

The new European Commission: guidelines

1 Powers of the European Commission



European Commission

To promote the general interest of the European Union by proposing legislation and ensuring that it is implemented, within the framework of the European Union's competences as defined by the Treaties.





1958 Treaty of Rome



BRUSSELS



27 members
One Commissioner per Member State

SKILLS



POWER OF LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE

- Monopoly on initiative in the legislative process.
- It draws up the legislative proposals to be adopted by the two decision-making bodies: the European Parliament and the Council of the EU.¹



GUARDIAN OF THE EUROPEAN TREATIES

- ensures that European law (regulations, directives, decisions) is respected and applied.
- If a Member State fails to comply, it can refer the matter to the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU).



POUVOIR D'EXÉCUTION

- Body that implements the policies and acts adopted by Parliament and the Council.
- Defines a strategy for the 5-year term of office.
- Proposes and implements the budget, and manages common policies and European funds.

1. To understand how the European Parliament works and the European institutional triangle, see Verger, C. & Martelli L. "European elections 2024: guidelines", Infographic, Jacques Delors Institute, September 2023

DID YOU KNOW



The European Commission has :



Representation offices in all 27 EU member countries



144 EU delegations around the world. They are managed by the European External Action Service.



32,262 European civil servants (2024), i.e. fewer than the City of Paris (51,578, 2022).

2024

18 JULY



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As the Commission is elected by the European Parliament, Ursula von der Leyen was re-elected President of the European Commission following the European elections in June 2024

✓ 401 MEPs voted in favour

✗ 284 against

● 15 blank votes

✎ 7 invalid votes

17 SEPT.

Ursula von der Leyen has unveiled the list of European Commissioners and their various portfolios.



URSULA VON DER LEYEN
President

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENTS



KAJA KALLAS
*High Representative/
Vice-President.
Foreign Affairs and
Security Policy*



TERESA RIBERA
*Clean, Just and
Competitive
Transition*



HENNA VIRKKUNEN
*Tech Sovereignty,
Security and
Democracy*



STÉPHANE SÉJOURNÉ
*Prosperity and
Industrial
Strategy*



RAFFAELE FITTO
*Cohesion
and Reforms*



ROXANA MÎNZATU
*People, Skills and
Preparedness*

COMMISSIONERS



MAROŠ ŠEFČOVIČ
*Trade and Economic
Security.
Interinstitutional
Relations and
Transparency*



VALDIS DOMBROVSKIS
*Economy and
Productivity.
Implementation and
Simplification*



DUBRAVKA ŠUICA
Mediterranean



OLIVÉR VÁRHEGYI
*Health and
Animal Welfare*



WOPKE HOEKSTRA
*Climate, Net Zero
and Clean
Growth*



ANDRIUS KUBILIUS
*Defence
and Space*



MARTA KOS*
Enlargement



JOZEF SÍKELA
*International
Partnerships*



KÓSTAS KADÍS
*Fisheries and
Oceans*



MARIA LUÍS ALBUQUERQUE
Financial Services and the Savings and Investments Union



HADJA LAHBIB
Preparedness and Crisis Management. Equality



MAGNUS BRUNNER
Internal Affairs and Migration



JESSIKA ROSWALL
Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy



PIOTR SERAFIN
Budget, Anti-Fraud and Public Administration



DAN JØRGENSEN
Energy and Housing



EKATERINA ZAHARIEVA
Startups, Research and Innovation



MICHAEL MCGRATH
Democracy, Justice and the Rule of Law



APÓSTOLOS TZITZIKÓSTAS
Sustainable Transport and Tourism



CHRISTOPHE HANSEN
Agriculture and Food



GLENN MICALLEF
Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport

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*Pending formal nomination. National proceedings ongoing.

4-12 NOV.

13-14 NOV.

OR

25-28 NOV.

EARLY DEC.



The 26 candidates nominated for the European Commission must be heard by the European Parliament before being accepted or rejected.



Vote on the College of Commissioners, if all have been accepted.

