



Conference of Committee Chairs
The Chair

Mr Martin SCHULZ
President of the
European Parliament

203057 17.09.2014

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Dear President,

Dear Martin,

At its meeting on 16 September 2014, the Conference of Committee Chairs discussed the organisation of the hearings of the Commissioners-designate.

The CCC endorsed the **draft written questionnaire**, which I am pleased to attach (annex I) and agreed on the **draft programme of the hearings** (annex II).

Following a thorough examination of each case, the Chairs adopted a table proposing the **modalities of cooperation between committees** (annex III).

Based on the decision taken last week by the Conference of Presidents on the responsible committees, the second column of this table indicates the associated committees, which should be given a share of the question time in the hearing.

As foreseen by Annex XVI, their opinion shall be mentioned in the evaluation letter.

The third column suggests for some committees to be invited by the responsible committee(s). This informal involvement aims at allowing the necessary flexibility and ensuring that all aspects of the portfolios are duly considered while avoiding excessive complexity of the structure of the hearings.

It was generally agreed that these committees will be given the possibility to ask at least one question.

It should be noted that, given the wide nature of the portfolio of the Vice-president for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, and the interest of many committees to be involved in this hearing, the relevant Chairs agreed upon informal ways of cooperation allowing the committees interested to participate.

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I would be grateful if you could submit these proposals to the Conference of Presidents for their endorsement.

Yours sincerely,



Jerzy BUZEK

*Annexes: Draft written questionnaire
Draft programme of the hearings
Modalities of cooperation between committees*

QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE**Vytenis Povilas ANDRIUKAITIS****Health and Food Safety****1. General competence, European commitment and personal independence**

What aspects of your personal qualifications and experience are particularly relevant for becoming Commissioner and promoting the European general interest, particularly in the area you would be responsible for? What motivates you? How will you contribute to putting forward the strategic agenda of the Commission?

What guarantees of independence are you able to give the European Parliament, and how would you make sure that any past, current or future activities you carry out could not cast doubt on the performance of your duties within the Commission?

2. Management of the portfolio and cooperation with the European Parliament

How would you assess your role as a Member of the College of Commissioners? In what respect would you consider yourself responsible and accountable to the Parliament for your actions and for those of your departments?

What specific commitments are you prepared to make in terms of enhanced transparency, increased cooperation and effective follow-up to Parliament's positions and requests for legislative initiatives? In relation to planned initiatives or ongoing procedures, are you ready to provide Parliament with information and documents on an equal footing with the Council?

Questions from the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety:

3. Commissioner's priorities

What will be the Commissioner's top priorities in the field of public health and food safety? What specific legislative and non-legislative measures and according to what timetable do you intend to put forward to support these priorities on both the EU and Member State levels?

4. Quality and transparency of legislative proposals

How will you personally ensure the good quality of legislative proposals, full transparency of lobbying activities directed at you and your services, consistent and balanced consultation of all stakeholders and efficient cooperation among all relevant Commission services in the cross-cutting areas under your portfolio?

5. Improvement of quality of policy output and consumer trust

How does the Commissioner plan to maintain and contribute to further improving the quality of health systems and the levels of food safety in the Union? How does he plan to re-establish consumer trust in the face of recurrent scandals?

QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE**Andrus ANSIP****Digital Single Market****Vice-President of the Commission****1. General competence, European commitment and personal independence**

What aspects of your personal qualifications and experience are particularly relevant for becoming Commissioner and promoting the European general interest, particularly in the area you would be responsible for? What motivates you? How will you contribute to putting forward the strategic agenda of the Commission?

What guarantees of independence are you able to give the European Parliament, and how would you make sure that any past, current or future activities you carry out could not cast doubt on the performance of your duties within the Commission?

2. Management of the portfolio and cooperation with the European Parliament

How would you assess your role as a Member of the College of Commissioners? In what respect would you consider yourself responsible and accountable to the Parliament for your actions and for those of your departments?

What specific commitments are you prepared to make in terms of enhanced transparency, increased cooperation and effective follow-up to Parliament's positions and requests for legislative initiatives? In relation to planned initiatives or ongoing procedures, are you ready to provide Parliament with information and documents on an equal footing with the Council?

Questions from the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection:

3. Growth, competitiveness and job creation

What measures will you take to help improve growth, competitiveness and job creation in the Single Market? Which holistic strategy do you envisage for a balanced Single Market development capable to deliver concrete benefits to business, consumers and employees? What steps will you take to enable businesses, in particular SMEs, to have access to and reap the benefits of the Single Market?

How do you envisage continuing the policy process started with the Single Market Act? Would you envisage linking the SMAs exercise to the Single Market Governance and the role of the Single Market integration within the European Semester?

4. Boosting the Digital Single Market for consumers and businesses

What concrete actions do you propose to take towards completing the Digital Single Market for consumers and businesses? Which sectors of the Digital Single Market would you focus on to reduce barriers for consumers and businesses, and why?

How do you plan to work with other Commissioners to ensure that enhancing the use of digital technologies and online services will be a horizontal policy covering all sectors of the economy?

New market developments in the digital sphere have raised important further challenges for consumer protection. How do you intend to address those?

How do you plan to reduce the barriers hindering consumers and businesses from taking full advantage of the opportunities offered by digital technologies? How do you intend to improve security as well as awareness of consumers' and retailers' rights and obligations online?

5. Smart regulation

How will you improve impact assessments, both ex ante and ex post, in order to ensure a holistic and balanced assessment of new legislative proposals and existing legislation in the area of the Digital Single Market? In particular, how will you ensure that they are evidence-based and are based on enhanced and improved SME and internal market tests?

How would you propose to improve the pre-legislative involvement of parliamentary committees, in particular with regard to legislative initiatives taken under Article 225 TFEU? What measures will you take to ensure that full and proper stakeholder consultations in all official languages of the EU are carried out with a view to ensuring legislation is fit for growth, employment creation, innovation and competitiveness?

How will you ensure better enforcement and implementation of Digital Single Market legislation and make sure Member States fulfil their commitments?

QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE**Miguel ARIAS CAÑETE****Climate Action and Energy****1. General competence, European commitment and personal independence**

What aspects of your personal qualifications and experience are particularly relevant for becoming Commissioner and promoting the European general interest, particularly in the area you would be responsible for? What motivates you? How will you contribute to putting forward the strategic agenda of the Commission?

What guarantees of independence are you able to give the European Parliament, and how would you make sure that any past, current or future activities you carry out could not cast doubt on the performance of your duties within the Commission?

2. Management of the portfolio and cooperation with the European Parliament

How would you assess your role as a Member of the College of Commissioners? In what respect would you consider yourself responsible and accountable to the Parliament for your actions and for those of your departments?

What specific commitments are you prepared to make in terms of enhanced transparency, increased cooperation and effective follow-up to Parliament's positions and requests for legislative initiatives? In relation to planned initiatives or ongoing procedures, are you ready to provide Parliament with information and documents on an equal footing with the Council?

Questions from the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and from the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety:

3. Commissioner's priorities

What are the main priorities you intend to pursue in the field of climate action and energy? What timetable do you envisage for achieving those priorities? What are the specific legislative and non-legislative initiatives you intend to put forward, and according to what timetable?

4. Quality and transparency of legislative proposals

How will you personally ensure the good quality of legislative proposals, full transparency of lobbying activities (directed at you and your services), and consistent and balanced consultation of all stakeholders taking also into account the need to carry out thorough impact assessments?

5. Coordination and cooperation

As Commissioner responsible for Climate Action and Energy, how will you ensure coordination with the Vice-Presidents in whose teams your policy area falls and with the other Commissioners in your teams and how will you ensure enhanced cooperation with relevant parliamentary Committees?

6. Scrutiny and international negotiations

What steps will you take to facilitate scrutiny by the relevant parliamentary Committees of legislative and non-legislative procedures (including preparation of delegated and implementing acts) and monitoring (follow-up) of their implementation? How do you intend to ensure that the relevant parliamentary Committees are kept appropriately informed in relation to any international agreements in your policy area, bearing in mind the experience gained in connection with the TTIP negotiations? How do you intend to ensure a coherent EU position in the upcoming international climate summits?

QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE**Dimitris AVRAMOPOULOS****Migration and Home Affairs****1. General competence, European commitment and personal independence**

What aspects of your personal qualifications and experience are particularly relevant for becoming Commissioner and promoting the European general interest, particularly in the area you would be responsible for? What motivates you? How will you contribute to putting forward the strategic agenda of the Commission?

What guarantees of independence are you able to give the European Parliament, and how would you make sure that any past, current or future activities you carry out could not cast doubt on the performance of your duties within the Commission?

2. Management of the portfolio and cooperation with the European Parliament

How would you assess your role as a Member of the College of Commissioners? In what respect would you consider yourself responsible and accountable to the Parliament for your actions and for those of your departments?

What specific commitments are you prepared to make in terms of enhanced transparency, increased cooperation and effective follow-up to Parliament's positions and requests for legislative initiatives? In relation to planned initiatives or ongoing procedures, are you ready to provide Parliament with information and documents on an equal footing with the Council?

Questions from the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs:

3. Question:

Which will be your 2 priorities in the area of migration and home affairs? Which specific method will you apply to make sure these 2 priorities are delivered?

Are you ready to participate in a question time with the LIBE Committee upon request in order to review these priorities and discuss relevant topical matters?

4. Question:

After the 1st December 2014, how do you intend to make use of the Commission powers to ensure the full transposition and implementation of EU legislative instruments in the fields of migration, asylum and the fight against crime and terrorism? How will you inform the LIBE committee?

Do you consider the existing legal migration legislative instruments consistent enough to face the current challenges? If yes, could you elaborate using recent examples? If not, what will your strategy be?

5. Question:

Last 8 April 2014 the European Court of Justice in joined cases C-293/12 (Digital Rights Ireland) and C-594/12 (Seitlinger) declared Directive 2006/24/EC (Data retention Directive) invalid.

Could you explain which first steps you would take in order to ensure this judgement is implemented throughout the Union? Would you consider legislative or other types of action at a later stage?

QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE**Elżbieta BIENKOWSKA****Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs****1. General competence, European commitment and personal independence**

What aspects of your personal qualifications and experience are particularly relevant for becoming Commissioner and promoting the European general interest, particularly in the area you would be responsible for? What motivates you? How will you contribute to putting forward the strategic agenda of the Commission?

What guarantees of independence are you able to give the European Parliament, and how would you make sure that any past, current or future activities you carry out could not cast doubt on the performance of your duties within the Commission?

2. Management of the portfolio and cooperation with the European Parliament

How would you assess your role as a Member of the College of Commissioners? In what respect would you consider yourself responsible and accountable to the Parliament for your actions and for those of your departments?

What specific commitments are you prepared to make in terms of enhanced transparency, increased cooperation and effective follow-up to Parliament's positions and requests for legislative initiatives? In relation to planned initiatives or ongoing procedures, are you ready to provide Parliament with information and documents on an equal footing with the Council?

Questions from the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy:

3. Priorities

What are the main priorities you intend to pursue as part of your proposed portfolio, taking into account the emphasis on jobs, growth, competitiveness and sustainable development? What timetable do you envisage for achieving those priorities? What are the specific legislative and non-legislative initiatives you intend to put forward, and according to what timetable? How will you personally ensure the good quality of legislative proposals, full transparency of lobbying activities (directed at you and your services), and consistent and balanced consultation of all stakeholders taking also into account the need to carry out thorough impact assessments?

4. Cooperation/scrutiny

As Commissioner responsible for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, how will you ensure coordination with the Vice-Presidents in whose teams your policy area falls and with the other Commissioners in your teams and how will you ensure enhanced cooperation with the Committee on Industry, Energy and Research? In particular, what steps will you take to facilitate scrutiny by the Committee of legislative and non-legislative procedures (including preparation of legislative acts and delegated and implementing acts) and scrutiny of their implementation? How do you intend to ensure that the Committee is kept appropriately informed in relation to any international agreements in your policy area, bearing in mind the experience gained in connection with the TTIP negotiations?

