



Hearings of Commissioners-designate

Annex to question 5 of the questionnaire

This annex relates to question 5 of the questionnaire. Here parliamentary committees have listed priorities and requests to which the Commissioner-designate is invited to react when replying to question 5 of the questionnaire.

Some parliamentary committees have decided not to list their priorities and requests in this annex.

Committee on Development

- **Achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015** and implementing the Millennium Declaration (in particular the provisions and commitments on human rights, good governance and the rule of law), as well as ensuring ongoing momentum for development cooperation after 2015, based on an assessment of the achievements and shortcomings of past development-cooperation policy
- **Ensuring that EU development policy concentrates on poverty reduction, food security and the sustainable social, economic and environmental development of developing countries**; that it promotes inclusive international governance which takes due account of the positions of developing countries and does not become a tool for other EU external actions; and that it is applied under Parliament's democratic scrutiny and with due respect for the European Union's fundamental principles and values (partnership, ownership, human rights and the rule of law)
- **Aligning other EU policies (e.g. trade, fisheries, CAP) with the objectives of the EU's development policy** on the basis of Article 208 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)
- **Addressing the effects of climate change on developing countries**, including humanitarian response and disaster preparedness
- **Combating the effects of the global financial and economic crisis on developing countries** through financing for development (including Official Development Assistance (ODA) and non-ODA financial flows) and action to counter illicit money flows from developing countries and to fight corruption

Committee on International Trade

- **Implementation of the Treaty of Lisbon**

Key issues: Would the Commissioner-designate be committed to an Interinstitutional Agreement incorporating: (a) the due consideration of Parliament's opinion if at any stage it adopts recommendations regarding the conduct of trade negotiations; (b) the establishment and use of an interinstitutional inventory of all documents that the Commission provides to the special committee provided for in Article 207(3) TFEU; (c) consultation of the Parliament on Commission recommendations for EU negotiating mandates and other proposed documents in international trade negotiations before a final decision is taken in the Council or the special committee; (d) the admission of EP representatives as observers to meetings of joint committees convened under the provisions of bilateral and multilateral trade agreements; and (e) the full involvement of EP representatives as members of the official EU delegations to meetings of international trade organisations – including their access to, and participation in, coordination meetings with EU Member State and Commission representatives? How does the Commissioner-designate intend to align the current anti-dumping regulation and the current anti-subsidy regulation with the new Articles 290 TFEU (delegated acts) and 291 TFEU (implementing acts) and to cooperate with Parliament with regard to the provision of information, consultation and scrutiny in relation to delegated and implementing acts in the field of international trade policy?

- **WTO and multilateral negotiations**

Key issue: How does the Commissioner-designate intend to advocate at the WTO General Council the establishment of more formal links between the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO and this intergovernmental organisation?

- **Trade relations with third countries**

Key issues: What concrete developments does the Commissioner-designate foresee in the EU's trading relationship with the Mediterranean countries, the Americas, Asia and the Eastern Partnership countries? How will the Commissioner-designate ensure coherence between European trade and development policies, so that trade contributes to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals?

- **Benchmarks based on economic indicators for EPAs**

Key issues: Would the Commissioner-designate be in favour of setting up clear benchmarks based on economic indicators for each separate Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) in order to be able to determine, in a regularly conducted impact assessment of each EPA, the real effect it has had on economic growth, sustainable development, and social cohesion in the signatory ACP State(s)? In relation to this, could the Commissioner-designate indicate which indicators she/he would like to see included in the impact assessments of EPAs?

- **Horizontal issues: reform of the Trade Defence Instruments and promotion of the Union's values**

Key issues: Is the Commissioner-designate committed to a reform of the Trade Defence Instruments and, if so, along what lines? How does the Commissioner-designate intend, in the definition of the EU's commercial policy, to ensure the promotion of the Union's core values, including human rights, democracy, the rule of law and fundamental freedoms, and defence of the environment, as well as the promotion of ILO and social standards?

Committee on Budgetary Control

- **Future of OLAF**

Key issues: How does the Commissioner-designate envisage the future of OLAF in the light of Commission President Barroso's recent statements and with a view to the establishment of an EU public prosecutor's office? How does the Commissioner-designate intend to frame a proposal for a decision on the new OLAF Regulation, which is indispensable for any reform?

