."

Cooperation with the European Parliament

Respecting the well established procedures and the Framework Agreement

"I will, of course, ensure that the Commission respects its commitments in line with the Common Understanding on delegated acts and the Framework agreement with the Parliament which I negotiated on behalf of the Commission, for example the commitment to carry out appropriate and transparent consultations at expert level in the preparation of delegated acts or to ensure that the Parliament and the Member States receive all relevant information. This includes naturally full respect of the provisions in the Framework Agreement in relation to the participation of Parliament's experts in expert groups meetings. For implementing acts a clear and comprehensive legal framework is in place with Regulation (EU)182/2011 and transparency is ensured via the Comitology Register."

"It will be therefore one of my most important tasks to ensure coherent external positions between the EU and its Member States, and across climate and energy fields in view of the very significant synergies."

In the energy field, we have some examples of international agreements with the EU as a party. I think that we should have more of them in the future. This is key if we want the EU to speak with one voice in order to secure our energy supplies and promote a sustainable transition of our energy systems, but also to export our technologies and standards. I will of course fully comply with the relevant Treaty provisions, as well as with the Framework Agreement in this regard as well.

Openness

Finally, in the nuclear field, the Euratom Community is party to all major international Conventions concluded under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency and has entered into several nuclear cooperation agreements with third countries. I am aware that a practice was agreed with the European Parliament, and I will continue to keep the relevant parliamentary committees informed of all international agreements negotiated on the basis of the Euratom Treaty accordingly.

¹ Quotes are either taken from the commissioner-designate's answers to the questionnaire or from the hearing held on 20 October 2014. In case of multiple quotes on the same issue, only one is reported here to enhance legibility. Some quotes may be free translations of the original language spoken.

Commitments

made at the hearing of

VALDIS DOMBROVSKIS

**Vice-President of the Commission,
Commissioner for the Euro and Social Dialogue**



In his answers to the questionnaires and during the hearing on 6 October 2014 before the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, Commissioner-designate Valdis Dombrovskis made commitments in his area of responsibility assigned to him by the President-elect of the Commission. Commitments relevant to the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs are highlighted in this document¹.

Future EMU

Presenting, next year, proposals to deepen the EMU

"During the first year of the next mandate, I would carry out preparatory work and present legislative and non-legislative initiatives to deepen our Economic and Monetary Union, firmly anchored in the Community method.

The first element among these initiatives will be a review of the "six-pack" and "two-pack" legislation."

Secondly, I would look into how the necessary structural reforms in the Member States could be further advanced and accelerated. This includes a reflection on how to improve delivery on reform commitments made and how to encourage further structural reforms in the longer term. We can also look into possible additional financial incentives to bring forward reforms and, in the longer-term, study the possibility, if necessary, of a targeted fiscal capacity for the euro area.

Thirdly, I would also work towards a proposal for a more efficient external representation of our Economic and Monetary Union."

European Semester

Improving the implementation of CSRs

"It must indeed be noted that implementation of the country-specific recommendations is probably not as high as one could expect. Different estimates put it at between 10 and 14. Parliament's assessment is 18. But it is clear that there are no, so to speak, sanctions attached to the country-specific recommendations nor is this its intention. So the idea here would be to strengthen ownership of the country-specific recommendations, meaning going deeper in discussions with both Member States and their social partners on those country specific recommendations. Also when we discuss, for example, EU funding, operational programmes,

to make sure too that EU funding is put or applied in line with the country-specific recommendations. We know that there is also macro-conditionality of EU funding which can also be used in a context of country-specific recommendations."

Strengthening social indicators

"As regards social indicators within the European Semester.... the role of those indicators should be strengthened. This is something that I have repeated, myself, here several times. I look forward to working very closely with both President Juncker and Commissioner Thyssen to actually strengthen this social dimension and to ensure that economic and fiscal policies go closer together, also with social and employment policies."

"...should there be excessive imbalances, there are some other excessive imbalances procedures which can be used and in which social aspects should also be given much more prominent weight."

Troika

In favour of making the Troika more legitimate and accountable

"While the "Troika" format was set up under pressure to help prevent a financial and economic catastrophe, it should be gradually replaced with a more democratically legitimate and accountable structure."

"Bringing these Troika arrangements under the Community framework. (...) is something with which the Commission fully agrees and which it is very much willing to work towards. We know, however, that, for that, we need a Treaty change."

Promoting fiscal - as well as social impact assessment of future support programmes

"In any future case, a strong emphasis must be given to assessing, in a systematic way, the likely social as well as economic impact of

proposed programme measures. The preparation of social impact assessments should thus become an integral part of any future conditional stability support programme for euro area countries, in addition to fiscal sustainability assessments."

Social Dimension of EMU

Closely coordinating economic and social matters

"We need to strengthen the social dimension of the EU and that, while dealing with the financial and economic policies, we need to fully take into account its social and employment consequences. (...) In doing so, I intend to work in very close cooperation with both Commissioner-designate Moscovici and Commissioner-designate Thyssen to put economic and social matters in close coordination."

Strengthening involvement of social partners

"We need a real exchange with social partners and this must be focused on substance. Social Dialogue is absolutely essential to make the reforms possible, sustainable and effective. I would work in close cooperation with the Commissioner for Employment to ensure stronger engagement of social partners at national level."

"(...) certainly there is a scope for involving them more closely in the European Semester. In the case of the social partners at EU level, this probably means discussing everything with the social partners at specific points in the preparation of the annual growth survey because this is when the main directions are indicated; for the social partners at national level, it applies during the preparation of the in-depth review and country specific recommendations. Those are probably the points where we should be involving the social partners more closely."

Social dialogue conducted also at the highest level

"As regards political level social dialogue, I would pursue regular discussions on economic and social priorities within the Tripartite Social Summit and consult the social partners prior to the adoption of the Annual Growth Survey, as the Commission already suggested in 2013."

"I would endeavour to give fresh impetus to the social dialogue at EU level. I believe that this is a crucial element of the social dimension of the EMU and an essential part of the EU's social market economy. My approach will be to focus on substance - a real exchange between social partners that delivers results for citizens."

Wages

In favour of setting minimum wages in all Member States

"As regards minimum wages in all Member States, this is certainly the proposal of President-elect Juncker, to which I also fully subscribe, that we should be encouraging all Member States to set minimum wages. We can do it through country-specific recommendations and also through social dialogue with the Member States concerned."

Equal treatment of legislators

In line with procedure

"I support and commit to fully implement the principle of equal treatment for the European Parliament and the Council regarding access to meetings or the flow of information, in line with the provisions of the Framework Agreement."

Follow up to legislative initiative reports

In line with the framework agreement and treaty requirement

"I will apply the provisions of the Framework Agreement and, in my areas of responsibility, make sure that the Commission responds to parliamentary resolutions or requests made on the basis of Article 225 TFEU, within 3 months after their adoption. In this context, I support and fully endorse the commitment made by President-elect Juncker that the future Commission will be particularly attentive to legislative initiative reports."

Delegated and Implementing Acts

In line with the framework agreement

"I would make sure that the Commission's existing commitments, in line with the Common Understanding on delegated acts and the Framework Agreement with the Parliament, are fully respected. This concerns in particular the commitment to carry out appropriate and transparent consultations at expert level in the preparation of delegated acts and to ensure that the Parliament and the Member States receive the relevant information. It also means full respect of the provisions in the Framework Agreement in relation to the participation of Parliament's experts in expert groups meetings. I am convinced that the Commission should always be available to respond to questions or concerns of the Parliament. For implementing acts, a clear and comprehensive legal framework is in place with Regulation (EU)182/2011/EC, and transparency is ensured via the Comitology Register."

Relations with the EP

Close cooperation with the committees

"I would regularly attend plenary and committee meetings, and would be available for informal discussions and would remain in regular bilateral contact with MEPs, in particular the Chairs of my corresponding parliamentary committees. I confirm my full support to the intention of the President-elect to reinforce the special relationship between the two institutions. I also take good note of the President's-elect guidance 'to have a political and not technocratic dialogue with the European Parliament'."

Promoting the full use of Economic Dialogue

"I would like to promote the full use of the Economic Dialogue which provides for discussions between the European Parliament, the Council, the Commission, the European Council and the Eurogroup. I will participate in discussions on the Commission's Annual Growth Survey and would actively engage with the Parliament on the challenges the Commission identifies at national level as well as on the Commission's assessment on implementation of country-specific recommendations. I would also encourage active participation of the Commission in inter-parliamentary meetings between representatives of the European Parliament and of national parliaments during the European Semester."

¹ Quotes are either taken from the commissioner-designate's answers to the questionnaire or from the hearing held on 6 October 2014. In case of multiple quotes on the same issue, only one is reported here to enhance legibility. Some quotes may be free translations of the original language spoken.

Commitments

made at the hearing of

JYRKI KATAINEN

**Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Investment
and Competitiveness**



In his answers to the questionnaire and during the hearing on 7 October 2014 before the Committees on Economic and Monetary Affairs; Employment and Social Affairs; Industry, Research and Energy; Transport and Tourism and Regional Development, the Commission VP-designate Jyrki Katainen made a

number of commitments. Commitments relevant to the aforementioned Committees are highlighted in this document.¹

Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness Package

Details due in December 2014

"There should be a comprehensive investment package identified within the first three months of the existence of the Commission. This is the political guideline..."

All available tools to be mobilized in a bold and determined way

"We need, first of all, coordinated European action, minimising the impact on debt and deficit. We need to leverage the EU budget in order to get more out of it. We need to increase the lending capacity of the European Investment Bank (EIB) and also of national promotional banks and other European financial instruments."

In close cooperation with the EP

"I will work closely with the European Parliament to see what the priorities of the Package should be, how to use the EU budget better and which instruments should be used"

By removing obstacles to investment and growth

"We will make best efforts to remove obstacles to investment, to promote the completion of the Single Market in key sectors from energy to the digital economy, to enforce the Services Directive, and to complete the banking union and build a Capital Markets Union with the competent Commissioners"

...and support SMEs and spur overall private investment...

"In particular, I want to support SMEs. They are the real life-blood of our economy. The early action we need is (1) to develop standards for high quality securitisation, ensuring that we could use this kind of vehicle to strengthen SMEs' opportunities to get finance; (2) we need common and reliable standards for cross-border credit information on SMEs. Again we would like to help SMEs on this; (3) we need to facilitate the

development of the European market for private placement. Also, we need private investment to boost demand and ensure our companies can compete."

...as well as creating jobs while preserving the EU social market economy model

"We need to create jobs and improve our living standards. We need to preserve the EU social market economy, including fair competition, high quality jobs, maintaining a skilled labour force, fair income distribution and excluding social dumping. We cannot afford to lose a single soul because we need a highly skilled labour force. I think the free movement of people is a core value for Europe. I very much want to defend this value."

... based on solid assessments and sound principles fostering innovation and sustainable competitiveness, and in a fair trade environment

"We will ensure that legislation is innovation-friendly, fosters sustainable competitiveness and does not impose disproportionate burden. I would like to concentrate on research and development because this is one of the ways to create renewal. We need fair free-trade deals with the other parts of the world."

Economic Governance

Deepen the framework, and increase ownership and commitment

"I will contribute to deepen the EU economic governance framework to increase ownership and commitment in Member States for the implementation of such reforms."

Social and employment indicators to be monitored, albeit not in the macroeconomic imbalance procedure

"While acknowledging the importance of social and employment indicators, the macro-economic imbalances procedure (MIP) would not be the right place to include them"

Cooperation with the European Parliament

In a spirit of mutual trust and openness

"I will engage in a constructive and regular dialogue with the European Parliament in a spirit of mutual trust and openness in all relevant areas. I will develop a very close working relationship with the European Parliament and its committees and a managing and organising of the Commission in his areas of responsibility, including in trialogues negotiations."

Respecting the well established procedures and the Framework Agreement

"I will fully implement the principle of equal treatment for the European Parliament and the Council regarding access to meetings or the flow of information, in accordance with the provisions of the Framework Agreement."

And in line with the Treaty requirements

"I will fully respect the Treaty obligations on independence and integrity, impartiality and availability (as defined in paragraph 3 of Article 17 of the Treaty on European Union and in Article 245 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union)."

¹ Quotes are either taken from the commissioner-designate's answers to the questionnaire or from the hearing held on 7 October 2014. In case of multiple quotes on the same issue, only one is reported here to enhance legibility. Some quotes may be free translations of the original language spoken.

Commitments

made at the hearing of

GÜNTHER OETTINGER

Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society



In his answers to the questionnaire and during the hearing on 29 September 2014 before the Committee in Industry, Research and Energy and the Committee on Culture and Education, the commissioner Günther Oettinger made a number of commitments.

Commitments relevant to the Committee on Culture and Education and to the Committee for Industry, Research and Energy are presented in this document¹.

Culture and Education

Cooperation with Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Citizenship

"I will ensure, in close cooperation with my colleague in charge of Education, Culture, Youth and Citizenship, that the variety of instruments under my responsibility are mobilised in favour of both the cultural sector and the cultural and creative industries."

Support for culture

"Also in the Digital Internal Market the multitude facets of culture and languages of Europe should be preserved. For me, the Digital Internal Market does not mean the harmonisation or unification of language, music, or literature culture, but their preservation and protection. I think the European Film, as much as I see the US as a partner, should maintain a high level of content of pictures of Europe, of European languages, of the history of our society, of ...therefore, support for European films is needed. I will work closely with my colleagues responsibly for cultural policies, in order to award European movies, support European film festivals and training in our tertiary institutions. We should preserve our claim that the music and movie offer will have even in the future a strong European background."

"I will see that my services will contribute to our overall cultural goals through instruments and policies such as CEF - the Connecting Europe Facility, Europeana, copyright and other Intellectual Property Rights rules, tools supporting cultural SMEs, the Nexus prize, the Open Disruptive Innovation scheme under Horizon 2020 also meant for SMEs, Horizon 2020 Creativity, Media support and policy etc."

Creative Europe

"Regarding Creative Europe's cross-sectorial strand, my services and those of my colleague responsible for Education, Culture, Youth and Citizenship are already putting in place the necessary arrangements for its effective delivery."

Copyright

"I will steer through a reform of the EU copyright rules to ensure that they enable and incentivise content providers and distributors and unlock the creativity of content creators.."

Trade negotiations

"In the negotiation mandate with which the Commission was entrusted and which was agreed with you, too, culture is not an object, because we do understand as culture something which cannot be measured only by economic means. I assume that also the forthcoming Commission will maintain this mandate. There are fields on which the American partners do not want to negotiate, and other fields which we do not want to negotiate. Culture belongs to these."

Media

AVMS Directive

"I will be guided by the results of the recent consultation on the Green Paper "Preparing for a Fully Converged Audio-visual World".

WEB-accessibility Directive

"The final on-going piece of legislation on which I will be looking forward to making progress is the proposed Directive on Web accessibility."

Media Programme, Euronews

"I can say that I understand the requirements of the cultural and creative industries. I am therefore glad that my portfolio brings together the tools to help foster world-class content for the digital world, be it through such tools as the

MEDIA programme, our support for Europeana and Euronews, or the huge possibility offered by Horizon 2020. My focus will not be on the protection of vested interests - the digital world moves too quickly for that - it will be on promoting good content."

Europeana

"My ambition is that Europeana becomes the major European digital cultural platform for borderless access and use of all types of cultural content (text, visual and audio-visual)."

Network and Information Security Directive

"Citizens expect the same level of protection from cyber-threats as they do from public health threats – neither respects national borders..... I therefore support the early adoption of the Network and Information Security Directive (NIS)."

Investment package, Juncker's proposal

"The first two elements of the strategic agenda outlined by President-elect Juncker in his political guidelines are ambitious Jobs, Growth and Investment Package and a connected digital single market. As Commissioner for the digital economy and society, I have a contribution to make to both of these priorities."

Digital Agenda

Public sector modernisation

"I am fully committed to making full use of digital technologies to drive public sector modernisation and promote greater transparency, more participation, better interoperability and more openness in the way we work with our stakeholders".

Innovation

"I will set long-term strategic goals to offer legal certainty to the telecom sector and create the right regulatory environment to foster investment and innovation."

"I will seek to promote digital industrial innovation aiming at a wider and faster integration of digital innovations in all types of products, processes and services across Europe with a focus on non-tech sectors and SMEs."

Data Protection Regulation and e-privacy

"Looking to 2015, my legislative priority will be to support the Vice-President for the Digital Single Market and the Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality in finalising the negotiations on an ambitious Data Protection Regulation in 2015. This will allow preparing a reform of the e-Privacy Directive".

Net Neutrality

The principle of net neutrality could be derogated from only reasons of public interest, but not for commercial interests.

Review of telecoms regulatory framework

Once completed, a telecom single market should have a single European telecom regulator.

Investments in ICT infrastructures

Mr Oettinger supports the need to create the right environment for private investment and also the need to use Public- Private financing where private investment is not fully available.

¹ Quotes are either taken from the commissioner-designate's answers to the questionnaire or from the hearing held on 29 September 2014. In case of multiple quotes on the same issue, only one is reported here to enhance legibility. Some quotes may be free translations of the original language spoken.

HIGHLIGHTS

from the European Parliament hearing of

JOHANNES HAHN

European Commissioner for
European Neighbourhood Policy
and Enlargement Negotiations



Johannes Hahn, the recently-confirmed European Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, appeared before the European Parliament's Committee for Foreign Affairs (AFET) on 30 September 2014 to answer MEPs' questions.

In that hearing and in his answers to the questionnaire prepared for the meeting in advance, Commissioner Hahn made a number of statements of interest to the European Parliament.

This document provides a summary of his most salient points¹.

Enlargement

'Quality before speed': prioritise rule of law, economy and democracy

"I see three 'make or break' issues for future enlargement negotiations: the rule of law and fundamental rights, the economy, and a properly functioning democracy; these three, alongside the necessary administrative capacities. These are essentials, and in our negotiations my leitmotiv, will be 'quality before speed'. Early in my mandate I will bring forward proposals on how we can better support these priorities for reform."