Questions from the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection:

5. Growth, competitiveness and job creation

What measures will you take to help improve growth, competitiveness and job creation in the Single Market? Which holistic strategy do you envisage for a balanced SM development capable to deliver concrete benefits to business, consumers and employees? What steps will you take to enable businesses, in particular SMEs, to have access and reap the benefits of the Single Market?

What concrete actions will you take to build on the existing strength of the Single Market in products and services? Which service sectors will your activities and policies focus on and why?

Do you envisage strengthening the role of the Single Market Governance within the European Semester exercise? How do you envisage proceeding concretely in this direction?

How do you envisage continuing the policy process started by the Single Market Act? Would you envisage linking the SMAs exercise to the Single Market Governance and the role of the Single Market integration within the European Semester?

How do you intend to ensure the correct and full implementation of the Services Directive, guaranteeing a level playing field for all relevant actors concerned?

How will you help maximise the opportunities for smart and inclusive growth, innovation, competitiveness, sustainability and jobs brought about by new changes to public procurement in Europe?

How do you see the state of play regarding the market surveillance and product safety package?

How do you plan to work with the Vice-President for the Digital Single Market and the Commissioner for the Digital Economy and Society to ensure that enhancing the use of digital technologies and online services become a horizontal policy covering all sectors of the economy?

6. Smart regulation

How will you improve impact assessments, both ex ante and ex post, in order to ensure a holistic and balanced assessment of new internal market legislative proposals and existing legislation? In particular, how will you ensure that they are evidence-based and are based on enhanced and improved SME and internal market tests?

How would you propose to improve the pre-legislative involvement of parliamentary committees, in particular with regard to legislative initiatives taken under Article 225 TFEU? What measures will you take to ensure that full and proper stakeholder consultations are carried out with a view to ensuring legislation is fit for growth, employment creation, innovation and competitiveness?

How will you ensure better enforcement and implementation of Single Market legislation and make sure Member States fulfil their commitments?

QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE**Alenka BRATUŠEK****Energy Union****Vice-President of the Commission****1. General competence, European commitment and personal independence**

What aspects of your personal qualifications and experience are particularly relevant for becoming Commissioner and promoting the European general interest, particularly in the area you would be responsible for? What motivates you? How will you contribute to putting forward the strategic agenda of the Commission?

What guarantees of independence are you able to give the European Parliament, and how would you make sure that any past, current or future activities you carry out could not cast doubt on the performance of your duties within the Commission?

2. Management of the portfolio and cooperation with the European Parliament

How would you assess your role as a Member of the College of Commissioners? In what respect would you consider yourself responsible and accountable to the Parliament for your actions and for those of your departments?

What specific commitments are you prepared to make in terms of enhanced transparency, increased cooperation and effective follow-up to Parliament's positions and requests for legislative initiatives? In relation to planned initiatives or ongoing procedures, are you ready to provide Parliament with information and documents on an equal footing with the Council?

Questions from the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and from the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety:

3. Commissioner's priorities

What are the main priorities you intend to pursue in your Energy Union portfolio? What timetable do you envisage for achieving those priorities? What are the specific legislative and non-legislative initiatives you intend to put forward, and according to what timetable?

4. Quality and transparency of legislative proposals

How will you personally ensure the good quality of legislative proposals, full transparency of lobbying activities (directed at you and your services), and consistent and balanced consultation of all stakeholders taking also into account the need to carry out thorough impact assessments?

5. Coordination and cooperation

As Vice-President responsible for Energy Union, how will you manage coordination with the Commissioners in your team and with the other Vice-Presidents whose policy areas have an impact on, or are affected by, your policy area? How will you ensure enhanced cooperation with relevant parliamentary Committees?

6. Scrutiny and international negotiations

What steps will you take to facilitate scrutiny by the relevant parliamentary Committees of legislative and non-legislative procedures (including preparation of delegated and implementing acts) and monitoring (follow-up) of their implementation? How do you intend to ensure that the relevant parliamentary Committees are kept appropriately informed in relation to any international agreements in your policy area, bearing in mind the experience gained in connection with the TTIP negotiations? How do you intend to ensure a coherent EU position in the upcoming international climate summits?

QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE

Corina CREȚU

Regional Policy

1. General competence, European commitment and personal independence

What aspects of your personal qualifications and experience are particularly relevant for becoming Commissioner and promoting the European general interest, particularly in the area you would be responsible for? What motivates you? How will you contribute to putting forward the strategic agenda of the Commission?

What guarantees of independence are you able to give the European Parliament, and how would you make sure that any past, current or future activities you carry out could not cast doubt on the performance of your duties within the Commission?

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Questions from the Committee on Regional Development:

3. Cohesion Policy reform and the EU2020 goals

Cohesion policy represents the main investment tool in the real economy, accounting for over one third of the EU Budget, and the ESI Funds are key delivery instruments of Europe 2020 Strategy's goals. How will the Commissioner-designate maintain the achievements of Cohesion Policy reform, in particular the integrated approach, the partnership involvement and the regional focus? How could the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the Funds be maximised to reach the EU 2020 goals of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, as well as to achieve economic, social and territorial cohesion, especially in the context of a slowing convergence between regions, as pointed out by the Sixth Cohesion Report?

4. Conditionality mechanisms

Partnership Agreements and Operational Programmes must be consistent with National Reform Programmes and should address the necessary reforms identified in the relevant Country Specific Recommendations under the European Semester process. How, in the view of the Commissioner-designate, would the conditionality mechanisms function in practice? How will the Commission, involved in the structured dialogue with the EP, take into account any EP reservations when proposing to suspend part or all of the commitments or payments?

5. Implementation of cohesion policy: parliamentary involvement

How will the Commissioner-designate develop regular and constructive dialogue with the REGI Committee regarding the finalisation of the programming process and - especially - the implementation of cohesion policy during the lifetime of the next Commission? What measures will she take to ensure that MEPs are informed regularly, systematically, and in a timely manner, about the policy implementation?

QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE**Valdis DOMBROVSKIS****Euro and Social Dialogue****Vice-President of the Commission****1. General competence, European commitment and personal independence**

What aspects of your personal qualifications and experience are particularly relevant for becoming Commissioner and promoting the European general interest, particularly in the area you would be responsible for? What motivates you? How will you contribute to putting forward the strategic agenda of the Commission?

What guarantees of independence are you able to give the European Parliament, and how would you make sure that any past, current or future activities you carry out could not cast doubt on the performance of your duties within the Commission?

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Questions from the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs:

Euro and Social dialogue**3. Dealing with the EMU challenges**

Are you confident that the European governance framework is sufficient to avoid balance of payments problems and a sovereign debt crisis in the future, and to ensure sustainable growth and employment? What is your view on the future of the EMU and how would you ensure the respect of the community method in all euro issues and the full involvement of the European Parliament? What will the Commission's role be if it again becomes necessary to help a country in severe difficulties? What lessons can be drawn from the experience of the Troika? How do you intend to implement the recommendations of the European Parliament in its Troika Report?

4. Convergence of fiscal and economic policies

How will you use your role to improve the convergence between the different fiscal and economic policies of Member States, both within and outside the Eurozone, so as to reduce macro-economic imbalances and avoid that progress towards recovery in some Member States is offset by economic developments in others? Beyond that, do you intend to propose a new step implementing the work of the four Presidents and the Commission Blueprint on ensuring a genuine EMU?

Questions from the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs:

5. Working methods:

How do you see the role of the Vice-President for the Euro and Social Dialogue developing over the next mandate? How will you exercise your right to influence initiatives submitted by the Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility? [See the mission letter which Mr Juncker addressed to you: *"As a general rule, I will not include a new initiative in the Commission Work Programme or place it on the agenda of the College unless this is recommended to me by one of the Vice-Presidents on the basis of sound arguments and a clear narrative that is coherent with the priority projects of the Political Guidelines."*] How will you improve the involvement of the European Parliament in the preparation of Delegated Acts, in particular as regards information on and access to experts meetings? Do you commit to improving the transmission of secondary legislation and 'comitology' documents?

6. Priorities:

What are the main priorities you intend to pursue as part of your responsibilities in view of the social and employment crisis, in particular youth unemployment, which affects several Member States? What will you do to improve the social and employment dimension of the European Semester and the involvement of the social partners in the field of economic governance? How will you strengthen the role of the European Parliament in the economic governance process? How will you promote social dialogue and the role of the social partners in the European Union as a whole? What are the specific legislative and non-legislative initiatives in the fields of 'Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility' you intend to put forward together with Commissioner-designate Thyssen, and according to what timetable?

QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE**Kristalina GEORGIEVA****Budget and Human Resources****Vice-President of the Commission****1. General competence, European commitment and personal independence**

What aspects of your personal qualifications and experience are particularly relevant for becoming Commissioner and promoting the European general interest, particularly in the area you would be responsible for? What motivates you? How will you contribute to putting forward the strategic agenda of the Commission?

What guarantees of independence are you able to give the European Parliament, and how would you make sure that any past, current or future activities you carry out could not cast doubt on the performance of your duties within the Commission?

2. Management of the portfolio and cooperation with the European Parliament

How would you assess your role as a Member of the College of Commissioners? In what respect would you consider yourself responsible and accountable to the Parliament for your actions and for those of your departments?

What specific commitments are you prepared to make in terms of enhanced transparency, increased cooperation and effective follow-up to Parliament's positions and requests for legislative initiatives? In relation to planned initiatives or ongoing procedures, are you ready to provide Parliament with information and documents on an equal footing with the Council?

Questions from the Committee on Budgets:

3. The alarming situation of payments in the EU budget

During the last years we have seen a tendency in the Council to challenge Commission's payments forecasts which constitute the basis for Commission's proposals, to cut payment appropriations in its readings of the annual draft budgets and to reduce the level of payments proposed by the Commission through amending budgets. This resulted into a snowball effect leading to a huge backlog of unpaid bills and to an alarming growth in the level of the RALs, in clear contradiction to the Council statements and the European Council conclusions.

Which future steps do you envisage to convince the budgetary authority of the reliability of Commission's figures, which constitute the undisputable basis for the level of the payments appropriations proposed?

Which concrete measures will you put into practice to solve the alarming situation in payments and to arrest the abnormal increase of the RAL?

In this context the Parliament and the Commission have consistently defended the application of maximum possible flexibility in the implementation of the MFF. This has resulted in a number of new provisions in the MFF Regulation, some of which nevertheless appear to leave some margins of interpretation. In particular, payments on the special instruments are for both the Commission and the Parliament to be counted over and above the MFF payment ceilings. There is however no indication from Council that it would accept such interpretation, rather the contrary. This results in a ludicrous situation where both arms of the budget authority take budgetary decisions considering different margins in payments at their disposal.

What is your assessment of this situation and what concrete steps do you envisage to convince the Council and avoid any blockage in the future?

4. Post-electoral revision of the MFF and reform of the system of own resources

Parliament continuously defended the principle of a post-electoral revision of the 2014-2020 MFF, which is now enshrined in article 2 of the MFF Regulation and in a number of Commission's statements, the last one being the unilateral declaration of December 2013. In his speech to the European Parliament on 15 July, President-elect Juncker pointed out that this mid-term review "should be used to orient the EU budget further towards jobs, growth and competitiveness".

With reference to the above, could you provide details as to the expected timing of the presentation of Commission's legislative proposal for the revision of the MFF regulation, as well as on whether and how do you envisage engaging in a genuine and deep political dialogue with Parliament on its contents?

As to the possible contents of the revision, do you believe it would need to address the continuation and proper funding of frontloaded programmes, such as the Youth Employment Initiative, emerging priorities such as, most recently, the EU-wide investment plans agreed by the June 2014 European Council or the Ukrainian crisis, the increasing level of RALs and the persisting problem of payments?

