



EUROPEAN ECONOMIC SENATE

Newsletter 01/2015

Dear Senators!

The College of Commissioners impresses with its important political experience. President Jean-Claude Juncker, Honorary Member of the European economic Senate, wants a powerful Commission which can potentially have greater influence over the Council and the ability to get more things done.

This EES newsletter tries to give to you a first overview on the new EU-Commission.

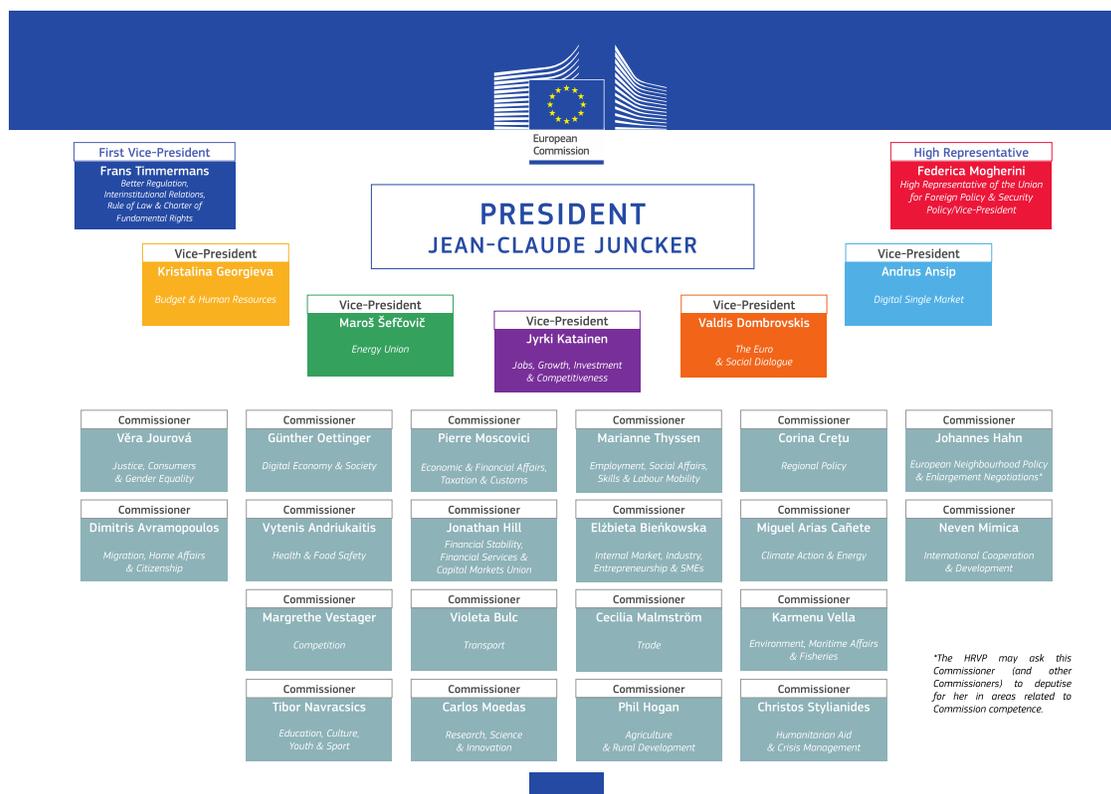
Yours sincerely,

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Juncker's EU Commission – reforms and change in the EU



EU-Commission at a Glance:

- [Commissioners and Divisions/Directorates](#)
- [Pictures of Commissioners and Divisions/Directorates](#)

A new Commission to face Europe's major challenges efficiently

New structures and responsibilities

A new “matrix” structure was introduced with Vice Presidents of the Commission. The 6 Vice Presidents and the High Representative of the EU will be responsible for steering and coordinating important “projects”, reflecting Juncker’s policy priorities. The new Commission will therefore be more focused on delivering results.

Furthermore, other portfolios have been reshaped and put to together. They will allow multiple levels of interaction and mutual influence. The “Environment and Maritime Affairs and Fisheries” portfolios for example have been combined under Karmenu Vella to reflect the twin logic of "Blue" and "Green" Growth. According to Juncker’s agenda the environment and maritime conservation policies should play a key role in creating jobs, preserving resources, stimulating growth and encouraging investment.

Introduction of Vice Presidents of the EU Commission

The new College will have seven Vice-Presidents, six in addition to the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Policy and Security Policy. The Vice-Presidents will all act as real deputies to the President. Each of them will be in charge of leading a project team and steering and coordinating the work of a number of other Commissioners according to their projects. These projects represent the political guidelines like for example 'Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness', 'Digital Single Market' or 'Energy Union'. This will ensure a dynamic interaction of all Members of the College, breaking down silos and moving away from static structures.

President-elect Jean-Claude Juncker explains: "In the new Commission, there are no first or second-class Commissioners – there are team leaders and team players. They will work together in a spirit of collegiality and mutual dependence. I want to overcome silo-mentalities and introduce a new collaborative way of working in areas where Europe can really make a difference."

The first Vice-President Frans Timmermans will be the right-hand of the President of the EU Commission. He is also the first Commissioner ever being dedicated to a “Better Regulation” agenda, guaranteeing that every Commission proposal is truly required and that the aims cannot best be achieved by Member States. The First Vice-President will also act as a watchdog, upholding the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the Rule of Law in all of the Commission's activities.

Specialized project teams to meet the EU's priorities

To meet the EU Commission's objectives project teams will be created. Various portfolios will be put together and different Commissioners have to work on these joint projects. The Vice Presidents will steer and coordinate these groups:

- A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment
- A Connected Digital Single Market
- A Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy
- A Deeper and Fairer Internal Market with a Strengthened Industrial Base
- A Deeper and Fairer Economic and Monetary Union
- A Reasonable and Balanced Free Trade Agreement with the U.S.
- An Area of Justice and Fundamental Rights Based on Mutual Trust
- A New Policy on Migration
- A Stronger Global Actor
- A Union of Democratic Change

A balanced and highly skilled new EU Commission

The College of Commissioners impresses with its important political experience. Juncker wants a powerful Commission which can potentially have greater influence over the Council and the ability to get more things done.

In the composition of the new Commission Juncker paid special attention to a balanced representation between men and women and that his Commissioners have the relevant experience and legitimacy to tackle the new challenges. The President-elect personally interviewed all Commissioners-designate and is convinced that his strong and experienced team can handle the upcoming challenges, by working collectively, in a more efficient way.

As for the democratic legitimacy of the future Commissioner one third of the members of the new Commission (9 out of 28), including the President-elect, campaigned in this year's European elections reaching out to citizens and seeking their support.

There is also a relatively high female percentage within the new Commission. Following intense negotiations and the insistence of President-elect Juncker's on female candidates, there are 9 female and 19 male Members of the Juncker Commission and 2 of the 7 Vice-Presidents are women.

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