

QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE**Roxana MÎNZATU****Executive Vice-President for People, Skills and Preparedness****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 Employment and Social Affairs

3. The Parliament is concerned about the fragmentation of social and employment policy and its inclusion in numerous portfolios of Commissioners-designate as well as the missing social and employment dimension in Executive Vice-President-designate Roxana Mînzatu's title. How does the Vice-President-designate intend to ensure that this fragmentation does not undermine the implementation of the principles of the European Pillar of Social rights? How will you cooperate with the other Commissioners to achieve these objectives? Also, would you agree to change your title to "Executive Vice-President for quality jobs, social rights, skills and education" and take necessary measures to consolidate social and employment policies and ensure efficient structures and oversight?

4. Building on the La Hulpe declaration, which legislative initiatives do you commit to put forward in the new Action Plan on the EPSR, such as digitalisation at work, housing and collective bargaining, in order to achieve the 2030 targets? What concrete measures and actions will you propose to tackle critical skills and labour shortages in European labour markets and to create good opportunities in all regions of Europe? How will you ensure that all workers, especially low-skilled workers, can benefit from the Union of Skills and can enjoy the right to training as well as equal access to upskilling and reskilling programmes, especially in light of the green and digital transitions?

What concrete measures and actions will you propose to facilitate labour mobility, ensuring a strong and empowered European Labour Authority (ELA), and further modernisation, simplification and digitalisation of social security coordination, as stated in your mission letter?

Moreover, what new and revised occupational exposure limit values on hazardous substances are you planning to propose under the EU OSH legislation, ensuring a level playing field for businesses?

5. Around 95 million people in the Union live at risk of poverty and social exclusion, including 19 million children. Even 11% of workers are exposed to this risk. Which concrete legislative initiatives will you propose in the context of the first ever EU Anti-Poverty Strategy, announced by Commission President-elect Ursula von der Leyen? What role will the European Semester and the European Child Guarantee play in this strategy to ensure progress towards the EPSR Action Plan goal of reduction of poverty? How will you ensure the next MFF does more to eradicate poverty and social exclusion? Beyond the Council recommendation, what concrete follow-up measures will you give to calls from the European Parliament to guarantee the adequacy, and increase the coverage and take-up of minimum income schemes?

Will you present a Directive on adequate minimum income in order to ensure the reintegration of people absent from the labour market while respecting the subsidiarity principle and the specificities of national social protection systems?

Questions from the Committee on Culture and Education

6. How do you envisage the future of EU education policy, beyond strengthening Europe's human capital to deliver effective and relevant learning that develops knowledge, skills, values and competences corresponding to a holistic vision of education and contributing to better prepared and resilient future generations? In the context of the ongoing European Green transition and clean industrial transformation, how will you actively develop strategies that tackle challenges related to access to education, basic skills, digital skills, STEM and STEAM education and European citizenship education?

7. What is your plan for the future of the European Education Area (EEA) due to be completed by 2025, in conjunction with the recognition and cross-border portability of qualifications, degrees and certification across all areas of education in formal, informal and non-formal settings? In particular, how do you intend to tackle urgent, EU wide issues such as the lack of teachers, their training and precarious professional situation?

8. In the EU we are faced with the reality of brain drain in the sector of higher education, how do you intend to actively tackle this issue and how do you intend to further develop the 'European University Alliances' and work on the "European Degree" to specifically address these challenges? Furthermore, how do you intend to apply lessons learnt from the current implementation of the Erasmus+ programme in preparing the next generation programme, and specifically, what is your strategy to keep the programme's core objectives and priorities considering potential future budgetary pressures?

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

9. Given the urgent need for an EU culture of preparedness facing emerging threats that may affect our security and the safety of our society, how will you plan to contribute to build up our EU capabilities, to improve threat detection and to operationalise a coordinated crisis response in a swift and effective manner?

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

10. What initiatives do you plan to close the gender pay gap, career and pension gaps and tackle the horizontal segregation as well as promoting girls and women in STEM education and careers, and prevent discrimination for all, so that Europe can draw on all of its talent and potential? Also because of the gender gaps, the risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU is higher for women than for men. Women that have informal care responsibilities for dependent relatives risk not being able to join formal employment and are most at risk of poverty. How do you plan to improve working conditions, career development and upskilling for women in the context of the new framework for addressing long-term care workforce challenges? Regarding the first-ever Anti-Poverty Strategy planned for this Commission, how will you make sure that women in the most precarious and vulnerable situations, such as homeless women and single mothers, are reached by the new Strategy?