



The President

Dear Ms von der Leyen,

I would like to share our satisfaction in your statement of last July to the European Parliament, your Political Guidelines and the letters of mission to the commission nominees have reflected the demands put forward by our Group ahead of your election. We would also like to congratulate you for finally having delivered on our long lasting demand for a gender-balanced college of commissioners. These are undoubtedly steps in the right direction.

However, as expressed before, the support of the S&D Group to your candidacy was made under certain conditions and we will continue to be vigilant to make sure the European Commission will drive the economic, social, and ecological transformation of Europe, based on sustainable equality and democratic values.

This is why we would like to voice our concerns on the structure proposed for your future college of commissioners, as it raises doubts on its ability to deliver on the implementation of such demanding agenda.

We are satisfied that you took on board our proposal for a comprehensive European Green Deal as one of your top priorities and that you entrusted this mission to Frans Timmermans. Nonetheless, we need additional guarantees to ensure that this plan will come with enough budgetary resources and political support to enable its implementation with concrete policies. In this context, we are concerned that the Sustainable Investment Plan, which was a part of your Political Guidelines, is absent in your mission letter to Mr Timmermans.

The Sustainable Development Goals implementation requires effective coordination and political leadership. Each Commissioner must ensure the delivery of the SDGs within their policy area, with the President assuming ultimate responsibility for their implementation.

We are disappointed to notice the unbalanced roles proposed to your future executive Vice-presidents, which does not adequately reflect the balance of powers that resulted from the European elections, nor does it reflect the number of commission nominees belonging to the different European political families.

We require clarification on how exactly you foresee Mr Dombrovskis collaboration with other relevant commissioners, in order to deliver on the ambitious and progressive cross-sectorial set of policies you have entrusted him with, including within the scope of the Green New Deal. This goes also for the integration of the SDGs in the European Semester, to the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights or for the most needed steps to deepen the Economic and Monetary Union.

We are also very concerned on the designation of certain portfolios. The S&D Group will not be able to support the new European Commission if its structure wrongly links the concept of “protection of our European way of life” to migration and security, and leaves important values such as the rule of law, respect for human rights, democracy, inclusion and solidarity aside. The approach you have proposed can

be linked to far right, xenophobic or anti-migration narratives which we consider dangerous and contrary to the founding values of the European Union.

Additionally, even if we recognize your efforts by including our proposals for the implementation of the Pillar of Social Rights, or by committing to the introduction of a Just Transition Fund, we are equally concerned that Social Europe is completely absent in the designation of the different portfolios. We want to see a clear reference to the social dimension on the portfolio of Mr Schmit, its absence sends a bad signal to our citizens who expect that the next European Commission to drive the economic, digital and ecological transformation of Europe while leaving no one behind. At the same time, we would like to highlight the need to include other important matters in some of the portfolios, such as Culture, Research or Education. We believe the title of the portfolio of “International Partnership” diminishes the importance of development cooperation and her mission letter fails to mention poverty. In addition, the portfolio designation of “Environment and Oceans” undermines the importance of the Common Fisheries Policy.

Another important issue for our political family is the defense of democracy, inside and outside our borders. In this line, and considering the response of some Member States against Mr Timmermans after his strong stance in defense of the rule of law, we want to be reassured that the next European Commission will continue to act with the same level of independence, resilience and strength in this field and that all individual commissioners reflect this stance. Furthermore, please be ensured that we will be vigilant and active to guarantee that the level of integrity of all EU commissioners will correspond to the highest European standards and values.

Finally, we consider that the level of ambition demonstrated by achieving a gender-balanced college of commissioners should also be translated into a real gender mainstreaming of the overall policy making of your college. This is why we call on you to empower the portfolio of Ms Dalli with such an important task, in order to give her the correct tools to implement an ambitious agenda on this crucial fight for gender equality.

Thank you for your time and cooperation, and we look forward to hearing from you.



Best regards,
Iratxe Garcia-Perez