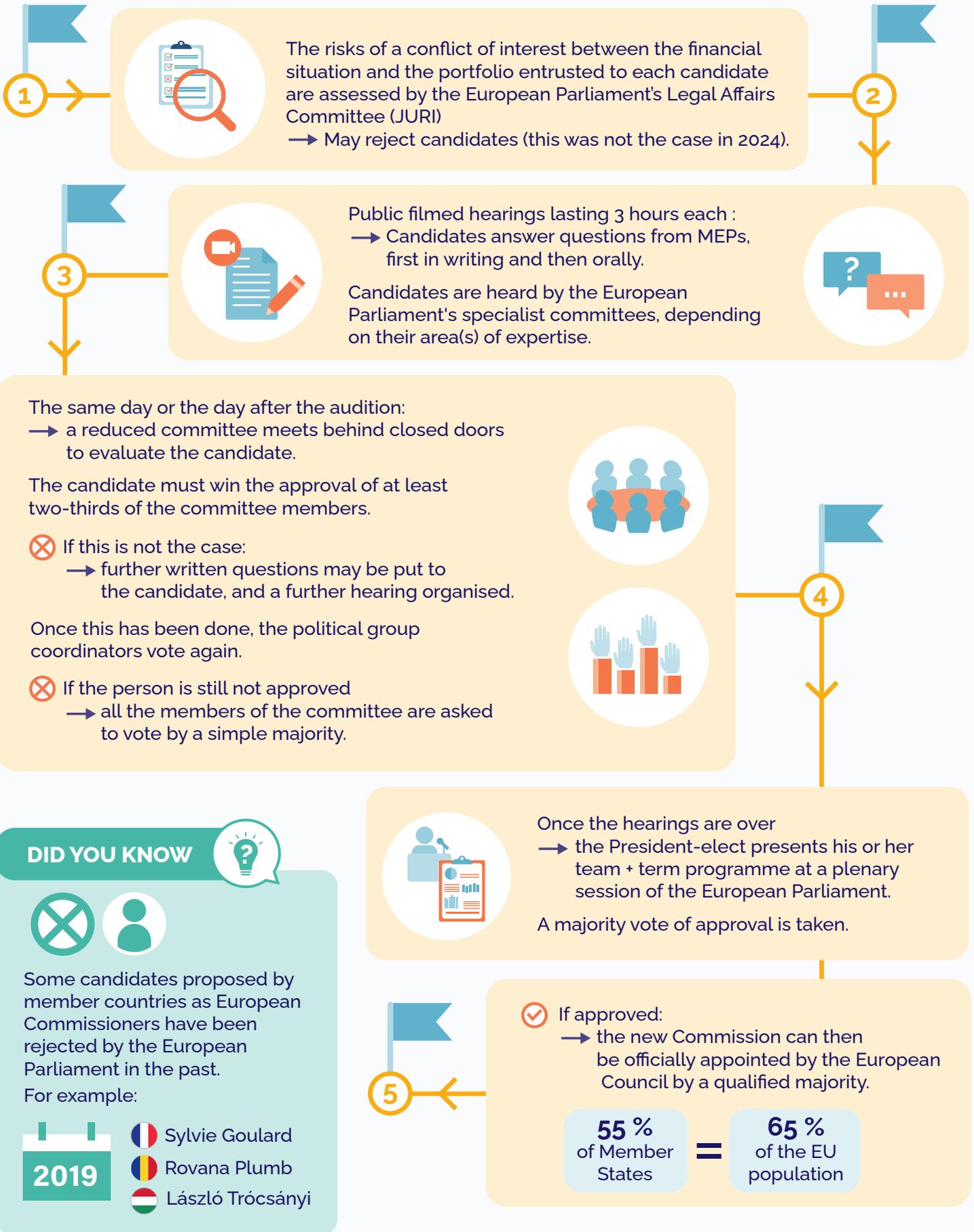


The Commission takes office, but this could be delayed if the Parliament rejects candidates, with the EU capitals then having to propose replacements.

Audition process



The Commissioners-designate “shall be chosen on the grounds of their general competence and their commitment to Europe, and from persons whose independence is beyond doubt” (Article 17 of the Lisbon Treaty).



DID YOU KNOW



Some candidates proposed by member countries as European Commissioners have been rejected by the European Parliament in the past.

