

CM/KK/sb
D(2024)32991

CONFIDENTIAL

D 308606 07.11.2024

Mr Bernd Lange
Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs
Brussels

Dear Mr Lange,

The Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, the Committee on Industry, Research and Industry and the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, in accordance with Rule 129 of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament, held a public confirmation hearing on 7 November 2024 with Mr Wopke Hoekstra, Commissioner-designate, who, subject to the positive outcome of the nomination procedure, will be responsible for Climate, Net-Zero and Clean Growth.

On 16 October 2024, the Committees, pursuant to Rule 129 of the Rules of Procedure and Article 3 of Annex VII thereto, received the letter from the Chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs regarding the scrutiny of the declaration of interests of Mr Hoekstra.

Prior to the confirmation hearing, Parliament had sent the Commissioner-designate a list of written questions. Our Committees noted that Mr Hoekstra answered those questions and dealt with the priorities outlined in a satisfactory manner.

The course of the confirmation hearing is described in the verbatim transcript of the proceedings.

On the basis of the responses of the Members present at the confirmation hearing, as well as the comments made by our Committees' coordinators, who met in camera after the confirmation hearing under our chairmanship, we hereby give the following assessment of him:

Commissioner-designate Hoekstra has adequately demonstrated his professional experience, personal qualifications, European commitment, ability to communicate and aptitude as regards the policy area.

Mr Hoekstra has also stressed his continued willingness to work closely with the European Parliament.

During the confirmation hearing, Mr Hoekstra made specific commitments regarding his future action, which are reflected in the verbatim report.

Opinions of the committees invited to participate in the confirmation hearing are in Annex I.

The general outcome of this confirmation hearing is that the Commissioner-designate gave a convincing impression of his aptitude to be a member of the College of Commissioners and to carry out the specific tasks assigned to him. In this context, a majority of ENVI, ITRE and ECON coordinators requested to include the word "Taxation" in the title of his portfolio.

In accordance with Rule 129 of the Rules of Procedure and Article 5 of Annex VII thereto, the coordinators representing a large majority of at least two thirds of committee members belonging to a political group approved that the Commissioner-designate Hoekstra is qualified both to be a member of the College of Commission and to carry out the specific tasks assigned to him.

During the evaluation meeting, the coordinators of The Left and ESN requested the inclusion of their minority views which are included in Annex II.

Yours sincerely,



Antonio Decaro
ENVI Chair



Borys Budka
ITRE Chair



Aurore Lalucq
ECON Chair

Cc: Li Andersson, EMPL Chair
Elissavet Vozemberg-Vironidi, TRAN Chair

Annex

- Annex I: Opinions of the invited committees
- Annex II: Minority views of The Left and ESN group

Committee on Employment and Social Affairs
The Chair



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Antonio DECARO
Chair of the Committee on Environment, Public
Health and Food Safety
SPINELLI 15G306

Borys BUDKA
Chair of the Committee on Industry, Research and
Energy
SPINELLI 12E130

Aurore LALUCQ
Chair of the Committee on Economic and
Monetary Affairs
SPINELLI 11G302

Dear Chairs,

The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, invited to the confirmation hearing of Commissioner-designate for Climate, Net Zero and Clean Growth, Wopke HOEKSTRA, which took place on Thursday 7 November 2024, considers that the Commissioner-designate is qualified to be member of the College and is qualified to carry out the particular duties he has been assigned in the field of strengthening further the framework for a social and just transition, while contributing strongly to the creation of sustainable quality jobs.

The EMPL Committee trusts that Commissioner-designate Hoekstra, if confirmed, will work closely with the Executive Vice-President-designate Mînzatu, if confirmed, as well as with social partners and other relevant stakeholders, and will demonstrate a strong commitment to the creation of quality and sustainable jobs, enhancing social dialogue and investing in skills, in the context of the social and just transition.

This opinion has been adopted by Coordinators representing more than two-thirds of committee members belonging to a political group.

I would like to thank you in advance for taking this opinion into consideration.



Johan DANIELSSON

Cc. Bernd LANGE, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs

Committee on Transport and Tourism
The Chairwoman



TRAN/D/2024/32259

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Mr Antonio Decaro
Chair
Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety
SPINELLI 15G306

Mr Borys Budka
Chair
Committee on Industry, Research and Energy
SPINELLI 12E130

Ms Aurore Lalucq
Chair
Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs
SPINELLI 11G302

Dear Chairs,

The Committee on Transport and Tourism, invited to the confirmation hearing of Commissioner-designate Wopke Hoekstra, which took place on 7 November 2024, considers that the Commissioner-designate is qualified to be member of the College and is qualified to carry out the particular duties he has been assigned in the field of Climate, Net Zero and Clean Growth in relation to the transport sector.

This opinion has been adopted by Coordinators representing a very broad majority of committee members belonging to a political group.

Yours sincerely,



Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi

*cc : CoordLeg Secretariat
Bernd Lange, Chair of Conference of Committee Chairs
Sabina Magnano, Director of Directorate for Structural and Cohesion Policies*

Annex II - Minority positions
Evaluation - Commissioner-designate Wopke Hoekstra

The LEFT

The LEFT cannot support the candidate as he does not have the appropriate track-record, independence, personal qualifications or in-depth understanding for this portfolio. The candidate has an insufficient understanding of the necessity to tackle the social and ecological crises in a holistic manner, which is crucial to achieve climate and economic justice. He failed at understanding the need for additional legislative measures at EU level, with his answers relying on the existing legislative acquis, market-based mechanisms and already-made commitments. He was unwilling to explore needed pathways to reduce the climate crisis or show any commitment to phasing out fossil fuel subsidies, not surprising given his former career in the fossil fuel industry. He was inadequate in his answers relating to tackling agricultural emissions. His strong support for biofuels is not shared by our Group.

He was not able to suggest any measures against tax avoidance, not surprising given that he was personally named in the Pandora Papers tax scandal.

In his ideas about the industrial policy, the candidate omitted the social aspect of the sector. He did not commit to any dialogue with workers and trade unions, nor address working conditions.

ESN

The Commissioner-designate Wopke Hoekstra made it clear during his hearing that he intends to stick to the disastrous EU climate policy to date and the associated targets. He is doing this despite the looming major economic crisis, triggered in the spirit of a planned economy by bureaucratic and costly regulations under the EU Climate Law and the Fit for 55 legislation.

Mr. Hoekstra has been unable to coherently explain how he intends to promote competitiveness, jobs and thus prosperity in the EU Member States. Instead, he has a worrying "business as usual" approach to the disastrous climate policy of Ursula von der Leyen and his predecessor Frans Timmermans. For these reasons, the ESN Group rejects the candidate.