

QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE**Hadja LAHBIB****Preparedness, Crisis Management, Equality****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 Development**3. Humanitarian Funding Gap**

What specific actions will you take to reduce the increasing humanitarian funding gap, including through the EU's annual and multiannual budgets and, through strategic coordination with the Member States, to implement the Council Conclusions on addressing the humanitarian funding gap, notably when it comes to proposing innovative funding models for humanitarian assistance and achieving a "more equitable responsibility among donors", including emerging and potential donors as well as like-minded partners? How do you concretely intend to "develop a more strategic approach to the humanitarian supply chains" and what does it imply concretely to "encourage joined-up approaches and cost-savings"? Taking into account the humanitarian principles, what steps will you take to ensure that the EU's humanitarian budget is protected from reallocations for political or economic purposes and will there be a framework for monitoring the effectiveness of humanitarian funding allocations and accountability for achieving the intended outcomes? What will you do to increase the percentage of humanitarian assistance going as directly as possible to local actors?

4. Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

How will you work to enhance the coordination, cooperation and coherence between the EU's development, humanitarian and peacebuilding actions, including among all EU actors, and to engage with local communities, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders in developing strategies that address the humanitarian-development-peace nexus? Within a "Commission-wide integrated approach to fragility", will you, together with the Commissioner for International Partnerships and all relevant Commission services, develop policy guidance and concrete mechanisms, for ensuring that development efforts help to both address the root causes of fragility and build the resilience of communities, in order to achieve sustainable outcomes that cannot be attained through

humanitarian action only, and how do you plan to measure the effectiveness of those efforts? In that respect, do you commit to boosting investments in anticipatory action and to working with the Commissioner for International Partnerships to develop a joint EU policy on climate resilience, with a particular focus on fragile and conflict-affected contexts?

Given the breadth of the portfolio that you have been assigned and the increasing number of humanitarian crises, how do you intend to ensure that sufficient attention is dedicated to the external dimension of humanitarian assistance and humanitarian diplomacy, and in particular to forgotten crises? What measures will you take to promote compliance with and respect for international humanitarian law?

5. Food insecurity and malnutrition

How will you strengthen the EU's emergency response mechanisms for addressing hunger and malnutrition, as well as the impact of climate change? More specifically, given the devastating impact of Russia's war in Ukraine on Ukrainian grain exports, how do you aim to further ensure those exports to developing countries, in order to prevent aggravating global food insecurity? Beyond immediate emergency responses, what long-term solutions do you propose to address the underlying causes of food insecurity and malnutrition as part of broader development policies and in close cooperation with our international partners? In particular, how do you plan to work with the EEAS and the Member States to scale up the EU's efforts for preventing climate change and conflict-induced hunger and enhancing accountability in situations where starvation is used as a weapon of war?

Questions from the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

6. How do you plan to ensure sufficient resources within current and upcoming MFF to improve crisis management and preparedness? How will you ensure equitable access to the necessary financial resources for regions and communities faced with frequent natural disasters like wildfires and droughts? Which concrete measures will you propose to strengthen crisis preparedness, specifically building on the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) and RescEU? What is the concrete timeline for these measures, including the revision of the UCPM? Do you foresee setting up of more permanent pools of resources to respond to different types of disasters, similar to the permanent rescue fleet for the forest fires? Can you elaborate on the nature of the European Civil Defence Mechanism and its interaction with the UCPM? How will you encourage cooperation among Member States in order to improve the preparedness for risks and security and health emergencies?

7. Your mission letter sets out a number of ambitions to expand crisis management capacity. With specific reference to health preparedness, how do you foresee to overcome financing challenges with regard to recent budget cuts to other programmes such as the EU4Health Programme and Horizon Europe, and challenges posed by competing political priorities, which have already affected actions and projects to be undertaken by DG HERA? With this in mind, how do you intend to bolster health preparedness and how do you foresee future financing of such actions? Do you foresee an expanded capacity of HERA, if so - how? Can you elaborate on the development of the wider EU stockpiling strategy? How will you ensure that the foreseen preparedness and stockpiling strategies strike the balance between having sufficient reserves and not creating shortages in Member States and other countries, including the Global South?

8. Which specific measures will you take to ensure that disaster prevention measures are integrated into other EU policy areas? Given the frequency of extreme weather events due to climate change, what possibilities for synergies do you see between the UCPM and the future Climate Adaptation Plan? Which concrete measures do you envisage to work with Member States facing severe droughts? How will you ensure that climate risk preparedness and adaptation is also adequately embedded in EU policies related to agriculture and food?

Questions from the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

9. Preparedness

One of the priorities of your portfolio will be Preparedness and Crisis Management. This comes against the backdrop of emerging threats and hybrid attacks, both with an internal and external dimension that put at risk not only the functioning of our critical infrastructures and basic public services but also the security and the well-being of our citizens as well as our economic stability and prosperity. In this regard, you will be in charge of overseeing the development and implementation of an EU Preparedness Union Strategy, aiming at a potential EU Preparedness Law in the future. Which steps will you take to develop this strategy? While respecting national

competence, how will you ensure that different levels of administration, private sector and civil society are fully involved in this strategy? And how will you plan to bolster an EU Culture of Preparedness in our public debate?

10. Anti-discrimination and other equality legislation

How do you intend to address the gaps in existing EU anti-discrimination legislation and ensure effective enforcement of EU anti-racism and anti-discrimination legislation, as well as the strengthening of the rights of persons belonging to minorities? What are your plans to overcome the political blockage in the Council on the horizontal Anti-discrimination Directive and what are your intentions as regards the existing proposal, taking into account the EP position? How do you plan to unblock the proposal for extending the list of EU crimes to hate speech and hate crime, and what additional measures will you take to combat these offenses? How will you monitor the implementation of the Directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence in line with the Istanbul Convention? Do you plan to review the scope of the Directive to include a consent-based definition of rape? Will you support extending the current list of 'EU crimes' as outlined in Article 83 TFEU to explicitly include "gender-based violence" and what other actions are you planning to combat such violence, including gender-based cyber violence? What is your strategy against cyberbullying and, related to online threats, how will you approach the protection of children and other vulnerable groups online, in particular when it comes to dark patterns, deceptive and addictive designs and AI-generated content?

