

VON DER LEYEN COMMISSION

Portfolio Allocation & Structure
11 September 2019

ANALYSIS

INTRODUCTION

On 10 September 2019, European Commission President-elect Ursula von der Leyen presented her team of 27 Commissioners and their portfolios for the 2019 – 2024 mandate. In tandem, the Commission released the [letters of mission](#) for the various Commissioners-designate (essentially a personal to-do list for the next 5 years). The Commission also published a [guide](#) on the future organisation of the Directorates General (DG) or “services” of the European Commission, including minoring restructuring and the introduction of a new DG for Defence, Industry and Space.

THE COLLEGE

The College is made up of 27 Commissioners-designate. The UK will not send a Commissioner due to Brexit, though von der Leyen noted that if a further extension is needed, the UK will have to send a Commissioner to Brussels.

Keeping with von der Leyen's goal of gender parity, 13 of the incoming Commissioners, if approved, are women (including von der Leyen herself). The Commission also came out boasting on the even geographical distribution of the Vice Presidents, of which the new college has 8.

These include three **Executive Vice Presidents** with a dual role as Vice Presidents (responsible for core topics and coordination of so-called “groups” of Commissioners) and as Commissioners (meaning a “portfolio role”, with a Directorate-General reporting directly to them):



Frans Timmermans (PES, Netherlands)

Executive VP for the European Green Deal and climate action policy (DG CLIMA). College Chair when Von der Leyen is absent.
GROUP COMMISSIONERS: Agriculture, Cohesion and Reforms, Health, Transport, Energy, Environment and Oceans



Margrethe Vestager (ALDE, Denmark)

Executive VP for a Europe fit for the digital age and Commissioner for Competition (DG COMP).
GROUP COMMISSIONERS: Innovation and Youth, Jobs, Health, Justice, Transport, Internal Market, Energy



Valdis Dombrovskis (EPP, Latvia)

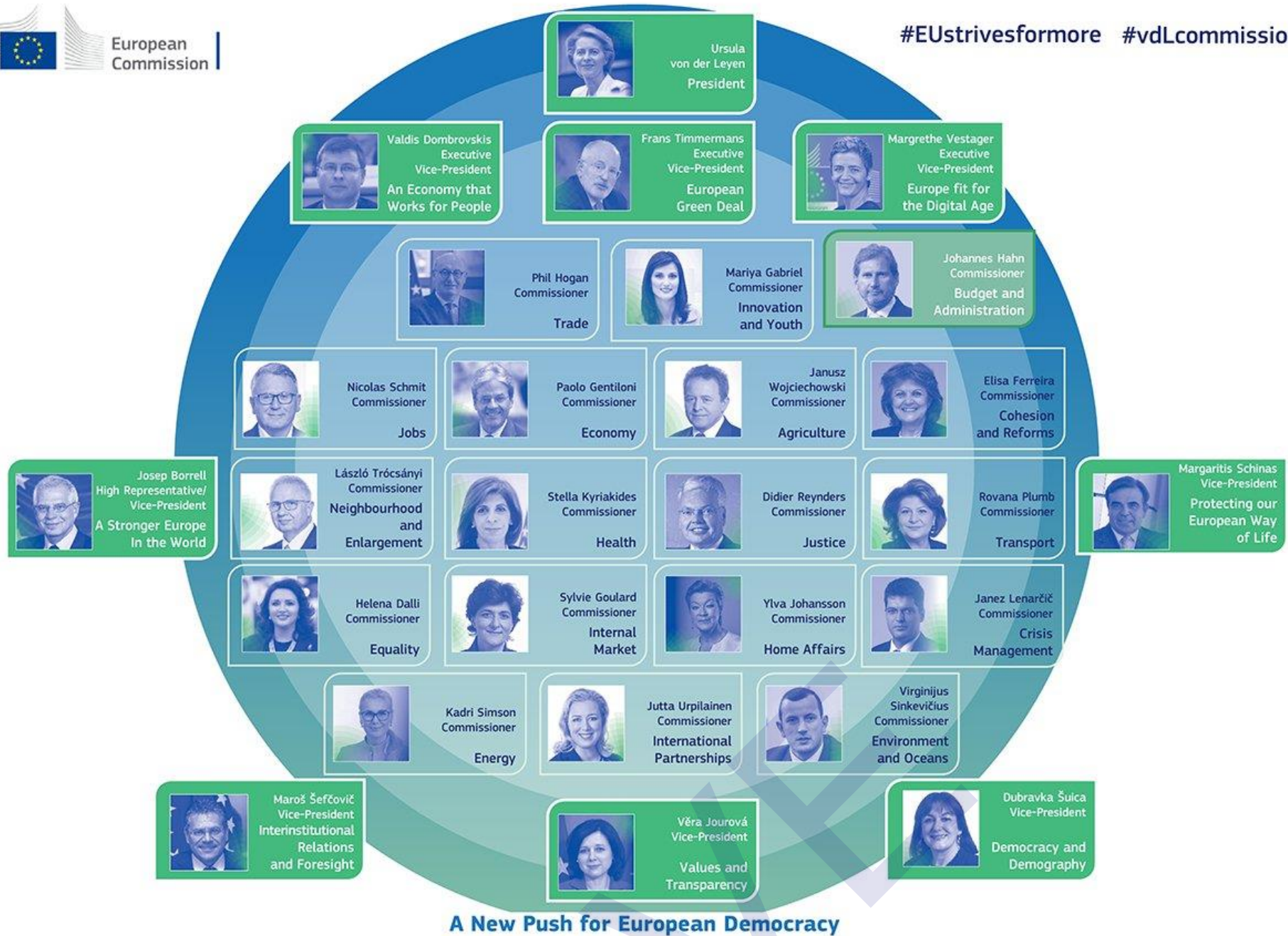
Executive VP for an Economy that Works for People and the Commissioner for financial services (DG FISMA).
GROUP COMMISSIONERS: Trade, Innovation and Youth, Jobs, Economy, Cohesion and Reforms, Internal Market

Von der Leyen Commission: Executive Vice Presidents

The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Policy and Security Policy, Josep Borrell (PES, Spain), is also a vice president, as are Dubravka Šuica (EPP, Croatia), Margaritis Shinas (EPP, Greece), Maroš Šefčovič (PES, Slovakia) and Věra Jourová (ALDE, Czech Republic). The Vice-Presidents are responsible for the top priorities named in President-elect von der Leyen's [Political Guidelines](#):

- A European Green Deal
- An economy that works for people
- A Europe fit for the digital age
- Protecting our European way of life
- A stronger Europe in the world
- A new push for European democracy

The image that follows illustrates the entire college, along with portfolio allocation. For details on the Commissioners-designate and the scope of their portfolios as per the mission letters, please see below.



