

**QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE****Valdis DOMBROVSKIS****Economy and Productivity, Implementation and Simplification****1. General competence, European commitment and personal independence**

What aspects of your personal qualifications and experience are particularly relevant for becoming Commissioner and promoting the European general interest, particularly in the area you would be responsible for? How will you contribute to implementing the political guidelines of the Commission? How will you implement gender mainstreaming and integrate a gender perspective into all policy areas of your portfolio? How will you implement youth mainstreaming?

What guarantees of independence are you able to give Parliament, and how would you make sure that any past, current or future activities you carry out could not cast doubt on the performance of your duties within the Commission?

**2. Management of the portfolio and cooperation with the European Parliament**

Can you commit to duly informing Parliament about your actions and those of your departments? In what respect do you consider yourself accountable to Parliament?

What specific commitments are you prepared to make in terms of your engagement with and presence in Parliament, both in committee and in plenary, transparency, cooperation and effective follow-up to Parliament's positions and requests for legislative initiatives? In relation to planned initiatives or ongoing procedures, are you ready to provide Parliament with timely information and documents on an equal footing with the Council?

Questions from the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs**3. Implementation of the reformed economic governance framework**

In light of the entry into force of the revised economic governance framework, how will you ensure equal treatment of Member States in practice, while enforcing the economic governance rules of the Union fully, impartially and independently from any political influence? How do you intend to ensure sound and sustainable public finances, while promoting sustainable and inclusive growth through investments and reforms, especially considering the diverse economic contexts and elevated debt levels of individual Member States?

**4. Investment and Competitiveness**

As Next Generation EU comes to an end at the end of 2026, how will the new Commission tackle the huge demand for public investment, including for addressing the EU's productivity gap, without cutting budgetary resources in other important areas? How do you intend to increase the competitiveness and productivity of the EU's economy? How will the announced European Competitiveness Fund be of support?

**5. European Semester**

What is your stance on the focus and objectives of the European Semester, including on the coordination of economic policies and sustained convergence of the economic performances of the Member States, the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights and the objectives of the EU Green Deal, and its democratic oversight? How will the Commission continue to integrate the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals into the European Semester, as announced in your mission letter, as well as the Social Convergence Framework? What would be the interaction of the announced Competitiveness Coordination Framework with the European Semester?

## Questions from the Committee on Legal Affairs

### **6. Reduction of administrative and reporting burdens**

Your mission letter asks you to make proposals on the reduction of administrative and reporting burdens arising from EU laws and policies and to oversee the implementation of the SME and competitiveness check. In your opinion: (i) what are the main administrative and reporting obligations hampering the competitiveness of European SMEs today and (ii) what steps in terms of digitalisation, streamlining and simplification of existing obligations should be taken to reduce this burden, on an evidence-based basis and without compromising on the sustainability goals?

### **7. Implementation and simplification**

In order to make it easier to do business and to deepen the single market, the President-elect tasks each Commissioner with legislation simplification and implementation, as set out in her Political Guidelines for the next European Commission 2024-2029. The Commissioners' designate mission letters further include a horizontal focus on simplification and implementation across all portfolios. In the context of simplification, a crosscutting objective in all portfolios is to "reduce reporting obligations by at least 25% - and for SMEs at least 35%". These horizontal tasks will also include implementation dialogues with stakeholders and the preparation of annual progress reports on enforcement and implementation in the areas covered by each Commissioner, in the coordination and preparation of which the Commissioner for Implementation and Simplification will be directly involved.

For those horizontal objectives to be met, could you elaborate on how the specific measures and methodology you intend to take and apply in this context will be innovative in relation to the better regulation agenda, including how the sectoral progress reports mentioned above will relate to the Commission's annual report on monitoring the application of European Union law, how the national implementation will be monitored in a timely manner and the identified non-compliance duly followed up with an appropriate enforcement action?

### **8. Renewal of the 2016 BLM Agreement**

In the context of simplifying and streamlining legislation and its implementation, the President-elect, in her Political Guidelines for the next European Commission 2024-2029, proposes "to renew" the 2016 Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-making "so that each institution assesses the impact and cost of its amendments in the same way". One of the specific tasks given to the Commissioner for Implementation and Simplification will be to lead the negotiations on a "renewed Interinstitutional agreement".

What specific revisions to the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-making do you intend to propose, including on the independence and transparency of impact assessments and the role of the Regulatory Scrutiny Board, as well as on the Commission commitment to truly precede a proposal by an impact assessment whenever required by the better regulation agenda, and how will these revisions impact on the efficiency of the legislative process and the balance of decision-making powers?

## Question from the Committee on Budgets

9. The implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility is running behind schedule, leading to the risk of EU funds being lost.

What are your plans to accelerate the implementation of the Facility while ensuring quality of implementation and respect of the applicable legal framework, especially in light of the Court of Auditors' Special report 13/2024? What lessons do you draw from your past experience, what has worked, what needs to be improved in the design of this instrument in order to ensure added value, territorial balance and the respect of interinstitutional roles?

## Question from the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

10. How will you make sure that the implementation of the better regulation agenda helps to improve the employment situation across the EU, ensures the EU labour law acquis and that it does not result in lower employment rights and social standards nor prevents further legislative initiatives and the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, including its headline targets? Which concrete steps will you take to strengthen the monitoring of upward social convergence in the EU?

Question from the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection

11. How do you plan to achieve a comprehensive assessment of existing EU legislation to identify and address overlaps and how will you involve the stakeholders in the process? In the context of simplification, which legislative areas will be prioritised and what specific measures will you propose to reduce the administrative and reporting burdens on EU companies without compromising the EU standards on consumer protection? In your task to tackle fragmentation, how will you integrate a Single Market check in the new framework of the Competitiveness Coordination Tool, with the view to highlight the benefits of the EU actions, including legislation, for Single Market, and EU consumers?

Question from the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

12. When do you intend to start new negotiations on the IIA on simplification and Better Law-making and which areas (or parts) of the IIA you envisage to revise? Which actions do you consider necessary to achieve the objectives of Better Regulation in the preparation of new initiatives, including delegated and implementing acts? Are you ready to support expanding the Parliament's initiative to amending and revoking existing legislation? How do you intend to pursue the necessary dialogue with the Parliament in the process of annual and multiannual programming under Article 17(1) TEU and the provisions in the IIA on Better Law-making on multiannual programming with a view to drawing up joint conclusions of the three institutions which reflect a real tripartite contract for the legislature?

Question from the Subcommittee on Tax Matters

**13. Competitiveness & Tax-Mix**

In the medium-to-longer term, population ageing and digitalisation will have substantial implications for tax systems. In its Annual Tax Report 2024, the Commission refers to a wide consensus on the need to re-balance the tax mix and to shift the tax burden away from labour. How do you plan to proceed and ensure that "our tax system plays a crucial role in supporting Europe's decarbonisation and competitiveness to ensure social fairness" as mentioned in your mission letter? What steps would you propose to take to remove tax obstacles to cross-border investment and fiscal and regulatory barriers between Member States in order to simplify our tax system and increase competitiveness? Will you make proposals in the area of capital gains and wealth taxation in order to ensure social fairness? Given recent analyses by institutions like the IMF, what further taxation measures could be developed to ensure that carbon pricing does not disproportionately affect poorer communities, nor aggravate disparities between wealthy and less wealthy Member States?