How will you collaborate with the other Commissioners in this field, in particular with the Commissioner for Internal Affairs and the Commissioner for Democracy, Justice and the Rule of Law?

11. Equality strategies, disability and equality data

How will you collaborate with other EU Commissioners to ensure coherence and mainstreaming in other EU policies of various equality strategies, such as the LGBTIQ+ Strategy, the EU Gender Equality Strategy, the Strategy on Roma Equality and Inclusion Strategy, and the EU Anti-racism action plan and Anti-Racism Strategy? Do you envisage new legislative proposals when updating the equality and antidiscrimination strategies? How will you work to ensure that the EU remains a safe and inclusive space for all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity? Will you commit to the use of swift infringement procedures in cases of backsliding? What steps would you take to improve the collection of more and better equality data? Furthermore, what actions will you take to ensure the implementation of the UN CRPD within the Members States and within the EU institutions? Which steps will you take for the EU to join to the UN CRPD Optional Protocol?

Questions from the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

12. What are your key priority areas and concrete measures for the upcoming Roadmap for Women's Rights and the renewed EU Strategy on Gender Equality? How will they relate to other strategic documents? How will you ensure that women's rights and gender equality are prioritised and properly covered within your own portfolio and across the new Commission, how will you organise the work, ensure cooperation with the Justice Commissioner and DG JUST? How do you plan to maintain and integrate the intersectional approach in your work in the area of health and education and the supply of goods and services, will the strategy include a follow-up to the commitment to sexual and reproductive health and rights and guidelines to be developed for comprehensive, age-appropriate sexuality and relationship education?

13. The gender pay gap persists to this day and combined with other structural challenges to women's participation in employment contribute to an equally worrying gender pension gap. What concrete actions are you going to take to tackle the gender pay gap and to lower pay discrimination in particular in female dominated sectors such as care and what are your plans to address and remove the challenges, such as lack of work-life balance and sufficient support and legal framework for care responsibilities faced by women, such as mothers, that contribute to lower women participation in employment and in higher-paid sectors? How will you pay special attention to women in precarious situations or in conditions of vulnerability, such as homeless women, or to the access of women in rural areas or remote regions to essential services and infrastructure?

14. Gender-based violence is a scourge that affects all women in the EU at home, at work or in the streets. How do you intend to ensure the full implementation of the Directive on Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence and of the Istanbul Convention in all parts of the EU? Sexual violence and cyberbullying are mentioned in the Directive but more is needed. What measures will the upcoming Action Plan on Cyberbullying include to ensure that digital spaces are safe from online harassment, hate speech and online abuse? And will it tackle images used to degrade women and tarnish their reputation, including AI generated, through sharing and circulating content such as deepfakes or image-based sexual abuse? How can this be achieved including through prevention

by tech companies? Will you take as a priority the production of guidelines for Member States on setting up awareness-raising campaigns on the role of consent in sexual relationships in all Member States as well as on sexuality education and do you plan to put forward any legislative proposals or initiatives on criminalisation of rape with a consent-based definition? Will you work on any new dedicated proposals tackling gender based violence, including the submission of a proposal for a Council decision to extend the current list of so-called 'EU crimes' and identify gender-based violence as a new area of crime listed in Article 83(1) of the TFEU, as requested by the Parliament?

Question from the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

15. As Commissioner-designate for Equality, how will you mainstream equality concerns across all relevant policy areas and ensure a cohesive and inclusive approach, for example between the various equality strategies in your area of responsibility and the new Anti-Poverty Strategy, the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan and the new European Affordable Housing Plan? Regarding the new Gender Equality Strategy, what actions do you foresee to close the gender pay and pension gap? What legislative measures do you envisage in order to strengthen the position of women in the workplace, and in particular to tackle the many disadvantages faced by women through the 'motherhood penalty' as referred to by EIGE? How will the Strategy address work-life balance for parents and carers particularly as regards early childcare provision to facilitate women's return to the labour market?

Do you commit to update the current Strategy for the Rights of persons with disabilities with new flagship initiatives for 2025 - 2030 and what priority areas would you focus on for the coming years? How will you ensure the proper implementation of legislation like the European Disability Card and European Parking Card in order to safeguard the rights of persons with disabilities? In line with the EU and Member States' obligations under the UNCRPD, what other EU actions do you foresee to improve the social and economic situation of persons with disabilities, in particular to address barriers to their freedom of movement and their ability to reside and work in different EU Member States?

Question from the Subcommittee on Public Health

16. One of your tasks is to develop a new strategy to support medical countermeasures against threats to public health. In this context, the lack of European strategic autonomy as well as the current overreliance on imports of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) plays a crucial role. It is essential to establish a robust mechanism that supports the production of APIs and affordable and accessible finished medicines for patients within Europe. This would not only prove essential were we to meet a pandemic anew, but be of critical importance for the area of development of prevention and treatment of diseases in Europe in general, both common and rare ones. Could you outline your strategy for enhancing preparedness for health challenges against this background, also considering global solidarity? Please address in your answer in particular the cooperation infrastructure inside and outside the Union, how to achieve a robust mechanism for the production, development and availability of critical medicines and ingredients, how to reduce EU dependence from foreign providers and ensure financing of public health policy including through the EU health programme?