

CONFIDENTIAL

D 308614 07.11.2024

Bernd Lange
Chair, Conference of Committee Chairs
European Parliament

Subject: Evaluation of Andrius KUBILIUS, designate for the post of the Commissioner for Defence and Space

Dear Chair,

The Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, in accordance with Rule 129 of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament, held a public confirmation hearing on Wednesday 6 November 2024 with Andrius KUBILIUS, Commissioner-designate, who, subject to the positive outcome of the nomination procedure, will be a member of the College of Commissioners and Commissioner for Defence and Space of the European Commission.

On 16 October 2024 the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, 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 financial interests of Mr KUBILIUS.

Prior to the confirmation hearing, Parliament had sent the Commissioner-designate a list of written questions. The Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy noted that Mr KUBILIUS answered those questions in a satisfactory manner.

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

The Opinion of the committee invited to participate in the confirmation hearing is annexed to this letter.

On the basis of the comments made by the coordinators of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, who met in camera after the confirmation hearing under our chairmanship, we hereby give the following assessment of him:

It is paramount that the Commissioner-designate Andrius KUBILIUS maximises all efforts to scale up the transfer of necessary military support to Ukraine to defend its people and restore its territorial integrity. Moreover, the Member States must provide all necessary financial means to Commissioner KUBILIUS to increase common European defence spending without compromising other EU initiatives and programmes.

In accordance with Rule 129 of the Rules of Procedure and Article 5 of Annex VII thereto, the coordinators of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy representing a majority of at least two-thirds of committee members belonging to a political group approved that the Commissioner-designate Andrius KUBILIUS, is qualified both to be a member of the College of Commissioners and to carry out the specific tasks assigned to him.

During the evaluation meeting, the coordinators of The Left and of the Europe of Sovereign Nations groups requested the inclusion of the attached minority views.

We would be grateful if you could bring this assessment to the attention of the Conference of Presidents.

Yours sincerely,



David McAllister



Borys Budka

Annex: Opinion of the Committee on Transport and Tourism
 Minority opinions from The Left Group and the ESN Group

Committee on Transport and Tourism
The Chairwoman



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Mr David McAllister
Chair
Committee on Foreign Affairs
SPINELLI 15E201

D 308549 07.11.2024

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

Dear Chairs,

The Committee on Transport and Tourism, invited to the confirmation hearing of Commissioner-designate Andrius Kubilius, which took place on 6 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 defence and security issues relating to transport, notably military mobility.

This opinion has been adopted by Coordinators representing at least a simple 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*

THE LEFT MINORITY OPINION

The Left has decided not to support Mr. Kubilius' candidacy.

His strong support for ramping up, at an extraordinary rate, public investment in military spending, contrasts sharply with the cuts imposed on public services across the European Union. This massive increase in public funds for defence, without even identifying investment priorities, raises many questions as European countries already outspend most of the world on defence and defence corporations already obtain extraordinary windfall profits.

While formally advocating for EU autonomy, Mr. Kubilius did not provide satisfactory answers on reducing EU dependency on the US or on how NATO obligations imposing complementarity with US arms systems limit this autonomy.

He also failed to articulate a satisfactory answer on the compliance of his mandate to Article 41.2 of the Treaty of the EU that forbids to charge on the EU budget expenditure having military or defence implications.

Finally, the candidate failed to provide any holistic vision on peace and security, or even an ethical vision of arms trade. Nor did he propose any vision of how a European security architecture would contribute to creating collective security and peace.

Minority Opinion on behalf of the ESN Group

A. Finding

Following the hearing of the Commissioner-designate for Defense and Space Andrius Kubilius, the ESN Group finds that the candidate does not possess the necessary qualifications or vision required for a role in the College of Commissioners.

B. Reasoning

The nominee's approach aligns strictly with the established policies and prevailing perspectives of the current European Commission, lacking the visionary insight essential for navigating the evolving global landscape. We find the candidate's perspective outdated, rigid, and devoid of the innovation needed to address present-day challenges or to offer a compelling alternative to the existing framework.

In a world characterized by rapid and complex change, the EU Commission requires leadership that can effectively adapt and advance EU policy to meet contemporary demands. Regrettably, this candidate does not meet that critical stand.