- **Revision of the Code of Conduct for Commissioners**

Key issues: Does the Commissioner-designate support revision of the present Code of Conduct? Will the Commissioner-designate undertake to remedy such shortcomings as the lack of a definition of the term 'conflict of interest', the failure to prescribe a course of action if a conflict of interest arises and the lack of clarity with regard to the acceptance of gifts and hospitality? Will the Commissioner-designate undertake to ensure that the Code of Conduct can be adopted, in a revised version, by June 2010?

- **National management declarations** as an integrated part of an effective Community internal control framework aiming at improving Member States' management and control of EU funds in view of a positive Statement of Assurance

- **Control of the use of funds in the CFSP area:** ensuring that control of the use of funds in the CFSP area, as well as all aspects related to the implementation of the EEAS budget, will be fully and properly supervised by the Discharge Authority under the new Treaty

- **Improvement and simplification of the Financial Regulation and the financial rules**

Key issue: What is the Commissioner-designate's opinion on further improvement and simplification of the Financial Regulation and the financial rules governing, inter alia, the structural funds?

- **Publishing a list of beneficiaries of all EU funding**

Key issue: What is the Commissioner-designate's opinion on increasing transparency by publishing a list of all beneficiaries of all forms of EU funding on a single, easily accessible and user-friendly database?

Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

Financial services

- **Present a proposal for a fully developed stability policy** in the best interests of a smoothly functioning regulatory and supervisory framework, including cross-border resolution regimes and effective capital management, which could include alternative regimes for the prudential supervision of financial groups (such as 'group support' and 'living wills') by the end of 2011, and could also include legislative proposals for harmonisation of investor protection across packaged retail investment products, as well as a proposal for an effective institutional framework for micro- and macro-prudential supervision of large cross-border financial institutions, including compensation and guarantee schemes, and a COM legislative response to Parliament's request for a European initiative for the development of micro-credit (by the end of 2010)
- **Present a legislative initiative on post-market infrastructures** in order to remove remaining Giovannini barriers, increase transparency, bring down costs and ensure EU competitiveness in relation to the rest of the world, while lowering systemic risks (by the beginning of 2011)
- **Financial reporting:** present solutions in relation to reciprocal EU-US cooperation (the US Securities and Exchange Commission [SEC] should decide on using International Financial Reporting Standards [IFRS] for domestic US issuers no later than June 2011, which is the date given by G20) and to a more accountable International Accounting Standards Board [IASB] (independent and sufficient funding by 2010; constitutional review to oblige IASB to follow advice collected during consultations in 2010; open and transparent process with full EP involvement in appointing the successor to David Tweedie – 2011)
- **Present a legislative initiative for full implementation of the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA) by the end of 2012**

Ecfm

- **Present a proposal for stronger global economic cooperation and towards a single representation of EU positions**, particularly with regard to the Lisbon Treaty and the external representation of the Eurogroup in international economic forums, including enhanced preparation and representation of EU positions
- **Present clear objectives for development, implementation and enforcement of a post-Lisbon strategy** (European Strategy for Growth and Jobs, 2010-2020), prioritising growth and sustainable financing, jobs and social inclusion, competitiveness and measures to combat climate change, and promoting the 'green economy', laying the foundations for low-carbon, resource-efficient growth with reduced dependence on volatile energy and resource imports; and, in line with the provisions of the Lisbon Treaty, present a view on how to ensure timely involvement of the EP and indicate which will be the most effective instruments for

enforcement of the post-Lisbon strategy (during the Commission's term of office and beyond)

- **Present a strategy for effective implementation, enforcement and transparent development of the Stability and Growth Pact** and proposals on how to enhance Parliament's involvement; and proposals on coordination of exit strategies, in particular how to develop EU crisis-management capabilities and how to coordinate crisis response at EU level
- **Present a strategy for the establishment of improved economic governance procedures and cooperation inside the euro area**, based on the instruments of the Lisbon Treaty (2010-2013), and for effective and sustainable euro-area enlargement and relations with countries outside the euro area; and proposals to enhance the role of the euro as an international currency
- **What are the Commissioner-designate's views on a proposal for either a legal framework or a specific legislative act on Services of General Interest?**