On the economy specifically, take the EU governance as an example

"I would also like to improve the way we support countries to meet the economic criteria. We need to reflect the very substantial changes in the EU's own economic governance and use them as extra levers to push reforms in the enlargement countries. We need to prioritise jobs, growth and investment through an increased focus on key structural reforms."

"We will allocate increased IPA funding (...) and work with International Financial Institutions to multiply our leverage on the reform process [...] and work with international financial institutions to create critical mass in the key areas and generate more visible results."

"[We will] continue to provide technical assistance under TAIEX (...)."

Effort must be made and within the EU on the benefit of enlargement...

"We need not only to negotiate with our partners about a future accession but also to convince our people in the Member States about the benefits of future enlargement for them too, in terms of growth and jobs in the Member States."

...and encouragement maintained on enlargement countries to be in line with the acquis, values and principles of the EU.

"I will use the full range of tools available, in particular the frameworks for the accession negotiations, to encourage countries to continue on the right track. The system of benchmarks across the 35 negotiating chapters provides us with levers to encourage continued alignment. The most recent negotiating frameworks introduced the possibility to stop negotiations on other chapters, if progress on rule of law chapters slows down."

On democratic transformation

"In terms of democratic transformation, national parliaments need to be at the heart of the reform process (...) to ensure democratic accountability and inclusiveness. We will work more even more closely with local society actors to anchor reforms across society."

Western Balkans

Focus on the regional aspect....

"We need to do all we can to promote regional cooperation and help solve bilateral issues. Our partners cannot progress on their European path if they do not overcome the legacy of their past first."

"We have to consider the Balkans as a whole and see how we can develop the region."

... by investing in infrastructure...

"[...] one of the areas of concentration in the future could – and should – be to work on very concrete projects which also connect the countries of the Western Balkans, not only by words but also by action."

"It is in our mutual interest that the transport and energy infrastructure in Western Balkans is aligned with the TEN-T and TEN-E networks: sharing concrete objectives can help ease political cross-border tensions"

... and enhancing mobility.

"I will further work to turn brain drain into brain circulation through better designed programmes for mobility."

Turkey

On opening new chapters

"There is an Ankara Protocol and, as long as these conditions are not fulfilled, there are definitely impediments to reopening or opening new chapters."

Modernising the Customs Union with Turkey

"I would like to modernise the Customs Union, widening it to cover services, procurement and agricultural products."

EEA & EFTA countries

No 'cherry-picking' on EU four freedoms

"With the High Representative / Vice President, I will work with these important partners to deepen cooperation, always insisting that the internal market and our four freedoms must be respected. There can be no cherry-picking."

European Neighbourhood Policy

The need to reshape the ENP...

"If you look into my mission letter, given to me by President Barroso, he clearly asks me to come forward, within one year of taking office, with a proposal for a new, reformed neighbourhood policy".

...by expanding the role for local stake-holders...

"I want to see more local buy-in, with a strengthened role both for businesses and civil society."

...with a genuinely differentiated approach.

"The policy needs to be more flexible and allow for a quick response when our partners need us."

"Differentiation is a core element of the ENP, and we should go further to take into account the situation in each country. I will make sure that they receive all the support they need, in a tailor-made way, to continue the political and economic reform processes."

The core values of the EU will continue to guide the ENP, with increasing use of conditionality.

"Human Rights conditionality must be used astutely to give us more leverage over reforms. It also impacts on other areas including trade, political dialogue and migration. I will strengthen these tools, broadening the more-for-more principle, developing a long-term strategy for promoting European values and in particular by targeting support to civil society in our partner countries."

"In the past, we have probably had too much emphasis on more-for-more, although it is justified to look at opportunities not to have sanctions but to address the less-for-less issue in an adequate manner. Our main concern should be to assist these countries (...)"

Eastern neighbourhood

Prioritise the crisis in Ukraine

"A priority for me in the East must be to contribute to a solution of the crisis in Ukraine."

"The Commission's Support Group for Ukraine will play a key role as a focal point for our work"

Securing Energy Supply

"The Connecting Europe facility, the new instrument, plays an important role not only within the European Union but also in connecting us outside the Union."

On decentralisation in Ukraine

"I think decentralisation in principle is always a good and promising, and usually a very successful, approach. It is about ownership in the region, it is about safeguarding ethnic concerns, etcetera, so in principle it could also contribute to a settlement of the ongoing conflict."

Wholeheartedly support the three Association Agreement signatories: Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova

"I am determined to ensure Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova get all the support they need to make their own democratic choices, and to undertake the necessary political and economic reforms."

Move forward in dialogue with Russia

"I believe it is important to stay in contact, to keep channels of mutual exchange open. I think we have to demonstrate our Russian colleagues that neighbourhood policy (...) should not be understood to endanger Russia. to see that it should be of mutual benefit for everybody if we are able to improve our relationship (...). I will do everything which is possible in that way".

Southern neighbourhood

Work for a political process to be maintained in Syria

"In Syria, we face a huge political and humanitarian crisis. We must not allow it to be overshadowed by turbulence elsewhere in the neighbourhood. Efforts for a political process must be maintained"

Pay attention to developments in Libya and work to strengthen state authorities

"We must not let Libya slip into chaos. I will work to strengthen the state authorities and support a political dialogue to help the transition towards a stable and inclusive order."

Engage critically and constructively with Egypt...

"In Egypt, a complex political situation and hard economic conditions underline the need for critical and constructive engagement"

...especially in terms of supporting a strong and vibrant civil society

"In Egypt (...) we have seen the introduction of a new law dealing with this, and we have to see what the real impact of that will be (...) I am rather vocal on this because I am convinced that a lively civil society is a must in order to guarantee our fundamental rights."

Cooperation with the European Parliament

To continue an open and constructive dialogue with the EP

"I am committed to continuing our open and constructive political dialogue on any matters of my portfolio."

...by discussing and responding to the EP's positions and requests in a timely manner...

"Concerning the follow-up to European Parliament's positions and requests, I will apply the provisions of the Framework Agreement, and, in my areas of responsibility, make sure that the Commission responds to parliamentary resolutions or requests made on the basis of Article 225 TFEU, within 3 months after their adoption."

...with special emphasis on legislative initiative reports.

"The future Commission will be particularly attentive to legislative initiative reports."

Regularly cooperate with the responsible Committee by participating in meetings with AFET, group coordinators, rapporteurs, and inter-parliamentary debates...

"I will inform you regularly in writing on my visits to our partner countries and I am ready to engage in frequent meetings with the AFET bureau, group coordinators and rapporteurs to discuss Parliament's position and to share information. A key element for me will be your inter-parliamentary meetings with the Parliaments of the partner countries...and I will attend myself whenever timing and venue allow."

... by presenting progress reports and strategy papers immediately after adoption by the College; keeping the EP informed on developments in neighbouring and pre-accession countries, including preparations of agreements and negotiations...

"[I will] present the annual progress reports and strategy papers directly after adoption by the College and before presentation to the press."

"I will engage in a constant dialogue with the European Parliament to inform you about developments in the neighbouring and pre-accession countries and our

relations with them, including the preparation and implementation of international agreements (...). I will ensure that the Parliament has the opportunity to express its views and make recommendations at all stages."

...and by closely involving the EP when revising the ENI and IPA, and in reshaping the ENP

"I will conduct a Strategic Dialogue with the European Parliament in preparing the mid-term review on the implementation of the instruments and before presenting any new or substantially revised programming document of a strategic nature during the period of validity of the ENI and IPA."

"I will work closely with the HR/VP on the changes that are necessary to bring the ENP into today's world. I will closely associate the European Parliament in this process and look forward to an intense dialogue to ensure that the European Parliament's expertise, as reflected in its resolutions on the matter, is used to its full potential."

"I would welcome the opportunity to make a clearer connection between our discussions on political matters and debates on deployment of our financial assistance."

Political reporting and EP scrutiny

"I will ensure that all letters, written questions and other communications from Members of the EP are replied to in a comprehensive and timely way"

"I will instruct my services to continue to share reports from EU Delegations related to the accession process and I will work with the HRVP on how best to ensure a regular flow of information (...)"

"I am fully committed to implementing the obligations set out ENI and IPA II regulations, including those related to the empowerment to adopt delegated acts"

¹ Quotes are either taken from Commissioner Hahn's answers to the questionnaire or from the hearing held on 30 September 2014. In case of multiple quotes on the same issue, only one is reported here. Some quotes may be free translations of the original language spoken.

HIGHLIGHTS

from the European Parliament hearing of

CECILIA MALMSTRÖM

European Commissioner for Trade



Cecilia Malmström, the recently-confirmed European Commissioner for Trade, appeared before the European Parliament on 29 September 2014 to answer MEPs' questions.

In that hearing and in her answers to the questionnaire prepared for the meeting in advance, Commissioner Malmström made a number of statements of interest to the European Parliament.

This document provides a summary of her most salient points.¹

Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)

A new start

"[TTIP] is a very important agreement, but there is a lot of scepticism. That is why I would hope [...] that we can sort of have a new start on this, both when it comes to how we work and also on transparency."

Reassessing objectives and progress

"it will take a few months of the new term to make a political assessment of our objectives and our progress, on the basis of the existing negotiating mandate. I will present the results of my assessment to [Parliament] and Member States by the end of [2014]."

The agreement's ambitious scope

"Both the Americans and the Europeans want an ambitious TTIP. That means covering the whole range: public procurement, tariffs, regulatory services, also on energy etc., so we want to have a very broad agreement [...] that is our ambition reflected in our negotiating mandate and this is what we will aim for."

"We have been given a very broad mandate [by the Council] and that [Parliament has] also pronounced [itself on it]. It is a clear mandate to go broad" and "TTIP has a significant potential to create lots of jobs and growth. To seize it, we need an ambitious agreement on tariffs, services and procurement and to come to a number of concrete, practical regulatory solutions."

EU standards will not be lowered

"Neither in TTIP nor in any other agreement will we agree to lower standards."

"I also want to state here very clearly that it is not about lowering any standards when it comes to consumer protection, environmental or health. We will remain dedicated to defending the rules that we have here in Europe and will not lower them", "but I hear those concerns, and I think people need reassurances and that we need to engage in a dialogue."

"Decision-making power for new regulation must stay under current European democratic control. Trying to find a common approach to health, environment, labour, consumer safety and financial risk can never be about lowering standards, but avoiding extra costs."

Member states retain control of public services

"It is extremely important that Member States retain their possibility to regulate in public services: school, health, waste [...] but also when it comes to water procurement or delivery – and that is excluded from TTIP."

Unambiguous rules to avoid abuses of ISDS

"We must continue to set unambiguous rules to avoid the abuses of ISDS that many worry about, to bring full transparency into the system, and – most importantly – to ensure that ISDS cannot be used to inhibit the right to regulate in the public interest. This must remain our guiding principle in all future negotiations."

"Specific public concerns have been raised about the idea of a possibility to include ISDS, and this is why the Commission had decided to freeze that chapter."

"We are in a broad negotiation on this. The issue is on the table. It will have to be addressed. [Commission has] engaged in a wide public consultation on the future of investment protection [and] we should see what concrete proposals can come out of this [but] for the moment the ISDS chapter is frozen, and I am looking forward to discussing these issues with [Parliament]."

Jurisdiction of Member State courts will not be limited by ISDS

"President-elect Juncker committed himself [...] not to accept that the jurisdiction of courts in the EU Member States is limited by special regimes for investor disputes. He underlined that the rule of law and the principle of equality before the law must also apply in this context. There can be no doubt that as Trade Commissioner [...] I will live up to that commitment."

Broader access to negotiating documents for Members

"I am prepared to make sure that all Members of [Parliament] can consult the negotiating documents [Commission] currently [sends] only to a restricted group. To make this happen, Parliament will need to ensure a system that guarantees confidentiality, and I am ready to engage with the [INTA Chair] on how to figure this out", and "to see exactly how we can find the modalities to do this in a confident way. But I think this is necessary so that the legislators can have full access and see that there are no secret deals going on there."

Towards more transparency

"In one area in particular I would like to make a very firm commitment, and that area is transparency. We must demonstrate that we are not negotiating a secret deal behind the public's back. The Commission has made considerable efforts here, but I will insist that more is done [...]. I will ensure greater transparency on the EU proposals in the different areas of TTIP negotiation, and I will [...] publish lists of my meetings with stakeholders and continue [...] to publish a large part of my correspondence with outside organisations. I will make engaging with civil

society organisations and social partners a personal priority of my first month in office, and I will address the issues that affect [Parliament's] work as the democratic conscience of the negotiating process."

"We need to engage much more with the different stakeholders [...] I would personally commit to meet them already before Christmas, but then on a regular basis to see how we can talk, and then also explore how we can put more documents concerning TTIP, that are already agreed, to a broader community. [...] we need to increase the transparency and [...] to broaden the communication on this to address some of the concerns. [we need to] make people feel that they are part of this; that they are part of a dialogue; that this is not something that is done by a few behind closed doors."

On "mixity"

"Will [TTIP] be a mixed agreement or not [...] requires a more institutional discussion. The Council has had a tendency to declare every agreement beforehand as mixed [...] but I realise that TTIP will probably be a mixed agreement, as it is today, and it would make sense if we could get some legal clarity on where the competences on agreements are – where is the Commission competence and where is the Member States."

EU-Canada Comprehensive and Economic Agreement (CETA) – in particular the ISDS clause

ISDS will remain in the agreement but will not be abused

"We must continue [...] to ensure that ISDS cannot be used to inhibit the right to regulate the public interest. This must remain our guiding principle in all future negotiations. And this is [...] what the Commission has done in CETA, which will be submitted to Parliament and the Council for approval [in 2015]."

"Eliminating [ISDS part] from [CETA] right now [...] would not be a good idea because then it would open the whole [...] agreement" and "if we start to dismantle it I am afraid that it will fall totally". "That would risk falling apart and [CETA] is a very good agreement. We have achieved a lot" in CETA "that will protect investments and that will limit abuse and make sure that we have a very fair and transparent procedure".

"What the [...] Commission has done [...] is to try to [...] to take away the ambiguity that you clearly preserve the right to regulate in the public interest; that you limit the scope; that you limit the possibility of abuse; that you increase the transparency and that it is clear that this is the last resort if the normal court does not function." Clear rules – transparent rules – and few possibilities of arbitrary interpretation is always more beneficial to small and medium-sized companies than big companies, because they have other resources."

Importance of the multilateral agenda

"First of all, to our work in the WTO. As a liberal, I am an instinctive multilateralist. I am convinced that, despite the current difficulties, the WTO can – and must – deliver results, for rich and poor countries alike. The multilateral agenda will be a priority for me."

"This leads me back to my absolute priority: the multilateral agenda. The WTO is the centrepiece of the global trading system, and it is really in everybody's interest to make sure it continues to play that role and set uniform rules for the entire world economy. It is the world's best international dispute settlement system, and this must be preserved and expanded. WTO is an indispensable forum."

Coherence of EU values/principles

"(...)Trade is a powerful foreign policy tool. It must support Europe's wider international goals, promoting our values of peace, freedom and democracy throughout the world. I will apply these four principles across the board."

"When it comes to global trade and the labour, environmental and human rights standards, these things are very important to me as well. Can trade solve all of it? No, but it can definitely be a tool to do much more. As I said in answering another question, President Juncker wants us to work in a slightly different way. I will work with Vice-President and High Representative Federica Mogherini to see how trade can be better integrated in our foreign policy, where we have very clear goals to work towards – what you were just saying: fundamental rights, human rights, environmental standards, labour standards."

Trade policy driven by the interests of the citizens

"First, trade policy must be driven by the interests of citizens. That means we must be ambitious in our negotiations if we want to create jobs and growth. But trade policy must also be part of a wider set of domestic policies to support growth. We need to help workers make the transition from the few sectors that find new competition too tough to the many areas that benefit from the new opportunities increased trade provides."

EU-China Investment Agreement

Investment agreement comes first...

"On China, as I said, the [...] investment agreement is the most important there. Before that is done I do not think we can embark on any other type of negotiations directly with China. Should we do so, this would of course merit a very careful assessment and discussion with the Parliament and I can assure you that you will be involved in that."

...but other plurilateral negotiations are important

"When it comes to China, as I said, the most important thing to get there is the investment agreement. I think it would be a big important step forward if we could engage China in a few other [plurilateral] negotiations such as TISA for instance – this is the clear commitment of the Commission – and then we will see how we can move on in the issue of market access for China."

On China's Market Economy Status

"[...] to the issue of the market economy status of China, as you said there is this timetable. This is in a way a purely technical exercise. There are criteria there. Today China does not fulfil all these criteria. Will they do so in time for us to make that decision to keep the 2016 timetable? This is one of the first decisions the new Commission will have to take. We will have to look at where we are, where China is and to make a joint decision in the College. That decision will follow possible amendments proposed to the Parliament so I can assure you that you will be fully engaged in that process."

Trade Defence Instruments

Sharper trade defence instruments

"I agree with you that we need to have sharper trade defence instruments. The WTO way is a good way but it takes time, and there are other things we can do before or in parallel. That is why the Commission proposed this communication on this. Are they sufficient? I do not know. I cannot answer whether they are sufficient. [...] It is now for you and the Council to decide."

Working with the European Council to modernise trade defence instruments

"I know that it is stuck in the Council. It will certainly be – if I am confirmed – one of my priorities to see if we can unblock that file and see ways to move forward, because it is definitely in the European Council's interests as well that we formulate efficient, targeted, sharp and not too time-consuming instruments in order to move forward on this."

The Parliaments involvement is welcome

"If Parliament comes up with further instruments that are not in the document from the Commission, I think that would be positive."

Offensive trade policy rather than defensive

"If there is a lack of reciprocity, the way for me, if I am concerned, would rather be to try to open other markets than to close our own."

