

**Question for written answer E-000829/2021/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Discrimination against central and eastern Europe in appointments to EU leadership positions

According to the European Democracy Consulting report entitled 'Geographical representation in EU leadership observatory 2021', the number people from central and eastern Europe (CEE) appointed to EU leadership positions has increased from 4-5 % in 2004 to 7-8 % in 2016. 40 % of the Member States are in CEE and 20 % of the EU's population lives there.

Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1023/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council (based on Article 336 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union) stipulates that 'recruitment and appointments should ensure that staff are employed on the broadest possible geographical basis from among the nationals of all Member States of the European Union', and that 'in order to address possible significant imbalances between nationalities among officials which are not justified by objective criteria, each institution should be given the possibility to adopt justified and appropriate measures'.

Declaration 6 to the Lisbon Treaty stipulates that in choosing presidents of the European Council, the Commission and the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy 'due account is to be taken of the need to respect the geographical and demographic diversity of the Union and its Member States'.

Given the above, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. What is the cause of this blatant geographical bias in appointments to EU leadership positions?
2. What measures has the Commission taken to change this bias?
3. What actions does the Commission intend to take to ensure adequate geographical representation in EU leadership positions?