



European Parliament

2024-2029

*Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection
Committee on Legal Affairs*

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr Bernd Lange
Chair
Conference of Committee Chairs

Dear Mr Lange,

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Legal Affairs, in accordance with Rule 129 of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament, held a public confirmation hearing on 5 November 2024 with Mr Michael McGrath, Commissioner-designate, who, subject to the positive outcome of the nomination procedure, will be responsible for Democracy, Justice and Rule of Law.

On 16 October 2024, our committees received the letter from the Chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs with the outcome of the scrutiny of the declaration of financial interests of Mr McGrath, which was conducted pursuant to Rule 129 of the Rules of Procedure and Article 2 of Annex VII.

Prior to the confirmation hearing, Parliament had sent the Commissioner-designate a list of written questions. Our committees noted that Mr McGrath 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, annexed to this letter.

On the basis of the oral interventions 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, 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 accordance with Rule 129 of the Rules of Procedure and Article 5 of Annex VII thereto, the LIBE, IMCO and JURI coordinators representing a large majority of more than two-thirds of the committees' members belonging to a political group agreed that Commissioner-designate Mr Michael McGrath is qualified both to be a member of the College of Commissioners and to carry out the specific tasks assigned to him. Nonetheless, they stressed the importance of consumer protection and proposed that the title of the Commissioner-designate's portfolio be adapted

accordingly. This should be without prejudice to the importance and balance of other areas under his responsibility and the Commission President's prerogative to determine the Commissioners' portfolios.

Opinions of the committees invited to participate in the confirmation hearing are annexed to this letter.

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

Yours sincerely,



Anna Cavazzini



Javier Zarzalejos

Anna Cavazzini

Ilhan Kyuchyuk

Chair
Committee on Civil Liberties,
Justice and Home Affairs

Chair
Committee on the
Internal Market and
Consumer Protection

Chair
Committee on Legal
Affairs

Annexes:

- Verbatim transcript
- Opinion of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO)
- Opinion of the Committee on Culture and Education (CULT)
- Opinion of the Committee on Budgets (BUDG)
- Opinion of the Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT)
- Opinion of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM)

Cc:

Committee Coordination and Legislative Programming Unit (Coordleg)

Committee on Constitutional Affairs
The Chair

CONFIDENTIAL
D (2024) 33231

Addresses:

Mr Javier Zarzalejos, *Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs*
Ms Anna Cavazzini, *Chair of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection*
Mr Ilhan Kyuchuk, *Chair of the Legal Affairs Committee*

Opinion by AFCO as invited committee to the confirmation hearing of Commissioner-designate Michael McGrath

The Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO) has been invited to the LIBE-IMCO-JURI Committees to the confirmation hearing of **Commissioner-designate Michael McGrath**, which took place on 5th November 2024. The AFCO committee considers that the Commissioner-designate Michael McGrath **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 European Electoral Law and European Political Parties and Foundations even though some concerns were expressed about his lack of a background in law.

These conclusions have been reached after his overall performance during the confirmation hearing when responding to the areas related to the AFCO committee competences and, more specifically, following his reply to questions put on behalf of the committee's coordinators. Those addressed issues of negotiations between the Parliament and Council on Parliament's latest proposal for a **European Electoral Act**, in addition to that addressing the Council's security concerns while keeping Parliament's objective of regulating and strengthening **European Political Parties and Foundations** and, finally, ways to advance a unified understanding of the concept of **Rule of Law**, reinforcing it as a cohesive rather than divisive force.

This opinion has been adopted by Coordinators representing a large majority of at least two thirds of committee members belonging to a political group.