Cooperation with the European Parliament

Open and transparent cooperation

"I am keen to get really involved and come to grips with the details on this and address the issues that people are concerned about. You, as their elected representatives, have, of course, a very important responsibility here. I commit to work with you in the most open and transparent way possible."

Parliament should be informed

"...of course, should there be any dramatic changes like this, Parliament should be informed. If it is not possible to meet at a plenary session (because that is not very often), at least with a phone call or with some contact. This I commit to, to my best extent, to try to do that."

Access to documents for MEP's

"A lot has been done, but more must be done as well, and that regards both making sure that the Members of the European Parliament – a broader group than today, possibly all interested Members – can have access to the documents that we normally share only with a limited group. I will sit with the Chair, if confirmed, to see exactly how we can find the modalities to do this in a confident way."

¹ Quotes are either taken from Commissioner Malmström's answers to the questionnaire or from the hearing held on 29 September 2014. In case of multiple quotes on the same issue, only one is reported here. Some quotes may be free translations of the original language spoken.

HIGHLIGHTS

from the European Parliament hearing of

NEVEN MIMICA

European Commissioner for
International Cooperation and Development



Neven Mimica, the recently-confirmed European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, appeared before the European Parliament's Committee on Development (DEVE) on 29 September 2014 to answer MEPs' questions.

In that hearing and in his answers to the questionnaire prepared for the meeting, Commissioner Mimica made a number of statements of interest to the European Parliament.

This document provides a summary of his most salient points.¹

First priority: Post-2015 framework

"My first priority: an ambitious post-2015 framework (...) to eradicate poverty through inclusive and sustainable development. (...) The new framework must fully address the social, economic and environmental dimensions, and achieve the optimal balance between them. Equally, it must incorporate full respect for human rights, equality, democratic values and the rule of law, peace and security."

"It will be a tremendous challenge to bring all aspects together under one single, universal and comprehensive framework which would apply to all countries, rich and poor alike. But it is a challenge in which we have to succeed."

"We should strive to achieve acceptance by all stakeholders of two key proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): better governance, including protection of human rights (...), and a more specific goal relating to implementation (...) I expect in this regard the input from the European Parliament's INI report."

Financing for development

"A core element of the post-2015 process will be development finance (...) All Member States should step up their efforts to (...) invest at least 0.7% of their gross national income in development aid. (...) While recognising the economic problems of Europe in recent years, I would urge Member States to honour this commitment within the new framework."

"I will be ready to include [blending] in the reinforced informal dialogue with the committee and to include consideration of how to improve parliamentary scrutiny of the blending facilities."

"A financial transaction tax is one important possibility to increase financing capacities. (...) We have to make this proposal as comprehensive for all Member States as possible."

Aid effectiveness and donor coordination (described as another priority)

"Pledge to further integrate the commitments of the made at the Busan Forum in our operations (...) to help implement the post-2015 agenda."

"I will make donor coordination role the fourth priority of my future actions (...)."

"Donor coordination in Europe –and transatlantic coordination– will be very much on my agenda."

Second priority: Relations with African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries

Post-Cotonou framework

"My second priority would be to launch and negotiate a post-Cotonou framework (...) I intend immediately next year, at an early stage, to launch a broad consultation including Parliament, including the Committee on Development, on our new approach to the post-Cotonou framework."

"It is not a question whether we shall continue such a partnership with ACP countries, especially with Africa. Yes, we shall do it (...). But we have to adapt to some of the new realities, which means that maybe we can think of having overarching principles agreed with the ACP countries that would cover all aspects of our future cooperation, and then to develop specific programmes for Africa or for regions or for groups of countries within ACP countries."

Human rights and political dialogue

"We shall be more ready to activate political dialogue under Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement. The second step relates to the next provision of suspending aid under Article 96, which means more bilateral discussions including with the European Parliament in order to set the right policy answer to have a continuation of the assistance, not through government channels but directly to those who are in real need of this assistance and aid."

Third Priority: Policy Coherence for Development

"My third priority would be to contribute towards significantly enhanced policy coherence (...) I will strive to further improve policy coherence for development under the overall guidance of and in close collaboration with the High Representative/Vice-President. I would insist on forward-looking monitoring of relevant initiatives, engage in early discussions and close dialogue with my fellow Commissioners, and make an in-depth analysis of any contributions to individual initiatives when they take shape."

Trade and private sector

"We have to bring more of a development dimension into the free trade agreements and the economic partnership agreements [EPAs] that we negotiate with the groups of countries and regions in Africa."

"I, as the Development Commissioner, will commit to (...) monitor what impact any aspect of the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) could have on the development interests of developing countries (...) ensuring that negative impacts of the TTIP are not translated or spill over into development cooperation or sustainable development goals."

"I will consider very soon how to address [corporate social] responsibility in the garment and the textile industry, bringing on board the issues of child labour and labour standards."

Migration

"Development money and actions should not be directly focused and directed to building the walls in Europe for the illegal migration, but (...) to dismantle the walls back in their countries of origin that prevent them to be a real inclusive part of societies and economies there."

Selected issues for development cooperation

Basic social services

"I can commit to do my utmost to really address this issue in order to have development funds 20% of which will cover basic social services and secondary education."

"The International Conference on Population and Demography in Cairo puts sexual and reproductive health and rights at the forefront of the healthcare action. This will continue to be an important part of the European assistance and development response."

Climate change

"We are in a better position to allocate a bit more than 20% from development funds [to climate change-relevant actions]. (...) Once we come to the mid-term review of the MFF, we really have to take clear consideration of climate change financing where I would be very committed to engage in dialogue with Parliament."

Governance, property rights, tax evasion

"I would really commit to go deeper into programmes that would assist better governance and that would actually enable, for instance, property rights to be given to the small landowners or users of the land, and not the big land-grabbing companies."

"I also see that our programmes that assist good governance capacity-building in the developing countries must be more and more focused on these issues of tax evasion and our monitoring of these processes should be (...) also part of our common policy dialogue."

Cooperation with the European Parliament

"I am firmly committed to ensure transparency of my work (...) towards the European Parliament in order to ensure good inter-institutional co-operation, strengthen legitimacy and accountability of my work, and contribute to efficiency and good governance."

"I will always be available for meetings and the exchange of information with the European Parliament, and I commit to provide prompt and clear information. I will pursue a constructive political dialogue with the Parliament (...) based on mutual trust, transparency, regular reporting and exchange of information."

"The Strategic Dialogue represents a key opportunity to discuss strategic programming orientations at political level (...) I stand ready to personally represent the Commission at future Strategic Dialogues on the DCI with the Parliament. I would ensure that the positions expressed by the Parliament are taken into account before the adoption of programming documents."

"I fully endorse the commitment (...) that the future Commission will be particularly attentive to legislative initiative reports."

"Based on the recommendations of the mid-term review report, the Commission shall adopt delegated acts."

¹ Quotes are either taken from Commissioner Mimica's answers to the questionnaire or from the hearing held on 29 September 2014. In case of multiple quotes on the same issue, only one is reported here. Some quotes may be free translations of the original language spoken.

Commitments

made at the hearing of

MIGUEL ARIAS CAÑETE

Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy



In his answers to the questionnaire and during the hearing on 1 October 2014 before the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, and the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, Miguel Arias Cañete made a number of commitments.

Commitments relevant to the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, and the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy are highlighted in this document¹.

European Union objectives in climate change international summits

"We must ensure that citizens take part in the development of the community initiatives. Building an internal energy market which ensures safety, sustainability and competitiveness, achieving our ambitious goals in the fight against climate change, assuming a leadership role next year in Paris"

"My participation in the Climate Change Summits in Doha and Warsaw, supporting the European Commission, has given me a very good knowledge of the mechanisms of international negotiations in the context of the United Nations that will surely be useful in the negotiations at the Paris Summit in 2015".

Implementation of 2030 climate and energy framework

"One of my main priorities across the climate and energy portfolios will be to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 climate and energy framework that Heads of State are expected to agree upon in the European Council in October and to the achievement of a successful outcome of the international climate negotiations".

Climate Action

Market Stability Reserve in the ETS

"My first priority is to work with the European Parliament and the Council towards the adoption of the existing legislative proposal for a Market Stability Reserve in the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS)".

2030 greenhouse gas emissions targets in the non-ETS sectors

"I also plan to prepare a legislative proposal for the distribution of 2030 greenhouse gas emissions targets in the non-ETS sectors to balance cost effectiveness and fair distribution of efforts between Member States in line with the

guidance given by the European Council, the review of the Renewable Energy Directive, ensuring enhanced cooperation and the development of bigger markets for renewables and the legislative framework for energy efficiency, including energy performance of buildings and further governance-related aspects of the 2030 Framework".

Climate change objectives and other policies

"Our climate change objectives can only be met if it becomes a cross-cutting theme for the full range of EU policies. Climate is relevant to almost every aspect of the Commission's work, and "I want to work with all my colleagues in the Commission – as well as with the European Parliament and others – to ensure that climate action is taken into utmost account in all other Commission policies and adapting EU policies to the realities of climate change".

Energy

Energy infrastructure projects

"I will steer the implementation of key energy infrastructure projects and the effective and efficient use of EU funding to support investments in energy networks, renewables, energy efficiency and low-carbon technologies, such as carbon capture and storage"

Towards improvement of the energy efficiency of road vehicles

"I will work closely with the Commissioner for Transport and Space to address a gradual transformation of the entire transport system towards a better integration between modes, greater exploitation of the non-road alternatives, improved management of traffic flows through intelligent transport systems, and extensive innovation and deployment of new propulsion and navigation technologies and alternative fuels will also enhance energy efficiency"

Security of supply

"An immediate priority is addressing security of supplies issues that requires a well interconnected and integrated internal market for energy consisting of a regulatory regime common to all Member States and connecting infrastructures. The free flow of gas and electricity within the boundaries of the Energy Union is indispensable to keep prices in check, ensure secure supplies and allow for a sustainable operation of the energy sector".

Economic growth and job creation in the energy and climate sectors

"The EU should become a world leader in renewables and pursue ambitious objectives in energy efficiency with a target of 30% by 2030".

"I will contribute, together with the Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, to the jobs, growth and investment package to be presented within the first three months of our mandate".

"I will also make sure that the Jobs, Growth and Investment Package to be presented by the Commission takes fully into account the Climate Action and Energy priorities in terms of strengthening Europe's competitiveness and stimulating investment. I will do this in full engagement with the rest of the College and in open and transparent dialogue with the European Parliament from the very beginning of the Commission's mandate, making sure that the Member States are fully involved and that funds programmed for energy investments in networks, renewables, energy efficiency and energy infrastructure are quickly and efficiently used in order to leverage private investment".

Quality and transparency of legislative proposals and impact assessment

Quality

"I believe that the quality of any piece of legislation depends to a great extent on the political choices that we need to make which will require a permanent, transparent, open and structured dialogue with the European Parliament, especially at committee level. I intend to build on the political partnership between the Commission and the European Parliament, proposed by the President-elect in his political guidelines, with the relevant committees of the European Parliament from the very beginning of the mandate of the Commission".

Transparency

"I will work intensively with the rest of the college and under the leadership of the President of the Commission to achieve an Inter-institutional Agreement on a mandatory lobby register covering the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission. I will continue the path of broader efforts of the Commission to further transparency for the general public and the importance of the consultation in the policy making process".

Impact Assessment

"I will make sure that policy making will continue to rely strongly on high quality impact assessment to ensure the effectiveness of European action in my field of competence, making sure that the Directorates General for which I am responsible will prepare them in order to contribute to the principle of better regulation. Policy proposals in my domain will be based on thorough and far-reaching public consultations of all stakeholders and full evaluations will be regularly carried out to support policy development".

Preparation of delegated and implementing acts

"I would very much welcome the attendance of the Parliament's experts in expert groups preparing delegated acts. Such participation, upon request from the Parliament, is already provided for in the Framework Agreement between our two institutions. I am ready to facilitate that this also works in practice".

With regard to implementation of already adopted EU legislation, "I will ensure that the Commission keeps the reporting obligations contained in the relevant legislation, which tend to be extensive. Where necessary, I will also ensure that the Commission responds to requests for information beyond these obligations, and report to Members in the context of our regular dialogue".

Equal treatment of co-legislators

"I will make sure that the Framework Agreement on relations between the European Parliament and the European Commission is scrupulously respected in my areas of responsibility, especially in relation to provisions regarding transparency and the flow of information between the two Institutions".

¹ Quotes are either taken from the commissioner-designate's answers to the questionnaire or from the hearing held on 1 October 2014. In case of multiple quotes on the same issue, only one is reported here to enhance legibility. Some quotes may be free translations of the original language spoken.

Commitments

made at the hearing of

KARMENU VELLA

**Commissioner for Environment,
Maritime and Fisheries**



In his answers to the questionnaire and during the hearing on 29 September 2014 before the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety and the Committee on Fisheries, the commissioner-designate Karmenu Vella made a number of commitments.

Commitments relevant to the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety and the Committee on Fisheries are highlighted below¹.

Green growth as the first priority

"With continuing record levels of unemployment, Europe must continue its efforts to strengthen global competitiveness while creating jobs and growth."

"Protecting the environment and maintaining our competitiveness go hand in hand (...)"

The 7th Environment Action Programme as a guiding framework

"The Seventh Environmental Action Plan sets out a road map for stimulating resource-efficient low carbon growth and innovation, while protecting our natural capital and safeguarding the health and well-being of our citizens." "With regard to the Seventh Environmental Action Programme (EAP), as I said, it is a mandate, because it has already been co-decided by Parliament and the Council."

Mainstreaming environmental policies

"We need to make certain that environmental policies are streamed – integrated – into every economic policy"

"If we are planning any economic policies for the future, then the environment has to be part and parcel of the initial decision-making process as well".

Protecting natural capital and our citizens

"My second priority will be protecting the natural capital on which sustainable growth depends and safeguarding the health and well-being of our citizens."

Meeting the 2020 biodiversity targets

"We must step up efforts to meet the 2020 biodiversity targets with a legal framework that is fit for purpose."

"I plan to present a solid mid-term assessment of progress in achieving our 2020 objectives, including at the international level."

Sustainable development

"Finally, the EU will need to maintain its international lead in environmental issues and in developing the Sustainable Development Goals."

Continuation of the current REFIT agenda

The Habitats and Birds Directives

"I am committed to ensuring that the on-going Fitness Check in this area provides a thorough, transparent and evidence based evaluation, which will allow us to assess the potential for merging them into a more modern piece of legislation."

The Environmental Liability Directive

"The latter (compliance with the polluter-pays principle) will also be addressed in an evaluation carried out under REFIT to assess the performance of the Environmental Liability Directive which I intend to present in the first half of my mandate."

Implementation of the EU legislation

"Implementation is the key challenge in the European Union, and it is useless to carry on coming up with more and more legislation unless we start implementing."

"I would expect each and every Member State to implement all the directives"

"I will not hesitate to make full use of the Commission legal enforcement instruments to ensure compliance including with the polluter-pays principle."

Continuous implementation of REACH directive

"And we must continue implementing REACH, as the Union's instrument to address the risks from chemicals. Together with my fellow Commissioner Ms Bienkowska, I will ensure that our objectives are met in the most effective way".

Resource efficiency agenda

"I will be fully engaged in taking the resource efficiency agenda forward. This will include assessing the state of play of the Circular Economy Package"

The Air Package

"I will take stock of the state of play in the negotiations on air strategy (...). This assessment will guide the next steps in the negotiations."

Multiannual management Plans (MAPs)

*"My aim will be to keep the plans simple and result-oriented. Consultation with stakeholders and Member States is essential, as is getting the most up-to-date scientific advice. **The first plan to be proposed very soon is for the Baltic** fisheries; other new plans, such as a MAP for the North Sea fisheries, are also under preparation".*

Regulation on Technical Measures

"The adoption of the proposal on new Technical Measures is one of my most immediate priorities. This proposal should set the tone of the new approach to law-making in the CFP."

"Mesh sizes, fisheries closures, or measures to protect sensitive habitats will need to be specified according to the objective the co-legislators have set: to reach MSY for all stocks by 2015, and where this is not possible, by 2020 at the latest".

Eco-labelling

"The Commission has committed to run a feasibility study on eco-labelling after consultations with stakeholders, covering both fishery and aquaculture products".

"I look forward to the results of the consultation and of the study so that we can have an informed debate on this crucial issue for European consumers and I commit to having that debate during next year."

Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs)

"The recent reform of SFPAs has put emphasis on enhanced consistency with external relations objectives (notably with the inclusion of a human rights clause) and with development goals (leading for example to more specific targeting of sectoral support). My intention is to ensure that these principles are fully respected in all the forthcoming negotiations".

Implementation of the Illegal Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU) regulation

*"I will report to the EP and Council very shortly on the implementation of the IUU regulation, including **an assessment of consistency** with other EU policies."*

Cooperation with the European Parliament

"I pledge to establish an open and transparent relationship with the Members of Parliament, based on mutual trust and regular and comprehensive exchanges of information."

"I reiterate my commitment to consult extensively with Parliament from the very early stages of the legislative procedure and to make myself available for regular meetings with coordinators, rapporteurs and committee members."

"I will fully respect the Framework Agreement on Relations between the European Parliament and the Commission".

¹ Quotes are either taken from the commissioner-designate's answers to the questionnaire or from the hearing held on 29 September 2014. In case of multiple quotes on the same issue, only one is reported here to enhance legibility. Some quotes may be free translations of the original language spoken.

Commitments

made at the hearing of

VYTENIS ANDRIUKAITIS

Commissioner for Health and Food Safety



In his answers to the questionnaire and during the hearing on 30 September 2014 before the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety the commissioner-designate Vytenis Andriukaitis made a number of commitments.

