



2019 EU Elections

MEET THE NEW EU COMMISSIONERS

November 2019

Contact us:
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The EU Lobby
GRAYLING

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Key facts about the new College of Commissioners:

- 8 Vice Presidents, including three Executive Vice Presidents
- Main political priorities: "European Green Deal", "Europe fit for the Digital Age" and "An Economy that works for the people"
- Most gender-diverse College in EU history with 12 women and 15 men
- No UK Commissioner

President



Ursula von der Leyen
Centre-Right (EPP)

Ursula von der Leyen was elected by the European Parliament to be President of the European Commission, with a majority of only 9 votes. Before her nomination, she served as German Defence Minister under Chancellor Angela Merkel (2013-2019). Prior to this, she served as the Minister for Labour and Social Affairs (2009-2013) and Family Affairs (2005-2009).

Executive Vice-President

European Green Deal



Frans Timmermans
Centre-Left (S&D)

Frans Timmermans has held the position of First Vice-President of the European Commission since 2014, under President Jean-Claude Juncker. Prior to this, he served as the Netherlands' Minister for Foreign Affairs (2012-2014), and a Dutch Member of the House of Representatives. Before entering politics, Timmermans worked in the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He is known for being fluent in French, English, German, Italian and Russian, in addition to Dutch.

Executive Vice-President

Europe fit for the Digital Age



Margrethe Vestager
Liberal (Renew Europe)

Margrethe Vestager, from the Danish liberal party, has served as the European Commissioner for Competition since 2014, under President Jean-Claude Juncker. During this mandate, she focused on state aid & tax cases, and has gone after big tech companies in an unprecedented way. She will keep the Competition portfolio in her new position.

Executive Vice-President

An Economy that Works for the People



Valdis Dombrovskis
Centre-Right (EPP)

Valdis Dombrovskis was the European Commission Vice President for Euro and Social Dialogue under President Jean-Claude Juncker. He was also in charge of Financial Stability and Services, and Capital Markets Union. He will return for a second term.

Before his European career, Dombrovskis served as Latvia's Prime Minister from 2009 to 2013.

High Representative

A Stronger Europe in the World



Josep Borrell
Centre-Left (S&D)

Josep Borrell was nominated as the next EU High Representative overseeing Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. No stranger to Brussels, Borrell was an MEP from 2004 to 2009, during which time he served as President of the European Parliament and Chairman of the Committee on Development.

Vice-President

Values and Transparency



Věra Jourová
Liberal (Renew Europe)

Jourová was the European Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality under President Jean-Claude Juncker. She distinguished herself by becoming a leading voice for regulation of big tech companies, overseeing GDPR implementation, and by calling for EU consumer compensation following the Dieselgate scandal (2015).

Vice-President

Protecting our European Way of Life



Margaritis Schinas
Centre-Right (EPP)

A familiar face for anyone who has attended one of the European Commission's press briefings in recent years. Margaritis Schinas was the Commission's spokesperson under President Jean-Claude Juncker. A Greek civil servant, he has held many posts at the European Commission since 1990, including chief of staff for the Cypriot Commissioner, and Director at the Commission's Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs. He was previously an MEP from 2007 to 2009.

Vice-President

Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight



Maroš Šefčovič
Centre-Left (S&D)

A recent runner-up in the 2019 Slovak presidential election, Šefčovič returns to the Commission for his fourth term as Commissioner. He has been in Brussels for over 10 years and built a strong reputation as a diligent Commissioner. He is also a strong advocate for EU integration.

Vice-President

Democracy and Demography



Dubravka Šuica
Centre-Right (EPP)

Dubravka Šuica has held several positions (Vice President of EPP Women, President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, Mayor of Dubrovnik) before joining the European Parliament in 2013. Since 2013, in the European Parliament, Dubravka Šuica has been dealing with the issues of environment, public health and food safety as well as foreign affairs. She was subsequently re-elected in 2019.