In terms of political affiliation, the EPP fields 8 Commissioners, including von der Leyen. PES sends 10, including Borrell. 5 Commissioners belong to ALDE. The ECR will be represented by one Commissioner, and three are technically independent: Hungary's László Trócsányi, who is party-less but allied with Prime Minister Viktor Orbán (EPP), Lithuania's Virginijus Sinkevičius, whose Farmers and Greens Union forms part of the Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament, but does not belong to the European Green Party, and finally Slovenian Janez Lenarčič, who is a civil servant, but set to work as part of ALDE.

NEXT STEPS

The European Parliament will now commence its scrutiny of the Commissioners and their aptitude for the roles assigned to them by von der Leyen. Traditionally speaking, the Parliament will generally wave through most candidates but flex its muscles and exercise its right to deny a select few the job (even if strictly speaking, they must reject the entire Commission), forcing Member States to go back to the drawing board. Once Parliament gives its consent to the college, the European Council officially "appoints" the Commission, which is done quickly after the plenary vote, through a written procedure if necessary. The timeline below outlines the procedure for the rest of 2019, through to the installation of the new Commission and publication of its Work Programme.

SEPTEMBER	Early Sept: EP decides on Committee competences; Committees adopt specific questions
	10 September: President-elect presents team of Commissioners, allocation of portfolios and supporting services. Mission letters published
	Interviews for Commissioners-designate cabinet members
	Mid September: EP decides on format of Commissioner hearings
	Late September: JURI Committee scrutinises letters on conflicts of interest
OCTOBER	23 Sept - 8 Oct: Hearings and evaluation meetings
	15 Oct: EP Conference of Committee Chairs evaluation of the hearings
	22 Oct: EP plenary votes on Commission college
	22 Oct: President of the European Commission gives speech before European Parliament and presents 2019 Work Programme
NOVEMBER	From 23 Oct: Cabinets officially confirmed. Staff from inside Commission "services" or outside of the Commission
	1 Nov: New Commission assumes office
DECEMBER	13 Dec: European Council meets
	16 Dec: Commission adopts first Work Programme

THE COMMISSIONERS-DESIGNATE

MEMBER STATE	COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE	PORTFOLIO DETAILS
<p>AUSTRIA</p> 	<div>  <div> Johannes Hahn Budget and Administration </div> </div> <p>Returns to the Commission for a third time, having served as Commissioner for Regional Policy under the second Barroso Commission (2010-14) and as Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations under the Juncker Commission (2014-19). Hahn was reported to prefer a foreign policy dossier, following on from his previous work on enlargement.</p> <p>His nomination was a compromise by the current Austrian government (a technocratic, interim government which was formed in the aftermath of the collapse of the government led by Sebastian Kurz). Hahn is from the same People's Party as Kurz, but his nomination was accepted by the liberal and left parties.</p>	<p>Hahn will, unlike the other “ordinary” Commissioners, report directly to the President. The most important work to be undertaken is the finalisation of negotiations around the 2021-27 Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF), which are set to dominate the next year or so of Hahn’s agenda. This role implies significant horizontal work with other members of the college to reconcile the need for an overall budgetary framework with the demands of each sectoral area.</p> <p>Aside from this, Hahn is tasked with modernisation of the civil service (as were his predecessors), ensuring gender balance throughout the management grade of the Commission, and ensuring prudent budgetary control – with less of an emphasis on cutting costs when compared to Georgieva or Oettinger.</p> <p>He will also, as was the case for his predecessors, be responsible for the EU anti-fraud office (OLAF).</p> <p>He will oversee the Directorates-General for Budget (BUDGET), Human Resources and Security (HR), Informatics (DIGIT – formerly dealt with by the Digital Commissioner), Interpretation (SCIC), and Translation (DGT).</p>
<p>BELGIUM</p> 	<div>  <div> Didier Reynders Commissioner for Justice </div> </div> <p>Currently Belgium’s foreign and European affairs minister and previously minister for finance (1999-2011), and for foreign affairs (2011-2019), where he worked alongside Von der Leyen. As finance minister, he devised a system granting major tax breaks to multinational companies, which was ruled illegal state aid by Margrethe Vestager.</p> <p>In 2014, Reynders was in the running to become Commissioner but missed out. He also failed to secure the role of Secretary-General of the Council of Europe in 2019, meaning his VDL role will be his first international one.</p> <p>His nomination was criticised by some in Belgium, as it was not approved by the Parliament (with Belgium currently in the process of government formation), and Reynders is from the same party (MR) as incoming Council chief Charles Michel. Reynders has been playing an active role on the latter, as an “informateur” to the King in a bid to form a federal government.</p>	<p>His Mission letter includes instructions to:</p> <p>Focus on upholding the rule of law, justice and consumer protection.</p> <p>Lead the Commission’s work on the comprehensive European Rule of Law Mechanism. He has been given full license to use the toolbox at his disposal to prevent and identify breaches to the rule of law and offer targeted support to resolve issues at an early stage.</p> <p>Tighter enforcement communication with citizens to promote a rule-of-law culture. He will also seek to strengthen cooperation on rule-of-law issues with the Council of Europe, OSCE and OECD.</p> <p>Consumer protection with an emphasis on upholding rights in the digital age and protecting the European way of life.</p> <p>Work towards greater judicial cooperation and information between Member States to fight terrorism and extremism in the context of the Security Union</p> <p>Support the setting-up of the European Public Prosecutor’s Office and extend its powers to investigate and prosecute cross-border terrorism.</p> <p>Contribute to the legislation on the human and ethical implications of AI.</p> <p>He will oversee the work of the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST), as well as relevant areas in the Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (CHAFAE) Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)</p>