Commitments relevant to the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety are highlighted in this document.¹

Emergency and food crisis protection

"I will also do everything in my power to protect citizens from any health or food crisis that may arise. I will ensure that the European Union's emergency preparedness capabilities remain in good shape".

Public Health

In line with health systems reform

"I plan to continue work to assess the performance of health systems underpinning advice on healthcare systems reform".

In line with population ageing and growing burden of chronic diseases

"I will support efforts to make health systems more efficient and innovative; so that they can provide equitable healthcare to all citizens, while remaining financially sustainable".

Primary care and e-Health

"I will work on universal health coverage, strengthening primary care, improving quality and safety, promoting e-Health".

In favour of prevention and healthy live

"I intend to put much focus on enhancing prevention".

"I will dedicate my work as a Commissioner to helping people to live healthy lives. I can promise that I will work hard, I will work together with you, and together we can do it".

Bridging inequalities in health

"I will seek to ensure that every initiative on health contributes to bridging the wide inequalities in health that persist in Europe".

Legislative follow up

Directive on patients' rights in cross-border health care

I will work tirelessly with the Member States to ensure that the Directive on patients' rights in cross border healthcare translates into citizens' better access to quality care; into in-depth co-

operation on e-Health towards better care; and into joint work on Health Technology Assessment to improve patients' access to innovative technologies, business predictability and cost-effectiveness

Tobacco Products Directive

"I will also follow closely the transposition of the Tobacco Products Directive, and take forward work on the necessary implementing laws".

"I will ensure the timely adoption of secondary legislation foreseen under the Tobacco Products Directive"

Support to Member States on health systems efforts

"I will support pooling Member States' efforts to invest more in health and save lives".

"I will work closely with Member States to help them improve the efficiency and sustainability of their health systems, so that they can provide all citizens with equitable access to care to all citizens. To this end, I will develop expertise on health systems performance assessment".

"I will also work with Member States to protect citizens against any cross border health threat, with an immediate focus on the Ebola outbreak in West Africa".

Food Safety

"My priority is to ensure that European citizens continue to enjoy the safest food in the world."

"I believe safe food is also a pre-requisite of a modern, developed economy and our best asset in an increasingly competitive global arena. I will endeavour to ensure high levels of animal and plant health; efficient management of any crisis that may arise; safe additives, pesticides, and biocides; strict controls on the safety of imported products of both plant and animal origin; rigorous and transparent scientific risk assessments of new products and technologies; and strict enforcement of controls".

GMOs

"I will review, within the first six months of the mandate, the decision-making process for genetically modified organisms (GMOs). I will also pursue the on-going discussions on the GMO cultivation proposal."

Consumers' trust

"I will work with all the relevant stakeholders in pursuit of this agenda. I will address challenges such as the opportunities for fraud which arise from the complexity of the food production chain, and which can jeopardize consumers' trust on the food chain".

Legislative framework for food safety

"My intention is to ensure that this is properly enforced and implemented. However, should the need for new legislation arise, I will not hesitate to act."

"I will examine seriously a number of proposals being debated in the Parliament and in the Council. ... in particular the package of measures on animal health, plant health and official controls"

"It is my clear intention to ensure that all legislative proposals currently under discussion with the European Parliament and the Council are brought to a successful conclusion, (...) on animal health, plant health, official controls, novel food, cloning, zootechnics and medicated feed."

"Within the first six months of my mandate, I will review the legislation applicable to the authorisation of genetically modified organisms. Concerning pesticides, both the legislation on Plant protection products and on maximum levels of residues will be evaluated." ... adoption of numerous implementation measures, which will receive my full attention. ... making progress on fulfilling our obligations to define the criteria for endocrine disruptors."

Legislation on animal welfare

"I will ensure that legislation on animal welfare is duly enforced."

Cooperation with the European Parliament

Framework agreement

"I will apply the provisions of the Framework Agreement and, in my areas of responsibility, make sure that the Commission responds to parliamentary resolutions or requests made on the basis of Article 225 TFEU".

"I intend to base this relationship on transparency, openness and mutual exchange of information; and I will ensure that the Directorate-General under my responsibility abides by the same principles, in accordance with the provisions of the Framework Agreement".

Equal treatment of co-legislators

"I fully intend to treat the European Parliament and the Council equally, as required in the context of the ordinary legislative procedure but also as Commissioner who is accountable to the directly elected Members of the European Parliament".

¹ Quotes are either taken from the commissioner-designate's answers to the questionnaire or from the hearing held on 30 September 2014. In case of multiple quotes on the same issue, only one is reported here to enhance legibility. Some quotes may be free translations of the original language spoken.

Commitments

made at the hearing of

DIMITRIS AVRAMOPOULOS

Commissioner for Migration and Home Affairs



In his answers to the questionnaire and during the hearing on 30 September 2014 before the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE), commissioner-designate Dimitris Avramopoulos made a number of commitments. They are summarised in this document¹.

Migration and Asylum

"The President-elect has made clear that establishing a new European approach on legal migration is a top priority."

"One of the early goals for my period in office ... will be to complete a review of the Blue Card scheme..."

"We need to set European rules so as to clarify legal pathways for all categories of workers that seek to reach the continent."

"And we need to step up the fight against those exploiting irregular migrants by ensuring an effective enforcement of rules like the Directive on Sanctions against Employers employing irregular migrants."

"I will also give a high priority to the negotiations on the Directive on students and researchers... in order to ensure they are completed in 2015."

"More generally, I would propose to undertake a fitness check of the legal migration legislation in place..."

"...ensuring complete and consistent implementation of the Common European Asylum System will also play a key part..."

"Based on the results of the health check on the Dublin System, I will analyse possible further steps."

"I am fully committed to encouraging Member States to host more refugees from third countries. Resettlement of refugees is one of the most tangible acts of generosity and solidarity."

"I will explore the idea of asylum applications being handled in EU delegations in third countries (humanitarian visas and humanitarian corridors for refugees)".

Borders

"...We need to make sure that European Border Guard Teams are put into action at the sections of our external borders with the highest pressure, with the participation of all Member States to become a rule."

"In addition, we need to look at the feasibility and need for further reinforcing the Frontex Agency."

"I commit to table in 2015 new proposals on the smart borders package."

Internal security

"There is an urgent need to step up the fight against terrorism, in particular by addressing the issue of so-called foreign fighters. ...I will work on setting out operational measures..."

"I pledge to reconsider (and possibly review) the current Commission proposal on a European PNR system, a (possible) valuable tool in the fight against terrorism."

"I will consider a priority the full transposition and implementation of EU law in the fields of the fight against organised crime, terrorism and corruption in the private sector, as well as in the area of exchange of available information..."

Data Retention

"The judgement of the Court sets out a number of strict requirements that will need to be met by any possible new EU legislation on data retention..."

"I will examine the best options for the way forward ... in an open dialogue with the European Parliament..."

Fundamental Rights

"The proposals that I will present to the co-legislators, either on migration or on home affairs, will comply with the Charter of Fundamental Rights."

Follow up to Legislative Initiative Reports

"I will... make sure that the Commission responds to parliamentary resolutions or requests made on the basis of Article 225 TFEU, within 3 months after their adoption. ...the future Commission will be particularly attentive to legislative initiative reports."

Equal Treatment of Legislators

"I am open to a regular dialogue in full transparency, treating both co-legislators at equal footing."

Access to Information on Negotiations of International Agreements

"I intend to keep the LIBE Committee fully informed on the negotiations of the international agreements..."

Appearance before EP Bodies

"I am committed to establishing a close and political cooperation with the European Parliament, based on trust and mutual respect. I will be accountable to you and I wish to maintain a regular, fruitful and constructive cooperation with the LIBE Committee."

¹ Quotes are either taken from the commissioner-designate's answers to the questionnaire or from the hearing held on 30 September 2014. In case of multiple quotes on the same issue, only one is reported here to enhance legibility. Some quotes may be free translations of the original language spoken.

Commitments

made at the hearing of

MARIANNE THYSSEN

**Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs,
Skills and Labour Mobility**



In her answers to the questionnaire and during the hearing on 1 October 2014 before the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, the Committee on Culture and Education and the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, the commissioner-designate Marianne Thyssen made a number of commitments.

Commitments relevant to the work of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs are highlighted in this document¹.

Europe 2020 Strategy

Review of the Strategy

"I intend to contribute significantly to the review on the Europe 2020 Strategy. We need to move from crisis management back to a real long-term strategy to support sustainable growth."

European Semester

Re-balance, streamline and reinforce the European Semester

"I will contribute actively in the project to re-balance, streamline and reinforce the European Semester, in particular to ensure that employment and social policies are duly taken into account. I will pay particular attention on the need to improve the engagement of stakeholders in the economic governance too."

Social impact assessments

"I believe that a smooth functioning of the Economic and Monetary Union requires more convergence of labour market policies among the members of the euro area. This also includes developing social impact assessments for any future conditional stability support programme for Euro area countries in difficulty."

Give social indicators more weight

Ms Thyssen said that an effort needs to be made to give the social indicators a lot more weight and that we must give to the social indicators the same weight as the economic indicators.

Social Impact

To take into account, at all levels, the social impact of measures proposed by the Commission

Ms Thyssen sees it as her task to ensure that the EU policy during the five coming years takes into account, in every field, the social consequences of every possible measure.

Mobility of workers

Eures

"I will pursue proposals to the modernisation and reform of the EURES platform to support employment and job matching through mobility."

Posting of workers and social dumping

"As Commissioner responsible for labour mobility, I will work together with national authorities to ensure that existing rules are well understood and implemented, and also to help them fight abuses or fraudulent claims. I shall therefore support the quality transposition process and the application of the Enforcement Directive on the posting of workers and I shall set in motion a targeted review to make sure social dumping has no place in the EU."

Skills and qualifications

Recognition and anticipation

"I will work with stakeholders to develop effective tools for the recognition of skills and qualifications, and for the anticipation of skills needs, in particular in sectors with a strong job creation potential (green economy, ICT, health sector)."

Vocational training and adult education

"I also intend to mobilise all our policy, legal and financial instruments within my portfolio to give a fresh impetus to the Commission action in the field of vocational training and adult education, building on dual learning practices on the first results of the Alliance for Apprenticeship."

Youth Employment

Accelerate implementation

"The EU has taken a number of measures to help young people become integrated into the labour market, in particular the Youth Guarantee, financially supported by the Youth Employment Initiative. These also include the European Alliance for Apprenticeships and the Quality Framework for Traineeships. My priority will be to accelerate their implementation, extend their scope, and propose new action if appropriate."

Social dialogue

Restarting the EU social dialogue

"I plan to propose a review involving the EU social partners and all national leaders of the employers' organisations and trade unions. It will offer the chance to improve the use of existing social-dialogue instruments and see how to involve social partners more closely in the European Semester process on European and national level."

Information and consultation of workers

"As to the anticipation and the management of restructuring, it is critical to follow closely the implementation of the quality framework proposed by the Commission. It will have to be reviewed in 2016. A possible consolidation of the three existing directives on the consultation and information of workers will have to be examined too."

European Disability Strategy

"I will work to review progress [on the actions of the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020] and consider the way forward to create a barrier-free Europe for people with disabilities."

Maternity leave directive

Ms. Thyssen said to be ready to reopen the discussion with all parties concerned.

Working time directive

"Following two unsuccessful attempts by the co-legislators to review the Working Time Directive, the Commission is carrying out a detailed impact assessment, which should be finalised in the first half of 2015. Building on lessons learned during the failed negotiations, I will seek a consensus among the co-legislators but also the active involvement of the social partners, to adjust the EU rules to new work patterns and needs."

Health and safety at work

Next steps will be decided on the basis of the results of the ex-post evaluation of 24 Directives

"I intend to pursue the Commission's policy of helping to improve workers' health and safety in the EU and to reduce work-related health problems. A comprehensive ex-post evaluation of 24 Directives is in progress and the result should be known by the end of 2015. I will then decide the next steps on the basis of the results of the evaluation."

¹ Quotes are either taken from the commissioner-designate's answers to the questionnaire or from the hearing held on 1 October 2014. In case of multiple quotes on the same issue, only one is reported here to enhance legibility. Some quotes may be free translations of the original language spoken.

Commitments

made at the hearing of

PIERRE MOSCOVICI

**Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs,
Taxation and Customs**



In his answers to the questionnaire and during the hearing on 2 October 2014 before the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection and the Committee on International Trade, commissioner-designate Pierre Moscovici made commitments in his area of

responsibility. Commitments relevant to the above mentioned committees are highlighted in this document¹.

Legal framework of economic governance

Review of 6- and 2 Pack

"In line with the review clauses included in the legislation comprising the six- pack and two-pack, the Commission shall conduct a review of the regulations to assess their effectiveness in achieving their policy objectives. Once this assessment is finalised, and having carefully listen to the Parliament and Council's views, I will discuss with my colleagues on the best way forward."

"I count on your active involvement in discussion of this review, with the aim of reaching consensus on those measures necessary to further improve the economic governance setup."

Implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact

"I will be committed to protect the credibility and integrity of the Pact. Acting as an agent in the interest of the European economy as a whole, the Commission cannot accept that a Member State in the excessive deficit procedure does not fulfil its duty vis-à-vis the other Member States. Should a Member State fail to take the necessary "effective action" to comply with the recommendations set by the Council – be it a small Member State or a big Member State; from the East or from the West; from the North or from the South – the Commission would propose to the Council to apply the rules. By the same token, I will not shy away from activating the Economic Imbalances Procedure, should we find that a Member State in excessive imbalances has not taken action to implement the recommendations collectively adopted by the Council. Of course, as many have said before me, the "Pact is not stupid" and one would need to look at each specific situation, and each country should be judged on its own merit, as the nature, magnitude and root causes of the economic, financial and social challenges vary widely across Member States."

European Semester

Working for proper implementation of the CSRs

"My mission will be to increase compliance with these recommendations. In my view, for this objective to be achieved, we need to bring a number of different elements into play: strict surveillance by the Commission, based on an in-depth knowledge of the situations in individual Member States; a political effort to get the public on board and increase national ownership; a debate about how to incentivise reforms to avoid giving the impression of a purely punitive approach. Scrupulous care will have to be taken to ensure that Member States are treated equally."

Adjusting the scoreboard together with EP

"The Commission made a number of technical adjustments to the scoreboard in the past years, in cooperation with the Parliament and the Council, and this should continue in future."

"In this regard, the Parliament thoughts will be extremely valuable in the work I will have to steer."

Future EMU

In favour of targeted fiscal capacity

"Together with my colleagues, the European Parliament and the Member States, I shall be actively involved in this debate. For example, in the longer term, I think we should consider establishing targeted fiscal capacity at the level of the euro area. In my view, delivering on national budgetary commitments and structural reforms should be an absolute condition that Member States must meet in order to gain access to this fiscal capacity."

Promoting stronger external representation

"Reinforced external representation of EMU, which Jean-Claude Juncker has also advocated, strikes me as a natural and desirable consequence of greater integration within EMU."

Reflecting on the role of Eurogroup

"First, we must strengthen its institutional and political architecture and in particular think about the role and functioning of the Eurogroup with the Parliament to ensure greater democratic accountability of choices made, respecting the independence of the [European] Central Bank."

Enhancing the social dimension

"There is a need to strengthen the social dimension of the euro area and to ensure convergence that is not only monetary and that does not translate into "the race to the bottom".

Euro

Strengthening the euro

"We must do everything it takes to strengthen the euro, that is to say improve its social dimension, its economic dimension, and ensure that this architecture is comprehensive."

"I think things need to change quite deeply as regards the architecture of the euro area and it is up to us to work together [on this issue]. I will contribute to this work with my ideas, but also with my willingness to listen and consult you"

Taxation

Adopting FTT

"I would work towards the adoption of the Financial Transaction Tax. In this framework, full fiscal harmonisation is not necessary, but increased convergence of tax system via unanimously agreed EU solutions is an imperative."

Putting CCTB on the agenda

"I intend to bring the CCCTB back on to the political agenda and to push forward the debate of this initiative at Ministerial level in the context of the current political priorities. In particular, we need to address the need for simplification and Member States' revenue interests as well as examine how the CCCTB can contribute to the accomplishment of the objective of curbing tax base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS)."

Fighting tax fraud

"In this fight, I will be personally and deeply committed, because I think tax fraud is terrible for our economies. It also reduces the capacity to work on deficits and it is ethically and morally unacceptable."

"I repeat again that tax – against fraud, against evasion – on the taxation side, the application of the BEPS initiative and the entry into force of a global standard for automatic exchange of information will be at the top of my priority as Taxation Commissioner."

Strengthening the role of taxation in the European Semester

"As far as the European Semester is concerned, and the link with taxation – we know that taxation is largely a matter of national competence – but we also have to work more on harmonisation and to try to reinforce the social and economic fairness of our system. The European Semester could further integrate these taxation issues, while of course respecting the principle of subsidiarity, which is dear to all of us. National parliaments are attached to their taxation sovereignty, but the Union has a main role to play and I will try to reinforce the place of taxation in the European Semester."

Customs Union

More ambitious customs code

"I will also work closely with your committee on this part of my portfolio, the customs union, which is a very substantial part (...) my main task, with you, will be the transition from the Community Customs Code, dating from 2008, to a more ambitious customs code, which is that of the EU, by 1 May 2016."

"I will make sure, by applying the new customs legislation, that there is a possibility of including an extensive list of products with specific rules for the interpretation of the principle known as "last substantial transformation". We will have the opportunity to work on this issue and I wish to move forward with the European Parliament towards an ambitious and intelligent Customs Code."

Equal treatment of legislators

In line with procedure

"As a rule, while fully respecting the existing rules and specific competences devoted by the Treaties, I will consider Parliament and Council equally important in my work as Commissioner."

Follow up to legislative initiative reports

In line with framework agreement and treaty requirement

"...make sure that the Commission responds to parliamentary resolutions or requests made on the basis of article 225 TFEU, within 3 months after their adoption".