The European Parliament attaches a great importance to the reform of the own resources of the EU budget. Which follow-up do you intend to ensure to the proposals put forward by the former Commission? In particular, how do you plan to use the post-electoral revision of the MFF as an occasion to examine and propose new own resources? What could, in your view, be potential candidates for new OR and what would be the criteria for selecting them?

Would the proposal for a new VAT of 2011 be part of such a package despite the regrettable lack of Council's consideration for it?

How do you see the future of the FTT under enhanced cooperation and the possibility for making part of its proceeds available to the EU budget in the form of an own resource?

Are you ready to guarantee that the High Level Group chaired by Mario Monti can rely on a high degree of cooperation from the Commission? In particular how do you intend to ensure a close cooperation with the representatives of the European Parliament?

Questions from the Committee on Budgetary Control:

5. General

What are the main priorities you intend to pursue as part of your proposed portfolio in relation to the policy positions of the European Parliament, as prepared by the Committee on budgetary control?

Also with particular regard to the binding commitments referred to by point 57 of the resolution accompanying the Parliament decision on the Commission discharge for 2012? Please specify the specific legislative and non-legislative initiatives you intend to put forward, and according to what time table as well as the concrete actions you intend to take in order to strengthen both compliance and performance dimensions of the Declaration of Assurance issued by the European Court of Auditors each year.

Regarding 'shared management', what mechanisms do you have in your 'portfolio' to encourage Member States and international organisations to shoulder their responsibility for the management and control of European funds and do you intend to take any initiative to set up new mechanisms designed to protect and control the management of the EU budget in ever more complex and sophisticated financial instruments? In addition how do you intend to monitor management of EIB?

How do you strike the balance between your responsibility to combat fraud and corruption, including protection for 'whistleblowers', and the protection of fundamental and procedural rights and data of individual citizens?

How will you safeguard the EU's 'own resources' which are at risk from smuggling, tax havens, and VAT fraud?

6. Transparency and accountability of public spending

All financial beneficiaries of EU funds are disclosed in the financial transparency system that covers the funds directly managed by the Commission and on the homepages of the responsible Member States authorities for funds under shared Management. This leaves citizens with a multitude of databases to check. How will you increase the transparency of European spending in general and when will you provide a central searchable database, which will provide all the information, at least in one of the working languages of the Union, on beneficiaries, the publication of which is required by the financial regulation?

Which steps will you take in order to ensure more balanced representation of the various stakeholders in the expert groups run by the services for which you would become responsible? Do you think that the existing rules for expert groups are sufficiently clear or should they be clarified and complemented?

What measures will you take to make the registration of professional lobbyists compulsory?

The standard clearance of accounts procedure under the Common Agricultural Policy and Regional Policy takes more than 6 years to be closed. Furthermore weaknesses in the Member States' management and control systems for structural funds spent under their responsibility persist over years. Cases concerning fraud or irregularities take several years to be brought to justice. How will you shorten the response time to administrative errors, mismanagement and lack of effective control? What indicative time frame will you set yourself?

QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE**Johannes HAHN****European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations****1. General competence, European commitment and personal independence**

What aspects of your personal qualifications and experience are particularly relevant for becoming Commissioner and promoting the European general interest, particularly in the area you would be responsible for? What motivates you? How will you contribute to putting forward the strategic agenda of the Commission?

What guarantees of independence are you able to give the European Parliament, and how would you make sure that any past, current or future activities you carry out could not cast doubt on the performance of your duties within the Commission?

2. Management of the portfolio and cooperation with the European Parliament

How would you assess your role as a Member of the College of Commissioners? In what respect would you consider yourself responsible and accountable to the Parliament for your actions and for those of your departments?

What specific commitments are you prepared to make in terms of enhanced transparency, increased cooperation and effective follow-up to Parliament's positions and requests for legislative initiatives? In relation to planned initiatives or ongoing procedures, are you ready to provide Parliament with information and documents on an equal footing with the Council?

Questions from the Committee on Foreign Affairs:

3. On inter-institutional relations:

With a view to ensuring appropriate parliamentary scrutiny, can you commit to ensure a better flow (type, frequency, content) of information shared by EU delegations in enlargement countries and neighbouring countries (including political reporting)? Which actions will you take to ensure that this Committee is proactively and systematically provided with concrete information about all stages of the negotiations, signature and implementation of international agreements? How do you intend to assist this Committee in the monitoring of the implementation of these agreements?

Neighbourhood policy being the corner-stone of EU foreign policy, how do you see the division of tasks with the High Representative/Vice President of the Commission on the neighbourhood policy? Which actions do you intend to take to ensure coherence of EU's external policies and improve policy formulation?

In line with the provisions contained in the legal basis of ENI and IPA, can you confirm that the Commission will adopt amending delegated acts at mid-term review to confirm or amend the priorities defined in their annexes? How do you intend to engage in the Strategic Dialogue with this Committee?

4. Policy framework for Neighbourhood:

Do you consider the current policy framework covering under a single umbrella 16 countries from Morocco to Ukraine still relevant, given diverging prospects for political stability, security, capacity for reform and commitments to reform? What concrete initiatives will you present to reform the Neighbourhood policy, and how do you intend to follow up on European Parliament's resolutions on the matter?

To what extent would you introduce some further differentiation (political, financial etc.) on the basis of needs, merits and EU priorities? Which groups of countries would you then envisage for policy differentiation, both in the Southern and in the Eastern Neighbourhoods? How will you ensure the implementation of the Human Rights conditionality in Neighbourhood Policy?

Bearing in mind that strong democratic principles and a solid civil society remain an objective for all countries of the Neighbourhood, which policy tools, positive leverage and rewards would you foresee for countries that are particularly effective in their reform process?

5. Policy framework for Enlargement:

Which actions do you intend to take to maintain the momentum of enlargement and keep the respective countries focused on preparation for accession? What further actions do you intend to take to develop socio-economic transformation, including economic governance, democracy, the rule of law, including the independence of the judiciary, and the fight against corruption in enlargement countries?

Should an enlargement country take measures or adopt policies that are not in line or compatible with the acquis, values and principles of the EU, which concrete steps would you take?

What concrete proposals would you make to ensure that enlargement policy is coordinated, coherent and consistent with other policy instruments of EU foreign policy? To what extent could enlargement and neighbourhood policies interact (principles, policy frameworks, financial incentives etc.) and help define a potential intermediate status between enlargement and neighbouring countries?

QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE**Jonathan HILL****Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union****1. General competence, European commitment and personal independence**

What aspects of your personal qualifications and experience are particularly relevant for becoming Commissioner and promoting the European general interest, particularly in the area you would be responsible for? What motivates you? How will you contribute to putting forward the strategic agenda of the Commission?

What guarantees of independence are you able to give the European Parliament, and how would you make sure that any past, current or future activities you carry out could not cast doubt on the performance of your duties within the Commission?

2. Management of the portfolio and cooperation with the European Parliament

How would you assess your role as a Member of the College of Commissioners? In what respect would you consider yourself responsible and accountable to the Parliament for your actions and for those of your departments?

What specific commitments are you prepared to make in terms of enhanced transparency, increased cooperation and effective follow-up to Parliament's positions and requests for legislative initiatives? In relation to planned initiatives or ongoing procedures, are you ready to provide Parliament with information and documents on an equal footing with the Council?

Questions from the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs:

3. Financial services and Banking Union

What should be the main political objectives for future regulation of the financial sector during the next mandate of the Commission? The Banking Union is close to being completed and is one of the most relevant projects for the future of the euro area. What is your assessment of the Banking Union and what are the next steps for the completion of the Banking Union?

4. Financial services: Euro area vs. non-euro area

How do you envisage the relationship between the euro area and non-euro area Member States within your important economic brief, in the context of the Single Market? In the perspective of the Banking Union and financial services, how do you intend to handle the most probable differences and problems that will arise between euro area and non-euro area Member States, whilst ensuring consistency between the Monetary Union and the Single Market?

5. Community method

How do you intend to guarantee the respect of the Community method as well as the role of the European Parliament in financial legislation, including in scrutinising delegated/implementing acts, bearing in mind that your home Member State is advocating against existing European Union legislation, in particular with regard to

QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE

Phil HOGAN

Agriculture and Rural Development

1. General competence, European commitment and personal independence

What aspects of your personal qualifications and experience are particularly relevant for becoming Commissioner and promoting the European general interest, particularly in the area you would be responsible for? What motivates you? How will you contribute to putting forward the strategic agenda of the Commission?

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Questions from the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development:

3. Preserving Parliament's prerogatives according to the Treaty (Article 43(3) and delegated acts)

Are you committed to ensure that Parliament's prerogatives according to the Treaty are strictly preserved? Firstly, with regard to legislative process, will you commit to stand firm on a very strict interpretation of Article 43(3) TFEU and against any Council attempt to reduce Parliament's prerogatives under the Ordinary Legislative Procedure? Secondly, with regard to non-legislative acts, in order to allow for an improved Parliamentary scrutiny of delegated acts, will you commit to ensure that your services treat Parliament and Member States on an equal footing, *inter alia* by ensuring easy access to meetings of the expert groups and the simultaneous transmission of documents under consideration? Will you put in place a well-structured public register of draft delegated acts and other relevant documents under consideration in the expert groups, in order to increase transparency of decision-making for the Parliament and the public? Are you prepared to discuss in our Committee, at its request, draft delegated acts in advance of their formal adoption? How will you make sure that Parliament's views are appropriately taken into account?

4. Involving the AGRI Committee in negotiations on the agricultural component of international trade agreements

What specific commitments are you willing to make concerning the involvement of the AGRI Committee at all stages of the negotiations on the agricultural component of international trade agreements (bilateral and multilateral)? What assurances can you provide to guarantee that if you are confirmed as Commissioner for

Agriculture and Rural Development that you will continue to retain the role of EU lead negotiator on agricultural trade in the context of the WTO negotiations?

5. Reducing bureaucracy and committing to a mid-term review of the new CAP

Our Committee has always considered the bureaucratic and administrative simplification of the Common Agricultural Policy as a priority. The reform of the CAP, unfortunately, despite Parliament's proposals, has increased the red tape both farmers and Member States have to face. What measures do you intend to enact in order to effectively reduce this excessive bureaucracy? In particular, will you commit to undertake a mid-term review of the new CAP to improve this bureaucracy and other problems related to it?

QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE

Věra JOUROVÁ

Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality

1. General competence, European commitment and personal independence

What aspects of your personal qualifications and experience are particularly relevant for becoming Commissioner and promoting the European general interest, particularly in the area you would be responsible for? What motivates you? How will you contribute to putting forward the strategic agenda of the Commission?

What guarantees of independence are you able to give the European Parliament, and how would you make sure that any past, current or future activities you carry out could not cast doubt on the performance of your duties within the Commission?

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What specific commitments are you prepared to make in terms of enhanced transparency, increased cooperation and effective follow-up to Parliament's positions and requests for legislative initiatives? In relation to planned initiatives or ongoing procedures, are you ready to provide Parliament with information and documents on an equal footing with the Council?

Questions from the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection:

3. Consumer protection, enforcement of consumer rights and redress

How will you promote enhanced competition, consumer choice and consumer protection in the sectors under your responsibility?

How do you see the state of play regarding the market surveillance and product safety package?

New market developments in the digital sphere, such as the data-driven economy and the emergence of shared economy services, have raised important further challenges for consumer protection. How do you intend to address those?

Which further measures do you envisage in order to achieve effective enforcement and redress for consumers and compliant businesses apart from the alternative dispute resolution mechanisms?

4. Smart regulation

How will you improve impact assessments, both ex ante and ex post, in order to ensure a holistic and balanced assessment of new legislative proposals and existing legislation in the area of consumer protection? In particular, how will you ensure that they are evidence-based and are based on enhanced and improved SME and internal market tests?

How would you propose to improve the pre-legislative involvement of parliamentary committees, in particular with regard to legislative initiatives taken under Article 225 TFEU? What measures will you take to ensure that full and proper stakeholder consultations are carried out with a view to ensuring regulations are fit for growth, employment creation, innovation and competitiveness?

