**Richard Corbett (S&D).** – Mr President, let me say that the comments about democracy made from the now empty benches at the back over there lead me to point out that you, Ms von der Leyen, will only take office if approved by a majority in this Parliament, whereas next week, in Britain, a new Prime Minister will take office without the need for any affirmative votes in parliament. It’s a shocking contrast.

But will you get a majority? You are asking this Parliament, after all, to back down from one of its principles – the *spitzenkandidat* – to which it was strongly attached, so you have had to make serious concessions, movements to what we in this Parliament demand, and you have made a number. What you said on policy is significant. What you said on a right of legislative initiative is important. And, may I add, that what you said on Brexit is important – that you would accept the need for a deadline extension for good reasons. Well, let me tell you, there is a good reason, and that reason is that the British public is changing its mind on Brexit. A majority of people elected to this Parliament recently are against Brexit. Opinion polls are moving. Every opposition party in the House of Commons now, every single one of them, wants a new referendum. Keep that door open.