Transparency - personal

Full personal transparency

"I fully support our new commitment to transparency set out in the political guidelines by the President-elect. I commit to making public all the contacts and meetings I hold with professional organisations or self-employed individuals on any matter relating to EU policy making and implementation."

Relations with the EP

Close cooperation with the Parliament

"As future commissioner, if confirmed I will of course represent the Commission in plenary and Committees debates, in agreement with my colleagues, and actively participate in the economic dialogue foreseen in the new governance framework."

More in-depth discussions on the European Semester

"Within the responsibilities assigned to me by the President-elect, I will support him in his task, including on the question of streamlining and reinforcing the European Semester so as to allow for more in-depth discussions with the European Parliament, national Parliaments, social partners and Member States' authorities. A key focus should be to step up the debate on the Annual Growth Survey and make sure that it is followed up at EU and Member State level."

¹ Quotes are either taken from the commissioner-designate's answers to the questionnaire or from the hearing held on 2 October 2014. In case of multiple quotes on the same issue, only one is reported here to enhance legibility. Some quotes may be free translations of the original language spoken.

HIGHLIGHTS

from the European Parliament hearing of

CHRISTOS STYLIANIDES

European Commissioner
for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management



Christos Stylianides, the recently-confirmed European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, appeared before the European Parliament's Committee on Development (DEVE) on 30 September 2014 to answer MEPs' questions.

In that hearing and in his answers to the questionnaire prepared for the meeting in advance, Commissioner Stylianides made a number of statements of interest to the European Parliament.

This document provides a summary of his most salient points 1.

The Humanitarian Consensus and humanitarian principles

"I will defend the specificities and principles of humanitarian aid. For that, we have an excellent collective basis in Europe: the Consensus on Humanitarian Aid."

"I will continue to ensure that humanitarian aid is not instrumentalised and that tested principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence are respected".

Compliance with International Law

"I will see it as my duty to speak up with added vigour for the respect of international law, including IHL, international human rights law and refugee law, as well as for the humanitarian principles. I see it as my duty as Commissioner to act as the voice of the voiceless."

"I want to ensure that the EU becomes the beacon for the respect of IHL."

Needs-based EU Humanitarian Aid

"We will continue with our core mandate of providing essential assistance to victims. The EU must not arrive with too little, too late – not even once!"

"Humanitarian aid is deployed differently than foreign political, economic or security policy tools as response is based on needs with the objective to save lives and not anchored in foreign policy interests. [...] I am committed to assist in 'forgotten crises'. [...] The Commission will continue to respond to needs wherever they are to the best of our capabilities".

The EU comprehensive approach and coordination

"I will carry out my responsibilities in full cooperation with the other members of the Commission; I will work closely with the High-Representative/Vice-President and my other colleagues of the external relations team with the aim to effectively coordinate our action and concretely deliver on the ground".

Within the EU's comprehensive approach

"... the mandate of each tool has to be respected. I will insist on the "In-but-Out" approach [as regards EU Humanitarian Actors]".

"... I will insist on more robust early warning, crisis and conflict preparedness and preventions as well as

early recovery, stabilisation and peace-building. Drivers of conflict such as scarcity of resources and the effects of climate change need to be addressed together. In this regard, I will work closely together with the HR/VP and the other Commissioners with responsibilities in these areas."

Resilience and local actors

"I will continue the work on resilience. Investing in resilience today through humanitarian and development assistance is much more cost-effective than responding to a crisis tomorrow".

"I agree with you that we need to further develop our strategy and focus on working with local authorities and communities".

Improving coordination

"The Ebola crisis is a perfect example of the crucial need for something beyond coordination – a really joined-up approach between countries and different ministries [...] bringing all the services together in the newly-created Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC), linking up with Member States, our international partners and the big humanitarian donors. But frankly, the results are not there yet. More needs to be done."

"I have to be present on the ground - my first trip will be to the areas where the virus is active in order to witness the situation [...] to understand what needs to be done in order to draft a plan for the cooperation and coordination".

Civil protection

"The implementation of the new Civil Protection Legislation should bring up a more reliable, predictable and efficient response to disasters but also contribute to preventing disasters in Europe".

"... much more should be done for prevention. And the Civil Protection Mechanism is the basis for expanding our prevention measures".

Financing humanitarian action

Greater needs for humanitarian assistance

"It will be my priority to safeguard and further develop Europe's capacity to help people in need."

"...my approach will be to: sustain the recognition of the specificity of humanitarian aid in the EU budget. This will require payments at the level of

commitments on a systemic basis; secure the Emergency Aid Reserve (EAR) as a flexible instrument to respond to new crises and disasters with sufficient commitments and payments."

Maximising impact of EU humanitarian aid

"I will work with the VP for the Budget and Human Resources to ensure that we can finance any commitments made [...] we will also work together to ensure the sound and performance-based management of the budget."

Corruption and fraud

"We have to be adamant on issues of corruption and fraud [...] If there is such an issue, the programme has to be suspended and all the necessary procedures - which have to be very strict - have to start".

Damages requested from Israel

"In Area C many EU-financed projects have been destroyed and the EU has requested damages from the State of Israel. This is correct. And this request should be upheld because this is how the money of the European taxpayers foreseen for constructions in the framework of humanitarian aid is properly used".

Cooperation with the European Parliament

Responding to growing humanitarian needs

"I have the ambition to work in close cooperation with the European Parliament as we need to join our efforts".

Accountability of the Commission to the Parliament and to our citizens

"... is not just a concept but a necessity which must drive our collective action."

The European Parliament as a key partner

"I am fully committed to build up an open, transparent and trustful relationship with the Members of the Parliament and especially with the DEVE Committee. The relationship with you will be one of genuine dialogue and mutual exchange of ideas and information".

"I will apply the provisions of the Framework Agreement and, in my areas of responsibility, make sure that the Commission responds to parliamentary resolutions or requests made on the basis of Article 225 TFEU, within 3 months after their adoption".

Revising the Humanitarian Aid Regulation

"... we should see in detail what could be revised, and if we arrive at a common stance, we shall see how to move forward. [...] I am ready, within the next year, to have this consultation within the framework of your Committee".

World Humanitarian Summit (WHS)

"Together with the Member States and humanitarian partners, as well as the European Parliament, I will explore options on how to provide the best input to the Summit".

The Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

"... will be an opportunity to make disaster prevention and preparedness equal priorities to disaster response. Parliament's views are very important, and I am ready to discuss with you ahead of the conference".

Constant exchange of information

"I intend to participate as much as needed in the Parliament's plenary sessions. I also stand ready to appear before relevant committees as often as necessary and to exchange with the Members on all matters in the areas of my competence". [...] "Reporting on ECHO's humanitarian operations and the implementation of our budget would become a regular feature".

Transparency

"I will make sure that the European Parliament is appropriately informed and consulted on policy or legislative initiatives. As a general rule, I will share with you all relevant documents in accordance with the provisions of the Framework Agreement on relations between the European Parliament and the European Commission."

¹ Quotes are either taken from Commissioner Stylianides's answers to the questionnaire or from the hearing held on 30 September 2014. In case of multiple quotes on the same issue, only one is reported here. Some quotes may be free translations of the original language spoken.

Commitments

made at the hearing of

PHIL HOGAN

**Commissioner for Agriculture
and Rural Development**



In his answers to the questionnaire and during the hearing on 2 October 2014 before the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, commissioner-designate Phil Hogan made a number of commitments. Commitments relevant to the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development are highlighted in this document¹.

Article 43(3) TFEU

"Any use of Article 43(3), which allows the Council to decide alone, must be the exception. The ordinary legislative procedure, under which Parliament acts as co-legislator with the Council, is now the general rule in the area of the CAP.

All structural parameters and fundamental elements of a measure must be decided by Parliament and by Council as co-legislators. This is also true for prices, aid levels, quantitative limitations etc. Where these latter elements are part and parcel of a new measure, if I am confirmed as Commissioner, I will therefore include them in the proposal that I will make based on Article 43(2).

I will stand by these principles when defending the Commission's proposals before the Council...

Moreover, as regards the court case brought by Germany against the use of Article 43(2) for the fixing of the reference thresholds in the CMO Regulation, I will fully support the Parliament's position that the legal base chosen by the co-legislators for fixing these thresholds was the right one."

Existing proposal concerning new School Schemes

"Any use of Article 43(3), which allows the Council to decide alone, must be the exception ... I will stand by these principles when defending the Commission's proposals before the Council...

This also includes the Commission's existing proposal for the new School Scheme, which proposes that all elements of the new scheme, including its financial aspects, should be adopted by Parliament and Council acting together as co-legislators under Article 43(2) of the Treaty."

Simplification and subsidiarity strategy

"If I am confirmed as Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development ... I would ask my services to carry out a comprehensive screening of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) legislation to see what can be simplified without putting the effectiveness of the policy and its sound financial management at risk. In addition, I would want the concept of subsidiarity to play a bigger role in the CAP.

... On the basis of this screening, I would intend to present within the first year of my mandate a simplification and subsidiarity strategy for the CAP which will include concrete initiatives together with a realistic planning for their implementation. It will also describe the way stakeholders will be involved in the process."

"Within the first twelve months we will look at the potential for further simplifying direct payments: in particular as regards greening, rural development, quality policy and the fruit and vegetable scheme."

"I can already say today that I would see it as a two-step approach with a first step being realised in the near future and a second step focusing on mid-term initiatives. The first step could thus include the following initiatives: after the first year of experience with the reform, a review of whether our policy, notably on direct payments, is designed so that it is being properly applied in practice. Where this is not the case, I will propose to amend our rules with a view to making them simpler and more efficient. This exercise will of course include the arrangement on greening and the Ecological Focus Area (EFA) measure, in line with the commitments made by the outgoing Commission.

Reviews and, where appropriate, proposals concerning: possibilities for further harmonisation and simplification in the area of geographical indications; the simplification potential with regard to the fruit and vegetable scheme."

Mid-term review of the CAP

"We will have a mid-term review of the CAP once we have sufficient data."

Multiannual Financial Framework

"We will contribute to the 2016 review of the Multiannual Financial Framework by identifying ways to further focus the CAP on jobs, growth, investment and competitiveness."

Water Framework Directive

"I am committing myself to improving the situation under the Water Framework Directive."

Energy and climate change

"We will also examine how the agricultural sector can best contribute to boosting energy efficiency and cutting emissions"

Political dialogue with the Parliament

"As a Commissioner I would ensure a constructive political dialogue with the European Parliament and its committees based on openness, transparency, mutual trust, regular reporting and exchange of information. I see the relationship with you as elected Members of Parliament as vital and I would wish to engage fully with you at all times."

"I firmly believe that the Commission and Parliament should work very closely together in that spirit, and that is the best way to maximise our impact – for the good of European agriculture and the good of all of the people of Europe."

"I look forward to regular meetings, formally and informally, with members of this committee in order to advance what we wish to do."

"On the communication: there is certainly a view being expressed that we need to look at better communication between the services and Parliament. I want to fully acknowledge this particular issue and to engage with the leadership of the groups to see what we can do to improve communications."

Follow-up of Parliament's positions and requests

"Concerning the follow-up to European Parliament's positions and requests, I will apply the provisions of the Framework Agreement and, in my areas of responsibility, make sure that the Commission responds to parliamentary resolutions or requests made on the basis of Article 225 TFEU, within 3 months after their adoption. In this context, I support and fully endorse the commitment made by President-elect Juncker that the future Commission will be particularly attentive to legislative initiative reports."

Transparency

"I fully support our new commitment to transparency set out in the political guidelines by the President-elect. I commit to making public all the contacts and meetings I hold with professional organisations or self-employed individuals on any matter relating to EU policy making and implementation."

Equal Treatment of co-legislators

"I fully subscribe to the need for equal treatment of the European Parliament and Council."

Provision of documents

"As regards the provision of documents to the European Parliament, I will ensure the provisions of the Framework Agreement are fully implemented."

"On a day to day basis I will work closely with my cabinet and my services to ensure that relations are based on loyalty, trust, transparency, a two-way information flow and mutual assistance."

Delegated acts/Scrutiny

"In the area under my responsibility I will ensure that the Commission's existing commitments in line with the Common Understanding on delegated acts and the Framework Agreement are fully respected. This concerns in particular the commitment to carry out appropriate and transparent consultations at expert level in the preparation of delegated acts and to ensure that the Parliament and the Member States receive the relevant information. It also means full respect of the provisions in the Framework Agreement in relation to the participation of experts from the Parliament in expert group meetings. This should also facilitate the Parliament's scrutiny, in particular of delegated acts, where the Parliament has ex-post control rights."

"I also commit to a transparent and constructive relationship with COMAGRI and Parliament in general when it comes to the preparation of delegated acts."

Trade agreements developments

"I am ready to appear regularly in the AGRI Committee to update on relevant agriculture-related developments, both on bilateral and multilateral trade agreements."

¹ Quotes are either taken from the commissioner-designate's answers to the questionnaire or from the hearing held on 2 October 2014. In case of multiple quotes on the same issue, only one is reported here to enhance legibility. Some quotes may be free translations of the original language spoken.

Commitments

made at the hearing of

JONATHAN HILL

**Commissioner for Financial Stability,
Financial Services and Capital Markets Union**



In his answers to the questionnaires and during the hearing on 1 October 2014 before the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, Commissioner-designate Jonathan Hill made commitments in his area of responsibility assigned to him by the President-elect of the Commission.

Commitments relevant to the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs are highlighted in this document¹.

Capital Markets Union

Developing Capital Markets Union by bringing forward proposals

"Fourth, I will bring forward proposals for developing a Capital Markets Union... My priorities for early action will be to tackle those barriers where the problem is clear and well-defined, and the solution is readily apparent, for example:

- developing standards for high quality securitisation;*
- ensuring common and reliable standards for cross-border credit information on SMEs; and*
- facilitating the development of a European market for private placement."*

"...I intend, as early as the new year, to come forward with a proposal for the resolution of non-banks including CCPs [central counterparty clearing houses]".

Advancing current proposals

"At the moment there is a proposal on the table to encourage European long-term investment funds...I will want to take that forward as an urgent priority."

"To make sure that we tackle other major sources of risk by taking forward proposals that are currently under negotiation such as on Money Market Funds, benchmarks and structural reform."

Impact assessment in terms of high-quality securitization

"I think there is a case for regulatory framework for high-quality securitisation... and one of my first priorities would be to launch some preparatory work to assess the impact of what such an initiative might be"

Banking Union

Considering alternatives to current Deposit Guarantee Scheme

"I will monitor how the DGS Directive is working on the ground with the EBA and in the light of that I would be ready to consider alternatives before July 2019 but I would do so in the light of circumstances at the time."

Financial Stability

Pushing for an early agreement on the banking structural reform proposal

"I agree that Too Big To Fail remains a problem. It goes hand in hand with the concept of implicit subsidies, i.e. ultimately use of taxpayers' money because letting such banks fail may have disastrous consequences. In that sense no bank should be considered in the future as too big to fail. The proposal made by the current Commission on the structure of banks deals with this issue. It would limit the systemic risk associated with too-big-to-fail banks' trading activities. We need to find a workable solution but I will make it a priority to push for an early agreement on this proposal, working closely with this Committee and Member States – in order to prioritise greater certainty and stability for the industry."

Possibly strengthening shadow banking oversight

"I will come forward with proposals to strengthen the oversight and regulation of shadow banking if the data shows that there are risks to financial stability."

Equal treatment of legislators

In line with procedure

"I will apply all the provisions of the Framework Agreement. Equal treatment of the European Parliament and the Council is not only legally required but politically essential."

Follow up to legislative initiative reports

In line with framework agreement and treaty requirement

"Concerning the follow-up to European Parliament's positions and requests, I will make sure that in my areas of responsibility that the Commission responds to parliamentary resolutions or requests made on the basis of Article 225 TFEU, within 3 months of their adoption."

"In this context, I support the commitment made by President-elect Juncker that the future Commission will be particularly attentive to legislative initiative reports."

Transparency

In favour of a Mandatory Transparency Register

"Having a mandatory lobbying register, which again I think is a good idea and that I would support".

Full personal transparency

"Transparency will be essential. I will be open with this committee at all times. And I will be open about who I am meeting. I will disclose all my external meetings and so will my officials"

Relations with the EP

Participating in important trilogue meetings

"I also commit to participating personally in important trilogue negotiations. I will ensure that my cabinet and officials in the new Directorate General for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union abide by the same principles so that democratic oversight can be exercised in an effective manner."

Close cooperation with committees

"I will cooperate closely and at all times with the European Parliament, particularly with the ECON Committee and its Chair, Mr Gualtieri, but of course in addition with all other Committees with interests in my field of competence."

Providing information to the EP

"I stand ready to provide the EP regularly with detailed information, which would allow to have an informed exchange of views on the subjects taken up by the international standards setters"

Dialogue on the engagement of EU in G20 and FSB

"I will prioritize engagement by the Commission and the EU in G20 and in the FSB. I will share and explain progress to this committee and I will seek its views."

Delegated and Implementing Acts

Focusing on implementation and ensuring a fair and open process with the EP

"Implementation: this will be an immediate task and will take place through delegated acts and implementing acts, with a very significant input from the European Supervisory Agencies."

"I have set myself five main priorities: First, to implement what has already been agreed. This alone will be a major task. The outstanding delegated and implementing acts amount to over 400 separate measures from inter alia MFID2 to Banking Union to Solvency 2 to CRD. We will ensure a fair and open process with the EP and the Council."

"Parliament clearly needs to be involved and my commitment to you would be to work in the spirit of cooperation which I am told and I believe Mr Barnier developed, and I would want to do my best to match that"

Taking forward the preparatory work

"The preparatory work for a delegated and implementing act is underway and I know this Committee is fully involved. I will take the work forward as a matter of priority." (Mr Hill did not specify which delegated and implementing act he referred to, given the exceptionally large amount of acts)

Explaining changes to the EP

"In implementing Level 2 legislation by delegated and implementing acts, I will stand ready to explain to the Parliament and Council if we intend to depart from the proposals of the ESAs and I will be ready to discuss this with you."

Deciding details of SME growth in delegated acts

"..MiFID2 does introduce the concept of the SME growth market...the detail of it is going to have to be decided in the delegated act".

¹ Quotes are either taken from the commissioner-designate's answers to the questionnaire or from the hearing held on 1 October 2014. In case of multiple quotes on the same issue, only one is reported here to enhance legibility. Some quotes may be free translations of the original language spoken.

Commitments

made at the hearing of

VIOLETA BULC

Commissioner for Transports



In her answers to the questionnaire and during the hearing on 20 October 2014 before the Committee on Transport and Tourism, the commissioner-designate Violeta Bulc made a number of commitments. Commitments relevant to the Committee on Transport and Tourism are highlighted in this document¹.

Juncker's deal for" jobs and growth and social fairness"

"Transport needs to be friendly to the environment, it needs to be competitive and it also needs to be inclusive. We need to integrate these goals into every aspect of transport policy. Together we can put transport back at the top of Europe's political agenda".

In financial terms

"The EUR 300 billion investment plan proposed will address these financing need, create immediate jobs and establish the conditions for respecting the environment. We should make the best use of instruments already available within the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)".

Social and workings conditions

"The transport sector is –particularly in land transport – an ageing one. It also has relatively low numbers of female workers."

Lack of skill labour

"With high unemployment in the rest of the EU economy, we want to avoid future critical skills shortages. So it is important to make transport an attractive profession, especially for younger people. I will study what kind of Europe-wide action could be taken to improve training and career prospects and to ensure quality jobs in transport".

Social rights

*"The fairness of social conditions, as well as fairness in the internal market, is essential. I believe we have to think how to integrate social rights into the business model. **I am strongly opposed to social dumping.** Europe has a lot of legislation regarding social rights. I would first like to know: who has implemented what? Then we can take measures and steps, if necessary, for those countries that have not implemented things that have already been agreed by the Parliament. The other important element is that social legislation also needs to be part of the "refit".*

Completion of the single market

"The completion of the Single European Transport Area will be one of my priorities. I will look into the implementation of the 2011 Transport White Paper and reflect on what remains to be done and needs to be done. It is vital, however, to remove the remaining technical and administrative barriers to make sure that transport services can operate across the whole of Europe without national boundaries."

In particular

"I intend to work actively with you and with the Council to achieve the rapid adoption of the Single European Sky and the Fourth Railway Package .I will push with great resolve for the deployment of the European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS). I intend also to work towards the adoption of other legislative initiatives put forward by the Commission but not yet adopted. Ports and airports as gateways into the network also deserve my attention".

Rail Transport

"I will advocate for the opening of passenger markets where lack of competition leads to high prices and low quality. I will do so with due regard to social aspects, public service obligations and safety prerequisites.

Impact assessment and implementation EU law

"We need to assess whether our legislation is fit for purpose and take into account the environmental, economic, technical and social impact of the legislation we propose. It is equally important to ensure that the legislation already in force is correctly implemented by Member States and understood and respected by all".

Passenger rights enforcement/enhancement

"I will examine the situation in all modes to identify gaps and shortcomings. Where necessary, we must clarify the rules enforced and revise legislation. The enforcement of passenger rights for the newest legislation, waterborne-transport and coach-passengers deserve particular attention. Users, especially persons with reduced mobility, which are likely to become more numerous with ageing population, should be aware of their rights, which still is not the case to a sufficient extent. Furthermore, I will press for a swift adoption of the revised air passenger rights regulation and will consider how we can ensure the rights of those passengers that combine different modes, possibly with an integrated ticket for a multimodal, cross-border trip.

High level of safety and security

"I am determined to maintain the high level of safety and security that characterises the EU transport system. I will therefore ensure that inspections in the aviation and maritime sectors are carried out according to the highest standards of professionalism and cost-effectiveness. I will promote safety and security also through international cooperation."

Road safety

"To progress towards the vision zero, I count on using the full range of instruments, including new technologies to make vehicles and infrastructure safer, soft measures to build a road safety culture or strategic targets, for instance for serious injuries in road accidents "

EU integrated transport system

"I will continue to support optimal connectivity across Europe, in an integrated conceptual system. This is why it is so crucial to turn the TEN-T into a reality. Building the missing links and removing the bottlenecks are essential in this process. I promise that we will advance on this. I will lead the way in finding the best solutions for an integrated and prosperous European transport system. The CEF must be performance driven; this means not only allocating funds based on a competitive process, but also reallocating them from underprepared or underperforming projects ('use it or lose it')."

Allocation of TEN-T financing

"I will work intensely to ensure that the transport sector takes an innovative approach in leveraging EU funds allocated for the modernisation of EU infrastructure. Together with the Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness I will coordinate with the European Investment Bank and national or regional developments banks and with the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), in particular the Cohesion fund".

The need of a technology push

"We will need what I would call a 'technology push', funded by public and private investment involving as many parts of the transport sector as possible".

ICT (Information Communication and Technologies)

"With my professional background (engineer and entrepreneur), I see that we can do more to enable transport to benefit from new technologies, ICT in particular: relevant projects include e-Call, the River Information System and the European Railways Transport Management System, to name but a few".

ITS

"Intelligent Transport Systems will play a major role with smart vehicles and infrastructure. They also have significant environmental advantages: by helping to avoid unnecessary journeys and empty vehicles they can make transport more efficient by keeping emissions to a minimum. I will work intensively my colleague

Commissioners as well as with industry to address these issues and promote the use of ITS across all modes of transport".

Connectivity on every level

"We will need to look at ways of promoting integrated journey planners and ticketing services. I will work to develop the framework conditions for more comprehensive multimodal travel information, planning and ticketing systems for passengers and for universal real-time road traffic information systems. I will closely cooperate with other Commissioners to ensure that transport needs are actually taken into account in the developments of EGNOS and Galileo".

Sustainable Transport

Cutting Greenhouse gas emission

"I will work to contribute to the EU project coordinated and steered by Vice-President Šefčovič."

Alternative fuels

"The challenge now is to get things up and running. That means making sure enough appropriate infrastructure gets built so that we can create the conditions for these fuels to power transport into the future."

Soft mobility and inclusion policies

"I will promote non-motorised forms of transport such as walking or cycling, i.a. through better protecting the most vulnerable road users, and strive to improve the quality of public transport. I will also work to improve all citizens' access to mobility, at an affordable price. I will pay particular attention to persons with reduced mobility in close cooperation with colleagues responsible for EU disability legislation. I consider public service obligations to be of great importance and will ensure that they are applied in a non-discriminatory manner which offers the best value for money.

User-pays principle in transport infrastructures

"I will do everything in my power to promote integration across different transport sectors, based on the principle of general infrastructure costs being funded by those who use them. This will generate revenue and help to 'green' the transport system".

Innovation and urban smartness

"I will invite all the stakeholders – cities, large companies, SMEs, new start-ups public transport providers and Member States – to innovate in transport. The Smart Cities initiative, in particular, has a great role to play in this

regard, and I will make it a flagship project over the next five years. I will support local authorities and their partners: companies, local initiatives, foundations and others in tackling together persistent problems such as congestion and pollution, including through Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans, and to use the different sources of EU funding in the most effective way.

Treaty obligations, Code of Conduct and transparency

"I commit to fully respect the treaty obligations on independence and integrity, impartiality and availability, as defined in paragraph 3 of Article 17 of the Treaty on European Union and in Article 245 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. I solemnly declare to comply with the ethical standards as set out in the above mentioned articles and the Code of Conduct for Commissioners. I pledge to immediately inform the President of the Commission if a situation involving a possible conflict of interest in the performance of my official duties were to emerge."

Transparency

"I fully support the commitment to transparency set out in the political guidelines by the President-elect. I commit to making public all contacts and meetings I hold with companies, professional organisations or self-employed individuals on any matter relating to EU policy making and implementation."

Political relationship with EP

Equal treatment of co-legislators

"I intend to treat the European Parliament and Council equally, as legally required in the context of the ordinary legislative procedure, but also as a Commissioner who is accountable to the directly elected Members of the European Parliament."

Special relationship with EP

"I commit to work very closely with the European Parliament with whom I would like to set up a mutually beneficial relation based on trust and respect. I will endeavour to ensure that we build our policies on the basis of a wide EU consensus developed through partnership with the European Parliament. It must be a political relationship and, I will make myself available for

and take an active part in plenary sessions, committee meetings and trilogue meetings. I will make myself and my team available to engage in regular reporting and sharing of information on the activities under my responsibility and to facilitate the EP's effective democratic oversight."

Follow up to EP positions, initiative reports

"Concerning the follow-up to European Parliament's positions and requests, I will apply the provisions of the Framework Agreement and, in my areas of responsibility, make sure that the Commission responds to parliamentary resolutions or requests made on the basis of Article 225 TFEU, within 3 months after their adoption. I support and fully endorse the commitment made by President Junker to be particularly attentive to legislative initiative reports. The new Commission will look at the status of pending proposals, while respecting the obligations stemming from the Framework Agreement. I believe in the need for broad stakeholder consultation and rigorous impact assessment and will work with the First Vice-President (Mr. Timmermans) with the aim of proposing initiatives that contribute to the Better Regulation agenda."

¹ Quotes are either taken from the commissioner-designate's answers to the questionnaire or from the hearing held on 20 October 2014. In case of multiple quotes on the same issue, only one is reported here to enhance legibility. Some quotes may be free translations of the original language spoken.

Commitments

made at the hearing of

ELŻBIETA BIEŃKOWSKA

**Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry,
Entrepreneurship and SMEs**



Elżbieta Bieńkowska made a number of commitments in her answers to the European Parliament questionnaire and during the hearing held on 2 October 2014 before the ITRE, IMCO, ENVI and JURI Committees. The commitments relating to legislative files and those dealing with inter-institutional relations are presented in this document.¹

Internal market for services

Efficient implementation of the legislation

"My immediate priority is the efficient implementation of the Services Directive and the correct implementation of the modernised Professional Qualifications Directive. I intend to present, early in the mandate, a report on the remaining barriers to a fully-functioning internal market for services."

A renewed strategy to be proposed

"I want to propose a renewed strategy for the internal market setting priorities for legislative and non-legislative actions based on thorough economic analysis."

Enforcement of product legislation

Further legislative initiative to be considered

"I will consider a further legislative initiative on the enforcement of product legislation, to encourage businesses to comply with the internal market legislation on products and to reduce the burden of routine inspections"

Product Safety/Market Surveillance

Reaching an agreement on the package

"I will do my utmost to help find a compromise"

Public procurement legislation

Effective application and further actions

"I will look at in priority in the first few months [...] the effective application of the new public procurement legislation." "We will identify where public procurement fails and we will address these failures". "I will analyse possibilities aiming at developing policies to fight corruption in public procurement and contribute to a culture of integrity across actors involved in public procurement". Ms Bieńkowska will take further action to enable smaller buyers to apply the new rules and to implement faithfully the new directive on concessions."

E-call system

Implementation of the legislation is a priority

Ms Bieńkowska wants to make implementation of the e-call system a priority and remains open to extend the system to other types of vehicles.

Car-registration

Reaching an agreement on the Regulation

Ms Bieńkowska will put all her efforts to reach an agreement in Council on the legislative proposal.

Standardisation

An implementation report to be presented

"I intend to present a Report on the implementation of the Standardisation Regulation [...] by end 2015".

Mutual recognition principle

An evaluation for an improved functioning

"I will consider improving the functioning of the mutual recognition principle. An evaluation is currently under way and I will keep the European Parliament informed [...]"

EU Semester

For an Internal market pillar of the Semester

"The Internal Market Integration Report [...] reflects this need to focus on the internal market - a focus I would want to keep and reinforce."

Better regulation

REFIT programme

"I will contribute to the delivery of an ambitious Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme".

Defence industry

Implementing legislation and the roadmap for strengthening defence industry

"I will work to achieve a well-functioning internal market for defence [...]. To this end, ensuring a full and correct application of the Defence Procurement Directive is key". "I will ensure the implementation of the Commission's part of the European Council conclusions on defence industries and markets and of the Roadmap put forward by the Commission."

Tourism

A possible future programme

Ms Bieńkowska will initiate consultation in order to possibly prepare a programme for tourism in Europe.

Sectorial policies

Implementing and revising legislation

"I will work on improving the implementation of REACH, especially as regards the authorisation procedure". "I think we should re-launch the CARS 2020 process, revise the type-approval framework and give strong push for the worldwide harmonisation of automotive legislation." "I propose to conduct a fitness check of the [construction] sector and an analysis of the implementation of the Construction Products Regulation."

Industry, SMEs and entrepreneurship

Full roadmap to support industry

"Early in the mandate [2015], I intend to prepare a set of measures to make the EU's industrial base fit for a globalised economy and for technological, demographical and ecological changes."

Energy efficiency and possible package on clean technologies

Ms Bieńkowska intends to reflect on a package of measures promoting clean technologies and a market-based resource efficiency approach across different sectors of industry.

Supporting entrepreneurship and SMEs

"My intention is to ensure thorough implementation of the Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan". "I will propose to facilitate the handling honest bankruptcy cases". "I look forward to the review of the Europe 2020 strategy for growth and jobs". "I will propose a revised Small Business Act for Europe". "I want to work on an integrated European strategy for SME internationalisation". Ms Bieńkowska will analyse the list of the top 10 most burdensome legislative acts for SMEs in the first weeks of the mandate and indicate the acts that should be abolished in priority."

Tools for innovation

"I will make it my priority to create the right infrastructure for industrial IPR". "I will make use of policy tools ranging from IPR infrastructure [...] and enforcement, to supporting the uptake of innovation and technologies through financing and public procurement policy."

Package on alternative sources of financing

Ms Bieńkowska will do her utmost to develop alternative sources of financing and will prepare a package on this.

Late Payment

Enforcement of the Directive is a priority

One of her first actions will be to make effective the reduction from 60 to 30 days for payment.

Medical devices

Adoption of the medical devices Regulations

"I will provide my full support for a rapid adoption of the revision of the medical device legislation."

Intellectual property

Consolidation of the framework is a priority

"I will look at in priority in the first few months [...] the consolidation of our intellectual property framework." Ms Bieńkowska believes we must quickly complete the implementation of the patent package, finalise the on-going reform of European Trade Mark Law and the negotiations on the Trade Secrets proposal.

Follow up to legislative INI reports

EP contributions to be taken into account

"I will [...] make sure that the Commission responds to parliamentary resolutions or requests made on the basis of Article 225 TFEU, within 3 months after their adoption. [...] I support and fully endorse the commitment made by President-elect Juncker that the future Commission will be particularly attentive

to legislative initiative reports." "I consider that [...] Parliament has a key role to play in contributing to the preparation of Commission initiatives. I am looking forward to Parliament's positions either set out in non-legislative resolutions or to your input through the structure dialogue."

Impact assessments

Proposals back to Commission in case of defected IA

If Members of the European Parliament find that there may be flaws in the impact assessment or elements that have not been considered, Ms Bieńkowska is prepared to take proposals back into the Commission.

Equal treatment of co-legislators

"I will make sure that Parliament is kept fully informed at the same time as the Council on all legal and political initiatives falling under my responsibility, so that the Parliament can exercise an effective democratic control, and will do everything in my power to ensure transparency and a proper flow of information."

Negotiations on international agreements

Regular information on progress made

"I stand ready to regularly inform you on progress made in international negotiations in my area of competence."

Relations with Parliament

Dialogue will be a key

"Meetings of the Parliamentary committees and the plenary sessions as well as any other relevant Parliamentary activity are unique occasions to build and strengthen the political dialogue between the two institutions. [...] I intend to make full use of this opportunity [...]" "I will be at your disposal also for bilateral contacts as well as any other Parliamentary activity where my presence is required." "I would like

to cooperate with you in a spirit of confidence and regular dialogue, and I can only give you my very special commitment." "I commit myself to work very closely with you, with all groups in Parliament [...]" "I undertake to fully respect the Framework Agreement on Relations between the European Parliament and the Commission."

Accountability to Parliament

"I [...] undertake to report regularly and fully on my work to the Parliament so that it can exercise its democratic control effectively." "I am aware of the significance of this Parliament and its strong mandate, and I will be accountable to you."

Dealing with lobbyists

Transparency and balanced representation

"I will deal with lobbyists in full transparency and will request my services to do the same, including full use of the Transparency Register. My services and I will engage with all stakeholders [...], including in expert groups. I will make sure that the composition of these expert groups is balanced and adequately reflects the diversity of positions and interests at stake."

¹ Quotes are either taken from the commissioner-designate's answers to the questionnaire or from the hearing held on 2 October 2014. In case of multiple quotes on the same issue, only one is reported here to enhance legibility. Some quotes may be free translations of the original language spoken.

Commitments

made at the hearing of

VĚRA JOUROVÁ

**Commissioner for Justice,
Consumers and Gender Equality**



In her answers to the questionnaires and during the hearing on 1 October 2014 before the Committees on Legal Affairs, on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, on Internal Market and Consumer Protection and on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, the Commissioner-designate Věra Jourová made a number of commitments¹.

Legal Affairs

Civil justice cooperation

"The new portfolio of Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality should help to preserve (European) values by building bridges between national legal systems and European law."

"I am committed to further develop civil justice cooperation."

Judicial training

"I will ensure we reach the objective of enabling half of all legal practitioners in the EU to receive European judicial training by 2020."

E-Justice

"I will make sure that as from the beginning of 2015, new tools to allow direct electronic communication between citizens and courts in other Member States will become available on the e-Justice portal."

Civil Procedure

"I want to engage in a discussion and analysis of the options available to reinforce the rights of parties in civil proceedings and, where appropriate and necessary, to reflect on the creation of minimum standards of procedure."