<p>BULGARIA</p> 	 <p>Mariya Gabriel Commissioner for Innovation and Youth</p> <p>Formerly served as Commissioner for the Digital Economy and Society in the Juncker Commission (2017 – 19). She was nominated to the role following the resignation of former VP Kristalina Georgieva, and thus only served a half term.</p> <p>Former political advisor and MEP from 2009 to 2017, and was re-elected to the Parliament in 2019, but gave up her seat in order to stay in the Commission. One of the youngest and least experienced members of the last college, she helped see through a number of important digital files but was criticised in industry circles for her lack of experience and technical knowledge. This in turn gave greater leeway to the Commission's technical services to steer the digital agenda – something that Von der Leyen's Presidency is keen to change.</p> <p>With regards to her portfolio, concerns are floating in the academic community that the lack of “research” in her title means a Commission which is more focused on innovation and less on basic scientific research.</p> <p>At home, the Bulgarian Government noted that Gabriel's portfolio reflected well the country's priorities during its Council Presidency – particularly insofar as programmes such as Horizon Europe and Erasmus+ are supposed to bring Eastern and Western Europe closer together. Opposition parties, however, decried Bulgaria's failure to gain a more significant portfolio.</p>	<p>Gabriel's “Innovation and Youth” portfolio will cover:</p> <p>Research policy, including the agreement on and implementation of the Horizon Europe programme, the strengthening of the European Research Area, and strong investment in disruptive research and breakthrough innovations.</p> <p>Tripling the Erasmus+ programme in the next budget, and making the European Education Area a reality.</p> <p>Leading on the update of the Digital Education Action Plan.</p> <p>Maximising the potential of the Creative Europe Programme for creative industries.</p> <p>Promoting sport as a tool for inclusion and wellbeing, and further growing the European Week of Sport and the #BeInclusive EU Sports Awards.</p> <p>Gabriel will oversee the Directorates-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD) and Education, Youth, Sport, and Culture (EAC).</p>
<p>CROATIA</p> 	 <p>Dubravka Šuica VP for Democracy and Demography</p> <p>Veteran politician with high ranking within the EPP political family.</p> <p>MEP since Croatia joined the EU and has served as the head of the HDZ (her national political party) delegation in the EPP Group where she was elected Vice President in this mandate.</p> <p>Close confidant of the Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenković, whose role as one of the two chief negotiators for the EPP in the institutional transition certainly played a role in securing a position of the Commission Vice President.</p> <p>Šuica served as the Vice President of the EPP Women and of the Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.</p>	<p>Šuica's mission letter outlines a number of tasks, noting that she is to:</p> <p>Be responsible for addressing demographic change.</p> <p>Be responsible for the Conference on the Future of Europe running for two years starting in 2020.</p> <p>Coordinate the work on the strategy for rural areas and brain drain.</p> <p>She will work closely with the Secretariat-General, the Vice-Presidents for Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight (Dombrovskis) and for Values and Transparency (Jourová), as well as the DG for Communication. She will not, however, lead a specific DG.</p>
<p>CYPRUS</p> 	 <p>Stella Kyriakides Commissioner for Health</p> <p>Veteran of the Cypriot House of Representatives since 2006, Chairwoman of the delegation of Cyprus to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe since 2012, and president of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Regional Development within this body from 2016 – 2018</p> <p>Psychologist by training, worked for the Ministry of Health in charge of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry from 1979 – 2006</p> <p>Worked on the 2010 written declaration on the need for increased coordination of cancer research in the EU</p> <p>Founding member and President of Europa Donna Cyprus, the Cyprus Breast Cancer Forum and Miracle Babies Association. Known breast cancer activist who has won awards for her advocacy</p>	<p>Her tasks will include:</p> <p>Ensure supply of affordable medicines – but support the EU pharmaceutical industry to remain an innovator and world leader</p> <p>Implement new regulatory framework on medical devices, the European One Health Action Plan against AMR</p> <p>Capture potential of e-health and create a European Health Data Space</p> <p>Prioritise communication on vaccination</p> <p>Propose “Europe's Beating Cancer Plan” – to complement the mission on cancer in Horizon Europe and propose actions for prevention, diagnosis, treatment, survivorship and palliative care</p> <p>Build a “farm to fork” sustainable food strategy within the circular economy</p> <p>Improve food information on health and sustainability for consumers</p> <p>Reduce dependency on pesticides and protect citizens from endocrine disruptors</p> <p>She will oversee the work of DG SANTE.</p>

<p>CZECH REPUBLIC</p> 	 <p>Věra Jourová Commissioner for Values and Transparency</p> <p>Returning Commissioner, having served as Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality from 2014-19.</p> <p>Minister of Regional Development and an MP in the Czechia in the early 2010's. She spent 33 days in a Czech prison in 2006 after being falsely accused of corruption.</p> <p>A liberal, she remains attached to ANO 2011, affiliated to Renew Europe, and despite being a member of Andrej Babis's party, the billionaire Prime Minister of Czechia, she is seen as relatively independent from her government.</p>	<p>A strong advocate of justice and the rule-of-law, she will be in charge with improving relations between the EU's eastern and western states, particularly Hungary and Poland, who have disagreed strongly with Brussels in the past.</p> <p>Among her specific tasks per the mission letter, the following are of most interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chairing a Commissioners' Group on the "New Push for Democracy". - Broker discussions between the European Parliament and the Council on improving the Spitzenkandidat system and on the issue of transnational lists (proposals to be presented by summer 2020). - coordinate the work on a European Democracy Action Plan. - coordinate the work on building the resilience of democratic systems by countering disinformation and fake information, while preserving freedom of expression, freedom of the press and media pluralism. - a Transparency Register for the Parliament, Council and Commission. - ensure the EU's accession to the European Convention on Human Rights. <p>Jourová will not head up a specific Directorate-General, but will work closely with the Secretariat-General in her coordinating role as a Vice President.</p>
<p>DENMARK</p> 	 <p>Margrethe Vestager Executive VP, Europe Fit for Digital Age Commissioner for Competition</p> <p>Returning Commissioner, formerly Commissioner for Competition 2014 – 19 and was one of ALDE's Spitzenkandidaten. As executive VP, she will have increased responsibilities and power</p> <p>Former political leader of the Danish Social Liberal Party 2007 – 2014 and Minister of Economic Affairs and the Interior 2011 - 14</p> <p>Reputation precedes her: Vestager has taken big companies to task throughout her mandate and spearheaded regulatory reform to the EU's digital marketplace, including offering smaller players in the market the opportunity to compete. Politico calls her "The Deputy Queen of Europe (After Merkel)" and US President Donald Trump calls her "The Tax Lady".</p>	<p>In her role as Executive Vice President (with her rank being, by her own admission, below that of Timmermans) Vestager's work will follow two strands:</p> <p>A Europe fit for the Digital Age</p> <p>Strengthen EU's technological leadership and strategic autonomy by strengthening industry and innovation</p> <p>Co-lead work on a new long-term strategy for Europe's industrial future (with Executive VP Dombrovskis)</p> <p>Co-lead on a new SME strategy, also with Dombrovskis</p> <p>Coordinate the European approach on AI (within 100 days)</p> <p>Coordinate on digital platforms' liability and safety as part of the new Digital Services Act</p> <p>Coordinate on digital taxation</p> <p>Competition</p> <p>Strengthen competition enforcement: faster investigations, improved case detection</p> <p>Review competition rules: merger control, State aid rules, antitrust regulations</p> <p>Define competition policy's role in the industrial strategy (state aid, IPCEIs)</p> <p>Tackle foreign state ownership/subsidy distortion</p> <p>Proactively share any general market knowledge particularly in the digital sector</p> <p>She will work with the Secretariat-General in her Executive VP role, but will also continue to head up the Directorate-General for Competition (DG COMP), which will now also be responsible for State Aid investigations in agriculture and fisheries (formerly the competence of DGs AGRI and MARE)</p>

ESTONIA



Kadri Simson
Commissioner for Energy

Kadri Simson is a member of the Estonian Centre Party and an MP since 2007.

