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Cooperative partners in the new Commission

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## Member brief | Outline of the new European Commission

On 10th of September European Commission's President-elect Ursula von der Leyen presented her team and the new structure of the next European Commission that will take office on 1st of November 2019. Below you will find an outline of the new roles and structure.

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## Background information

On **16th of July 2019**, the European Parliament elected Ursula von der Leyen as the next President of the European Commission.

In her speech, President-elect von der Leyen developed the political guidelines to which the Commission is committed, with a special transsectorial focus on the climate agenda and digitalisation. Cooperatives Europe sent President-elect von der Leyen a letter of congratulations following her election.

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## The new Commission

### Characteristics of the new team

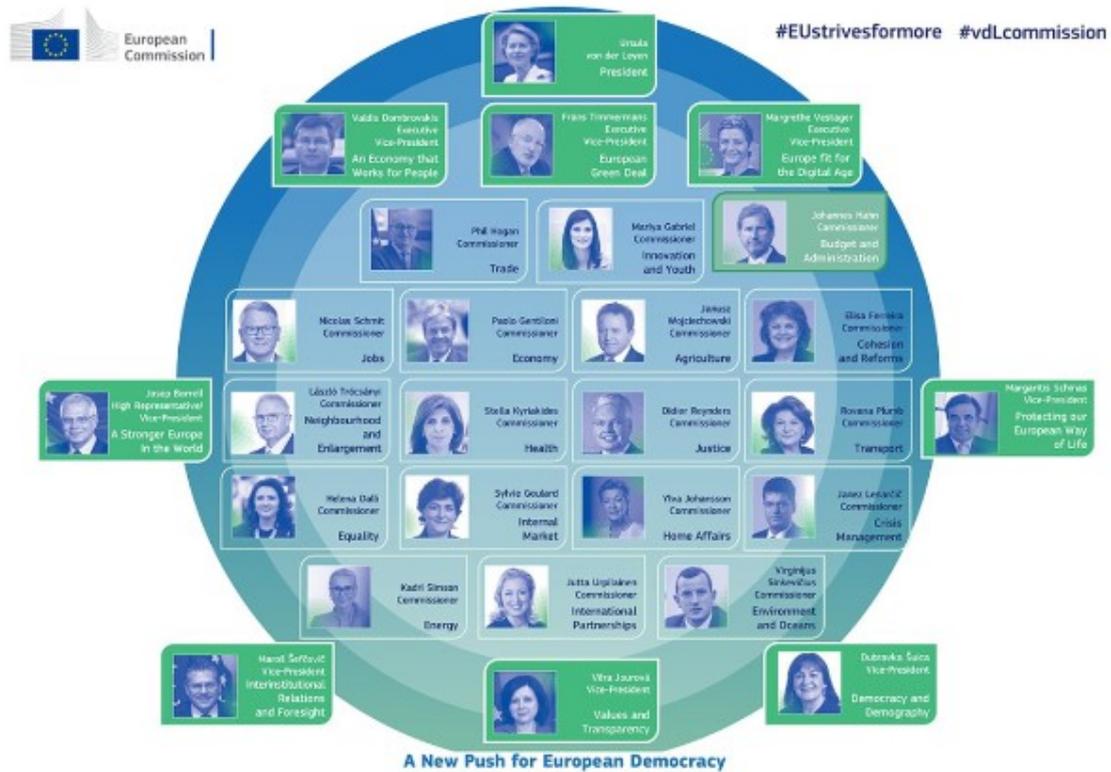
1. A **well-balanced Commission** in terms of gender (13 women and 14 men), geography (Vice-Presidents are from East and West and from North and South), political groups (9 from S&D, 8 from EPP 8, 5 from the Liberals, 1 from the Greens, 1 from ECR and 1 non attached to a political group).
2. A Commission with generally **high-political experience**: 8 designated-Commissioners are part of the outgoing Commission, 11 former Ministers (largely from the fields of labour, finance, economy and external relations) and 1 former Prime Minister.

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## The new structure

### The new structure of the European Commission is composed as follows:

- The President: The President of the Commission is in charge of the Commission's policy direction and sets the agenda of the College meetings (where members of the Commission meet to discuss politically and take collective decisions).
- The Vice- Presidents: There are eight Vice-Presidents that will steer and coordinate thematic Commissioners' Groups on each of the Commission's priorities.
- The Commissioners-designate: The full list of the all Commissioners-designate can be found here.



Amongst them, there are also three Executive Vice-Presidents – coming from the outgoing Commission – with a dual function as they will each coordinate one of the headline ambitions of the President’s Political Guidelines and manage directly a policy area:



Frans Timmermans (Netherlands) will coordinate the work on the *European Green Deal* and will also manage *climate action policy*.



Margrethe Vestager (Denmark) will coordinate the agenda on a *Europe fit for the digital age* and be the *Commissioner for Competition*.



Valdis Dombrovskis (Latvia) will coordinate the work on an *Economy that Works for People* and be the *Commissioner for financial services*.

The remaining five Vice-Presidents are responsible for the top priorities in the Political Guidelines:

Josep Borrell (Spain, current Spanish Foreign Minister):

HR/VP-designate, *A Stronger Europe in the World*;

Věra Jourová (Czech Republic, Commissioner in the Juncker Commission): *Values and Transparency*;

Margaritis Schinas (Greece, former Member of the European Parliament, long-serving official of the European Commission): *Protecting our European Way of Life*;

Maroš Šefčovič (Slovakia, Vice-President in the Juncker Commission): *Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight*;

Dubravka Šuica (Croatia, Member of the European Parliament): *Democracy and Demography*.



## Important partners for cooperatives

Below, here are the relevant portfolio of Commissioners-designate that would influence the work of Cooperatives Europe (pictured left to right).



Mariya Gabriel (Bulgaria): 'Innovation and Youth' portfolio

Kadri Simson (Estonia): 'Energy' portfolio.

Jutta Urpilainen (Finland): 'International Partnerships'.

Sylvie Goulard (France): 'Internal Market' Commissioner, she will lead our work on industrial policy and promote the Digital Single Market.

Nicolas Schmit (Luxembourg): 'Jobs' portfolio.

Helena Dalli (Malta): 'Equality' portfolio.

## Remarks

- There is no specific mention of Social Economy in portfolios or in mission letters.

However, The Commissioner for Jobs (N. Schmit) is highly supportive of the Social Economy.

- In the mission letter sent to [Commissioner-designated for Energy](#) (Mrs K. Simson), there is a specific mention of **cooperatives**.

- The potential impact of the new structure on some of the current DGs is not known yet.

## Next steps

Hearings of each Commissioner will be held from **30 September to 8 October 2019**, in the relevant Parliamentary committees. The **vote in European Parliament's (EP) Plenary is set on 21<sup>st</sup> October**. The EP Plenary can only approve or reject the entire Commission (including the Commission President and the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy) at simple majority.

Cooperatives Europe is drafting questions, of which some are drafted in coordination with sectors.

Once the European Parliament has given its consent, the European Council will formally appoint the European Commission acting by qualified majority. The European Commission will take office on **1<sup>st</sup> November 2019**.



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### Notes to the editors

**Cooperatives Europe** – the European region of the International Cooperative Alliance, is the European cross-sectoral organisation representing cooperative enterprises. On behalf of its 90 member organisations from 34 European countries across all business sectors it promotes the cooperative business model in Europe. Its members represent 140 million individual member cooperators owning 176,000 cooperative enterprises and providing jobs to 4,7 million European citizens.

A **cooperative enterprise** is a group of people acting together to meet the common needs and aspirations of its members, sharing ownership and making decisions democratically.

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