



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

Plenary sitting

21.10.2014

B8-0180/2014

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the presentation by the Commission President-elect of the College of Commissioners and their programme

pursuant to Rule 118(5), first subparagraph, of the Rules of Procedure

on the election of the Commission
(2014/2811(RSP))

Philippe Lamberts, Rebecca Harms
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

B8-0180/2014

**European Parliament resolution on the election of the Commission
(2014/2811(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 17(7) of the Treaty on European Union and Article 106a of the Euratom Treaty,
 - having regard to the statements made to Parliament by the President-elect of the Commission on 15 July 2014,
 - having regard to the written answers and oral statements of each of the Commissioners-designate in the context of their hearings and to the assessment of these hearings as set out in letters from the committee chairmen to the President of Parliament,
 - having regard to the President-elect's formal presentation of a proposal for a new Commission on 10 September 2014,
 - having regard to Rule 118(5), first subparagraph, of, and Annex XVI to, its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas, according to Article 17(3) of the Treaty, the members of the Commission shall be chosen on the grounds of their general competence and commitment to the European Union from persons whose independence is beyond doubt;
- B. whereas the hearings of the Commissioners-designate ensure that the investiture of the new Commission is open and transparent and that the Commissioners-designate fulfil the abovementioned criteria;
- C. whereas President-elect Juncker had to deal with the candidates nominated by the Member States;
- D. whereas, shaken by the cumulative effects of the crises, many citizens are increasingly turning their backs on Europe and no longer perceive the EU as the legitimate guardian of shared peace and prosperity, which is partly reflected in the declining turnout at European elections;
- E. whereas the outcome of the last European elections clearly indicates that the situation cannot remain as it is;
1. Welcomes Jean-Claude Juncker's efforts to build a more political Commission that is well organised and experienced, in order to be able to counterbalance the Council and defend the European interest vis-à-vis the Member States;
 2. Shares many of the President-elect's concerns regarding the dire state of the Union today and the need to seriously invest in order to break the current pattern of stagnation;

3. Considers, nevertheless, that this College has got its priorities wrong; considers that the overall composition, the allocation of key portfolios and, above all, the policy direction made evident in the Commissioners' remits and some structural reshuffles, are not what Europeans need in order to face Europe's deep social and environmental crisis and meet the challenges of this century;
4. Reiterates that sustainability must be at the core of any sound, future-oriented and crisis-solving economic policy; considers that any investment plan must respond to such priorities; remains concerned that sustainable development and climate and environment policies will remain a peripheral inconvenience, rather than a central priority of this Commission; wonders, for instance, who will eventually lead the forthcoming COP21 climate negotiations in Paris, in view of the overlapping portfolios;
5. Deplores certain choices in the allocation of portfolios that constitute problematic cases as regards potential conflicts of interest at the heart of the EU institutions; fears that the questionable commitment to European values or the political credibility of some Commissioners-designate may eventually undermine the integrity of the whole College;
6. Considers that rather than being chosen for competence, some candidates have received portfolios on the basis of party affiliation, with MEPs from major political groups accepting problematic candidates as a quid pro quo;
7. Regrets the fact that the vote by the Members of the European Parliament against the attribution of a portfolio to one Commissioner-designate was not respected and the award of the portfolio upheld;
8. Regrets the failure to deliver on gender balance in the College, which has resulted in a setback for female representation compared with the last Commission; reiterates that in future Member States should be obliged to propose two candidates, one woman and one man;
9. Refuses, therefore, to give its support to this Commission, in spite of a positive assessment of many College members, but remains committed to working with the new Commission in a constructive way;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the European Council, the Council and the Commission.