Minister of Economic Affairs and Infrastructure between 2016 and 2019, managed the internal market, energy and transportation in the Council of the EU during Estonia's EU Presidency.

Politico describes her as “always prepared”.

With the election of former Digital Single Market VP Andrus Ansip to the European Parliament, Simson had been poised to enter the Juncker Commission without a portfolio for the remainder of its term. However, Tallinn eventually agreed to forfeit its seat, to allow Simon to focus on her upcoming brief.

Simson is the first Estonian commissioner who has not previously been prime minister.

Simson's priorities include:

Being in charge of achieving a reduction in EU emissions by at least 50% by 2030

Implementation of energy-efficiency and renewable-energy legislation, including by working closely with Member States on their National Energy and Climate Plans.

Ensuring that Europe follows the energy-efficiency-first principle across the board.

Diversification of energy sources, including through the use of liquefied natural gas, and working towards carbon-neutrality “notably through carbon capture and storage”.

Speeding up the deployment of clean energy, and scaling up investment in clean energy.

Reviewing the Energy Taxation Directive to bring it in line with carbon-neutrality commitments – also contributing to the Carbon Border Tax proposal.

Contributing to the implementation of the new Just Transition Fund, and helping member states combat energy poverty.

Simson will lead the work of the Directorate-General for Energy (DG ENER)

FINLAND



Jutta Urpilainen
Commissioner for International Partnerships

Finland's first female commissioner was also the first woman to lead the Social Democrats (2008-2014) in Finland and the country's first female Finance Minister (2011-2014) in the government of outgoing VP Jyrki Katainen.

Finland was reportedly seeking an influential role in development, training or defence, and Urpilainen has expressed her satisfaction with the brief she has been given, which she sees as dealing with economic and external relations.

Indeed, the new title of her portfolio implies that DG DEVCO (the largest DG in the Commission by staff numbers) will move away from aid and more towards a partnership approach, particularly with Africa.

Urpilainen should:

Ensure that EU Member States are world leaders in international cooperation and development support

Create a new comprehensive strategy for Africa

Reach comprehensive partnerships with countries of migration origin and transit

Ensure that gender equality is at the heart of EU international cooperation and development, and facilitate a swift agreement on the post-2020 Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument.

Urpilainen will lead the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO)



Sylvie Goulard
Commissioner for Internal Market

Former MEP (2009 – 2017), ran for Parliament President in 2016. She has since 2018 been the Deputy Governor of the Bank of France.

Goulard is an expert on EU affairs, and a dedicated Europhile who is known to support federalisation.

Joined “En Marche!” in 2017 and served as French Minister of the Armed Services from May-June 2017 in the government of Edouard Philippe.

During Macron’s presidential campaign, Goulard was seen as essential in helping him build his network with European leaders.

She is also a prolific contributor to French and foreign newspapers.

Although Goulard was tipped for the competition portfolio in recent days, there is little reason for France to be disappointed with the position she has gained. Indeed, she will be something of a Super Commissioner, leading three powerful DGs of the Commission, including two of the most industry-relevant (GROW and CNECT) and the much-anticipated new Defence DG.

Goulard’s long list of tasks includes:

Enhance Europe’s technological sovereignty with investments and standard definition in new technologies. Mentioned are: blockchain, HPC, algorithm, data-sharing and data-usage tools

Lead the Commission in a reflection on EU technological sovereignty in key value chains (mentioned are defense and space, common standards, future trends)

Lead on a coordinated approach to AI and the new DSA

Build a real single market for cybersecurity and build a joint Cyber Unit

Update the Digital Education Action Plan, focusing on digital literacy and skills

Contribute to a long-term strategy for Europe’s industrial future – Goulard to look at investment, public procurement, trade, skills, innovation and SMEs

Ensure alignment between the new Circular Economy Action Plan and the industrial strategy for a climate-neutral economy by 2050

New SME strategy. Goulard to appoint a Commission SME Envoy

Smooth functioning single market on a level playing field (address foreign subsidies, especially in public procurement)

Ensure the IP regime is fit for the digital age

Implement and oversee the European Defence Fund

Build an open and competitive European defence equipment market

Foster a strong and innovative space industry

Goulard will take a massive leadership role in the services, being head of the Directorates-General for Communications Networks, Content, and Technology (DG CNECT), Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship, and SMEs (DG GROW), and the new Directorate General for Defence and Space. Previously, GROW and CNECT were handled by two separate Commissioners. DG GROW will, however, lose some competences to DG SANTE, for example on biotechnology, food supply chain, and aspects of medical devices.