Taxation

- **Present the timing of the reform of the Energy Taxation Directive** and develop a common strategic approach to environmental taxation to ensure, for example, that sectors including agriculture, transport and energy perform sustainably
- **Present the timing for the Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base (CCCTB)** and a strategy for combating harmful tax competition through the establishment of the CCCTB, while investigating coordination of tax rates within a certain range
- **Present a plan for implementation of measures to combat fiscal fraud and to improve tax governance**, and follow up the issue of problems regarding double taxation (see Petition No 666/2008); in this context, propose strong measures to combat tax havens effectively; furthermore, investigate whether and how a financial transaction tax could function in the EU and internationally, and which financial actors it would cover, and make a suitable proposal

Competition

- **Establish a robust framework for permitted instances of state aid and consequential compensation measures**, with a view to safeguarding financial market stability (2010-2011), and propose a comprehensive analysis of the effects of allowing Member States to take temporary measures to support ailing sectors of the economy (2010-2011)
- **Comment on, and propose how to improve, the separation of DG Competition's legislative, executive and investigative powers** with regard to ensuring consistency of competition rules with other policies (such as financial stability policy, employment policy and industrial policy); and, in this context, study the desirability of an independent 'European Cartel Office' to deal with implementing merger and antitrust rules

Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

- **Combat the increase in unemployment in the EU**
- **Promote the social inclusion of the most vulnerable groups and address the increase in poverty in the EU**
- **Take account of new forms of work, including atypical work, in EU policies**
- **Improve implementation of EU legislation and propose action on the various proposals for directives which are blocked, notably in the Council**
- **Promote and integrate the external dimension of social policy, including corporate social responsibility (CSR)**

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

Environment

- **Preparation of the 7th Environmental Action Programme**
- **Ensuring better implementation of EU legislation** across the Union and preventing a watering-down of environmental objectives in the wake of the financial crisis
 - implementation of REACH
 - identification and action on water resources which are at risk, as part of a general water strategy
- **Adaptation of the regulatory framework to ensure specific control of the risk posed by nanomaterials**
- **Biodiversity** – efforts needed to stop the loss of biodiversity, and integration of biodiversity objectives into other EU policies
- **Clarification, simplification and Community cofinancing in relation to the management and implementation of Natura 2000**
- **Revision of the NEC Directive** (Directive 2001/81/EC on National Emission Ceilings for certain atmospheric pollutants)

Climate Change

- **An ambitious international agreement consistent with the '2 degrees objective'** as a basis for stepping up emissions reduction in the EU from 20% to 30%; a review of the Emission Trading Scheme and the Effort Sharing Decision

- **Long-term climate and energy policy goals:** integrated actions in order to reach the target of 80-95% emission cuts by 2050; legislative action addressing the full climate impact of aviation emissions, especially NOx emissions; performance standards in relation to CO₂ emissions from power stations
- **Action to monitor the implementation of climate change legislation,** ensuring that environmental objectives will not be watered down as a result of the financial crisis, and implementation of the climate change package, especially with regard to financial resources and burden sharing

Food safety

- **Specific Regulation concerning food from cloned animals and their offspring,** and its practical implementation regarding the control of imports
- **Legislation on food contact materials**
- **Reduction of the administrative burden on SMEs in the food sector** and measures to enhance risk-assessment capacities

Health

- **Interconnection of health and environment** – ensuring coherence in EU policies
- **Measures to address the impact of the demographic challenge** (with the increase in the ageing population) on public health and healthcare systems in Europe
- **Measures to improve the independence of patients' groups,** including in relation to financing
- **Legislative action on indoor air quality**
- **Legislative action to protect workers from environmental tobacco smoke** and to update the Tobacco Labelling Directive

Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

Industry

- **Measures in favour of SMEs facilitating their compliance with European legislation** and their access to finance in order to overcome the financing gap which enterprises are still facing as result of the financial and economic crisis

- **Commission's engagement with industry and SMEs in a joint effort to promote public and private partnerships**
- **Enhance the impact of EIB investments in the areas of industrial innovation and clean technology** by means of EIB guarantees for loans by regional banks
- **Commission initiatives to prevent further loss of competitiveness in sectors of European industry covered by the Emission Trading System**
- **An integrated and competitive industrial policy**
 - proposals by the Commission in the framework of the post-Lisbon strategy for further steps that the EU needs to take to revitalise its industrial capacity, promote innovation and develop increasingly environment-friendly modes of production
 - involvement of Parliament in this process