Recognition of Public Documents

"In the next five years, I want to make a difference...firstly by making sure that people have more choice...of where they enter a partnership, get married, start a family, buy a house or spend their retirement with effective mutual recognition of public documents, judicial decisions and property rights."

"I am ... committed to ensuring that the Commission proposal(s) on the property consequences of registered partnerships and ... on the authenticity of public documents, including in relation to registered partnerships ..., are adopted by the legislator as soon as possible."

"I will take action on the recognition of the content of civil status documents, and I hope that this could lead us to work together on a new proposal for a regulation."

Cross-Border Family Law

"I see the review of the rules on conflicts of law issues in family law (the so-called Brussels IIa Regulation) as a top priority given its importance in the sensitive cases of family breakdown."

Small Claims

"I will encourage swift adoption of the revised small claims regulation."

Collective Redress

"I will assess the implementation of the Commission Recommendation by the Member States as foreseen by July 2017 and report to European Parliament. If the objectives of the Recommendation are not met, I will consider further action, including possible legislative measures, subject to solid impact assessment."

Common European Sales Law

"The way (the proposal) is intended, in particular to simplify the online cross-border transaction, deserves our support"..."The approach envisaged by the Parliament could be particularly helpful in finding a balanced solution."

Codification of Company Law

"Subject to a solid impact assessment I could submit a proposal for a codification of EU company law."

Cross-border Transfers of Company Seats

"I believe we need to carry through the Directive on the (cross-border transfer) of company seats."

Corporate Governance

"A report will be delivered next year on how to further incentivise institutional investors and asset managers to take long-term risk factors (including environmental, social and governance issues) into account in their investment strategies."

"I would support and encourage more employee share ownership. I will work on this topic on the basis of a report that should be published shortly."

Insolvency

"I will also prioritise another justice initiative contributing to growth by looking closely at further steps to reform insolvency frameworks in Europe."

Smart Regulation

"I am committed to the ambitious target set for regulatory simplification in the previous Commission's REFIT Programme to achieve... a simple, clear and predictable regulatory framework for businesses and consumers."

Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

European Public Prosecutor's Office

"I intend to prioritise the establishment of an independent and efficient European Public Prosecutor's Office by 2016."

"At the same time, I am determined to ensure the highest level of procedural safeguards and a comprehensive level of judicial control."

Procedural Rights

"I agree with the proposals as they are on the table, whether it is presumption of innocence, reinforcement of legal aid or children's rights."

European Arrest Warrant

"A substantial number of shortcomings have already been addressed and will continue to be reviewed, taking duly into account the 2014 European Parliament Resolution."

"Re-opening the EAW at this point in time could be counter-productive, given the divergent views which could be expressed in the Council."

"I am of course available to explore further with you the need of legislative action, should the conditions become favourable for such an approach."

Children's Rights

"I will protect the most vulnerable members of society. That means safeguarding the rights of the child, especially on the Internet, and making sure that they have proper rights to a fair trial when they are suspects in criminal proceedings."

Data Protection

"I see it as an important project of the whole Commission to ensure the swift adoption of the EU data protection reform, to ensure the conclusion of a comprehensive EU-US data protection agreement and to ensure a successful revision of the Safe Harbour arrangement."

"I strive for the adoption of the European data protection reform package within the first six months of the mandate."
EU-US Data Protection Agreement: *"Given the importance of this issue I will give full attention to these negotiations with the US administration and keep the European Parliament regularly informed."*

Anti-Discrimination

"I am determined to see the Horizontal Anti-Discrimination Directive adopted and I will make renewed efforts to enable the Council to reach the necessary agreement."

LGBTI: *"In my view we need a straightforward and concrete action plan in cooperation with the Member States."*

"I will build on the EU Framework for national Roma integration strategies of 2011 and on the Council Recommendation on Roma of 2013 and make use of all tools at EU level to strengthen the effectiveness of the work of the EU institutions and national authorities."

Free Movement

"In parallel to supporting Member States in the fight against abuse, I am committed to making free movement easier and more rewarding for the millions of EU citizens and their families who genuinely exercise their right to free movement."

Internal Market and Consumer Protection

Competition, consumer choice and consumer protection

"My intention is to fully include consumer aspects as cross-cutting issues in EU policy making and to shape the EU consumer agenda."

Market surveillance and product safety package

"My intention is to play my role as honest broker in order to overcome the current stalemate in the Council so that this important package can finally be adopted...I will engage with stakeholders and with Member States to understand the concerns and will try to contribute to finding a solution."

Digital challenges

"My overall objective is to create a level playing field where all companies offering their goods or digital services in the EU are subject to the same strong data protection and consumer rules, regardless of where their server is based."

"We will also need legislation to modernise and simplify consumer rules for online and digital purchases...notably for the digital environment."

On "shared economy" and responsibilities of internet and telecom intermediaries: *"I will work closely with the network of national enforcement authorities...to define a common approach that applies across the EU."*

Consumer protection

"Enforcement will be one of my top priorities. It is important that consumer protection legislation is equally applied and enforced throughout the Union: not only to tackle actual infringements and avoid market fragmentation but also to provide a deterrent effect and prevent new infringements. This question will be at the heart of the review of the Consumer Protection Cooperation Regulation."

"I will also safeguard the right of consumers to go to court in their home country and to benefit from the protection of the laws of their home country...I will closely monitor the implementation of the recent revision of the Brussels I Regulation."

Better regulation

"Data collected...can offer valid input for the regulator's work. I also intend to ensure that the Commission's services make full use of impact assessments when preparing new legislation falling under my responsibility, carefully considering the likely effects of a given policy initiative on consumers, SMEs and microenterprises...Prior to launching any initiative, I will ensure timely consultation of all stakeholders concerned, including relevant business and consumer organisations."

Women's Rights and Gender Equality

Gender Balance on Company boards

"I will make it a priority to get this Directive adopted and I think this should be done by the end of 2015 at the latest."

"I will continue to defend (it) in the Council to break the current blocking minority. I am optimistic that ... shifts will bring about a new momentum."

"Regarding the exceptions...I am ready to negotiate and open to discuss possible solutions."

"As far as sanctions are concerned it has always been the Commission's approach in its equal treatment legislation to set out the general requirements for sanctions – that they have to be effective, proportionate and dissuasive – but to leave the choice of the precise applicable sanctions to Member States. The Women on Boards proposal takes the same approach, which I think is the right approach."

Gender Equality Strategy

"It is of crucial importance for the new Commission to adopt a Strategic Framework on gender equality that clearly defines our policy priorities, our future actions and precise timelines for delivery...based on the dual approach of both specific actions to promote equality and gender mainstreaming."

"The new Strategy must focus on closing the remaining gender gaps in pay, labour market participation, pensions and power as well as on fighting all forms of violence against women."

"We must continue to push for sufficient and high quality childcare infrastructures, after-school care, as well as support in the care for other dependants."

"We must overcome excessively rigid and hampering gender roles and stereotypes, segregated labour markets and work towards a more equal sharing of time spent on care and household responsibilities between women and men."

"I am determined to use all available instruments: enforcement of existing legislation and proposing new legislation where necessary; objective setting and regular monitoring...; funding; awareness-raising; and the development and transfer of good practices."

"We will continue our active contribution to on-going international work, such as in the frame of the Beijing Platform for Action, in order to advance and empower women."

Gender Mainstreaming

"I will work with all my fellow Commissioners and ask them to mainstream the gender dimension into their future work, and in at least one concrete new policy action, legislation or spending programme within their portfolio" (and ask them) "to report on the implementation on an annual basis...I will then convene a yearly meeting of Commissioners to take stock of progress."

"I will ensure that the Commission strengthens the gender dimension of...impact assessments and evaluations" and "gender budgeting at EU level."

"On the issue of the number of female Commissioners, personally I would like to see a next Commission either at an equal basis with a number of men, or at least meeting the 40% threshold...it is something that I would push for".

"Within my services, I will ensure that women are promoted to the senior management positions and I will also work ... to see how this can be done throughout the Commission."

Maternity Leave Directive

"I am fully committed to the objectives of the proposal...I fully support all efforts to revitalise the negotiations."

"I am committed to finding a solution to move the file forward... I am ready to facilitate the flexibility needed from both co-legislators to achieve progress and thereby find a compromise between the European Parliament and the Council (to achieve) significant progress under the Italian Presidency."

Violence Against Women

"I will propose that the fight against violence to women forms an integral part of the next strategic framework for gender equality."

"I think it is high time to step up our efforts in fighting all forms of violence against women: we will work with Member States to ensure the correct implementation and full application of the pertinent EU legislation...We will support EU governments and civil society efforts to prevent all forms of violence, to help victims, to punish the perpetrators and to raise awareness ... through the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme."

"I welcome the recent entry into force of the Istanbul Convention...I commit to try to convince each Member State that has not already done so to ratify. In as far as the EU has competence to sign and ratify the Convention, I will propose the EU accession to it."

"I think that it is important to see whether we shouldn't come with an own legislative proposal on violence against women."

"We will deliver all the actions promised to fight FGM... (and) to step up efforts to eradicate human trafficking."

Inter-Institutional Cooperation

"I will ensure that the two branches of the legislator are treated on an equal footing, both in terms of accountability and information sharing (and) that I take a personal involvement in negotiations and will make myself available to the European Parliament and the relevant committees wherever possible."

"The President-elect has already underlined that Parliament's legislative reports should receive the highest level of attention. I fully share the President-elect's commitment."

"I will... make sure that the Commission responds to parliamentary resolutions or requests made on the basis of Article 225 TFEU, within 3 months after their adoption."

¹ Quotes are either taken from the commissioner-designate's answers to the questionnaire or from the hearing held on 1 October 2014. In case of multiple quotes on the same issue, only one is reported here to enhance legibility. Some quotes may be free translations of the original language spoken.

Commitments

made at the hearing of

TIBOR NAVRACSICS

Commissioner for Education, Culture,
Youth and Sport



In his answers to the questionnaire and during the hearing on 1 October 2014 before the Committee for Culture and Education, commissioner-designate Tibor Navracsics made a number of commitments. Commitments relevant to the Committee on Culture are presented in this document¹.

Education

Modernisation of education systems

"I want to help modernise our education systems, from early childhood to post-graduate studies. I want to ensure we have motivated and well-trained teachers, whose work is recognised and valued across society. I want our schools and universities to embrace new technologies and new ways of teaching and learning."

"This means putting pressure on our governments to invest in their teachers and the new technologies of the classroom, and to modernise their teaching methods and curricula. Even when our Member States have to repair their public finances, it is vital that they protect their investment in education and training."

"I want our universities to become the best in the world."

"I will continue in delivering well-target country specific recommendations to Member States on the need to address structural weaknesses in their educational policies. I will work closely with all relevant colleague Commissioners to achieve the necessary integrated approach towards education policies."

Europe 2020 strategy

"I want to make sure we reach our targets under the Europe 2020 strategy: more students completing higher education, and fewer pupils leaving school early."

ERASMUS+

"I am honoured to take responsibility for the new programme – Erasmus+. I want us to work together to make sure it gets the funding it deserves. In the case of Erasmus+ I have to develop close cooperation with Marianne Thyssen – but we also have to pull together as institutions."

Jobs, Growth and Competitiveness agenda

"My aim is to contribute to the strategic agenda of the Commission by strengthening education's role and its contribution to Jobs, Growth and Competitiveness agenda of the President-elect."

OECD

"I think we have to work together with the OECD in the education evaluation system."

The Bologna System

"I think the Bologna system is a success. However, it has to be refined. The experience of many Member States shows, that if the system is implemented without flexibility, it results in certain case a too stiff system. The system should be refined, made more flexible and more sophisticated."

EIT and Marie Skłodowska Curie actions

"We will continue to invest in the European Institute of Innovation and Technology – the EIT – and our Marie Skłodowska Curie actions."

The JRC

"I will put the JRC at the service of all the policy areas we deal with."

Culture

Cultural and creative industries

"I want to ensure that our cultural and creative industries can flourish in the digital world. "

Trade negotiations

"I commit to you that no trade negotiation anywhere in the world will undermine the role of culture and the crucial importance of public support. "

Copyright

"Any reform of our copyright regime will promote not only our artists and creators but also the cultural diversity that is the very core of Europe's identity."

Jobs, Growth and Competitiveness agenda

"I will work on how to maximise the contribution of the cultural and creative sectors to Europe's strategies for jobs and growth."

Unlawfully removed cultural objects

"I do not know the dossier, but I can promise to get familiarised with it and if I become a commissioner to look after what stapes can possibly be made and I will inform you."

Youth

Youth unemployment

"I will work closely with my colleague, Marianne Thyssen, Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs, so that together we do everything possible to fight youth unemployment."

Youth Guarantee

"With your support, and working alongside our Member States, we can help young people make the transition to the world of work. We will achieve this by modernising our education and training systems so that they support the labour market of the 21st century, by supporting the Youth Guarantee, by funding new partnerships between universities, training colleges and businesses, by improving the quality of apprenticeships, and by giving young people all the benefits of non-formal learning, outside the classroom."

Participatory democracy

"I plan to develop new platforms that will allow us to reach one million young people over the next five years. This would signal a real change in participatory democracy, and a real support to the efforts of this Parliament to reach out to young people."

"I want to bring Europe's youth into our policy-making."

Freedom of media

"I think we have to turn to the future and we have to make this colourful and very plural media world at European level even in Hungary. We have to give them strong support in order to keep up their services and they can flourish as well."

Appearance before EP bodies

"I welcome the President-elect's intention of reinforcing the special relationship with the European Parliament and I am ready to work closely with the European Parliament on the basis of the Framework Agreement."

"I would make it a priority to come to your committee at the first opportunity so that we can continue the conversation we started today".

NGOs

"I think NGOs are essential parts of a political system. They can integrate, articulate and represent citizens who are dealing with other things than professional politics. So I would like to work and cooperate with them."

European Voluntary Service

"We have to spread the popularity of the European Voluntary Service, and we have to fund our efforts on the national voluntary services. I think there is a big future for the voluntary services at European level, but we have to coordinate, and I will support all of my forces with the coordination of the voluntary services at national level and the coordination of the European Voluntary Service, because I think it is one worth making because it is a very good and noble thing."

Sport

"Issues I would like to support in the near future:

- mass sport with €300 million;*
- the European Sport Week;*
- fight against fraud in sport (doping and match fixing)"*

"We need to provide opportunity to Member States to learn each other's sport infrastructure development strategies. I will do all possible in order to support this exchange."

Multilingualism

"I hope we can work together to make full use of this great opportunity to promote all of Europe's languages, no matter how many people speak them."

"I will seek the support of Mr Timmermans, who will be the first Vice-President of the Commission, and we will map out the situation and do our best to preserve and protect minority languages."

Citizenship

After MEPs having said earlier that Mr Navracsics could not have authority over citizenship because of his former post in his country, citizenship was removed from the portfolio of the commissioner for education, youth, culture and citizenship. This has been added to the portfolio of Dimitris Avramopoulos, the commissioner for migration and home affairs.

Mr Navracsics will have 'sport' added to his portfolio, an area that was previously missing from the portfolio titles.

¹ Quotes are either taken from the commissioner-designate's answers to the questionnaire or from the hearing held on 1 October 2014. In case of multiple quotes on the same issue, only one is reported here to enhance legibility. Some quotes may be free translations of the original language spoken.

Commitments

made at the hearing of

CORINA CREȚU

Commissioner for Regional Policy



In her answers to the questionnaire and during the hearing on 2 October 2014 before the Committee on Regional Development, commissioner-designate Corina Crețu made a number of commitments. Commitments relevant to the Committee on Regional Development are presented in this document¹.

General competence, European commitment and personal independence

New organisation of the Commission

"As Commissioner for Regional Policy I will closely liaise with the Vice-President for Jobs Growth, Investment and Competitiveness to make sure the Commission delivers its strategic agenda. I see a great opportunity in this set up to pool the resources to ensure that the investments of the Cohesion Policy can make a substantial contribution to the Jobs, Growth and Investment package announced by the President-elect."

Personal independence

"I have always acted in the European interest and I intend to continue doing so. [...] I guarantee that I will avoid any position or situation which could put in question my independence, impartiality and availability to the Commission and I will inform the President-elect of any situation which might involve a conflict of interests in the performance of my official duties."

Management of the portfolio and cooperation with the European Parliament

Responsibility and accountability to the Parliament

"I will take my political responsibility for the activities in the field of Regional Policy without prejudice to the principle of collegiality and I will carry out my responsibilities in full cooperation with the other members of the Commission and in accordance with the working methods established by the President-elect. [...] As a member of the College I know I am accountable to the directly elected Members of the European Parliament. In this respect, the equal treatment of the European Parliament and the Council will be a must in my day-to-day activities."

Enhanced transparency, cooperation and follow-up to Parliament's positions and requests for legislative initiatives

"Members of the European Parliament can be assured that I will fully commit myself to a transparent flow of information towards the European Parliament, as foreseen in the Framework Agreement between the Institutions. I will ensure that the European Parliament receives all relevant documents and information in a timely fashion and on equal footing with the Council. Concerning the follow-up to European Parliament's positions and requests, I will apply the provisions of the Framework Agreement and, in my areas of responsibility, make sure that the Commission responds to parliamentary resolutions or requests made on the basis of Article 225 TFEU, within 3 months after their adoption."

Transparency and trust

"The relationship between the Commission and Parliament should be based on transparency, mutual trust, respect and the common goal of working together in the interest of our citizens. That is why I intend to work closely together with you to fulfil our common European objectives successfully."

Cohesion Policy reform and the EU2020 goals

Impact of the ESI Funds to reach the Europe 2020 goals

"My services will closely follow programmes to make sure that cohesion policy makes its full contribution to the achievement of Europe 2020 goals. I will pay particular attention to the contribution that the Funds under my responsibility should make to the Digital Single Market and the European Energy Union."