For example:



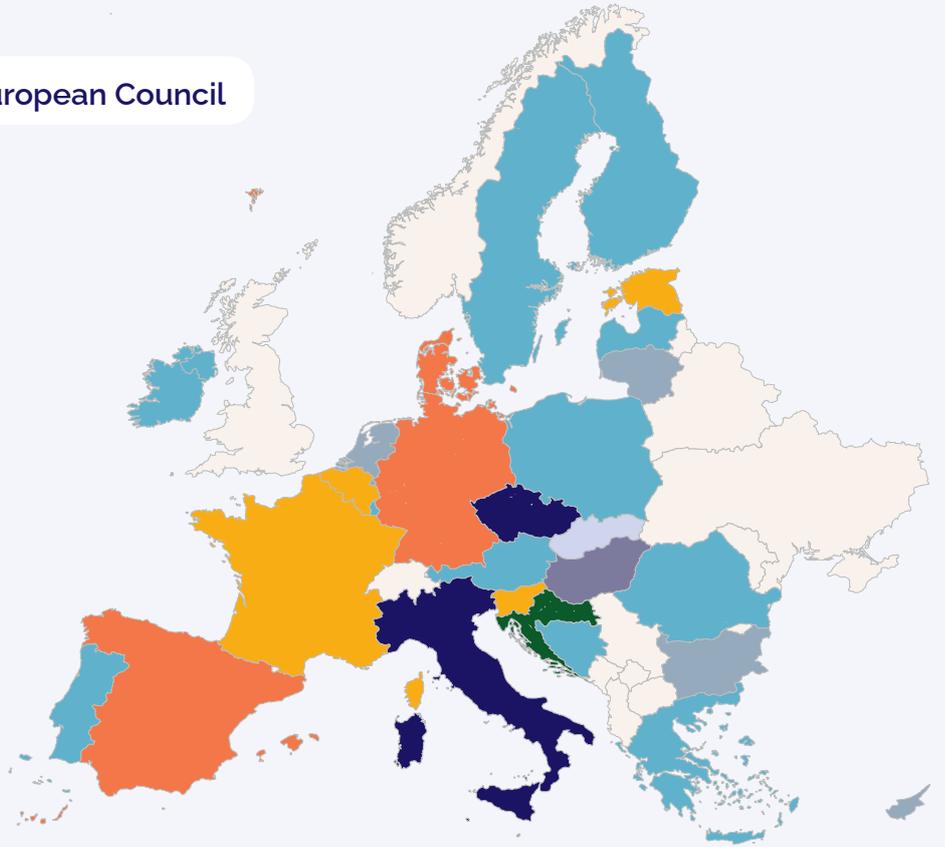
-  Sylvie Goulard
-  Rovana Plumb
-  László Trócsányi

Political power relations for the new 2024-2029 term of office

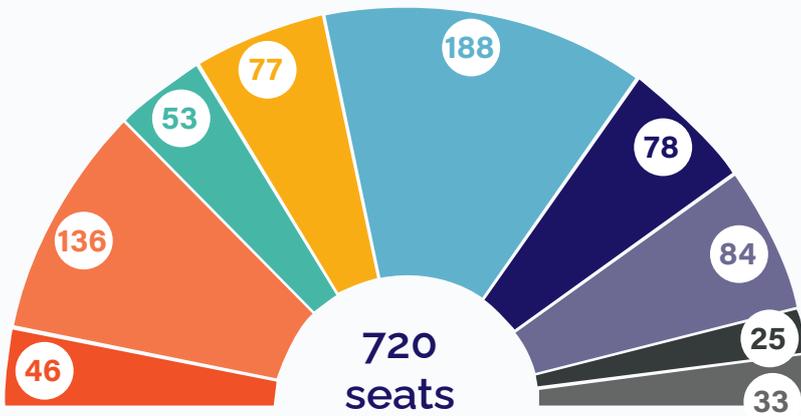
Political composition of the European Council

- EPP
- Renew
- S&D
- ECR
- PfE
- Non-attached
- Independent

Source: Map: Geopolitical Studies Group (September 2024)



Political composition of the European Parliament



- The Left
- S&D
- Greens/EFA
- Renew Europe
- EPP
- ECR
- PfE
- ESN
- NI

Source: European Parliament, October 2024

Breakdown of candidates Commissioners



- S&D
- Renew
- ECR
- EPP
- Non-attached

Source: Contexte (September 2024)

A few points to keep an eye on for the next legislature:

1



The question of the different political balance between the hemicycle of the European Parliament and the composition of the European Council and the European Commission.

- The Social & Democrats group in the European Commission, which is under-represented compared to its strength in the European Parliament - the second largest group.

2



Positioning of far-right groups in the European Parliament and their future role in the legislative triangle.