<p>GERMANY</p> 	<div data-bbox="441 142 613 320"></div> <div data-bbox="634 142 982 201"> <p>Ursula von der Leyen President of the Commission</p> </div> <p>A close ally of Angela Merkel, who has served in her cabinets since 2005, and was for many years touted as a potential successor to Germany's long-standing Chancellor. Von der Leyen, however, has seen her political stock fall in her home country, beset by controversy regarding her use of outside consultants, while also being seen as ineffective in the modernisation of the German military.</p> <p>VDL – as she has long been nicknamed at home – was a surprise to almost everyone on her announcement as next Commission President, and according to reports, only found out about her candidature a day before it entered discussion between European leaders. She was a beneficiary of the failure of the Spitzenkandidat system, whereby EU political parties nominated their picks for the Commission Presidency before the EU elections. VDL was not among these names, but none of the frontrunners that emerged (the EPP's Manfred Weber, S&D's Frans Timmermans, and Renew Europe's Margrethe Vestager) could secure a parliamentary majority, hence a new solution had to be found. Emmanuel Macron is believed to be the main architect of VDL's rise, though Merkel also played a part – albeit more subtly, as she had championed her Bavarian coalition partner's (CSU) candidate Weber. It is also thought that support from central and eastern member states played a big part in VDL's nomination.</p> <p>VDL thus enters the role of Commission President in a trickier situation than her predecessor, Jean-Claude Juncker, who could rely on a grand coalition-style majority made up of the EPP and S&D groups in the European Parliament and the Council fully in control of the two political families. VDL has had to ensure a broader base of support – including from liberals and Greens – and indeed, coming as a candidate of the European Council, against the Parliament's support for the Spitzenkandidaten process, she had to compromise. Consequently, during her approval process by the European Parliament, she is thought to have lost votes from parts of her own EPP, as well as the S&D, having in the end been confirmed with a rather anaemic majority. Indeed, the content of her political priorities (somewhat vague, but with "something for everybody") and the make-up of her Commission (with more top jobs than the previous college – again, something for everybody) reflect the fragmentation of her support base.</p>	<p>Von der Leyen's political priorities outlined six "headline ambitions" for the next Commission's mandate, all of which are aligned with the role of one of the (Executive) Vice-Presidents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A European Green Deal (Exec VP Timmermans) <p>The single biggest commitment made in the priorities, promising to provide legislation within the first 100 days of the Commission. This will include a new European Climate Pact, a "zero-emissions ambition", and a new Circular Economy action plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An economy that works for people (Exec VP Dombrovskis) <p>Initiatives included here will include a Budgetary Instrument for Convergence and Competitiveness for the euro area, a new SME strategy, and moves towards a European minimum wage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Europe fit for the digital age (Exec VP Vestager) <p>Banner initiatives here will include a coordinated European approach on the human and ethical implications of Artificial Intelligence, a Digital Services Act, a Digital Education Action Plan, and a joint Cyber Unit)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protecting our European way of life (VP Schinas) <p>This commitment looks both inwards and outwards. In terms of internal EU matters, VDL proposes a European Rule of Law Mechanism, giving the Commission a firmer hand in dealing with member states who contradict its rules. Looking outward, the key initiative is a New Pact on Migration and Asylum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A stronger Europe in the world (HR/VP Borrell) <p>External action sees no major changes proposed, but the Commission does promise to prioritise reform of the World Trade Organisation – indicating more of a willingness to use trade as a tool of foreign policy in this "geopolitical Commission" – and further steps towards a "genuine European Defence Union".</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A new push for European democracy (VP Jourová, VP Šuica, and VP Šefčovič) <p>The key element here is the Conference for the Future of Europe, to start in 2020 and run for two years. Furthermore, VDL plans to extend more decision-making powers to the European Parliament where possible (including by giving it a right of initiative), and to initiate a European Democracy Action Plan.</p> <p>In practical terms, VDL will lead the Secretariat-General, the Legal Service, the Directorate-General for Communication (DG COMM) and the European Political Strategy Centre (EPSC).</p>
<p>GREECE</p> 	<div data-bbox="441 1745 613 1923"></div> <div data-bbox="634 1745 1079 1834"> <p>Margaritis Schinas VP, Protecting our European Way of Life</p> </div> <p>Since 2015, Commission's chief spokesperson and Deputy Director-General of DG Communication. Schinas is a "Brussels insider" and part of the core team of President Juncker.</p> <p>MEP for Greece's center-right New Democracy between 2007 and 2009 – his appointment is therefore a reflection of his party's return to power in 2019, following the fall of the government of Alexis Tsipras.</p>	<p>Schinas has been instructed to:</p> <p>Focus on skills, labour mobility and integration, finding common ground on migration as well as the Security Union.</p> <p>Coordinate the work on inclusion and building a genuine Union of equality and diversity through culture and sport as well as programs such as the European Solidarity Corps and DiscoverEU.</p> <p>Realise European Education Area.</p> <p>Improve the integration of migrants and refugees into society, coordinating the EU's overall approach and work on a New Pact on Migration</p> <p>Schinas will not head of a Directorate-General, instead working with the Secretariat-General in his coordinating role as Vice President.</p>

<p>HUNGARY</p> <p>Party-less, though allied with Viktor Orbán</p>	<div data-bbox="443 145 619 320">  </div> <div data-bbox="640 145 1081 231"> <p>László Trócsányi Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement</p> </div> <p>Led the list of the ruling Fidesz party and was elected to the European Parliament, where he is currently a member of the AFCO Committee as well as a substitute of the AFET Committee.</p> <p>From 2005 to 2013, Trócsányi was a member and substitute member of the Council of Europe's Venice Commission – an advisory with which he cooperated during his tenure as Justice Minister (2014-2019) regarding the Hungarian Act on Public Administration Courts.</p> <p>Between 2007 and 2010, Trócsányi was also a member of the Constitutional Court.</p> <p>In Hungary he is perceived as loyal to Prime Minister Viktor Orbán.</p>	<p>His portfolio will focus on strengthening the Union's relations with its immediate neighbours, particularly with the Western Balkans, though the Mission Letter does not indicate much ambition to advance ongoing accession negotiations.</p> <p>On Turkey, he will be tasked with managing the EU relationship, in the perspective that Turkey's accession talks are "at a standstill".</p> <p>Looking to the Eastern Partnership countries, a new set long-term policy objectives for the are to be presented by mid 2020.</p> <p>He will also represent the Commission at Foreign Affairs Council meetings.</p> <p>He will be responsible for the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), and will "as a rule" work under the HR/VP.</p>
<p>IRELAND</p> <div data-bbox="157 982 296 1050">  </div>	<div data-bbox="443 884 619 1065">  </div> <div data-bbox="640 914 1081 973"> <p>Phil Hogan Commissioner for Trade</p> </div> <p>Returning Commissioner, formerly Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development 2014 – 19</p> <p>Important player in trade negotiations and "dealmaker" of the Japan and Mercosur agreements, arguable equally influential or more so than Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström.</p> <p>Ireland will be pleased to have secured such a powerful portfolio, though it remains to be seen whether Hogan's Irishness will work in his favour when (or if) UK-EU trade negotiations kick off.</p> <p>On the home front, Hogan is part of the ruling Fine Gael party – however, relations with his native country may become more strained as he will be tasked with pushing through the EU-Mercosur Free Trade Agreement, which is very controversial in Ireland.</p>	<p>Hogan is set to take on a difficult and broad portfolio, though unlike his predecessor, there are unlikely to be many high-profile bilateral free trade agreements to negotiate – with the potential exception of the UK. However, it is left (perhaps purposefully) vague in the Mission Letter whether Hogan would lead on EU-UK trade talks. Among his other tasks:</p> <p>College to appoint Chief Trade Enforcement Officer to improve trade agreement compliance</p> <p>Concentrate on supporting and updating the rules-based multilateral system, especially the WTO (subsidies, forced transfer of technologies, e-commerce)</p> <p>Strengthen protection against unfair trade practices with better use of trade defence instruments (TDIs), levelling the procurement playing field and implementing the FDI screening</p> <p>Strengthen the "trade toolbox": work with Executive VP for a Europe fit for the Digital Age (Vestager) to address distortive foreign subsidies</p> <p>"Work towards a positive, balanced and mutually beneficial trading partnership with the United States. Negotiate with China on a Comprehensive Agreement on Investment to reach deal by end 2020".</p> <p>Prioritise trade and investment with Africa</p> <p>Conclude ongoing negotiations, notably Australia and New Zealand. Interestingly, the EU-Mercosur deal is not mentioned.</p> <p>Design and introduce Carbon Border Tax compliant with WTO rules (working with Commissioner for Economy Gentiloni).</p> <p>Hogan will head of the Directorate-General for Trade (DG TRADE).</p>