How will you ensure better enforcement and implementation of consumer rights and make sure Member States fulfil their commitments?

Questions from the Committee on Legal Affairs:

5. Civil justice

The strategic guidelines for the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice adopted by the European Council in June 2014 provide, in particular, for further action at European level to enhance the mutual recognition of judgments and decisions and to facilitate their enforcement. The guidelines also call for better exchange of information and cooperation between authorities.

The European Parliament, the European Council and the European Commission have in the past all agreed on the importance of modernising the justice system and improving judicial training with a European perspective. The European Commission carried out a pilot programme in this field over the last two years.

How does the Commissioner-designate intend to further promote cooperation on civil justice matters at European level? In particular, what specific legislative proposals are envisaged? What new initiatives will the Commissioner-designate take in the field of e-Justice and judicial training, which are important for mutual trust and thus mutual recognition?

6. Corporate governance

In 2012 the Commission presented an Action Plan on European company law and corporate governance, based on the principle that company law and corporate governance should make sure that companies are competitive and sustainable. The action plan was disappointingly only partly implemented and some of the proposals announced were never presented. Sustainable and competitive companies are indeed essential to recovery of the EU economy, the creation of growth and the promotion of innovation, long-term investment and employment. What would be in your view a sound corporate governance policy and what measures do you intend to put forward to push EU companies to attain high standards in corporate governance and corporate social responsibility in terms of promoting balance of income and wealth?

Questions from the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs:

7. Question:

What will be your 2 priorities in the area of judicial cooperation in criminal matters and of data protection? Which specific method will you apply to make sure these 2 priorities are delivered?

Are you ready to participate in a question time with the LIBE Committee upon request to review these priorities and discuss relevant topical matters?

8. Question:

Among the key issues identified in your portfolio, could you indicate:

What steps are you planning to ensure a successful adoption of the horizontal anti-discrimination directive under your term?

Should the current negotiations on the EU-US agreement for data protection in the framework of judicial and police cooperation for criminal matters (so-called "Umbrella agreement") come to an end, do you intend to

proceed to the provisional application of the agreement before its conclusion in case the US legislation required to grant EU citizens the rights of administrative and judicial redress would be still pending?

Questions from the Committee on Women's Rights & Gender Equality:

9. Future Strategy for gender equality post 2015

Considering the current Strategy for equality between women and men (2010-2015), what is your evaluation of its failures and successes? Based on a thorough evaluation, what would be your concrete proposals as regards a future Strategy for gender equality for the period 2015-2020 and beyond? How would it take into account new challenges, cover all areas of action for gender equality, be integrated in the international post 2015 framework for women's rights and gender equality and correlate effectively with other policy areas of the EU?

10. Gender mainstreaming

How do you envisage to include the gender perspective in your policy area and what would you do concretely in view of reinforcing the systematic implementation and monitoring of gender mainstreaming in the policies and programs of the EU, in legislative but also budgetary processes and at all levels and stages of decision making ?

How would you plan to cooperate with the other commissioners in order to reinforce gender mainstreaming in all policy areas?

QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE**Jyrki KATAINEN****Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness****Vice-President of the Commission****1. General competence, European commitment and personal independence**

What aspects of your personal qualifications and experience are particularly relevant for becoming Commissioner and promoting the European general interest, particularly in the area you would be responsible for? What motivates you? How will you contribute to putting forward the strategic agenda of the Commission?

What guarantees of independence are you able to give the European Parliament, and how would you make sure that any past, current or future activities you carry out could not cast doubt on the performance of your duties within the Commission?

2. Management of the portfolio and cooperation with the European Parliament

How would you assess your role as a Member of the College of Commissioners? In what respect would you consider yourself responsible and accountable to the Parliament for your actions and for those of your departments?

What specific commitments are you prepared to make in terms of enhanced transparency, increased cooperation and effective follow-up to Parliament's positions and requests for legislative initiatives? In relation to planned initiatives or ongoing procedures, are you ready to provide Parliament with information and documents on an equal footing with the Council?

Questions from the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs:

3. Investment package

How in the coming 3 months will you deliver the investment package announced in the Political guidelines presented by the elected president of the Commission? What concrete steps are you going to take? Which instruments will you use and/or create in that perspective? How will you involve the European Parliament?

4. Competitiveness

Jobs, growth, investment and competitiveness are at the core of country-specific recommendations, but Member States have been slow to implement these recommendations. What has to be done in this field? How will you improve the competitive position of Europe in the global economy? In view of this goal, how do you see your role as regards the various areas of responsibility that fall under your portfolio, inter alia creating a climate of entrepreneurship that is a precondition to job creation within the European Union? What concrete steps will you take to promote a better environment for entrepreneurship?

Questions from the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs:

5. Working methods:

How do you see the role of the Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness developing over the next mandate? How will you exercise your right to influence initiatives submitted by the Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility? [See the mission letter which Mr Juncker addressed to you: "*As a general rule, I will not include a new initiative in the Commission Work Programme or place it on the agenda of the College unless this is recommended to me by one of the Vice-Presidents on the basis of sound arguments and a clear narrative that is coherent with the priority projects of the Political Guidelines.*"] How will you improve the involvement of the European Parliament in the preparation of Delegated Acts, in particular as regards information on and access to experts meetings? Do you commit to improving the transmission of secondary legislation and 'comitology' documents?

6. Priorities:

What are the main priorities you intend to pursue as part of your responsibilities in view of the social and employment crisis, in particular youth unemployment, which affects several Member States? What will you do to improve the social and employment dimension of the Europe 2020 Strategy and to achieve its' goal to effectively create quality jobs? How do you see the balance between economic freedoms and fundamental social rights in Europe? How will you ensure President Juncker's statement in his political guidelines that "*social dumping has no place in the European Union*" and that "*the same work in the same place should be remunerated in the same manner*"? What are the specific legislative and non-legislative initiatives in the fields of 'Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility' you intend to put forward together with Commissioner-designate Thyssen, and according to what timetable?

Questions from the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy:

7. Priorities

What are the main priorities you intend to pursue as part of your proposed portfolio, taking into account the emphasis on jobs, growth, competitiveness and sustainable development? What timetable do you envisage for achieving those priorities? What are the specific legislative and non-legislative initiatives you intend to put forward, and according to what timetable? How will you personally ensure the good quality of legislative proposals, full transparency of lobbying activities (directed at you and your services), and consistent and balanced consultation of all stakeholders taking also into account the need to carry out thorough impact assessments?

8. Cooperation/scrutiny

As Vice-President responsible for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, how will you manage coordination with the Commissioners in your team and with the other Vice-Presidents whose policy areas have an impact on, or are affected by, your policy area? In addition, how will you ensure enhanced cooperation with the Committee on Industry, Energy and Research? In particular, what steps will you take to facilitate scrutiny by the Committee of legislative and non-legislative procedures (including preparation of legislative acts and delegated and implementing acts) and scrutiny of their implementation?

QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE

Cecilia MALMSTRÖM

Trade

1. General competence, European commitment and personal independence

What aspects of your personal qualifications and experience are particularly relevant for becoming Commissioner and promoting the European general interest, particularly in the area you would be responsible for? What motivates you? How will you contribute to putting forward the strategic agenda of the Commission?

What guarantees of independence are you able to give the European Parliament, and how would you make sure that any past, current or future activities you carry out could not cast doubt on the performance of your duties within the Commission?

2. Management of the portfolio and cooperation with the European Parliament

How would you assess your role as a Member of the College of Commissioners? In what respect would you consider yourself responsible and accountable to the Parliament for your actions and for those of your departments?

What specific commitments are you prepared to make in terms of enhanced transparency, increased cooperation and effective follow-up to Parliament's positions and requests for legislative initiatives? In relation to planned initiatives or ongoing procedures, are you ready to provide Parliament with information and documents on an equal footing with the Council?

Questions from the Committee on International Trade:

3. Inter-institutional aspects including access to negotiation documents

1) Access to information

How does the Commissioner-designate formally commit himself/herself to keeping the Committee on International Trade of the European Parliament (INTA) fully informed at all times, and especially upon request by INTA, on the general aspects of EU trade policy such as the state of play of each trade and investment negotiation to which the EU is party including WTO activities, WTO ministerial Conferences and anti-dumping and anti-subsidy cases?

Does the Commissioner-designate formally commit himself/herself to allowing access to all limited and restricted negotiation documents that the Council receives to all Members of the INTA Committee particularly in the light of the Court of Justice's ruling of 3 July 2014 (Case C-350/12)?

2) Provisional application

Does the Commissioner-designate formally commit himself/herself to not requesting provisional application of trade agreements including trade chapters of association agreements before the European Parliament gives its consent on those agreements?

3) Provisional draft mandate

How does the Commissioner-designate intend to fully involve the European Parliament in the preparatory work preceding the adoption of the provisional draft mandate for trade and investment negotiations with third countries?

4. Policy coherence

From your perspective and given your responsibilities what do you intend to do to ensure coherence of trade policy with other external policies including the aspects of conditionality and enforcement? In this context what is your proposed strategy to revive multilateralism in international trade?

5. Priorities and legislative initiatives

What are the main priorities and concrete policy steps – including legislative initiatives - the Commissioner-designate will undertake in order to ensure that trade delivers growth and jobs in accordance with EU 2020 agenda, and how does Commissioner-designate intend to involve European Parliament at an early stage in the process of elaborating these priorities and policy steps?

QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE

Neven MIMICA

International Cooperation and Development

1. General competence, European commitment and personal independence

What aspects of your personal qualifications and experience are particularly relevant for becoming Commissioner and promoting the European general interest, particularly in the area you would be responsible for? What motivates you? How will you contribute to putting forward the strategic agenda of the Commission?

What guarantees of independence are you able to give the European Parliament, and how would you make sure that any past, current or future activities you carry out could not cast doubt on the performance of your duties within the Commission?

2. Management of the portfolio and cooperation with the European Parliament

How would you assess your role as a Member of the College of Commissioners? In what respect would you consider yourself responsible and accountable to the Parliament for your actions and for those of your departments?

What specific commitments are you prepared to make in terms of enhanced transparency, increased cooperation and effective follow-up to Parliament's positions and requests for legislative initiatives? In relation to planned initiatives or ongoing procedures, are you ready to provide Parliament with information and documents on an equal footing with the Council?

Questions from the Committee on Development:

3. Post-2015 development framework/ Sustainable Development Goals:

We are approaching the end of the global development framework, namely the Millennium Development Goals. There was some progress made, but still a lot remains to be done under the post-2015 development agenda. Considering the imminent start of the negotiations on the post-2015 global framework, the new Commissioner will need to become active quickly and ensure a coherent and ambitious European contribution to defining and realising the future Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

How does the Commissioner-designate see the EU's role in the post-2015 global development framework especially when it comes to setting development priorities, agreeing on financing for development and aid efficiency, and better donor coordination?

Do you agree on the importance of addressing inequalities both within and between countries, as a key issue and objective of the post-2015 framework? How will you ensure that no one is left behind and that human rights are guaranteed for all irrespective of their sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation?

How does the Commissioner-designate see the EU's role in ensuring that climate and energy goals within the SDGs are ambitious and will be reached, taking into account the fact that people who are already facing the greatest development challenges will suffer the worst consequences of climate change, and how will you ensure

that aid invested in the energy sector will benefit those people most in need, especially in rural areas? Finally, will you place property and land rights and land registration as a priority for the post 2015 development agenda?

4. Cooperation with Parliament and stakeholders in relation to the Development Cooperation Instrument and post Cotonou Agreement:

The Development Cooperation Instrument and the Cotonou Partnership Agreement constitute the most basic legal foundations of EU development cooperation. In this respect, the Development Committee considers close cooperation with the incoming Commission as key to a successful mandate and therefore would like to remind the Commissioner-designate that a new 'Strategic Dialogue' mechanism between the Commission and Parliament was created to allow for Parliament's involvement in decision-making process regarding the strategic choices taken in the multiannual programming documents. It further recalls that the Cotonou Partnership Agreement will expire in 2020 and that the next five years will therefore be crucial to set a blueprint for a new EU-ACP framework. The European Parliament has expressed concerns with the Agreement as it stands, especially with regards to the shortcomings of the political dialogue on human rights.