Information society

- **Concrete measures to complete the single market for telecommunications:** Commission action plan focusing, in particular, on roaming issues and the development of advanced 'next generation' networks
- **Necessity of a legislative initiative on Net neutrality**
- **Intellectual property, privacy and security**
 - new opportunities afforded by the worldwide web and the global information society, for example for the application of ICTs in health care, education and major infrastructure
 - the post-i2010 strategy for making Europe a true information society
- **Digital society**
 - 'spectrum agenda' and implementing measures
 - coordination and effective allocation of the 'digital dividend' in the Union
 - development of a spectrum single market
- **Review of the Universal Service Obligation:** proposals to deliver broadband to all without distorting the market or imposing high taxes on telecoms consumers or operators

Research

- **Key elements of the 'innovation act'** to be launched before spring 2010
 - implementation
 - fighting climate change without interfering with the international competitiveness of EU industries

- **Implementation of the 7th Framework Programme (FP7)**
 - suggestions for reducing bureaucracy and improving added value
 - structure and further development of the 7th Research Programme

Energy

- **Effective application of existing EU energy legislation** (Renewable Energy Directive, Energy Services Directive, Electricity Market Directive) and greater involvement of Parliament in monitoring the implementation of such legislation, particularly in relation to the EU internal electricity market
- **Key elements for the Commission in the forthcoming Energy Action Plan for 2010-2014**, and the need for financial support (possibly in the form of a special fund) to develop a new energy-efficiency action plan
- **Action to reduce levels of CO₂ emissions and energy consumption**, covering:
 - the promotion of increased investment in renewable energies
 - low-carbon technologies, wind energy, smart grids, nuclear energy and energy efficiency
- **Liberalisation of the gas and energy sectors**: monitoring the adoption by the Member States of appropriate measures
- **Energy crisis**: measures to ensure optimal energy solidarity among the Member States

Space

- **Fully use of the new EU competences following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty**
- **The Commissioner-designate's priorities for future space policy**
- **Effective and transparent structuring and implementation of the Galileo programme**

Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

- **Implementation of internal market legislation**
Key issues: How will the Commissioner-designate ensure better implementation and enforcement of Community legislation and encourage Member States to improve cooperation among national, regional and local authorities involved in applying internal market rules? How can Parliament and the Commission work better together to improve implementation of the directives on, notably, Services in the Internal market, Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications, the New Legislative Framework for goods, and consumer-related directives such as those on consumer credit, toys and timeshare arrangements?

- **Better regulation**

Key issues: How does the Commissioner-designate intend to promote better regulation at EU level, notably through impact assessment, simplification, reduction of administrative burdens and review of the acquis? How would the Commissioner-designate propose to improve the pre-legislative and legislative planning processes and to enhance the involvement of parliamentary committees? Will the Commissioner-designate agree to present impact-assessment studies to committees?

- **Free movement of goods – product safety**

Key issue: How does the Commissioner-designate propose to address the current shortcomings in the CE marking, market surveillance and standardisation systems and to boost confidence in them?

- **Enhancing consumer rights**

Key issues: In what areas does the Commissioner-designate think that consumer protection needs to be enhanced and what would be her/his priorities? How does the Commissioner-designate plan to respond to the challenges for consumer protection posed by use of the Internet and fragmentation of the internal market through e-commerce?

- **Public procurement**

Key issues: How does the Commissioner-designate propose to combat national protectionism in public procurement, to promote innovative practices (including e-procurement) and to improve access to public procurement for SMEs in the wake of the economic crisis? How does the Commissioner-designate intend to remedy outstanding gaps in the law and to clarify the rules for practitioners in relation to emerging procurement practices, including the introduction of environmental or social criteria, and the problem of mandatory and potentially discriminatory criteria? Does the Commissioner-designate favour separate, consistent legislation on concessions?

Committee on Transport and Tourism

- **TEN-T funding** and the need to ensure proper investment and the revision of the TEN-T guidelines
- **Sustainable transport** and the contribution of all transport modes to the fight against climate change, notably in the areas of internalisation of external costs and urban mobility
- **Implementation of the existing legislation on passenger rights in all modes of transport**, including the rights of persons with reduced mobility; and liberalisation of the rail transport market
- **Progress on aviation security** and the need to reconcile high levels of security with minimising inconvenience and costs

- **Reducing the number of fatalities on the roads, and new and efficient initiatives for road safety**

Committee on Regional Development

- **The pre-legislative debate on post-2013 cohesion policy**

Key issues: What are the Commissioner-designate's views on multilevel governance, Objective 2, additionality and renationalisation of parts of the current EU cohesion policy? Does the Commissioner-designate believe that it is her/his role to defend the interests of the regions in the Commission, as well as ensuring that DG REGIO exercises its transversal responsibilities, ensuring implementation of the subsidiarity principle and monitoring the impact of future legislation on the regions?

- **The recently presented proposals aimed at simplifying rules relating to the application of the structural funds**

Key issues: What is the precise position of the Commissioner-designate regarding the balance between simplification and appropriate control of the structural funds, both in the immediate future and for the post-2013 period? How does she/he propose to ensure that an integrated, place-based approach is taken in cohesion-policy programming and management? What is her/his view on the sectorisation of EU budgeting and policies?

- **Better interaction between future cohesion policy and economic policies aimed at promoting sustainable growth, innovation and employment and combating climate change, particularly taking into account the Copenhagen climate conference and the EU commitments in this area**

Key issues: What proposals does the Commissioner-designate consider pertinent in order to develop all the measures already proposed in the Strategic Guidelines for the current programming period (i.e. earmarking and others)?

- **In cohesion-policy governance, partnership and best practice have long been of major interest to the committee. However, practice shows a difference between the Member States concerning the intensity of partnership in the monitoring committees.**

Key issues: How does the Commissioner-designate intend to develop further the concepts of partnership and best practice in the current implementation period and after 2013? How does she/he envisage the practical implementation of multilevel governance in the new, post-2013 cohesion policy?

- **The new concept of territorial cohesion**

Key issues: How does the Commissioner-designate envisage the practical implementation of the new concept of territorial cohesion? In her/his opinion, how will it influence future cohesion policy? How will she/he ensure implementation of the territorial dimension in cohesion policy post-2013? How does she/he propose to address the current curtailment of cohesion policy, related to the separation of the structural funds and the rural development fund?

Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

- **CAP after 2013**

Key issues: What kind of CAP can we expect from the Commissioner-designate after 2013? Would the Commissioner-designate seek to keep a two-pillar CAP structure or would she/he consider combining aspects of rural development with regional development?

- **CAP financing arrangements**

Key issues: What kind of financing arrangements does the Commissioner-designate envisage for a future CAP in terms of:

- percentage of EU budget to be devoted to agriculture and to rural development policy;
- percentage of cofinancing of CAP by Member States or a renationalisation of parts of the CAP?

- **Lisbon Treaty and Parliament's role as co-legislator**

Key issues: With the Lisbon Treaty ratified, how will the Commissioner-designate ensure that the services for which she/he is responsible adjust to dealing with Parliament as co-legislator under the new codecision arrangements and how, in that context, does the Commissioner-designate interpret Article 43(3) of the Treaty, which states that 'The Council, on a proposal from the Commission, shall adopt measures on fixing prices, levies, aid and quantitative limitations [...]?'

Committee on Fisheries

The Committee on Fisheries would like to obtain from the Commissioner-designate with responsibility for the Common Fisheries Policy explicit and unequivocal commitments to:

- **a strict interpretation, in the proposals made by the Commission, of the exception to the ordinary legislative procedure** foreseen in Article 43(3) of the Treaty of Lisbon (ToL) concerning the adoption of measures on 'the fixing and allocation of fishing opportunities' – restricted to the adoption of 'TACs and quotas' and excluding any other types of measure such as effort limitation, technical measures or transposition into Community law of recommendations made by regional fisheries organisations;
- **reasonable use, in the proposals made by the Commission in the field of the CFP, of the possibility of providing for the delegation of powers to the Commission (Article 290(1) ToL) or the conferral of implementing powers on the Commission (Article 291(2))** – strictly limited to the conditions foreseen by the Treaty for the use of such procedures and with due respect for Parliament's powers and prerogatives;

- **faithful implementation of Article 218(10) ToL concerning the obligation to keep the EP 'immediately and fully informed at all stages of the procedure'** on the conclusion of international agreements in the field of the CFP – from the submission of a proposal to the Council to authorise the opening of negotiations, up to the conclusion and implementation of such agreements, and including the communication of all working papers and other relevant documents submitted to the Council and its working groups;
- **the admission of EP representatives (MEPs and/or staff) as observers to meetings of the joint committees** convened under the provisions of bilateral fisheries partnership agreements;
- **full involvement of EP representatives (MEPs and/or staff) as members of the official EU delegations to meetings of the regional fisheries organisations** – including their access to, and participation in, the so-called 'Community coordination meetings' with Member State and Commission representatives.

Committee on Legal Affairs

- **Presentation during the first semester of 2010 of the legislative proposals already requested by Parliament on the basis of Article 192 of the EC Treaty in the field of Civil and Commercial Law:** 14th Company Law Directive on the cross-border transfer of the registered offices of limited companies - 2008/2196(INI); E-justice - 2008/2125(INI); Legal protection of adults: cross-border implications (guardianship) - 2008/2123(INI); European Authentic Act - 2008/2124(INI); and Limitation periods on cross-border traffic accidents - 2006/2014(INI)
- **Adoption, via a legitimate democratic procedure, of the Common Frame of Reference on Contract Law during the present parliamentary term**, to be followed by its confirmation as an optional legal instrument, also implying in the short term its translation into all languages of the Academic CFR
- **The urgent submission of a detailed and complete strategy on intellectual property rights, with a precise legislative programme**
- **Measures to strengthen the independence of impact assessments and to enhance observance of Community law**
- **The immediate presentation of a proposal for enhanced cooperation on the proposal on 'applicable law in matrimonial matters' (Rome III)**
- **Concrete measures and adequate funding for judicial training**
- **Alignment of the Community acquis with the provisions of the Lisbon Treaty on delegated acts**

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

- **A vision of the future of European integration in the light of current developments, and a global assessment of the process of implementing the Lisbon Treaty** – including, most importantly, all measures designed to strengthen the European Parliament, including the enlarged field of application of codecision, shared powers over control of delegated and implementing acts (comitology), the citizen's initiative procedure, the Union's adhesion to the European Convention on Human Rights and the 'passerelle' clauses
- **Follow-up to Parliament's position concerning EU external policy and parliamentary scrutiny over the European External Action Service**, as stipulated in the Resolution on constitutional aspects of setting up the European External Action Service
- **Provision of proper information about European affairs to citizens**, so as to increase their involvement in the process of European integration and to promote EU openness and transparency
- **Implementation of the Stockholm Programme**, focusing on the protection of fundamental rights
- **Consideration of changes in electoral law as a possible means of increasing Parliament's legitimacy; and of measures to boost turnout at European elections**

Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

- **Future strategy for gender equality for the period 2011-2015**, following the current Roadmap for equality between women and men (2006-2010), which should take into account new challenges such as the economic and financial crisis, sustainable development, the ageing society and migration
- **Measures to reinforce the systematic implementation and monitoring of gender mainstreaming in legislative, budgetary and other important processes**, such as the Lisbon strategy, as well as job-creation programmes and projects
- **Further measures to reconcile professional and family life and measures to achieve equal economic independence for women and men, and specifically proposals to address the gender pay gap and paternity leave** – which Parliament has asked the Commission to put forward
- **Measures aimed at eliminating violence against women and at combating the trafficking of women**, including through the adoption of prevention measures and protection policies and the provision of better support for victims

- **Further development of integration and migration policies from a gender perspective** to ensure that the specific needs of migrant women are taken into account

Committee on Petitions

- **Improvement in the infringement procedure**

Key issues: What suggestions does the Commissioner-designate have for improving the infringement procedure applicable to Member States which do not act in compliance with EU legislation? How can such a procedure better address the concerns of European citizens?

- **Citizens' initiative**

Key issues: How does the Commissioner-designate see the involvement of the European Parliament in the procedure related to the Citizens' Initiative and how does she/he differentiate between the right to petition and the Citizens' Initiative?

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