**European
Commissioner for
Budget and
Administration**



Johannes Hahn
Centre-Right (EPP)

No stranger to high EU office responsibilities, Hahn was the European Commissioner for Neighborhood policy and enlargement under President Jean-Claude Juncker. Before that, he was in charge of the Regional Policy portfolio under Barroso II (2010-14). His nomination is a sign for political continuity given by Austria's interim Chancellor, following the recent collapse of the Austrian government. He spent the beginning of his career in the private sector.

**European
Commissioner for
Justice**



Didier Reynders
Liberal (Renew Europe)

Reynders served as Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs from 2014 and Minister of Defense from 2018. However, he has been present in the Belgian political landscape for many years now – being a minister without interruption since 1999. Amongst his other portfolios were for instance Finance until 2011, and Trade.

**European
Commissioner for
Innovation and
Youth**



Mariya Gabriel
Centre-Right (EPP)

Once again, a familiar face. In the beginning, Mariya Gabriel was elected to the European Parliament for two consecutive mandates, 2009-2014 and 2014-2017. However, during the previous term (2017) she was appointed as the commissioner for the Digital Economy and Society – replacing Kristalina Georgieva who resigned to join the World Bank.

**European
Commissioner for
Health**



Stella Kyriakides
Centre-Right (EPP)

Stella Kyriakides currently serves as Member of Cyprus' House of Representatives. A clinical psychologist by training, she is a long-standing campaigner on breast cancer and has worked on health policy issues in the Cypriot legislature. She has been the delegation leader of the House to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) since 2012, and a member of the Bureau since 2016. Following the resignation of Pedro Agramunt in 2017, she was elected President of PACE, and served until January 2018.

**European
Commissioner for
Energy**



Kadri Simson
Liberal (Renew Europe)

Simson was the Minister of Economic Affairs and Infrastructure for Estonia (2016-2019). She has been very active during the Estonian Presidency of the Council of the EU as she headed three major different formations (competitiveness, energy and transport). Simson was put forward by the Estonian Government to replace outgoing Andrus Ansip (Vice-President for the Digital Single market) – who took up his seat in the European Parliament – already in the Juncker Commission.

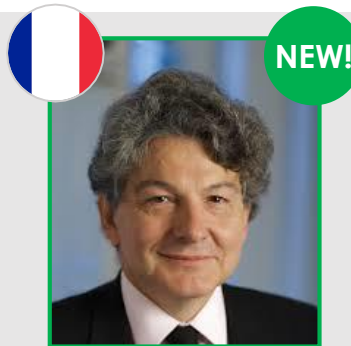
**European
Commissioner for
International
Partnerships**



Jutta Urpilainen
Centre-Left (S&D)

Following the demands for gender balance in this new European Commission, the Finnish Government's choice to nominate Jutta Urpilainen as the first Finnish female Commissioner does not come as a surprise considering her background in breaking glass ceilings: first female Minister of Finance of Finland and the first female president of the Social Democratic Party (2008-2014).

**European
Commissioner for
Internal Market**



Thierry Breton
Liberal (Renew Europe)

Thierry Breton has been appointed following the EP's rejection of Sylvie Goulard. He is French businessman, a former professor at Harvard Business School, and a former Finance minister of France. During his hearing, he indicated his 'profound' and 'only' respect for the European general interest. His intention is to further develop new technologies, focus on Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity and implement a new European Industrial Strategy.

**European
Commissioner for
Neighbourhood
and Enlargement**



Olivér Várhelyi
Centre-Right (EPP)

Olivér Várhelyi has been in Brussels for quite some time, serving as Deputy Permanent Representative and then Permanent Representative of Hungary to the EU since 2011. He is also familiar to the European Commission as he worked in DG Internal Market as Head of Unit. Accession talks with North Macedonia and Albania and structural reforms in the Eastern Partnership countries will be amongst his priorities during his mandate.

**European
Commissioner for
Trade**



Phil Hogan
Centre-Right (EPP)

Phil Hogan is a thirty-year veteran of local and national politics representing Fine Gael (FG; EPP), holding such positions as chair of the parliamentary branch and Director of Elections. He was Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development under President Jean-Claude Juncker. Most of his efforts went into streamlining the CAP and working on food supply chain reforms. He faced controversy in Ireland in 2019 for signing the EU-Mercosur trade agreement.

**European
Commissioner for
Economy**



Paolo Gentiloni
Centre-Left (S&D)

Paolo Gentiloni might be considered an 'old seadog' of Italian politics. He served as Minister for Communications for Romano Prodi's second government (2006-2008). In 2014, he was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs by Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, replacing Federica Mogherini. In 2016, following the collapse of the government, Gentiloni managed to win the support of the Parliament and led a coalition government until 2018, when he was succeeded by Giuseppe Conte.

European Commissioner for Environment and Oceans



Virginijus Sinkevičius
Greens

Born in 1990, he is the youngest European Commissioner. Before joining the Commission, Sinkevičius was Lithuania's Minister of Economy and Innovation (since 2017). He started his political journey in 2016, by becoming Deputy Leader of the Farmers and Greens Union and was elected to the Lithuanian Parliament.

European Commissioner for Jobs



Nicolas Schmit
Centre-Left (S&D)

Schmit is a politician of the Luxembourg Socialist Workers' Party (LSAP) and a long-serving member of the Luxembourg Government (2004-2018). Throughout his career, Schmit worked in the fields of International Relations, Economics and Employment. Schmit was elected as a Member of the European Parliament in July 2019.

European Commissioner for Equality



Helena Dalli
Centre-Left (S&D)

Dalli is called a champion of human rights and gender equality having focused her political career on defending those notions. In Malta, she has held the positions of Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties (2013-2017) and Minister for European Affairs and Equality (2017-2019).

European Commissioner for Agriculture



Janusz Wojciechowski
Conservative (ECR)

Wojciechowski was a long-standing Member of the European Parliament (2004-2016), focusing his works on agricultural matters and policies. In 2015, he was nominated by the Polish government as a representative of Poland at the European Court of Auditors.

European Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms



Elisa Ferreira
Centre-Left (S&D)

Former MEP(2004-2016), Ferreira was Rapporteur of the European Parliament's position on various legislative proposals related to the financial system as well as on several economic, budgetary and tax policy matters. In 2016, she resigned from the European Parliament after she was nominated to join the board of directors of the Bank of Portugal. She was then appointed vice-governor of the same institution.

**European
Commissioner for
Transport**



Adina Vălean
Centre-Right (EPP)

Adina Vălean is the third woman holding this position, succeeding to Violeta Bulc. She is a long-time MEP and chaired the Energy Committee in the EP. She was criticized during her hearing for downplaying the chances of a kerosene tax to make aviation pay its way more. During her mandate, she will also look into plans to decarbonize the maritime sector.

**European
Commissioner for
Crisis
Management**



Janez Lenarčič
Not affiliated / Close to Liberal (Renew Europe)

Janez Lenarčič has been a Slovenian professional diplomat with nearly three decades of experience. In his early career he worked, inter alia, at the Permanent Mission of Slovenia to the United Nations and as an Adviser to the Foreign Minister and Prime Minister of Slovenia. In 2014, he came to Brussels to serve as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative (Coreper II).

**European
Commissioner for
Home Affairs**



Ylva Johansson
Centre-Left (S&D)

Sweden has so far only had women EU Commissioners, a trend that continues as Ylva Johansson replaces Cecilia Malmström who served as Commissioner from 2010. Johansson is an experienced politician and became known as one of the youngest MPs in Sweden when she was elected as a 24-year-old to the Swedish Parliament. She took up her first post as Minister of Education in 1994 and most recently served as Minister for Employment.



As the UK is preparing to leave the European Union, it has not nominated any new Commissioner for the 2019-2024 Commission. In his letter to the European Commission and the Council confirming this decision (August 2019), Sir Tim Barrow, head of the UK's delegation to the EU, indicated that "The United Kingdom remains ready to work constructively with you to ensure that the new College of Commissioners will be appointed in time to take up its mandate on 1 November".

The new European Commission will now take office on 1st December, one month after the original scheduled date. The first legislative proposals can therefore be expected in the spring of 2020.

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Ursula von der Leyen

President

(2019-2024)

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