Provisions on partnership

"I will pay particular attention to the application of the European code of conduct on Partnership."

An integrated approach

"The new regulatory framework provides for possibilities to implement such integrated approach, for example in the context of smart specialisation strategies, synergies between cohesion policy and other EU funds or of sustainable urban development. I will pay particular attention to the take-up of these opportunities and encourage regions and cities to share their experience."

Zero tolerance of fraud

"Since cohesion policy accounts for roughly a third of the EU budget, I will pay close attention to all measures necessary to ensure that the funds are properly managed in line with the Financial Regulation and the principles of sound financial management. I will have zero tolerance of fraud."

Regulatory framework possibilities for simplification of the support for SMEs

"I intend to work with Member States to ensure that these are fully realised and exploited."

Cohesion Policy and the programme of the European Commission

Jobs, growth and investment package

"I believe regional policy will make a major contribution to President Juncker's jobs, growth and investment package – through its investment in the real economy, its capacity to leverage private sector resources and its involvement of regional and local authorities, social partners and civil society organisations."

Cohesion policy and the main Commission priorities

"This policy will be central to the delivery of the main Commission priorities in areas such as innovation, small and medium-sized enterprises, the Digital Single Market, the European Energy Union, the climate change objectives, the Trans-European Networks and social inclusion."

Effective policy

"I will make sure that the new elements set out in the new regulatory framework for a more effective policy are delivered: a stronger focus on performance, including on ensuring that the new conditionality provisions of the funds are respected and perform their role; close links with European priorities in full accordance with the requirements of the economic governance framework; and a stronger territorial focus."

Good governance and the urban issues

"I intend to make full use of the new opportunities offered by the Urban Network and pilot projects to promote experimentation and exchanges of experience."

Conditionality mechanisms

Country-specific recommendations and reprogramming requests

"There will be limited need for reprogramming in the years following the adoption of the Partnership Agreements and programmes. Stability of programmes should be the general rule, as ESI Funds typically support multi-annual investment strategies."

The scope of reprogramming

"I will ensure that if reprogramming is used it will be just to address new emerging economic and social challenges identified in the relevant CSRs and Council recommendations under the economic governance mechanisms or to maximise the growth and competitiveness impact of the available ESI Funds in Member States under financial assistance."

Proportionality and equality of treatment

"I will work closely with my colleagues in the Commission to ensure that these provisions are applied in a proportionate and effective manner, respecting equality of treatment between Member States, and taking into account where appropriate the economic and social circumstances of the Member State."

Position of the European Parliament

"I as Commissioner will consider seriously all relevant information and give due consideration to any elements arising from, and opinions expressed through the structured dialogue with the European Parliament."

Implementation of cohesion policy: parliamentary involvement

Reporting to the REGI Committee

"I, as well as my services, am ready to report to the REGI Committee on specific issues whenever the Committee would consider useful and ensure a follow-up of views expressed."

Debate about the policy post 2020

"We should also engage in a debate about the further development of the policy for post-2020 early on [...]. The budgetary and legislative proposals for the next round should be based on a broad debate with the EP, with the consultative Committees, with the stakeholders in Member States and regions and also with the academic world."

Policy performance and the results it delivers

"I would like to work with this committee to see how these questions can be discussed in greater detail and how the results of the policy can be communicated better to citizens."

¹ Quotes are either taken from the commissioner-designate's answers to the questionnaire or from the hearing held on 2 October 2014. In case of multiple quotes on the same issue, only one is reported here to enhance legibility. Some quotes may be free translations of the original language spoken.

Commitments

made at the hearing of

MARGRETHE VESTAGER

Commissioner for Competition



In her answers to the questionnaire and during the hearing on 2 October 2014 before the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, the Danish commissioner-designate Margrethe Vestager made a number of commitments. The most relevant are highlighted in this document.¹

Note: the application of competition law is based on Art. 101 ff. TFEU (special legislative procedure, EP consultative powers); thus legislative initiatives in competition policy are limited.

Special legislative procedure for Competition

"Competition area is of course special, because Article 103 of the Treaty has a very limited sort of eyesight for the ordinary legislative procedure.' I will do my best to promote a balanced view of when we should regulate and when we should use other means in order to reach the goals that we are all pursuing."

State aid modernisation

Ensure the follow up of this process and increase transparency and openness for the use of scarce public resources

'In the field of state aid, I will build on the state aid modernisation agenda. This is the modernisation which will enable Member States to take more and more responsibility for state aid. And even more important: it will increase transparency and thereby allow the public to see how we use very scarce public resources. Citizens will have a much clearer picture of how scarce public resources are being used, so it can be a bigger part of our democratic debate. [...] The recent state aid modernisation has put us on the right track, and it will help us focus where our interventions are mostly needed, while relying on Member States to do what they do best. [...] The modernisation of state aid in the general bloc exemption regulation gives Member States much bigger scope for dealing with not only minor cases but actually a number of cases when it comes to state aid, which will make sure that we have, here in the Commission and in Parliament, the resources to focus on the bigger schemes, on state aid where it has to be notified, where there are due questions to be asked.'

Enforcing competition law

Ms Vestager's values are neutrality, impartiality and rigour

'I believe that the defence of the common interest is a hallmark for competition policy. [...] Neutrality, impartiality, rigour: to ensure the rule of law. Neutrality, impartiality and rigour: on the facts, on the economics, on the law – that will be the basis for

my actions. I will listen to everyone, from the largest multinationals to the representatives of small firms; from states to citizens. But the analysis of my staff and my own judgement will not be swayed by anyone. The authoritativeness of EU competition enforcement rests in large measure on our independence, impartiality and respect also of the confidentiality in the handling of individual cases. [...] Investigations will be conducted and decisions proposed to the College regardless of a company's nationality, prominence or size; and, in case of state aids, regardless of the countries involved.'

Complementarity to other EU policies

Energy Union

'We are moving forward extremely slowly and I think it is timely and important to call for energy union to give us sustainable secure, cost-efficient energy. Because I do not think that this can be solved on a country-by-country approach. One of the issues when it comes to the debate about where we need investment is, of course, in the energy sector, both in the grid and in the capacity mechanisms, in order to make sure that we can diversify our energy production. [...] I think it will be very important [...] to investigate if somebody is misusing a dominant position and thereby making it extremely difficult for smaller suppliers to come in and supply at the lower price for customers.'

Digital Economy

'Therefore, the new regulations we are putting in place are very important because in terms of the provision of Internet we find there are market failures. If, in addition, we can implement thorough investigations, and take decisions on competition, among those who provide services on the Internet, we can do good for consumers. This is another of the things that listeners will take note of from this debate – that the Parliament insists that [...] the Competition Commissioner should strongly prioritise the entire digital market. She should do so in combination with fellow Commissioners who have direct responsibility for data protection and for

safeguarding the ownership of private data that is not to be exploited. [...] However, I think the message that people will take from this hearing is one of the possibilities and the promise of competition policy in terms of enhancing growth, jobs and investment. I also think people will have taken in the fact that everybody here realises how much the digital economy means to everyday citizens, and how important it is that there is free competition and no misuse of dominant positions. This means the world to the consumer – and to the computer as well!’

Bring competition concerns to EU trade negotiations and to WTO

‘[...] it is important that these [transport] sectors too should follow competition rules. It is important that, if there is suspicion about other jurisdictions taking this more lightly than we do, we should take up these debates in trade negotiations or in the World Trade Organisation. [...] What is important is, of course, that, whenever a business operates in Europe, it is the same rules. No matter who is the owner, who is the shareholder, who is in charge; when you operate in Europe, it is European rules. Second, I think it is very important to take some of the considerations by the front door: to say when we negotiate trade, when we work in the WTO, that we put this on the table. [...] And I think it is very important to keep also the international competition work at speed. I have found out that what we do here in the European Union is a five-star operation. That should not only be kept; it should, of course, be enhanced, and we should work with others to enhance their operation and to make competition rules also the rule globally. But I think that we should continue this debate, because I think there are a number of nuances in this; also because some of the sectors are crucial; also when it comes to the handling of patents, intellectual property rights, and how things are managed with fellow Commissioners and fellow committees in these questions.’

On-going cases

Continue the current Google investigation

‘I am absolutely certain that there will be next steps, because this is basically a very classical situation. We have a business with a huge, huge, huge market here and we have complaints from a number of competitors of different sizes. I think that, as late as yesterday, new issues came into the public debate in Germany, with more dimensions as to how these things are managed by Google. I think it is very important not to go into the concrete investigation today, but to make sure that we have the tools and the willingness to keep investigating, also when it comes to these new areas. As I said in my opening remarks, competition rules are as old as the Treaty; and that is good. But to enforce them we need to be as sharp as the businesses in the new markets which are developing at a speed which is completely different from what it would have been five or ten years ago. I hope very much that we do not have to prolong this investigation with another investigation, and yet another investigation, because I think that not only consumers, but also competitors would like this to be a competitive open market and to be able to have their services available to consumers. So there will be next steps, but it is too early for me to say what kind they will be.’

Continue to investigate tax benefits

‘I am going to continue the work that Almunia started in order to throw light on some of these [tax] arrangements if possible. [...] This is not a way of putting tax policies through the back door, but if it amounts to state aid, directly or indirectly, it is an issue also for the competition portfolio, and therefore I think it is very important to keep investigating what actually goes on, what are the revenues, and how it can be stopped. [...] we will continue the investigations that are running.

[...] we will also make sure that we can have a structured approach to this in the future too.’

Financial sector

Continue the monitoring of state aid provision

'I hope that the way state aid issues will be handled will be in the spirit of the BRRD, making sure that they are bailed-in first before state aid will be required. [...] The Banking Union will provide a lot of the remedies that we need. The single supervision will do some of that. There will also be an issue for state aid enforcement, because Banking Union is not necessarily for everyone, though it is open for also non-euro countries. There will be an issue to make sure that 'ins' and 'outs' are treated equally, and that will be an issue also when it comes to state aid and how things are pursued.' [...] The challenge is to get off the aid and get back to a healthy – and, as I said, maybe more boring – financial sector. It is very important to insist that there are still state aid issues, also when the BRRD and Banking Union are in effect, just as there will be state aid issues now when the total result of the asset quality review and stress tests are published. Probably there will be banks which will need more capital in order to be viable and to meet the demands which will allow them to come into the banking union. There, there is an issue for state aid, because there [...] are new rules.'

Cooperation with the European Parliament

Discuss early new initiatives, also non-legislative, in formal and informal ways

'I think it is very important to also have concrete discussions when we are going to propose things which could be considered as soft law and to have these debates before we put pen on paper. I think that the reports that Parliament has made previously have been extremely helpful for the Commission to find the right balance, and just talking about whether regulation is always the measure to take, if market regulation or transparency could be used. I think also, on this issue, it is very important to make sure that, there may not be legislation, there may not be ordinary

procedures, but there may just the same be a very strong influence and a very strong holding the Commission up to its promises by the European Parliament, both in formal and in informal gatherings. [...] I find that it is also important that we have not only the formal, but also the informal talks about how the enforcement actually plays out, not on a case-by-case incidence, because that would be confidential, but to make sure that we actually enforce. [...] One of the things that help me is to realise how promising our cooperation could be. The question asked about the limits to competition, and the limits to legislation and regulation, also highlighted how much can be achieved if Parliament and Commissioner work together, both formally and informally, in this field. As I have said a number of times, I will promise to play my part in doing that.'

¹ Quotes are either taken from the commissioner-designate's answers to the questionnaire or from the hearing held on 2 October 2014. In case of multiple quotes on the same issue, only one is reported here to enhance legibility. Some quotes may be free translations of the original language spoken.

Commitments

made at the hearing of

CARLOS MOEDAS

Commissioner for Research and Innovation



In his answers to the questionnaire and during the hearing on 30 September 2014 before the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, the commissioner-designate Carlos Moedas made a number of commitments. Commitments relevant to the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy are highlighted in this document.¹

European Research Area

Towards completion

"We must finalise the European Research Area and accelerate the actions of the Innovation Union. We need to improve policy coordination, namely through better monitoring and the European Semester. We need to explore synergies with the European Structural and Investment Funds at national and regional level, strategies across all Member States to strengthen research capacities and innovation."

"I stated – and I deeply believe – that the European research area is crucial for Europe, not only because it is a research, science and innovation project but because it is important for the whole European project. The European research area, as you know, represents the way to lower the barriers to actually get better cooperation and a better flow of information".

"My priority is to advance with the creation of the framework conditions that enable the full potential of European research, science and innovation."

Gender

"I will also be particularly vigilant on the gender dimension – not just because this is a question of fairness, but because we cannot afford to waste any talent."

"We need to continue the gender dimension and to fight the gender imbalance (...). So, by mid-2015, the Member States have committed to producing a road map, (...), I will be ferocious about making sure that this road map is implemented."

Horizon 2020

Implementation of Horizon 2020 and the Innovation Investment Package

"We now need to ensure that the 80 billion Horizon 2020 programme is implemented in the most effective and efficient way."

"We need to pay special attention to tackling the societal challenges faced by our citizens: implementing the Innovation Investment Package, developing innovative financial instruments (including for SMEs), and focusing

on energy efficiency and competitive low-carbon energy, especially on renewables."

"My focus will be: delivery, delivery and delivery."

Excellence research

"My priority will be to defend the value of excellence in science and research. The foundations for Europe's global standing and potential in research, science and innovation rest on the creative freedom of its scientists and researchers, especially those engaged in frontier research projects."

"Fundamental research for me is the stream that actually leads into the rivers of technology and innovation. And it is for this reason that I am such a strong supporter of the European Research Council. Furthermore, it will allow us to build a new generation of young, talented and dynamic scientists and researchers".

H2020 budget

"...to ensure continuity of payments and establish correspondence between commitments and payments."

Simplification measures

"The importance of simplification in Horizon 2020 is crucial"; "...simplification is an on-going process."

Industry including SMEs

"Projects like Industry 4.0 and others will be at the top of my agenda, because they are the ones that will make Europe a continent that will be able to compete in a world that we do not know yet exactly what it will be."

"I think that the crucial role of the Commission in terms of how you move science to SMEs is actually a very strong part of Horizon 2020. Today, when you look at Horizon 2020 and you see that – with the help of this Parliament if I am well informed on that point – 20% of both the line for societal challenges and the line for leadership and industry technologies are for SMEs. You are basically talking about EUR 8.6 billion. There is a very strong focus on SMEs, so this is definitely one thing that will be on the agenda in the future."

Key enabling technologies

"I will be watching those priorities, I will be very attentive to the high-level expert group, which has drafted interesting recommendations, and I will try to follow and to focus on such important matters for Europe."

Private investments in Research

"We will have really to focus on our capacity of going from the frontier research to the applied research and to the innovation and so I would. One of the major points is, as you know, not a problem of public investment, because what is lacking here is the private side. ... How do you get more private investment? For that you have PPPs, like joint technology initiatives, where you have private money getting into the system, and that is extremely important. So we have to find ways of leverage and to incentivise the private sector investing more in research and development".

PRIMA

"I think that it is an initiative that we are looking at very carefully. As you know, in terms of the way it can be made, we can actually talk about just one option – that is just one option in the table, which is Article 185 on joint programming. But that is just one option; there are other options, and I know that we are looking at it as we speak. So it is something that we will look at for the future and we will look at all the options."

Sustainability

Energy and Climate share in H2020

"As regards the energy challenge – 85% for non-fossil fuels, specifically for renewables, storage and efficiency - that is actually very clear and I will make sure that will happen. The same is true in respect to climate-friendly areas, where I will make sure to respect the 35% – and I repeat, 35% – of Horizon 2020 that will have to be invested in climate-friendly areas. The circular economy and the fact that we live on a planet where we have to obtain raw materials in a different way so that we can maintain our earth and our planet for the future is not just because of Horizon 2020. I will be very vigilant in those areas while working with you."

Climate change

"In terms of CO2 and greenhouse gas emissions, first of all I would say that we know, in Europe today, that climate change is a fact. So our objective has to be to have research and science that can help us in dealing with these facts and making things better for the future."

Renewables

We have to look at renewables as something that is part of our future. We can get renewables cheaper, of course, if we have more research, and we will work on that."

Leadership

"I would say that, in terms of sustainability and green growth, this should be one of the examples where Europe actually is – and will be – the leader. What we have to look at is that green growth is also about economic growth. We should look at green growth as a tool for economic growth, because it is, and because without that we cannot grow in a sustainable way, and if you do not grow in a sustainable way, then do not even bother. No one should think that, even in terms of their private life or private businesses."

Cooperation with the European Parliament

Openness

"I am committed to co-operating closely with the European Parliament so that we can effectively address the serious economic and societal challenges facing the European Union, which we can tackle through research, science and innovation. I will be particularly present in the important debates we will need to have, and I will regularly attend the ITRE Committee, guaranteeing a direct flow of information with its Chair".

Respecting the well established procedures and the Framework Agreement

"It will be a priority for me to fully respect and implement the provisions of the Framework Agreement in relation to planned initiatives or ongoing procedures, by ensuring equal treatment in my relations with the Parliament and the Council, where these institutions have equal competences"

"As regards trade agreements, I understand that all relevant committees will be appropriately involved when necessary, especially on the TTIP negotiations, which cover a wide range of issues. On my side, I intend to pay a particular attention to the framework conditions needed to ensure a constructive cooperation in the field of research, science and innovation."

Transparency

"I will publish information of all meetings with stakeholders and lobbyists and I will contribute towards the goal of a new Inter-institutional agreement regarding a mandatory lobby register".

¹ Quotes are either taken from the commissioner-designate's answers to the questionnaire or from the hearing held on 30 September 2014. In case of multiple quotes on the same issue, only one is reported here to enhance legibility. Some quotes may be free translations of the original language spoken.



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Layout by Unit for Coordination of Editorial and Communication Activities

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