<p>ITALY</p> 	 <p>Paolo Gentiloni Commissioner for Economy</p> <p>Prime Minister of Italy between 2016 and 2018, Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs between 2014 and 2016, and Minister of Communications between 2006 and 2008. Gentiloni is very close to former PM Matteo Renzi. He served as head of the Italian Diplomacy between 2014 and 2016, he dealt with the crises stemming from the Islamic State, the disintegration of Libya, and the refugee crisis.</p> <p>Gentiloni was the last name to be submitted to Von der Leyen, with his nomination emerging in the middle of a change of government in Italy – as such, his securing of a relatively powerful position in the Commission reflects the upturn in the fortunes of Italy's Democratic Party, which has now re-entered government with the 5 Star Movement. However, his position may be seen as a disappointment by some in Italy, which targeted the competition portfolio.</p> <p>While some were surprised to see the indebted Italy be handed an economic portfolio, Rome was happy that its Commissioner will have a hand in reforming EU economic governance. VDL hopes that cooperation between Rome and Brussels will now go smoothly, especially know that former MEP Roberto Gualtieri is appointed as Economy Minister.</p>	<p>Gentiloni's to-do list includes:</p> <p>Responsible for ensuring that the EU's economic policy is in line with sustainability principles.</p> <p>Improve EU resilience to shocks in the event of another economic crisis.</p> <p>Lead on the design of a European Unemployment Benefit Reinsurance Scheme</p> <p>Coordinate the launch of the future InvestEU programme.</p> <p>Active in the digital and energy portfolios, working on an agreed approach on digital taxation, the review of the Energy Taxation Directive and a proposal on a Carbon Border Tax.</p> <p>Lead on a common consolidated corporate tax base, as well as will contribute in the development of stronger measures to fight harmful tax regimes around the world.</p> <p>Contribute to the Member States' work on the full implementation of the Union Customs Code and an integrated European approach to better manage risk and ensure a homogeneous approach across the entire EU's external border.</p> <p>Gentiloni will lead the Directorates-General for Economic and Financial Affairs (DG ECFIN), and Taxation and Customs Union (TAXUD), as well as Eurostat.</p>
<p>LATVIA</p> 	 <p>Valdis Dombrovskis Executive VP for an Economy that Works for People</p> <p>Former European Commission Vice President for Euro and Social Dialogue, also in charge of Financial Stability, Financial Services, and Capital Markets Union, returns to the Commission as Executive Vice-President.</p> <p>MEP between 2004 and 2009 and was re-elected again in the 2014 and 2019 European Parliament elections, in both cases he gave up his seat following his nomination as European Commissioner.</p> <p>In 2009, Dombrovskis became Latvia's Prime Minister, yet he stepped down after 54 people died when a shopping centre collapsed in 2013. From 1998 to 2002, he held positions at the Bank of Latvia, after becoming Minister of Finance in 2002.</p> <p>His nomination as Executive Vice President came as a bit of a surprise—and a disappointment—to those hoping ALDE, PES and EPP would form a trifecta at the top of the Commission with von der Leyen, Vestager and Timmermans. With Dombrovskis, the EPP holds two of the leadership positions – and two further VPs are EPP (Greece's Margaritis Schinas and Croatia's Dubravka Šuica).</p>	<p>His portfolio will focus on building a future-ready economy that delivers stability, jobs, growth and investment as well as preserving and improving financial stability. This will include two works streams:</p> <p>An economy that works for people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementing the action plan on a European Pillar of Social Rights - Ensuring that the European Semester incorporates the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - Coordinating the work on the Sustainable Europe Investment Plan, which should unlock €1 trillion of climate-related investment over the next decade. As part of this, he is responsible for relations with the European Investment Bank (EIB), leading efforts to make it "Europe's Climate Bank". - Co-leading (with Exec VP Vestager) work on a new long-term strategy for Europe's industrial future, and a new SME Strategy. - Managing and coordinating the participation of the Commission in the 'Economic and Financial Affairs' Council configuration, in the Eurogroup, in the economic dialogue with the European Parliament, in the Macroeconomic Dialogue and in the Governing Council of the European Central Bank. <p>Financial services, financial stability and the Capital Markets Union</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completing the Banking Union and speeding up efforts towards the Capital Markets Union. - Developing a green financing strategy. - Putting forward a FinTech Strategy to support new digital technologies. - Ensuring a common approach to cryptocurrencies. <p>He will work with the Secretariat-General in his coordinating role as Vice-President, but will also head up the Directorate General for Financial Services, Financial Stability and the Capital Markets Union (DG FISMA), which will see its competences broadened to include moneylaundering and sanctions, at the expense of DG JUST.</p>

