

QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE**Andrius KUBILIUS****Defence and Space****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 Foreign Affairs

3. You have been entrusted with a new role of helping to coordinate at European level the building of a true European Defence Union. How do you intend to achieve that ambitious goal during the timeframe of your mandate? How do you envisage the division of tasks and complementarity of roles with the Vice-President/High Representative, given the latter's leading role in CSDP, and with the Executive Vice-President-designate Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy? Without prejudice to the Commission's decision-making processes, what would be your concrete priorities in terms of legislative, budgetary and political initiatives, including joint ones and objectives/goals for the Defence and Space portfolio in the short, medium and long term for the duration of your mandate? What are the main challenges and how would you overcome them on the way of pursuing those priorities and objectives, and how do you intend to finance them?

4. Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has brought full-scale war back to the European continent. As the EU's first Commissioner for Defence and Space with a lead-role in establishing a European Defence Union and a White Paper on the Future of European Defence, what will be your priorities to support Member States in regenerating European defence capabilities in the immediate, medium and long-term to ensure the security of EU citizens? In this respect, can you give some examples of initiatives the Commission could develop that will be coherent with the needs defined by the Vice-President/High Representative and Member States, and in line with the commitments of the Versailles declaration?

5. You have been tasked with presenting (in cooperation with the Vice-President/High Representative) the White Paper on the Future of European Defence already within the first 100 days of your mandate, and through this process, you have been instructed to contribute to a shared vision and ambition across Council, Parliament, the public and other stakeholders and to strengthen the EU-NATO partnership. How will you proactively and effectively engage with the European Parliament from the earliest stages in the processes of elaborating and

developing both the White Paper on the Future of European Defence and other initiatives in your area of responsibility all the way to their operationalisation and implementation (including, in the run-up to the next Multiannual Financial Framework)? In relation to this, could you please provide details on how you intend to: maintain regular exchanges of views in Plenary and with relevant committees; ensure 'structured dialogue' and your ad hoc presence at short notice in case of significant events or major developments; ensure that the positions of Parliament are duly taken into account in proposals for legal acts and EU communications and strategies; ensure that Parliament receives relevant information and documents with relevance to your portfolio, including those shared with the Council, and that the relevant committees are immediately and fully informed, in writing and orally; and ensure that pertinent and relevant non-public information is provided to Parliament during in-camera meetings?

Questions from the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

6. What is your vision for your portfolio over and above your mission letter and what would you like your legacy to be? What legislative proposals and other initiatives will you suggest to the College of Commissioners for adoption in the next five years and in particular in the first 100 days? How will you ensure that these proposals, as well as the implementation of existing legislation, would strengthen European competitiveness? Do you intend to base those legislative proposals on dedicated impact assessments? What are your plans in particular for the single market for defence products and services, the European Defence Fund, the EU Space Law, the Space Data Economy Strategy, as well as the implementation of EDIRPA, ASAP, the European Defence Industrial Strategy and the EU Space Strategy for Security and Defence?

7. What concrete measures do you envisage to enhance the capability of defence industry to efficiently and competitively produce sufficient quantities of relevant products and services? How do you plan to expand defence industrial capabilities across the EU in order to reduce undue external dependencies in particular for SMEs and small midcaps, without prejudice to the budget allocated to other EU policies? What measures do you envisage to provide better access for European industry to raw materials, key components and reduce restrictions on the use of certain technologies? What are your plans for making European defence-related products and services more attractive to purchase? How do you intend to ensure that EU support for the EU's Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDITB) goes in hand with integration of SMEs and midcaps into supply chains and stimulation of genuinely new partnerships between actors from different Member States? More generally, how will you enhance cooperation between Member States and what role do you foresee for the European Defence Agency? What is your vision for the shaping of cross-border cooperation and the potential "specialisation" in the defence industry? What role do you see for digital technologies in European defence? How would you put the EDIP budget and structures to maximum use? What would you consider to be appropriate financial resources for EDIP and related current instruments, and how do you intend to secure them? How will you ensure that EDIP can be of maximum benefit to the EU industry and what are your views on its eligibility criteria? What is your view on the EU's approach to directly fund the Ukrainian defence industry and do you envisage strengthening this approach? How do you envisage the future of EDIP after 2027?

8. How do you concretely plan to ensure EU's strategic autonomy in the space sector and promote EU's role as a global player? What measures will you take for the further development of a competitive European space industry? How will you ensure that EU domestic demand for space technologies is addressed by the EU space sector? How will you ensure the integration of SMEs and small midcaps into supply chains? How would you explain the divergent industrial developments between the EU, the US and other countries in the sector? What is your vision for the future EU Space Law? What measures should include and when will it be presented? How will you address the ongoing issue of access to space and what will be the content of the EU space launcher policy, including alternative launch capabilities? How will you address the challenges related to sustainable use of space?

Question from the Committee on Transport and Tourism

9. According to the corresponding mission letter, President von der Leyen tasked the future Transport Commissioner to further strengthen the dual-use transport infrastructure corridors across the Trans-European Network, as well as to work with Member States on strengthening military mobility. These priorities are also mentioned in the mission letter for the future Commissioner for Defence and Space. What actions do you intend to take, working in cooperation with the future Transport Commissioner, to meet these objectives, given the current geopolitical challenges that the EU faces? How would you support the dual use of transport infrastructure through research and development, including via joint undertakings and public-private partnerships?

Question from the Subcommittee on Security and Defence

10. The Draghi Report, amongst others, has underlined the need for investment in European defence. As the first Commissioner for Defence and Space, you will have the task of ensuring that defence is reflected in the priorities of the current annual budgets and the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) that will be negotiated and adopted during the current legislature. How will you ensure that defence becomes a real priority in this process and in particular ensure that EDF, EDIP, and all successor proposals in EDIS, will be sufficiently funded in the short and long-term including what are your views on exploring other avenues for financing defence such as own resources, proposals dedicated to support leverage of private investments, for example reform of the statutes of the European Investment Bank, use of frozen Russian assets and Eurobonds?