How does the Commissioner-designate intend to involve him/herself in the Strategic Dialogue with the European Parliament on DCI? Can you confirm that the Commission will adopt amending delegated acts on the DCI annexes containing the areas of cooperation and indicative financial allocations after the mid-term review, as provided for in the DCI regulation (art. 17)?

How do you intend to involve Parliament and other stakeholders from ACP and European countries, including parliaments and civil society in the preparation and negotiations of the framework for EU-ACP relations to follow the expiry of the Cotonou Agreement and ensure that Parliament's concerns be addressed accordingly?

5. Food, land and property rights:

2014 is the UN International Year of Family Farming and the AU year of Agriculture and Food Security.

Could the Commissioner-designate express his/her view on how to address the needs of small-scale and traditional farming in rural areas, which represents the main source of livelihood for over 60% of the African population? Does the Commissioner-designate support the development of a strategy to protect land user rights (e.g. customary, collective and community land tenure agreements) against land grabs? Do you see a need to foster property rights in developing countries and to improve land governance? Will you support a clearly-defined budget line for property rights in developing countries designed to support long-term land governance reform and to mainstream land tenure in drafting and implementing Country Strategy Papers?

QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE

Carlos MOEDAS

Research, Science and Innovation

1. General competence, European commitment and personal independence

What aspects of your personal qualifications and experience are particularly relevant for becoming Commissioner and promoting the European general interest, particularly in the area you would be responsible for? What motivates you? How will you contribute to putting forward the strategic agenda of the Commission?

What guarantees of independence are you able to give the European Parliament, and how would you make sure that any past, current or future activities you carry out could not cast doubt on the performance of your duties within the Commission?

2. Management of the portfolio and cooperation with the European Parliament

How would you assess your role as a Member of the College of Commissioners? In what respect would you consider yourself responsible and accountable to the Parliament for your actions and for those of your departments?

What specific commitments are you prepared to make in terms of enhanced transparency, increased cooperation and effective follow-up to Parliament's positions and requests for legislative initiatives? In relation to planned initiatives or ongoing procedures, are you ready to provide Parliament with information and documents on an equal footing with the Council?

Questions from the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy:

Policy-related questions decided by the ITRE Committee

3. What are the main priorities you intend to pursue as part of your proposed portfolio, taking into account the emphasis on jobs, growth, competitiveness and sustainable development? What timetable do you envisage for achieving those priorities?
4. What are the specific legislative and non-legislative initiatives you intend to put forward, and according to what timetable? How will you personally ensure the good quality of legislative proposals, full transparency of lobbying activities (directed at you and your services), and consistent and balanced consultation of all stakeholders taking also into account the need to carry out thorough impact assessments?
5. As Commissioner responsible for Research, Science and Innovation, how will you ensure coordination with the Vice-Presidents in whose teams your policy area falls and with the other Commissioners in your teams and how will you ensure enhanced cooperation with the Committee on Industry, Energy and Research? In particular, what steps will you take to facilitate scrutiny by the Committee of legislative and non-legislative procedures (including preparation of legislative acts and delegated and implementing acts) and scrutiny of their implementation? How do you intend to ensure that the Committee is kept appropriately informed in relation to any international agreements in your policy area, bearing in mind the experience gained in connection with the TTIP negotiations?

QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE**Federica MOGHERINI****High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security
Policy****Vice-President of the Commission****1. General competence, European commitment and personal independence**

What aspects of your personal qualifications and experience are particularly relevant for becoming Commissioner and promoting the European general interest, particularly in the area you would be responsible for? What motivates you? How will you contribute to putting forward the strategic agenda of the Commission?

What guarantees of independence are you able to give the European Parliament, and how would you make sure that any past, current or future activities you carry out could not cast doubt on the performance of your duties within the Commission?

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What specific commitments are you prepared to make in terms of enhanced transparency, increased cooperation and effective follow-up to Parliament's positions and requests for legislative initiatives? In relation to planned initiatives or ongoing procedures, are you ready to provide Parliament with information and documents on an equal footing with the Council?

Questions from the Committee on Foreign Affairs**3. Accountability and scrutiny:**

Do you agree to develop further the commitments contained in the Declaration on Political Accountability signed by your predecessor, as regards EP's involvement and input into upstream policy planning, with a view to achieving true joint strategic reflection? For that purpose, can you commit, amongst others, to hold regular ex-ante exchanges of views with this Committee on the agenda of the Foreign Affairs Council meetings, ex-ante consultation on CFSP strategies and mandates, and consultation in the framework of the Special Committee?

Art 218(10) TFEU foresees a genuine parliamentary scrutiny: which actions will you take to ensure that the Commission and the EEAS will pro-actively and systematically provide this Committee with concrete information about all stages of the negotiations, signature and implementation of international agreements? How will you assist this Committee in the monitoring of the implementation of these agreements? Do you commit yourself to ensure that signed agreements will be referred for consent to the EP without undue delay?

Which concrete action do you intend to take to enable EP office holders to receive regular political reporting from EU Delegations, assessments from your services on current major international crisis situations, and classified information?

4. Triple hatted position of the HR/VP:

How do you intend to ensure, in line with Art 18.4 TEU and Art 9 of the Council Decision establishing the EEAS, the coordination, consistency and effectiveness of EU external action? Which concrete measures will you take to improve the coordination of external policies and the international dimension of internal policies? Which structure could best ensure the coordination of strategic policy guidelines between the EEAS and the relevant Commission services, and what practical changes are required to the structure of the EEAS (streamlining of the decision making structures, so as to enable effective decision-making, establish clear hierarchical lines and enhance the comprehensive approach in EU foreign policy)? Which steps (legislative, organisational, etc.) will you take to improve the management of crisis and the adequate coordination between their civilian and military dimensions?

How will you make the best use of your triple-hatted position to develop a long term strategy for a successful and relevant EU foreign policy, and take institutional and political initiatives in that regard? To what extent do you intend to use the provisions of the Treaty allowing for qualified-majority voting decisions on CFSP in the Council (Art. 31.2 TEU)? How will you promote and support permanent structured cooperation between willing Member States, in line with Art.42.6 and 46 TEU?

The current network and staffing of delegations does not always reflect the geopolitical reality of the 21st century and needs to ensure that political reporting and flow of information to Headquarters effectively contribute to the definition of an independent and proactive EU foreign policy. Following which principles and with which timeframe would you review the network and staffing of EU delegations?

5. Policies:

How do you intend to implement the December 2013 European Council Conclusions on reviewing the EU's strategic priorities for foreign and security policy and on further progress on European defence cooperation? As regards the European Defence Agency, how can you ensure it has sufficient resources, could be used to its full potential and can smoothly cooperate with the Commission on synergies between civilian security and defence research? How can you create incentives to Member States to take part in pooling and sharing projects? As a member of the College, which steps would you take to ensure that the rules on defence procurement can help build a truly European market in defence equipment?

Which concrete measures do you intend to take to ensure that Human Rights are not overshadowed by competing priorities of EU external action, and that obligations of Art 21 TEU to mainstream Human Rights across all external action are duly implemented, also in cooperation with international and regional Human Rights organisations? To what extent should trade be considered as a tool for foreign policy, and which steps do you intend to take to ensure that decisions taken under trade policy reinforce EU foreign action and do not undermine its coherence and its impact? What actions would you take to reinforce the EU's energy security in the short and medium term given that the EU is currently heavily dependent on one oil and gas supplier, which in the past has used the cut of gas supplies as its foreign policy tool? How do you link migrations, security and stability of the EU and its neighbours, with development policy, and what actions would you take in that regard?

In line with the provisions contained in the legal basis of external financial instruments, can you confirm that the Commission will adopt amending delegated acts at mid-term review to confirm or amend the priorities defined in their annexes? How do you intend to engage in the Strategic Dialogue with this Committee? Which actions do you intend to take to ensure coordination, coherence and synergies between these financial instruments and with other policy instruments of EU external action (CFSP, Humanitarian Aid, Macro Financial Assistance etc.)?

QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE

Pierre MOSCOVICI

Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs Union

1. General competence, European commitment and personal independence

What aspects of your personal qualifications and experience are particularly relevant for becoming Commissioner and promoting the European general interest, particularly in the area you would be responsible for? What motivates you? How will you contribute to putting forward the strategic agenda of the Commission?

What guarantees of independence are you able to give the European Parliament, and how would you make sure that any past, current or future activities you carry out could not cast doubt on the performance of your duties within the Commission?

2. Management of the portfolio and cooperation with the European Parliament

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What specific commitments are you prepared to make in terms of enhanced transparency, increased cooperation and effective follow-up to Parliament's positions and requests for legislative initiatives? In relation to planned initiatives or ongoing procedures, are you ready to provide Parliament with information and documents on an equal footing with the Council?

Questions from the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs:

3. The functioning of the current economic governance framework

The 6-pack and the 2-pack have largely rewritten the economic governance framework, strengthening fiscal rules and providing new rules on macroeconomic imbalances. How will the Commission implement these existing rules to deal with countries with excessive deficits and debt and macro-economic imbalances who fail to meet their annual targets? Do you confirm that you will make no difference between Member States? How will the Commission intend to achieve a growth-friendly fiscal consolidation and address macroeconomic imbalances, bearing in mind the flexibility built in the economic governance framework?

4. The EMU and the way ahead

At the end of 2012 the President of the European Council, in close cooperation with the President of the Commission, the President of the Eurogroup and the President of the ECB, presented an agenda for a deep and genuine EMU, aiming at ensuring stability and integrity of the EMU. What should be in your view the necessary reforms for a genuine EMU? How would you reinforce the European Semester for economic policy coordination, in order to ensure effectiveness and quality of the Country-Specific Recommendations and their implementation by Member States? How would you improve the democratic accountability of the decisions taken within this framework, not least with a better involvement of the European Parliament? How do you plan to address the investment gap in Europe?

5. Tax Policy

As the Commissioner in charge of the EU's tax policy, what further measures do you envisage to enforce and effectively implement the Action Plan to strengthen the fight against tax fraud, evasion and money laundering, as well as the recommendations on aggressive tax planning and on tax havens? Concerning the automatic exchange of information in the field of taxation (AEOI), Member States have now expressed a clear wish to go beyond current levels of cooperation, in order to avoid the fragmentation of the internal market. How will the Commission ensure a consistent EU-wide approach and coordinate actions between Member States? What are your views on the need for convergence of tax systems in the EU?

QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE

Tibor NAVRACSICS

Education, Culture, Youth and Citizenship

1. General competence, European commitment and personal independence

What aspects of your personal qualifications and experience are particularly relevant for becoming Commissioner and promoting the European general interest, particularly in the area you would be responsible for? What motivates you? How will you contribute to putting forward the strategic agenda of the Commission?

What guarantees of independence are you able to give the European Parliament, and how would you make sure that any past, current or future activities you carry out could not cast doubt on the performance of your duties within the Commission?

2. Management of the portfolio and cooperation with the European Parliament

How would you assess your role as a Member of the College of Commissioners? In what respect would you consider yourself responsible and accountable to the Parliament for your actions and for those of your departments?

What specific commitments are you prepared to make in terms of enhanced transparency, increased cooperation and effective follow-up to Parliament's positions and requests for legislative initiatives? In relation to planned initiatives or ongoing procedures, are you ready to provide Parliament with information and documents on an equal footing with the Council?

Questions from the Committee on Culture and Education:

3. Your portfolio

How would you define the scope of your proposed portfolio?

How would you personally ensure that the different components of this portfolio are duly taken into account at horizontal level in all relevant EU policies as clearly foreseen by article 167 paragraph 4 TFEU? Which guarantees could you give that the cultural policies would not be subordinate to economic and commercial interests?