<p>LITHUANIA</p> <p>His Farmers and Greens Union forms part of the Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament, but does not belong to the European Green Party.</p>	 <p>Virginijus Sinkevičius Commissioner for Environment and Oceans</p> <p>29-year-old economist and politician for the Farmers and Greens Union party, which sits with the Greens/EFA in the European Parliament. Since 2017, he has served as Minister of the Economy and Innovation of Lithuania.</p> <p>From 2016, he served as Deputy Leader of the Farmers and Greens Union</p> <p>Before taking the ministerial role, he served as Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Economics.</p>	<p>Sinkevičius' instructions include:</p> <p>Putting forward a put forward a new Biodiversity Strategy for 2030.</p> <p>Ensuring EU leadership on the 2020 Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.</p> <p>Leading on delivering the zero-pollution ambition.</p> <p>Leading on the new Circular Economy Action Plan, including by addressing plastic-free oceans and dealing with microplastics.</p> <p>Implementing the reformed Common Fisheries Policy, and a review thereof by 2022.</p> <p>Contributing to the 'Farm to Fork' strategy on sustainable food.</p> <p>Much like his predecessor, he will take responsibility for the Directorates-General for Environment (DG ENV) and Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MARE).</p>
<p>LUXEMBURG</p> 	 <p>Nicolas Schmit Commissioner for Jobs</p> <p>Recently elected Member of the European Parliament</p> <p>Member of the government of Luxembourg from 2004 until 2019, where he was Minister for Labour under coalition governments led by Jean-Claude Juncker and Xavier Bettel.</p> <p>Served as Luxembourg's ambassador and permanent representative to the EU for six years.</p>	<p>Strengthen Europe's social dimension, to be delivered through the 20 principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, and developing an action plan to implement the Pillar</p> <p>Ensure all workers in the EU have a fair minimum wage.</p> <p>Improve the labour conditions of platform workers and contribute to the design of a European Unemployment Benefit Reinsurance Scheme and support the work of the new European Labour Authority and maximise the effect of the upcoming European Social Fund+.</p> <p>Strengthen European social protection systems, reinforce the Youth Guarantee and lead the work on developing a European Child Guarantee as a tool to fight poverty and update the skills agenda.</p> <p>Schmit will lead the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs, and Inclusion (DG EMPL).</p>
<p>MALTA</p> 	 <p>Helena Dalli Commissioner for Equality</p> <p>Maltese Minister for European Affairs and Equality between 2017 and 2019, and Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties between 2013 and 2017</p> <p>Active politician since 1996, when she was appointed Parliamentary Secretary for Women's Rights in the Office of the Maltese PM.</p> <p>Known for having a strong social portfolio. During her time as Minister for the Social Dialogue, the government introduced several laws to strengthen the gender equality and human rights framework. In 2015, she presented a law establishing wide-ranging rights for transgender and intersex people.</p>	<p>Dalli has a very horizontal portfolio, which includes the following tasks:</p> <p>Responsible for strengthening the EU's commitment to inclusion and equality irrespective of sex, racial or ethnic origin, disability, age, sexual orientation or religious belief.</p> <p>Propose new anti-discrimination legislation, leading on the EU's implementation of the UN's Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability, and developing a new European Gender Strategy.</p> <p>On gender and alongside Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen, she will enhance best practices on empowering women and girls.</p> <p>Include gender-based violence to the list of EU crimes.</p> <p>On employment-related files, Dalli will be in charge of finding a way forward on the Women on Boards Directive and ensuring the full implementation of the Work-Life Balance Directive.</p> <p>She will head a Task Force for Equality, as well as leading the aspects of DG JUST's work related to equality.</p>
<p>NETHERLANDS</p> 	 <p>Frans Timmermans Executive VP for the European Green Deal</p> <p>Timmermans returns after serving as First Vice-President of the European Commission, in charge of Better Regulation, Inter-Institutional Relations, the Rule of Law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights.</p> <p>Spitzenkandidat for PES</p> <p>A former Dutch diplomat, he served in the Dutch embassy in Moscow at the start of his career and in 1994 worked in Brussels as a political advisor to Commissioner Hans van den Broek. First elected a Member of Parliament in 1998, and between 2012-2014 Dutch Foreign Minister, during which he gained a positive reputation for handling the Dutch response to the MH-17 disaster.</p>	<p>Timmermans has one of the most high-profile positions, and remains First Vice President, insofar as he will deputise Von der Leyen in her absence. In his double role as Executive Vice President, his work will follow two strands:</p> <p>European Green Deal (to be presented in the first 100 days)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working towards a commitment to cut the EU's emissions targets even further than current ambitions, and to encourage similar actions from third countries. - Coordinating the Just Transition Fund. - Coordinating the work on the Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. - Working towards a zero-pollution ambition. - Coordinating work on the circular economy, as well as on the new 'Farm to Fork' strategy for sustainable food. <p>Climate Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the first 100 days, propose the first European Climate Law to enshrine the 2050 climate-neutrality target into legislation. - Instilling a new climate culture in Europe through the new European Climate Pact. <p>He will work with the Secretariat-General in his coordinating role as Executive Vice President, but will also head the Directorate-General for Climate Action (DG CLIMA).</p>

<p>POLAND</p> 	<div data-bbox="445 145 619 323">  </div> <div data-bbox="640 145 1029 201"> <p>Janusz Wojciechowski Commissioner for Agriculture</p> </div> <p>MEP between 2003 and 2016, where he served as Vice-Chair of the AGRI Committee for most of that time. He left the Parliament to take up a seat at the European Court of Auditors. He originally sat with the EPP group in the Parliament, before leaving for the former Union for Europe and the Nations group – for which he was kicked out of his national party at the time, the Polish People's Party.</p> <p>Prior to his experience in the European Parliament, he was Deputy Speaker of the Polish Parliament, President of the Polish Supreme Audit Office, Judge at the Polish High Court of Justice, and Judge seconded to the Supreme Court.</p> <p>Wojciechowski was nominated by the Polish government after Warsaw's original choice, Krzysztof Szczerski, decided to withdraw his candidacy. This was reportedly because Poland knew it would receive the agriculture portfolio, and wanted to send someone with relevant experience.</p>	<p>His tasks include:</p> <p>Lead and conclude the negotiations for a modern and simpler post 2020 Common Agricultural Policy, with the objective of it being food-secure and environmentally friendly.</p> <p>Ensure the full and correct implementation of the CAP.</p> <p>Sustainability will be a driving force in his work, and he is expected to contribute to the 'Farm to Fork' strategy for sustainable food, the reduction of emissions in the agri-food sector, and a long-term vision for rural areas.</p> <p>On labelling, he will oversee how to strengthen the system of geographical indications.</p> <p>Wojciechowski will lead the work of the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI)</p>
<p>PORTUGAL</p> 	<div data-bbox="445 1032 619 1210">  </div> <div data-bbox="640 1032 1029 1118"> <p>Elisa Ferreira Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms</p> </div> <p>current vice-governor of the Bank of Portugal following nomination in June 2016</p> <p>A Member of the European Parliament between 2004 and 2016, Ferreira has also served as the Portuguese Minister for the Environment between 1995 and 1999.</p> <p>After holding several Commission portfolios of EU-wide importance, the Portuguese Government was keen to be given the responsibility over the regional cohesion funds that have a direct impact on the Portuguese economy. The original objective was to appoint current MEP Pedro Marques who was before his election the Minister overseeing the use of cohesion funds, but due to pressure from the President-elect for a gender balanced college of Commissioners the choice fell on Elisa Ferreira. With a more impressive professional and academic background than Pedro Marques, Elisa Ferreira is still seen as a loyalist to the Portuguese Prime Minister and likely to be a strong advocate to the Portuguese cause despite legally having to represent the interests of the whole EU.</p>	<p>Ferreira's tasks include:</p> <p>Work on ensuring that EU investments are redirected to those areas most affected by the digital and climate transition.</p> <p>Agree on a new legislative benchmark for Cohesion Funds which should be simpler, modern and include high-quality investments.</p> <p>Oversee the Member States' correct implementation and expenditure of EU funds.</p> <p>On sustainability, she will design a new Just Transition Fund aimed at those more energy-intensive regions using coal, as well as will be expected to present sustainable development strategies for European cities and urban areas.</p> <p>Ferreira will lead the work of the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO) and the newly-established Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support.</p>
<p>ROMANIA</p> 	<div data-bbox="445 1952 619 2131">  </div> <div data-bbox="640 1952 1029 2009"> <p>Rovana Plumb Commissioner for Transport</p> </div> <p>MEP from 2007 to 2012 and was, after a seven-year gap, elected again in 2019. Currently, she is an S&D Vice Chair and member of the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety committee.</p> <p>Between May and December 2012, Plumb served as Minister of Environment and Forestry. Subsequently, she became Minister of Environment and Climate Change, a position she held until March 2014. Between 2014 and 2017,</p> <p>Plumb held various positions, including interim Minister-delegate for Water, Forests and Fisheries, Minister of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly, and Minister-delegate for European Funds.</p> <p>In Romania, Plumb is member and former acting president of the Social Democratic Party and is perceived as loyal to former PSD leader Liviu Dragnea who is now in jail over a case involving fake jobs for party workers.</p>	<p>Plumb's tasks include:</p> <p>Putting forward a comprehensive strategy for sustainable and smart mobility.</p> <p>Extending the Emissions Trading System to the maritime sector and reducing free allowances for airlines.</p> <p>Contributing to the zero-pollution ambition, focusing on mitigating the impact of transport on our climate and natural environment.</p> <p>Continuing a focus on connected and automated mobility.</p> <p>Ensuring a fair and functioning internal market for transport, where transport is accessible and affordable to all – this should include reinforcing passengers' rights.</p> <p>She will head up the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE).</p>

