

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 and Communication 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 Juncker 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.

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