How would you endeavour to ensure consistency and synergy between the policies implemented in the different areas covered by your portfolio? How would you achieve a high level of cooperation with the Commissioners responsible for issues closely linked to your portfolio in order to ensure a coordinated and holistic approach, especially in the fields of education & training? Also, in the new distribution of portfolios, the Creative Europe Programme has been split, so that the MEDIA and the Culture sub-programmes now fall in the remits of two different Commissioners. How would you achieve a high level of cooperation with Commissioner-designate Otetting in general and more specifically as far as the cross-sectoral strand of this Programme is concerned?

What added value do you think the EU can bring in these particular areas of activity?

4. Your priorities

What are the main priorities you intend to pursue as part of your proposed portfolio, taking into account the upcoming revision of the EU 2020 strategy?

It is essential that the multi annual programmes which have been adopted in the previous legislature (Erasmus+, the sub-programme 'Culture' of Creative Europe, Europe for Citizens) are implemented under optimum conditions, in particular at budgetary level. What are the concrete measures you intend to take in order to ensure the correct functioning of these programmes and how would you guarantee an integrated approach on education policies in particular? What consequences will you be prepared to draw from the mid-term evaluation of these programmes foreseen in 2017, and from the EP's position in this regard?

What are the specific legislative and non-legislative initiatives and their respective timeframes you intend to propose? Within which areas of your portfolio would these initiatives fall?

5. Your contribution to the development of European Citizenship

On the basis of the responsibilities which would be granted to you, how do you intend to contribute to the development of European Citizenship, taking fully into account the Charter on Fundamental Rights? In particular, in order to effectively contribute to this development, which initiatives do you consider to take, in the fields of education, youth and sport as well as of the protection of cultural heritage and the promotion of cultural & linguistic diversity? What concrete measures would you take in order to promote democratic involvement and civic participation, as well as a better communication with citizens?

QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE

Günther OETTINGER

Digital Economy and Society

1. General competence, European commitment and personal independence

What aspects of your personal qualifications and experience are particularly relevant for becoming Commissioner and promoting the European general interest, particularly in the area you would be responsible for? What motivates you? How will you contribute to putting forward the strategic agenda of the Commission?

What guarantees of independence are you able to give the European Parliament, and how would you make sure that any past, current or future activities you carry out could not cast doubt on the performance of your duties within the Commission?

2. Management of the portfolio and cooperation with the European Parliament

How would you assess your role as a Member of the College of Commissioners? In what respect would you consider yourself responsible and accountable to the Parliament for your actions and for those of your departments?

What specific commitments are you prepared to make in terms of enhanced transparency, increased cooperation and effective follow-up to Parliament's positions and requests for legislative initiatives? In relation to planned initiatives or ongoing procedures, are you ready to provide Parliament with information and documents on an equal footing with the Council?

Questions from the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy:

3. Priorities

What are the main priorities you intend to pursue as part of your proposed portfolio, taking into account the emphasis on jobs, growth, competitiveness and sustainable development? What timetable do you envisage for achieving those priorities? What are the specific legislative and non-legislative initiatives you intend to put forward, and according to what timetable? How will you personally ensure the good quality of legislative proposals, full transparency of lobbying activities (directed at you and your services), and consistent and balanced consultation of all stakeholders taking also into account the need to carry out thorough impact assessments?

4. Cooperation/scrutiny

As Commissioner responsible for Digital Economy and Society, how will you ensure coordination with the Vice-Presidents in whose teams your policy area falls and with the other Commissioners in your teams and how will you ensure enhanced cooperation with the Committee on Industry, Energy and Research? In particular, what steps will you take to facilitate scrutiny by the Committee of legislative and non-legislative procedures (including preparation of legislative acts and delegated and implementing acts) and scrutiny of their implementation? How do you intend to ensure that the Committee is kept appropriately informed in relation to any international agreements in your policy area, bearing in mind the experience gained in connection with the TTIP negotiations?

Questions from the Committee on Culture and Education:

5. Portfolio

Article 167 paragraph 4 foresees that cultural aspects are taken into account in a horizontal way in all Union policies. How would you personally ensure this will be duly taken into account in the policies and actions you intend to implement? Considering their specificities, how would you ensure that the cultural and creative sectors are not subordinate to economic interests solely? In the new distribution of portfolios, the Creative Europe Programme has been split: the MEDIA and the Culture sub-programmes now fall in the remits of two different Commissioners. How would you endeavour to ensure consistency and synergy with regard to the implementation and the management of this essential programme? In particular, how concretely will the cross-sectoral strand of this programme be addressed?

6. Priorities

What are your main priorities and how do you intend to guarantee the protection and the promotion of cultural and creative content and works? What are the specific legislative and non-legislative initiatives you intend to propose in the audiovisual sector taking into account the challenges caused by the on-going media convergence and what are their respective timeframes? In particular how do you intend to prepare the new audiovisual media services directive (AVMSD) and what ambitions do you have for this new Directive? Could you commit yourself to make available to the European Parliament, as soon as they are completed, the preparatory works, such as preliminary studies in that regard?

QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE**Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ****Transport and Space****1. General competence, European commitment and personal independence**

What aspects of your personal qualifications and experience are particularly relevant for becoming Commissioner and promoting the European general interest, particularly in the area you would be responsible for? What motivates you? How will you contribute to putting forward the strategic agenda of the Commission?

What guarantees of independence are you able to give the European Parliament, and how would you make sure that any past, current or future activities you carry out could not cast doubt on the performance of your duties within the Commission?

2. Management of the portfolio and cooperation with the European Parliament

How would you assess your role as a Member of the College of Commissioners? In what respect would you consider yourself responsible and accountable to the Parliament for your actions and for those of your departments?

What specific commitments are you prepared to make in terms of enhanced transparency, increased cooperation and effective follow-up to Parliament's positions and requests for legislative initiatives? In relation to planned initiatives or ongoing procedures, are you ready to provide Parliament with information and documents on an equal footing with the Council?

Questions from the Committee on Transport and Tourism:

3. Completion of the Single European Transport Area and of the EU Satellite Navigation Systems

What are the specific legislative and non-legislative initiatives you intend to put forward to complete the internal market for transport and create a genuine Single European Transport Area across all transport modes (Single European Railway Area, Single European Sky, European Maritime Space without Barriers, etc)? How will you ensure that the opening of transport markets, including road cabotage, goes hand in hand with job creation, quality employment and working conditions, prevention of social dumping, high-standard services, and improved safety and competitiveness of EU transport operators (in particular SMEs)? How do you propose to address the large divergences in terms of transport infrastructure across the Union and the poor connectivity of many EU areas? What measures do you envisage to stimulate investment and ensure more efficient funding of transport infrastructure, and to promote the development of Trans-European Transport Networks? Can you reassure us that the Commission will thoroughly and continuously evaluate the implementation of the Connecting Europe Facility and apply the 'use it or lose it' principle according to the Regulation? What is your vision for the future of the European space policy, and the timely implementation of the deployment and exploitation phases of the EU Satellite Navigation Programmes? How do you see the future role and powers of the EU transport and space agencies in implementing the Union's policies in those areas?

4. Transport for citizens

How do you intend to improve the quality, accessibility, reliability and intermodality of transport services? What measures do you envisage to promote public transport and inter-modal ticketing, non-motorised mobility and intelligent transport systems? How will you promote the effective development of transport applications within the Galileo and EGNOS systems? What concrete initiatives will you take to facilitate sustainable urban mobility and to tackle transport congestion and infrastructure undercapacity? What actions do you envisage to revitalise regional trans-border rail connections that have been dismantled or abandoned? How will you ensure effective protection of passenger rights in all transport modes, including the rights of persons with reduced mobility, as well as a harmonised and effective enforcement of the existing legislation? What specific commitments are you prepared to make in terms of enhancing transport safety and security in the different transport modes (road, rail, waterborne and air)?

5. Sustainable transport

What specific initiatives will you take in order to mitigate the environmental impact of transport and to ensure that all transport modes contribute to the fight against climate change, considering that greenhouse gas emissions from transport, unlike those of other sectors, have significantly increased in recent years? What measures and new technologies do you envisage to minimise transport's dependency on oil and to integrate the different transport modes into a sustainable low-carbon transport system? How do you intend to ensure a wider application of the 'polluter-pays' and 'user-pays' principles, including the internalisation of external costs?

QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE

Christos STYLIANIDES

Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management

1. General competence, European commitment and personal independence

What aspects of your personal qualifications and experience are particularly relevant for becoming Commissioner and promoting the European general interest, particularly in the area you would be responsible for? What motivates you? How will you contribute to putting forward the strategic agenda of the Commission?

What guarantees of independence are you able to give the European Parliament, and how would you make sure that any past, current or future activities you carry out could not cast doubt on the performance of your duties within the Commission?

2. Management of the portfolio and cooperation with the European Parliament

How would you assess your role as a Member of the College of Commissioners? In what respect would you consider yourself responsible and accountable to the Parliament for your actions and for those of your departments?

What specific commitments are you prepared to make in terms of enhanced transparency, increased cooperation and effective follow-up to Parliament's positions and requests for legislative initiatives? In relation to planned initiatives or ongoing procedures, are you ready to provide Parliament with information and documents on an equal footing with the Council?

Questions from the Committee on Development:

3. New challenges and humanitarian principles:

Recent changes with a profound impact on global humanitarian response to natural disasters and conflicts include climate change, population growth, urbanization, water shortages, global economic shifts, the appearance of new humanitarian actors, and technological progress as well as stronger integration of EU external policies and concerns about military involvement and security policy interests' impacting on humanitarian assistance. At the same time, the EU is driving for more complementarity, coherence and consistency between EU external policies, and there is an increased focus on strengthening EU crisis management via the recently set-up 'EU comprehensive approach'.

How will you make sure that EU Humanitarian Aid policy remains needs-based and in keeping with the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, and not become instrumentalised for foreign policy objectives? What does the Commissioner-designate intend to do to address these challenges in preparation of the first-ever World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey, in May 2016?

4. Conflict and the protection of civilians:

Most contemporary armed conflicts involve one or more armed non-state actors fighting governments or other armed groups, with civilians and in particular children bearing the brunt of these wars. Armed conflicts have a particularly devastating impact on children's physical and mental development, with long-term consequences for human security and sustainable development, and access to vulnerable populations and security for aid workers are both essential for the effective delivery of humanitarian aid.

Can Humanitarian Aid be designed to help re-building conflict-riven nations and in the long term deliver political stability, democracy and peace and properly address the root causes of violence in fragile states and conflict regions? What role can the EU play in promoting compliance with international humanitarian law and humanitarian access to crisis-affected people? What does the Commissioner-designate intend to do to ensure that states and armed non-state actors comply with international humanitarian law and take special measures to protect civilians, in particular children?

5. EU Financing of Humanitarian Aid

The recent or on-going conflicts in Syria and Gaza have turned into the world's largest humanitarian and security disaster. Not to mention the unstable security situation in the DRC, CAR and Sudan. Haiti and the Philippines are still recovering from unprecedented natural disasters. Humanitarian needs continue to increase. Recent EU humanitarian funding shortfalls are having a strong impact on crisis-affected populations.

How do you intend to ensure that there are sufficient payments for humanitarian aid and that the Commission will return to predictable and timely humanitarian funding in 2015 and throughout your mandate, and maintain a consistent level of humanitarian assistance in line with the Multi-Annual Financial Framework? Furthermore, what will be your approach towards the Emergency Aid Reserve (EAR), which has proven to be an essential instrument to enable response in sudden-onset disasters and conflicts: will you make sure that it stays outside the EC budget and that it is allocated first and foremost for humanitarian operations?

QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE**Marianne THYSSEN****Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility****1. General competence, European commitment and personal independence**

What aspects of your personal qualifications and experience are particularly relevant for becoming Commissioner and promoting the European general interest, particularly in the area you would be responsible for? What motivates you? How will you contribute to putting forward the strategic agenda of the Commission?

What guarantees of independence are you able to give the European Parliament, and how would you make sure that any past, current or future activities you carry out could not cast doubt on the performance of your duties within the Commission?

2. Management of the portfolio and cooperation with the European Parliament

How would you assess your role as a Member of the College of Commissioners? In what respect would you consider yourself responsible and accountable to the Parliament for your actions and for those of your departments?

What specific commitments are you prepared to make in terms of enhanced transparency, increased cooperation and effective follow-up to Parliament's positions and requests for legislative initiatives? In relation to planned initiatives or ongoing procedures, are you ready to provide Parliament with information and documents on an equal footing with the Council?

Questions from the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs:

3. Priorities:

How do you see the role of the Employment and Social Affairs Commissioner developing over the next mandate? What are your ambitions and how do you think the EU can add value to the lives of our citizens in the areas of Employment and Social Affairs? What are the main priorities you intend to pursue as part of your portfolio, taking into account the impact of the financial, economic and social crisis and the commitment to sustainable development? How will you improve the involvement of the European Parliament in the preparation of Delegated Acts, in particular as regards information on and access to experts meetings? Do you commit to improving the transmission of secondary legislation and 'comitology' documents?

4. Legislative and non-legislative initiatives:

What are the specific legislative and non-legislative initiatives you intend to put forward, and according to what timetable?

5. Views in detail:

What are your views on the following issues?

- unemployment in the EU, with a special focus on youth unemployment as well as taking into account the challenges of an aging population and the significant employment gap between people with and without disabilities;
- social inclusion of the most vulnerable groups and the increase in poverty in the EU;
- matching skills and labour;
- improving workers' rights and working conditions and protecting workers against unfair practices;
- false self-employment;
- a hospitable environment for enterprises to create jobs, including entrepreneurship;
- freedom of movement and social security rights;
- social dumping;
- the revision of the Working Time Directive, taking into account, inter alia, the health aspects of working time;
- the European Parliament resolution of 15 January 2013 with recommendations to the Commission on information and consultation of workers, anticipation and management of restructuring (2012/2061(INL));
- the gender pay gap;
- the social dimension and the role of the European Parliament in relation to the economic governance process;
- the autonomy of the social partners in relation to economic governance and the work of the troika;
- the relationship between fundamental workers' rights and economic freedoms on the internal market;
- the implementation of EU legislation in EMPL areas of competence, by: secondary EU legislation (implementing and delegated acts); Member States.

QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE**Frans TIMMERMANS****Better Regulation, Inter-Institutional Relations, Rule of Law and
Charter of Fundamental Rights****First Vice-President of the Commission****1. General competence, European commitment and personal independence**

What aspects of your personal qualifications and experience are particularly relevant for becoming Commissioner and promoting the European general interest, particularly in the area you would be responsible for? What motivates you? How will you contribute to putting forward the strategic agenda of the Commission?

What guarantees of independence are you able to give the European Parliament, and how would you make sure that any past, current or future activities you carry out could not cast doubt on the performance of your duties within the Commission?

2. Management of the portfolio and cooperation with the European Parliament

How would you assess your role as a Member of the College of Commissioners? In what respect would you consider yourself responsible and accountable to the Parliament for your actions and for those of your departments?

What specific commitments are you prepared to make in terms of enhanced transparency, increased cooperation and effective follow-up to Parliament's positions and requests for legislative initiatives? In relation to planned initiatives or ongoing procedures, are you ready to provide Parliament with information and documents on an equal footing with the Council?

Questions from the Committee on Legal Affairs:

3. Impact assessments, administrative procedure law and subsidiarity

During the last legislature, Parliament focused a much of its work on better regulation in implementing the Lisbon Treaty, which created a new legislative environment. The move towards smart regulation and regulatory fitness is intended to pave the way for a policy cycle based on 1) wider consultations, including multi-disciplinary impact assessments at several levels and subsidiarity checks by national parliaments, 2) drafting and enactment of legislation with the possibility of delegating legislative powers or conferring implementing powers on the Commission, and 3) ex-post checks the result of which are to be fed back into new policy cycles in the form of new initiatives, including cutting red tape.

Parliament has in recent years set up internal services tasked with conducting ex-ante and ex-post impact assessments of legislative proposals and amendments and study European added value and the cost of non-Europe. The Commission's impact assessments are made before the College of Commissioners decides on a proposal, and do not take into account any revisions made in the final proposal. Furthermore, the Council has no means of carrying out impact assessments as regards its amendments and positions on legislative proposals.

In its resolution of 15 January 2013, Parliament requested the Commission to submit, on the basis of Article 298 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, a proposal for a regulation on a European Law of Administrative Procedure, following detailed recommendations set out in the resolution concerning inter alia general principles which should govern the administration and rules governing administrative decisions. The Commission has reacted to this request by stating that this question is very important and has committed itself to studying it carefully before taking any further steps.

The Lisbon Treaty sought not only to give wider legislative powers to Parliament, but also to facilitate the implementation, application and enforcement of EU law. In several resolutions, Parliament, invoking the Commission's fundamental role as the 'guardian of the Treaties,' has called on the Commission to use its power and duty to oversee the application of EU law more rigorously, since this is a cornerstone of the Union legal order which must be based on the rule of law. How do you stand on this fundamental aspect?

According to Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union, national Parliaments "ensure compliance with the principle of subsidiarity" in accordance with the procedure set out in Protocol 2 of the Lisbon Treaty which introduced a mechanism of subsidiarity scrutiny by national Parliaments on draft EU legislation through the issuing of reasoned opinions.

According to Article 7 of Protocol 2 the author of a legislative proposal "shall take account of the reasoned opinions issued by national Parliaments or a chamber of a national Parliament". The so-called yellow and orange card procedures require the Commission to review a draft proposal and to decide whether to maintain, amend or withdraw it if a certain threshold is attained in terms of the number of reasoned opinions issued within the set time-limit. The threshold for a 'yellow card' by national Parliaments has so far been reached on two occasions. The first time was in May 2012 in respect of the Commission's legislative proposal on the right to strike (Monti II). The Commission withdrew the proposal some months later. In November 2013 the threshold for a yellow card was reached in respect of the proposal to establish a European Public Prosecutor's Office. However, on this occasion the Commission decided to maintain its proposal unchanged.

What concrete steps does the Vice-President-designate intend to take in order to update and to revise the 2003 Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making – as requested on several occasions by Parliament –, and to build up a European Law of Administrative Procedure in order to take account of these developments and to ensure transparency and legal certainty for citizens? More specifically, what action does he intend to take in order to ensure that the Commission's impact assessments are conducted completely independently and that legislative procedures are evidence-based at all steps? How would the Commissioner-designate react if a proposal from the Commission were to receive a number of reasoned opinions and what action would he take? If the threshold for a yellow or orange card by national Parliaments against a Commission proposal were to be reached, would he consider himself under a duty either to withdraw or revise the proposal? Would the Commissioner-designate consider inviting the European Parliament and its committee responsible to evaluate, together with the Commission, what the correct response to a yellow or orange card should be?

4. Delegated and implementing acts

Articles 290 and 291 of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) introduced the possibility of delegating legislative powers or conferring implementing powers on the Commission. The Council has shown itself unwilling to delegate legislative powers in the vast majority of cases where the conditions under Article 290 TFEU are met, and seems to favour the conferral of implementing powers, arguably in order to secure the influence of Member State experts. The Court of Justice has recently ruled, in its judgment in Case C-472/12, that the EU legislature has a discretion when it decides between the two Articles and that judicial review is limited to manifest errors of assessment as to whether the EU legislature could reasonably have taken the view, first, that, in order to be implemented, the legal framework which it laid down in the basic act needs only the addition of further detail, without its non-essential elements having to be amended or supplemented and, secondly, that the provisions of the basic act require uniform conditions for implementation.

Pursuant to point 15 of the Framework Agreement on relations between the European Parliament and the European Commission, the Commission is to provide full information and documentation on its meetings with national experts within the framework of its work on the preparation and implementation of Union legislation, including soft law and delegated acts. If so requested by Parliament, the Commission may also invite Parliament's experts to attend those meetings.

What steps is the Commissioner-designate planning to take in order to ensure that Article 290 TFEU does not become nugatory in the face of the Council's reluctance to delegate legislative powers to the Commission? How does the Commissioner-designate intend to improve the modalities of cooperation with the European Parliament in the field of delegated and implementing acts? How does the Commission plan to make progress on the so-called Omnibus package (alignment) that is currently stalled in the Council, despite the fact that Parliament adopted its first reading position as long ago as February 2014? Will the Commissioner-designate commit himself to setting up a Register for Delegated Acts, access to which would be granted unconditionally to Parliament at all stages of the procedure, and to improving the transmission to Parliament of all the documents pertaining to implementing acts? Does the Commissioner-designate agree that good cooperation in this area also includes full access of Parliament's experts to Commission expert groups preparing delegated acts and to the information available to them?

Questions from the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs:

5. Question:

What will be your 2 priorities in the area of the rule of law and fundamental rights? Which specific method will you apply to make sure these 2 priorities are delivered?

Are you ready to participate in a question time with the LIBE Committee upon request in order to review these priorities and discuss relevant topical matters?

6. Question:

As the first Commissioner explicitly in charge of the rule of law, what is your strategy to ensure it is effectively and equally respected throughout the European Union? How will you make use of the mechanism put forward by your predecessor and follow up the position expressed by the EP in its resolutions on this matter?

What is your position as to a European Union internal strategy on fundamental rights as requested by Parliament, in order to ensure the effective application of the Charter throughout its territory?

Questions from the Committee on Constitutional Affairs:

7. Institutional challenges - How to bring EU closer to the citizens?

In order to fight against the growing Euroscepticism in many Member States can you clarify the elements that appear to be essential (better functioning of the European Citizens' Initiative, measures to improve the transparency of the EU decision making process and of lobbies activities...) to restore the confidence of citizens in the European project and what commitments you are willing to take in these areas? In the same spirit, which development of the institutional architecture of the European Union can you envisage in order to strengthen democracy; focusing in particular on the measures you intend to promote in order to prevent the Intergovernmental method from prevailing over the Community method, taking also into account the concerns expressed by some Member States about the functioning and deeper integration of the EU and encounter the President-elect's announced programme to find a "fair deal for Britain" and other Member States? Do you think that the experience with the "top-candidates" in the campaign for the European elections 2014 constitute an element able to restore confidence and what steps would you support to further improve the European electoral system and to empower the European political parties to better fulfil their mission? How do you intend to address the issues raised on the one hand by the consequences of the possible independence of regions from Member States (information of citizens, definition of precise procedures for these potential new States to join the EU...) and, on the other hand, clarify the implications of a possible withdrawal of Member States from the Union as well as the possibility of a partial or definitive retreat of associated States like Switzerland? Which measures do you envisage to promote cooperation with the national parliaments, enhance the effectiveness of the functioning of the European External Action Service in the overall institutional framework, and give greater effect in practise to the Treaty articles dealing with the violation of fundamental rights in the Member States and accelerate the accession of the EU to the ECHR?

8. Institutional implications of the Euro crisis

During the last years the Euro has gone through a severe crisis and thanks to emergency measures, back room deals and great efforts by the European citizens the Euro has survived, but there has been damage (economic, social and in terms of trust and confidence) along the way. Several issues have been raised during this period and, amongst them, the more relevant are related to the accountability of the Eurozone; the integration of the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance into the EU legal framework within five years; the institutional consequences of a further integration of the economic policies of the Eurozone members; the opportunity of a Commissioner chairing Eurogroup meetings and, last but not least, the external representation of the Eurozone. Taking each of these points into consideration, what are your views on the future institutional evolution of the Eurozone?

QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE**Karmenu VELLA****Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries****1. General competence, European commitment and personal independence**

What aspects of your personal qualifications and experience are particularly relevant for becoming Commissioner and promoting the European general interest, particularly in the area you would be responsible for? What motivates you? How will you contribute to putting forward the strategic agenda of the Commission?