<p>SLOVAKIA</p> 	 <p>Maroš Šefčovič VP for Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight</p> <p>Career diplomat and has been working in the Commission since 2009.</p> <p>In 2019, he unsuccessfully ran campaigns for the Presidency of Slovakia and as S&D Spitzenkandidat for the Commission Presidency.</p> <p>From 2014 to 2019, he was Commission Vice-President for the Energy Union, and spent five years trying to mediate a standoff over gas supply between Russia and Ukraine.</p> <p>Some of his favourite topics include space and EU battery production.</p> <p>As a Slovak diplomat, he served in Zimbabwe, Canada and as ambassador to Israel (1999-2002).</p>	<p>His tasks will include:</p> <p>Lead the Commission's work on interinstitutional relations, better policymaking and strategic foresight.</p> <p>Ensuring the right of initiative for Parliament, and generally working to improve its relations with the Commission.</p> <p>Implementation of the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making.</p> <p>Coordinating the Commission's work on the European Battery Alliance (as part of his role on strategic foresight).</p> <p>Supporting the President in developing the annual Commission work programme.</p> <p>Chair the REFIT Platform.</p> <p>He will not head up a specific Directorate-General, instead working with the Secretariat-General in his coordinating role as Vice President. He will also draw on work of the Joint Research Centre (JRC).</p>
<p>SLOVENIA</p> <p>Civil servant who will work with ALDE</p>	 <p>Janez Lenarčič Commissioner for Crisis Management</p> <p>Career diplomat, served at the Permanent Mission of Slovenia to the United Nations and worked as an Adviser to the Foreign Minister and Prime Minister of Slovenia.</p> <p>Lenarčič was Ambassador of Slovenia to the OSCE and chaired the Permanent Council in 2005 when Slovenia held the rotating chairmanship of the Organization.</p> <p>From 2006 to 2008 he was State Secretary for European Affairs.</p> <p>He served as the Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights within the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe from July 2008 to June 2014.</p> <p>In 2014, he served in the Cabinet of the Slovenian Prime Minister Miro Cerar and later moved to Brussels to serve as the Ambassador at the Slovenian Permanent Representation to the EU.</p>	<p>Lenarčič's tasks include:</p> <p>Becoming the European Emergency Response Coordinator, thus leading on strengthening the Emergency Response Coordination Centre's role as the single operational hub managing the EU's swift and effective response to a broad range of crises at home and around the world.</p> <p>Making use of the full potential of the newly enhanced EU Civil Protection Mechanism, known as rescEU, particularly through coordination with Member States.</p> <p>Working with other Commissioners on developing an integrated approach to the EU's reaction to crises, ensuring that humanitarian, development, security and other policies all work together.</p> <p>He will as a rule work under the HR/VP, and will also head up the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO).</p>
<p>SPAIN</p> 	 <p>Josep Borrell High Representative/Vice President of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, "A stronger Europe in the world"</p> <p>President of the European Parliament between 2004 and 2007, Member of the European Parliament between 2004 and 2009. He was also a Member of the Spanish Parliament between 1986 and 2004.</p> <p>Borrell has also served as Spain's Minister of Transport and Constructions, Minister for the Environment, and is currently the incumbent Minister for Foreign Affairs.</p> <p>Borrell headed the list of the PSOE for the 2019 European Parliament elections, but gave up his seat to remain in his position as Foreign Minister, where he has overseen difficult issues such as the Venezuela crisis, and has been an outspoken critic of President Trump.</p> <p>He is a staunch EU supporter, but his temperament – especially considering his diplomatic role – has been questioned by some. Furthermore, critics have pointed out that Spain's refusal to recognise Kosovo (due to its own position on Catalan independence – and indeed, Borrell's, who has spoken out against secession) may lead to conflict for Borrell in the HR/VP role.</p>	<p>Borrell has been tasked to:</p> <p>Working towards the goal of a Geopolitical Commission.</p> <p>Boost the use of qualified majority voting in order to ensure a faster and more efficient decision-making process that is not hampered by unanimity.</p> <p>Ensure consistency between the EU's internal and external policies - the EU's external action should be contemplated in all stages of the policymaking.</p> <p>Tasked with building a "genuine European Defence Union".</p> <p>Chair of the Commissioners' Group on a Stronger Europe in the World.</p> <p>He will head up the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the Service for Foreign Policy. He will also work with the Secretariat-General in his coordinating role as Vice President.</p>



Ylva Johansson
Commissioner for Home Affairs

Minister of Employment in Sweden since 2014.

She entered politics as a communist, and later switched allegiance to the Social Democrats. She is therefore to be considered as belonging to the left wing of S&D.

She is a mathematics and physics teacher by education, but only spent one year teaching before entering politics in 1988.

She has stated that she anticipates the new Commission to focus on four core areas; the rule of law, increasing employment and safeguarding jobs, formulating a trade policy that creates new jobs and a functioning internal market, transitioning to a climate-smart society, and fighting against terrorism.

Johansson’s tasks will include:

Developing a New Pact on Migration and Asylum, and relaunching the reform of asylum rules.

Working towards a new, more sustainable, reliable and permanent approach to search and rescue.

Ensuring there are legal pathways to the EU.

Reinforcing the European Border and Coast Guard Agency.

Fighting against radicalisation and terrorism.

Working with the HR/VP to develop stronger cooperation with countries of origin and transit.

Helping Europe to return to a fully functioning Schengen area.

She will lead the work of the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME).