QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE Glenn MICALLEF

Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport

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 Culture and Education

- 3. What is your vision for the future of the EU's youth policy, both in terms of strategic priorities and EU budgetary resources available? In particular, how will you ensure that the follow-up to the European Year of Youth, the implementation of the 'youth check' and the coordination of the annual Youth Policy Dialogues will effectively work in practice? Beyond that, how will you ensure that the specific demands and engagement of young people continue to be addressed throughout the next five years, both in terms of policy development and decision making processes? What other actions will you take to ensure that youth mainstreaming and youth participation in both democratic life and in a future strategy on Intergenerational Fairness become a reality?
- 4. Political disillusionment, polarisation, also the lack of perspectives and hope for the future among young people are some of the biggest challenges to democracy and to the EU project as such. How will you address the widespread political disillusionment, the culmination of which we have recently witnessed in the European elections? In this context, how do you plan to address the impact of social media on young people and on their general wellbeing, including excessive screen time, cyberbullying as well as the impact on their political understanding and engagement?
- 5. While addressing the specific implications of Artificial Intelligence, what is your vision for the safeguard and promotion of Europe's cultural and creative sectors and industries? What will an effective Culture Compass comprise to make sure culture and cultural heritage are continuously funded and are maintained at the very heart of European policy making? More concretely, with increasing pressure on the EU budget, how will you ensure that Creative Europe, as the only European programme dedicated exclusively to the cultural and creative sectors, will not be reduced in the current EU budget and will be reinforced in the next MFF?

- 6. How do you plan to safeguard cultural and linguistic diversity, artistic freedom, to enhance cultural collaboration, public access to culture, to promote the role of culture as a means for inclusion, to ensure the prominence of European creative content online and to support the improvement of the professional and social situation of artists and other professionals in the cultural and creative sectors? Furthermore, how do you intend to promote European works internationally and improve international cultural relations?
- 7. How will you strive to ensure the strengthening of the European Sport Model based on values, solidarity and inclusiveness and to promote sport as a tool to improve physical and mental wellbeing for all, across generations while contributing to cohesive societies? Beyond that, how will you work together with the other Members of the College and DGs to create strong synergies between sport policy and education policy and to strengthen European sport diplomacy?

Question from the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

8. In your mission letter, you are tasked with preparing a Strategy on Intergenerational Fairness and to implement youth checks. However, an intergenerational approach needs to be holistic and focus on all generations. What actions and measures will you propose to ensure the social inclusion of all generations and their full participation in society and the economy? What legislative initiatives do you envisage with regard to youth and intergenerational fairness and how are you going to cooperate with Executive Vice-President-designate Mînzatu in this context?

Question from the Committee on Legal Affairs

9. Child Rights Strategy Pillars - child friendly justice in areas of civil and family law and better law-making

As enshrined in your mission letter, you are going to be responsible for implementation of the 2021 EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child to be continued in the current legislative term. Two of the main pillars of the EU Strategy are child-friendly justice and child participation in political and democratic life, and JURI Committee is responsible, among others, for civil and family law and better law-making and impact assessment of the EU legislation. Could you explain how you are going to collaborate in practice with Commissioners responsible for ongoing and future files in those fields and whether you will support the existence of the EU Child participation platform to serve as a consultation tool for the upcoming proposals that influence the life and wellbeing of the youngest EU generation?

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

10. Your mission focuses on the implementation of the 2021 EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child as well as on the adoption of initiatives ensuring that young people can help shape the future of the Union. Which specific steps will you take to strengthen children and youth participation in the decision-making process and, above all, to harmonise it throughout the Union? Are you considering a follow-up mechanism of participatory processes for children and young people, which would ensure that child and youth consultation processes are meaningful? Could you please elaborate more on the concept of 'youth check' and the structure of the 'Youth Policy Dialogues'? Which actors will be involved in them? Which areas/topics will you target? Your mission seems to lack references to initiatives on children in the digital era. Are you considering to take concrete initiatives on this issue? For instance, what is your strategy for reducing cyberbullying, and do you believe that information campaigns, education, and media literacy are effective tools to tackle excessive screen time and negative effects of social media for young people? What would be the ideal outcomes of an EU inquiry into the broader impact of social media, and do you anticipate any differing results compared to previous studies? Additionally, which steps are you prepared to take to ensure the protection of child victims of cyberbullying in the context of the implementation of the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child?