What guarantees of independence are you able to give the European Parliament, and how would you make sure that any past, current or future activities you carry out could not cast doubt on the performance of your duties within the Commission?

2. Management of the portfolio and cooperation with the European Parliament

How would you assess your role as a Member of the College of Commissioners? In what respect would you consider yourself responsible and accountable to the Parliament for your actions and for those of your departments?

What specific commitments are you prepared to make in terms of enhanced transparency, increased cooperation and effective follow-up to Parliament's positions and requests for legislative initiatives? In relation to planned initiatives or ongoing procedures, are you ready to provide Parliament with information and documents on an equal footing with the Council?

Questions from the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety:

3. Commissioner's priorities

What will be the Commissioner's top priorities to ensure sustainable development, a high level of environmental protection and the improvement of the quality of the environment in the Union? What specific legislative and non-legislative measures do you intend to put forward to support these priorities at EU and Member State levels and according to what timetable?

4. Quality, transparency and implementation of legislative proposals

How will you personally ensure the good quality of legislative proposals, full transparency of lobbying activities directed at you and your services and consistent and balanced consultation of all stakeholders? How will you ensure that implementation of EU legislation is done in the same rigorous manner in all Member States, including an effective use of EU financial means as well as the application of the 'polluter pays' principle? How will you ensure that environmental considerations are integrated in all policy areas both at EU and Member State levels?

Questions from the Committee on Fisheries:

The Committee on Fisheries would like to obtain from the Commissioner-designate with responsibility for the Common Fisheries Policy, Mr Kamenu VELLA, clear and explicit answers to the following questions relating to the implementation of the CFP:

5. Interinstitutional aspects

As a consequence of the changes introduced by the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, some conflicts arose between the EP and the Council (particularly in the case of Multiannual Plans for the recovery and/or management of fish stocks), and between the Council and the Commission (over the delegation of powers to or the conferral of implementing powers on the Commission). How, following the conclusions of the Interinstitutional Task Force on MAPs, does the Commissioner-designate intend to proactively facilitate a resolution of the dispute between Parliament and Council through, for example, the tabling of revised or new multiannual plans in the near future? With a view to determining a workable demarcation between Delegated and Implementing Acts, is the Commissioner-designate ready, together with the Council to engage in further negotiations with the EP, in order to find a common understanding on the interpretation, use of, and follow-up to Articles 290 and 291 TFEU? Will the Commissioner-designate commit himself to work for a more faithful implementation of Article 218(10) concerning the obligation to keep the EP 'immediately and fully informed at all stages of the procedure'?

6. Reform of the CFP

Among the main issues related to the implementation of the reformed CFP, Parliament has highlighted amongst other issues Technical Measures, Regionalisation and the need for better information for consumers of fisheries products, the fight against the IUU Fishing and the FPAs, as key priorities. How does the Commissioner-designate intend to introduce simplification and flexibility into the rules and regulations on Technical Measures? Does the Commissioner-designate intend to propose one common framework, or different frameworks for different sea basins? Will the Commissioner-designate undertake to promote the introduction, of specific EU eco-labelling for fishery products? On which criteria would this European ecolabelling be based and what would be its principal characteristics? Having regard to Article 15 of the Basic Regulation, what measures will the Commissioner-designate propose in the Mediterranean to prevent the emergence of a parallel market for juvenile fish? How does the Commissioner-designate intend to improve, in the context of FPAs, the coordination of the EU's fisheries, trade and development policies? In relation to the financial contribution that is paid for almost all FPAs, has the Commissioner-designate the intention of proposing a new format for the part set aside for the development of these countries? What will be the strategy of the Commissioner-designate in the case of countries (especially those in the Central-Western Pacific) with which the EU has signed trade agreements, but which are currently on the list of non-cooperating countries in the fight against IUU fishing? Could the Commissioner-designate explain why the fishing opportunities relative to joint stocks and other management aspects are decided through yearly negotiations and set out in agreed records which are not subject to the Consent Procedure?

QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE

Margrethe VESTAGER

Competition

1. General competence, European commitment and personal independence

What aspects of your personal qualifications and experience are particularly relevant for becoming Commissioner and promoting the European general interest, particularly in the area you would be responsible for? What motivates you? How will you contribute to putting forward the strategic agenda of the Commission?

What guarantees of independence are you able to give the European Parliament, and how would you make sure that any past, current or future activities you carry out could not cast doubt on the performance of your duties within the Commission?

2. Management of the portfolio and cooperation with the European Parliament

How would you assess your role as a Member of the College of Commissioners? In what respect would you consider yourself responsible and accountable to the Parliament for your actions and for those of your departments?

What specific commitments are you prepared to make in terms of enhanced transparency, increased cooperation and effective follow-up to Parliament's positions and requests for legislative initiatives? In relation to planned initiatives or ongoing procedures, are you ready to provide Parliament with information and documents on an equal footing with the Council?

Questions from the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs:

3. Competition policy and SMEs

How would you promote a competition culture in the EU and world-wide? How would you ensure that competition policy delivers both global competitiveness for European companies and a level-playing field in the internal market where SMEs can compete? Would you support stronger settlement mechanisms based on concessions?

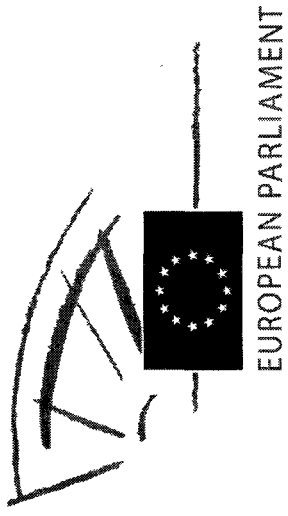
4. State aid to the banking sector

The European Parliament has called in its last three annual competition reports for an end to the state aid crisis regime for the banking sector as soon as possible. Given the new insolvency and single resolution mechanisms for banks, how do you see competition policy, notably state aid, evolving in this new legal framework in the future?

5. Role of the European Parliament in Competition policy

In line with other areas of market integration and economic regulation further to the entry into force of the Lisbon treaty, will you commit to putting forward future proposals shaping the design of EU competition policy under a legal base which involves the European Parliament as a co-legislator, using the ordinary legislative procedure?

Will you notably involve the European Parliament in the design of rules regarding fines applicable to companies that infringe EU competition law? Do you agree to an inter-institutional agreement between the European Commission and the European Parliament to ensure proper scrutiny by the Parliament in competition issues?



Conference of Committee Chairs

Draft timetable for the hearings of Commissioners-designate

29 September to 7 October 2014

Week 40 - Brussels - rooms JAN 2Q2 and 4Q2

	Monday 29 September (4 hearings)		Tuesday 30 September (6 hearings)		Wednesday 1 October (6 hearings)		Thursday 2 October (5 hearings)	
09.00-12.00			Carlos MOEDAS (Portugal)	Vytenis ANDRIUKAITIS (Lithuania)	Corina CREȚU (Romania)	Marianne THYSSEN (Belgium)	Pierre MOSCOVICI (France)	Phil HOGAN (Ireland)
			ITRE	ENVI	REGI	EMPL	ECON	AGRI
13.30-16.30 (except on Monday 14.30- 17.30)	Karmenu VELLA (Malta)	Cecilia MALMSTRÖM (Sweden)	Dimitris AVRAMOPOULOS (Greece)	Johannes HAHN (Austria)	Jonathan HILL (UK)	Věra JOUROVÁ (Czech Rep.)	Kristalina GEORGIEVA (Bulgaria)	Elzbieta BIENKOWSKA (Poland)
	ENVI/ PECH	INTA	LIBE	AFET	ECON	IMCO/ JURI/ LIBE/ FEMM	BUDG/ CONT	ITRE/ IMCO
18.00-21.00 (except on Monday 18.30- 21.30)	Neven MIMICA (Croatia)	Günther OETTINGER (Germany)	Christos STYLIANIDES (Cyprus)	Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ (Slovakia)	Tibor NAVRACSICS (Hungary)	Miguel ARIAS CANETE (Spain)	Margarethe VESTAGER (Denmark)	
	DEVE	ITRE/ CULT	DEVE	TRAN	CULT	ITRE/ ENVI	ECON	

Week 41 - Brussels - rooms JAN 2Q2 and 4Q2

	Monday 6 October (4 hearings)		Tuesday 7 October (2 hearings)	
9.00-12.00 (Timmermans)			Jyrki KATAINEN (Finland)	Frans TIMMERMANS (The Netherlands)
			ECON/ EMPL/ ITRE	JURI/ LIBE/ AFCO
10.00-13.00 (Katainen)				
14.30-17.30	Valdis DOMBROVSKIS (Latvia)	Alenka BRATUŠEK (Slovenia)		
	ECON/ EMPL	ITRE/ ENVI		
18.30-21.30	Andrus ANSIP (Estonia)	Federica MOGHERINI (Italy)		
	IMCO	AFET		

Responsibilities of the EP committees for the hearings of Commissioners-designate

Portfolios	Committees responsible	Associated committees	Invited committees*
Federica MOGHERINI (Italy) High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Vice-President of the Commission	AFET		deve inta
Frans TIMMERMANS (Netherlands) Better regulation, Inter-institutional relations, Rule of Law and Charter of Fundamental Rights, Vice-President of the Commission	JURI/ LIBE/ AFCO	PETI	cont
Kristalina GEORGIEVA (Bulgaria) Budget and Human Resources, Vice-President of the Commission	BUDG/ CONT	JURI	

* It was generally agreed that an invited committee will be allowed to ask at least one question at the hearing of the relevant Commissioner-designate

<p>Andrus ANSIP (Estonia) Digital Single Market, Vice-President of the Commission</p>	<p>IMCO</p>	<p>ITRE</p>	<p>libe cult</p>
<p>Alenka BRATUŠEK (Slovenia) Energy Union, Vice-President of the Commission</p>	<p>ITRE/ ENVI</p>		
<p>Valdis DOMBROVSKIS (Latvia) Euro and Social Dialogue, Vice-President of the Commission</p>	<p>ECON/ EMPL</p>		
<p>Jyrki KATAINEN (Finland) Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness</p>	<p>ECON/ EMPL/ ITRE</p>	<p>TRAN REGI</p>	
<p>Phil HOGAN (Ireland) Agriculture and Rural Development</p>	<p>AGRI</p>		
<p>Miguel ARIAS CAÑETE (Spain) Climate Action and Energy</p>	<p>ITRE/ ENVI</p>		

Margarethe VESTAGER (Denmark) Competition	ECON		imco	
Günther OETTINGER (Germany) Digital Economy and Society	ITRE/ CULT	IMCO JURI	libe	
Pierre MOSCOVICI (France) Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs	ECON	IMCO INTA	cont	
Tibor NAVRACSICS (Hungary) Education, Culture, Youth and Citizenship	CULT	ITRE	peti	
Marianne THYSSEN (Belgium) Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility	EMPL	CULT FEMM		
Karmenu VELLA (Malta) Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	ENVI/ PECH	TRAN		

Johannes HAHN (Austria) European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations	AFET			inta
Jonathan HILL (United Kingdom) Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union	ECON			imco
Vytenis ANDRIUKAITIS (Lithuania) Health and Food Safety	ENVI		AGRI	
Christos STYLIANIDES (Cyprus) Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management	DEVE			envi
Elzbieta BIENKOWSKA (Poland) Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs	ITRE/ IMCO		ENVI JURI	tran
Neven MIMICA (Croatia) International Cooperation and Development	DEVE			afet inta

Věra JOUROVÁ (Czech Republic) Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality	IMCO/ JURI/ LIBE/ FEMM			
Dimitris AVRAMOPOULOS (Greece) Migration and Home Affairs	LIBE			
Corina CREȚU (Romania) Regional Policy	REGI			
Carlos MOEDAS (Portugal) Research, Science and Innovation	ITRE			
Cecilia MALMSTRÖM (Sweden) Trade	INTA		afet deve	
Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ (Slovakia) Transport and Space	TRAN	ITRE		