## European Commission: Facts and Figures

The European Commission is the executive body of the European Union. Under the Treaties, its tasks are to 'promote the general interest of the Union', without prejudice to individual Member States, 'ensure the application of the Treaties' and adopted measures, and 'execute the budget'. It further holds a virtual monopoly on legislative initiative, as it proposes nearly all EU legislation to the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union.

The College of Commissioners is composed of 28 individuals. The college which came into office in November 2014 has an explicit hierarchy created through the designation by the President of seven Vice-Presidents, heading 'project teams' of the other 20 Commissioners. The following pages set out the responsibilities, composition and work of the Commission and its leadership, both in the current Commission and in the past. They also shed light on the staff of the Commission's departments, their main places of employment, gender distribution and national background. Finally, they provide a breakdown of the EU's administrative budget and budget management responsibilities.

## College of Commissioners

Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President
Better Regulation, Interinstitutional Relations, the Rule of Law and the Charter
of Fundamental Rights

High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / VicePresident of the Commission


| Günther Oettinger Digital Economy and Society | Johannes Hahn <br> European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations |
| :---: | :---: |
| Karmenu Vella <br> Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries | Vytenis Andriukaitis Heath and Food Safety |
| Christos Stylianides <br> Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management | Phil Hogan $\square$ <br> Agriculture and Rural Development |
| Věra Jourová <br> Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality | Tibor Navracsics Education, Culture, Youth and Sport |

## COMMISSIONERS

| Cecilia Malmström <br> Trade | Neven Mimica <br> International Cooperation and <br> Development |
| :--- | :--- |
| Dimitris Avramopoulos <br> Migration, Home Affairs and <br> Citizenship | Marianne Thyssen <br> Employment, Social Affairs, <br> Skills and Labour Mobility |
| Jonathan Hill <br> Financial Stability, Financial <br> Services and Capital Markets Union | Violeta Bulc <br> Transport |
| Corina Creţu <br> Regional Policy | Margrethe Vestager <br> Competition |
| $\square \square \square$ |  |



NB: The colours assigned to the Vice-Presidents in the above table reflect those used by the Commission itself.

## Commissioners, portfolios and project teams

One innovation of the Juncker Commission is the creation of 'project teams', each of which is led by one of the seven Vice-Presidents. The table below lists the Commissioners and their portfolios, as well as the project teams of which they are part. Commissioners can be full members (marked with an asterisk) or associate members (marked with a circle) of a project team.


## The College of Commissioners in a historical perspective

The graphic below lists the Presidents of the European Commission since the institution's creation in 1958. First established as the Commission of the European Economic Community (EEC), it absorbed two other executive bodies - the High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) and the Commission of the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) - to become a single administration, under the Merger Treaty, in July 1967.

The horizontal bars show the evolution in numbers of Member States and of Commissioners. In the early years, the largest Member States (France, Germany, and Italy, then the United Kingdom and Spain) were granted two Commissioners each, until this system was abandoned in 2005 in favour of a single Commissioner per Member State.


Data sources: European Commission; Political affiliations: PEU database, WZB Berlin Social Science Centre.

## Political make-up of the College of Commissioners

Although the European Commission acts as a collegiate body and Commissioners are required to be independent of all outside bodies, most have previously held political mandates in their home Member State and/or in the European Parliament. In this context, researchers have sought to put party political labels on individual Commissioners and thereafter compare the political make-up of colleges.

The first set of illustrations below shows the make-up of the four most recent colleges (at the beginning of their terms). The second illustration shows each college since the Commission came into existence in 1958, and shows how the political balance has evolved over time.

The political categorisations below are adapted from those used in the source for this material - the PEU database of the WZB Berlin Social Science Centre - but they broadly correspond to the political groups in the European Parliament today, as follows: Christian Democrat/Centre-right - EPP plus ECR (or EDG in the past); Social Democrat - S\&D; Liberal - ALDE; Green - Greens/EFA; Communist (no longer a group in its own right). Certain Commissioners in earlier Colleges were regarded as independents, outwith any of the European political groups or families.


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## College of Commissioners by age and gender (1999-2014)

The following graphs show the breakdown of the Colleges of Commissioners since 1999, by age and gender, based on the situation at the beginning of each Commission's term. Due to EU enlargement, the number of Commissioners has increased from 20 to 28 since 1999. While the proportion of women in the College has fluctuated during this period, it has increased from $25.0 \%$ in 1999 to $32.1 \%$ at the start of the Juncker Commission in 2014.


## Total Commission staff

The Commission had a total of 30004 staff in July 2015, of which $45 \%$ were administrators, $33 \%$ were assistants and $22 \%$ were contractual agents. The bar chart shows the breakdown by gender: $33 \%$ male administrators, $25 \%$ female administrators, $14 \%$ male assistants, and $28 \%$ female assistants. (Data on the breakdown by gender for contract agents are not available.)


## Historical evolution of the number of Commission staff posts

From the beginning of the Prodi Commission in 1999 up to 2009, the Commission's staff numbers increased steadily. However, the second Barroso Commission was marked by a decrease in staff.


NB: The figures in this graphic refer to administrator and assistant posts provided for the institution in the annual EU budget, and are always slightly higher than the actual number of staff employed.

## Location of Commission staff

The European Commission has its headquarters in Brussels, with some staff based in Luxembourg. It has staff assigned to Representations in each of the 28 Member States, and to 139 EU Delegations and offices around the world (in which Commission staff work alongside colleagues from the External Action Service (EEAS)).

The map below shows the location of the Commission's staff, with the majority ( 21496 employees) located in Brussels, representing 72\% of the total staff. The figures are as of 1 July 2015.


## Number of staff by Directorate-General

The bar chart below shows the number of European Commission employees by Directorate-General and other departments in 2015. The Joint Research Centre (JRC) employs almost 2500 staff, representing $8 \%$ of the total. Half of the employees are distributed among a quarter of the total 44 DGs and other departments.


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## Commissioners, Directorates-General and staff

The table below shows the current College of Commissioners, the Directorates-General of which they are in charge, and the number of staff under each Commissioner (figures for 2015). The category 'Commissioners' private offices' covers the staff working directly for individual Commissioners in their cabinets.

The bar chart highlights the number of administrators that work for each of the Commissioners. Vice-President Kristalina Georgieva is responsible for almost seven thousand staff, of whom 3103 are administrators, 1994 are assistants and 1825 are contractual agents.

The last four persons listed in the table are Vice-Presidents who do not directly oversee any Directorate-General or service. However, they have private office staff and head project teams.

| Commissioners | DG/Department | Total staff | Breakdown of staff (No of Administrators) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Kristalina Georgieva | BUDG; HR; OLAF; DGT; SCIC; PMO; OIB; OIL; EPSO | 6922 | (3 103) |
| Tibor Navracsics | EAC; JRC | 2944 | (1 084) |
| Jean-Claude Juncker | COMM; SJ; SG; EPSC | 1995 | (848) |
| Neven Mimica | DEVCO | 1890 | (676) |
| Günther Oettinger | CNECT; DIGIT | 1481 | (618) |
| Marianne Thyssen | EMPL; ESTAT | 1466 | (689) |
| Carlos Moedas | RTD | 1454 | $\square$ - (563) |
| Elżbieta Bieńkowska | GROW | 1093 | - (583) |
| Pierre Moscovici | ECFIN; TAXUD | 1082 | - (660) |
| Phil Hogan | AGRI | 1037 | - (545) |
| Johannes Hahn | ELARG | 853 | - (257) |
| Karmenu Vella | ENV; MARE | 837 | - (465) |
| Margrethe Vestager | COMP | 802 | - (474) |
| Vytenis Andriukaitis | SANTE | 758 | - (413) |
| Miguel Arias Cañete | ENER; CLIMA | 735 | - (396) |
| Corina Creţu | REGIO | 710 | - (349) |
| Cecilia Malmström | TRADE | 599 | $\square$ (373) |
| Violeta Bulc | MOVE | 513 | - (250) |
| Věra Jourová | JUST | 450 | - (239) |
| Dimitris Avramopoulos | HOME | 329 | \\| (211) |
| Jonathan Hill | FISMA | 320 | \\| (201) |
| Christos Stylianides | ECHO | 299 | I (113) |
| Federica Mogherini | FPI | 162 | \| (44) |
| Frans Timmermans | IAS | 138 | I (91) |
| Andrus Ansip | - | - | $\square$ Administrators |
| Maroš Šefčovič | - | - |  |
| Valdis Dombrovskis | - | - | Assistants |
| Jyrki Katainen | - | - | Contractual agents |
| Commissioners' private offices | - | 458 | - (201) |
| Other* | OP; CdP-OSP | 677 | - (144) |
| Total 30040 |  |  | (13590 Administrators) |

* The category 'other' refers to additional staff administratively part of the Commission, but not working directly for any Commissioner.

Directorates-General/Departments
AGRI - Agriculture and Rural Development BUDG - Budget
CdP-OSP - Staff committees
CLIMA - Climate Action
CNECT - Communications Networks, Content and Technology
COLLÈGE - Commissioner's private office staff
COMM - Communication
COMP - Competition
DEVCO - International Cooperation and Development
DGT - Translation
DIGIT - Informatics
EAC - Education and Culture
ECFIN - Economic and Financial Affairs
ECHO - Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection
EMPL - Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
ENER - Energy
ENV - Environment
EPSC - European Political Strategy Centre
EPSO - European Personnel Selection Office
ESTAT - Eurostat
FISMA - Financial Stability, Financial Services and
Capital Markets Union
FPI - Service for Foreign Policy Instruments
GROW - Internal Market, Industry,
Entrepreneurship and SMEs
HOME - Migration and Home Affairs
HR - Human Resources and Security
IAS - Internal Audit Service
JRC - Joint Research Centre
JUST - Justice and Consumers
MARE - Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
MOVE - Mobility and Transport

ENER - Energy
EPSC - European Political Strategy Centre
EPSO - European Personnel Selection Office ESTAT - Eurostat

Capital Markets Union
FPI - Service for Foreign Policy Instruments
ROW - Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs
HOME - Migration and Home Affairs

JRC - Join
JUST - Justice and Consumers
MOVE - Mobility and Transport

NEAR - Neighbourhood and Enlargement
Negotiations
OIB - Infrastructure and Logistics - Brussels
OIL - Infrastructure and Logistics - Luxembourg
OLAF - European Anti-Fraud Office
OP - Publications Office
PMO - Office for Administration And Payment of Individual Entitlements
REGIO - Regional and Urban Policy
RTD - Research and Innovation
SANTE - Health and Food Safety
SCIC - Interpretation
SG - Secretariat-General
SJ - Legal Service
TAXUD - Taxation and Customs Union
TRADE - Trade

## Gender distribution and size of each Directorate-General

The scatter-plot below depicts the distribution of women and men among the European Commission's 30004 staff (excluding 6497 contractual agents, due to lack of data) in 2015. The proportion of women is plotted along the horizontal axis, with the male proportion on the vertical. The size of the bubbles represents the size of each of the 44 Directorates-General and other departments, by number of staff.

On average, there are 682 administrators and assistants per Directorate-General, $53 \%$ of whom are women and $47 \%$ men. Out of the 44 departments, 10 employ more than $60 \%$ women (lower-right box) and five employ more than $60 \%$ men (upper-left box). These two groups include the two largest Directorates-General: Translation (DGT) with 2405 staff, of whom 67\% are women, and the Joint Research Centre (JRC) with 2470 staff, of whom 67\% are men.


## Gender distribution of staff by age group

The left-hand graph below shows the number of women and men per two-year age group among the Commission's staff. Women aged 37 and 38 constitute the largest age group overall, at 1001 . Men aged 53 and 54 are the most numerous among their gender, at 906 . Persons aged 47 and 48 constitute the largest age group overall.
Singling out those age groups with a minimum of 100 persons (between 31 and 64 years of age), the gender distribution is noticeably skewed. While the ratio of women is highest aged 31 and 32 , at $67 \%$, their share in staff steadily decreases - and almost reverses in the age group of 63 and 64, at $35 \%$ - with increasing age.


## Nationality of Commission staff

Although nationality is not a basis for recruitment (other than in the specific case of nationals of new Member States) or for appointment to posts within the EU institutions, and all officials are required to act impartially and in the interests of the Union, Member State governments and researchers have shown a keen interest in the numbers of nationals from the various Member States employed in the Commission.

The graphic below shows the number of administrators and assistants in the Commission, broken down by Member State of origin. The small horizontal line on each bar graph indicates the level of staff that would be equal to a given country's share of the overall population of the EU. Green bars signify that a country's share in a category of staff is above that level, and red ones indicate that it is below.

Staff from the EU's six largest Member States by size of population (in descending order: Germany, France, United Kingdom, Italy, Spain and Poland) are significantly below the values that represent their country's share in the overall EU population. Belgium and Luxembourg are substantially above that relative value, reflecting their position as countries hosting most Commission staff.


Assistants per Member State


## Proposals and legal acts adopted by the Commission

The following bar charts show the number of proposals transmitted by the Commission to the Council and Parliament, and the number of legal acts adopted by the Commission under delegated or implementing powers in each calendar year since 1999. The data shown are based on statistics from Eur-Lex.

In the first chart, the largest bar for each year shows the total number of proposals for legal acts submitted by the Commission to the Council, or to the Council and Parliament. The second bar shows, within that overall total, the number of proposals for legislative acts submitted by the Commission for adoption by the Council (under the consent or consultation procedure), or by the Council and Parliament (under the ordinary legislative procedure, formerly co-decision - COD). The pink part of this second bar shows the proportion and number of those legislative proposals subject to co-decision. The graph shows a declining trend in the total number of proposals over the period, and clearly shows the predominance of co-decision for legislative proposals since the Lisbon Treaty came into force.


The Commission adopts delegated and implementing acts under Articles 290 and 291 TFEU, or the earlier comitology system. The graph shows a clear decline in the total number of such legal acts over the period, however the share of acts amending earlier such legal acts in the total has grown, from 17\% in 1999 to 41\% in 2015.


## Infringement procedures

If the Commission and a Member State fail to settle a case of a possible infringement of EU law early by means of a structured dialogue, the Commission can launch an infringement procedure with a formal notice to the Member State in question, following up with a reasoned opinion and ultimately a court case. To date, 1811 cases have been taken to court. The longest case lasted 12 years from formal notice to its closing, but over two thirds of closed cases lasted less than a year.

The chart below depicts all formal infringement procedures launched by the Commission since 2002. The data come from the Commission's database on infringement decisions.


## Commissioners' relationships with EP Committees

The European Parliament's committees exercise oversight over the work of the Commission in their policy field and regularly invite Commissioners to discuss different aspects of their activities in committee meetings. While some committees correspond exclusively to a single Commission portfolio, other committees cover multiple Commissioners' fields of work.

The table below shows the College of Commissioners with their portfolios and corresponding EP Committees. It is derived from the autumn 2014 hearings of then Commissioners-designate. The third column highlights those committees that work with more than one Commissioner, while the fourth column shows all committees that correspond to any given Commission portfolio. For example, the Employment and Social Affairs Committee (EMPL) pertains to the fields of work of three Commissioners in particular: Valdis Dombrovskis, Jyrki Katainen and Marianne Thyssen.


## EU Budget

The left-hand side of the infographic shows the EU budget for 2016, divided by administrative and programme budgets, referring to commitment appropriations. $2.16 \%$ (or $€ 3352$ million) of the annual budget ( $€ 155$ billion) is allocated to the European Commission's administrative expenditure, while $3.6 \%$ (or $€ 5583$ million) serves the administrative budgets of other EU institutions, as well as pensions and European schools.

The box on the right shows who manages the EU budget. The Commission bears ultimate responsibility forimplementing the EU's budget. In practice, however, nearly four fifths of the budget is spent under 'shared management', with Member States' authorities effectively distributing funds and managing expenditure. The remainder of the budget is covered by 'direct management' - managed by the Commission and its executive agencies, including staff in EU Delegations - and 'indirect management', under which a range of bodies including international organisations, third countries, the European Investment Bank and other public or private-sector partners spend EU funds.

## Overall EU budget: €155 004 million



Other institutions' administrative budget . $3.6 \%$ ( $€ 5583.2$ million)

European Commission administrative budget . 2.16\% (€3 352 million)

Programme budget . 94.24\% (€146 069 million)

## Who manages the EU's funds?



Shared management (Member States)
78\%

## Notes

Directorates-General: AGRI (Agriculture and Rural Development), BUDG (Budget), CdP-OSP (Staff committees), CLIMA (Climate Action), CNECT (Communications Networks, Content and Technology), COLL̇̀GE (Commissioner's private office staff), COMM (Communication), COMP (Competition), DEVCO (International Cooperation and Development), DGT (Translation), DIGIT (Informatics), EAC (Education and Culture), ECFIN (Economic and Financial Affairs), ECHO (Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection), EMPL (Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion), ENER (Energy), ENV (Environment), EPSC (European Political Strategy Centre), EPSO (European Personnel Selection Office ), ESTAT (Eurostat), FISMA (Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union), FPI (Service for Foreign Policy Instruments), GROW (Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs), HOME (Migration and Home Affairs), HR (Human Resources and Security), IAS (Internal Audit Service), JRC (Joint Research Centre), JUST (Justice and Consumers), MARE (Maritime Affairs and Fisheries), MOVE (Mobility and Transport), NEAR (Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations), OIB (Infrastructures and Logistics - Brussels), OIL (Infrastructures and Logistics - Luxembourg), OLAF (European Anti-Fraud Office), OP (Publications Office), PMO (Office For Administration And Payment Of Individual Entitlements), REGIO (Regional and urban Policy), RTD (Research and Innovation), SANTE (Health and Food Safety), SCIC (Interpretation), SG (Secretariat-General), SJ (Legal Service), TAXUD (Taxation and Customs Union), TRADE (Trade).

EP Committees: AFCO (Constitutional Affairs), AFET (Foreign Affairs), AGRI (Agriculture and Rural Development), BUDG (Budgets), CONT (Budgetary Control), CULT (Culture and Education), DEVE (Development), DROI (Human Rights), ECON (Economic and Monetary Affairs), EMPL (Employment and Social Affairs), ENVI (Environment, Public Health and Food Safety), FEMM (Women's Rights and Gender Equality), IMCO (Internal Market and Consumer Protection), INTA (International Trade), ITRE (Industry, Research and Energy), JURI (Legal Affairs), LIBE (Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs), PECH (Fisheries), PETI (Petitions), REGI (Regional Development), SEDE (Security and Defence), TAXE (Tax Rulings and Other Measures Similar in Nature or Effect), TRAN (Transport and Tourism).

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[^0]:    Data Source: PEU database, WZB Berlin Social Science Centre.

[^1]:    See next page for key to DG/departmental acronyms.