Yours sincerely,

Chair of the invited AFCO committee



Cc: Committee Coordination and Legislative Programming Unit (Coordleg)

D 104618 05.11.2024

Committee on Culture and Education
The Chair



CONFIDENTIAL

IPOL-COM-CULT D (2024) 32985

Addressees

Javier ZARZALEJOS, Chair of the LIBE Committee
Anna CAVAZZINI, Chair of the IMCO Committee
Ilhan KYUCHYUK, Chair of the JURI Committee

The Committee on Culture and Education, invited to the confirmation hearing of Commissioner-designate Michael McGrath, which took place on 5 November, 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 the media policy, notably as regards implementation, monitoring and enforcement of the European Media Freedom Act together with a coherent implementation of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive.

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



Nela Riehl
Chair of the CULT Committee



Committee on Budgets
The Chairman

Brussels, 5 November 2024

CONFIDENTIAL
D(2024)33125

Mr Javier Zarzalejos
Chair of LIBE Committee

Ms Anna Cavazzini
Chair of IMCO Committee

Ilhan Kyuchyuk
Chair of JURI Committee

Subject: BUDG Assessment of Commissioner-Designate for Democracy, Justice and the Rule of Law, Michael McGrath

The Committee on Budgets, invited to the confirmation hearing of Commissioner-designate McGrath, which took place on 5 November, 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 the rule of law conditionality mechanism. A key element in the assessment of the Committee on Budgets is the solemn commitment of the Commissioner-designate to provide timely, complete and seamless information on the application of the tools aimed at protecting the financial interests of the Union, to come to the relevant committees on a regular basis and to establish a clearly defined line of communication. The Committee on Budgets considers that it is a good starting point and expects a sincere cooperation with the Parliament. The Committee on Budgets also welcomes that the Commissioner-designate expressed the importance to cooperate very closely with the Commissioner for Budget on the application of the conditionality mechanism. Finally, the Committee on Budgets attributes the highest importance to the commitment of the Commissioner-designate to strengthen the link between rule of law recommendations and the application of the conditionality mechanism.

This opinion has been adopted by Coordinators representing at least a simple majority of committee members belonging to a political group.

Yours sincerely,

Johan Van Overtveldt
Chair of the BUDG Committee

Committee on Budgetary Control
The Chair

D 104600 05.11.2024

IPOL-COM-CONT-D(2024)32769

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Javier Zarzalejos
Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

Anna Cavazzini
Chair of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

Ilhan Kyuchyuk
Chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs

The Committee on Budgetary Control, invited to the confirmation hearing of Commissioner-designate Michael McGrath for Democracy, Justice and the Rule of Law, which took place on Tuesday 5 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 the strengthening of the Anti-Fraud Architecture, protection of the EU's financial interests and the strengthening of the Rule of Law.

This opinion has been adopted by Coordinators representing at least a simple majority of committee members belonging to a political group.

Yours sincerely,



Niclas Herbst

cc: Mr Bernd Lange, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chair

Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality
The Chair

IPOL-COM-FEMM D(2024)32550



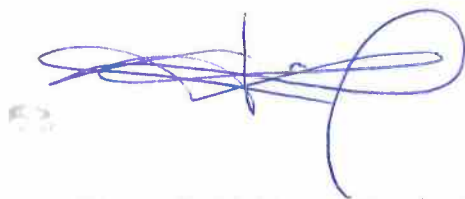
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Addressees

Javier Zarzalejos, Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
Anna Cavazzini, Chair of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection
Ilhan Kyuchyuk, Chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs

The Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, invited to the confirmation hearing of Commissioner-designate for Democracy, Justice and the Rule of Law Michael McGrath, which took place on 5 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 combatting and preventing violence against women, including gender-based violence in Article 83 TFEU. In addition, he committed to supporting sexual and reproductive health and rights based on the EP resolution, intensifying measures to protect victims' rights, protecting women from misogynist stereotypes, defending women's rights defenders and LGBTI defenders as well as ensuring gender mainstreaming in the work on strengthening democracy, justice and rule of law and fight against gendered misinformation and related anti-democratic movements.

This opinion has been adopted by Coordinators representing at least a simple majority of committee members belonging to a political group.



Lina Gálvez
Chair of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality