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FOOD SAFETY

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND MONETARY AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND ENERGY

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COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND TOURISM

COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**CONFIRMATION HEARING OF**

**TERESA RIBERA RODRÍGUEZ**

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE  
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

(Clean, Just and Competitive Transition)

TUESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2024

BRUSSELS



1-0002-0000

**IN THE CHAIR:****ANTONIO DECARO***Chair of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety***AURORE LALUCQ***Chair of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs***TSVETELINA PENKOVA***Vice-Chair of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy*

1-0003-0000

*(The hearing opened at 18:33)*

1-0004-0000

**Antonio Decaro**, *Presidente della commissione ENVI*. – Porgo un benvenuto a Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Vicepresidente esecutiva designata per una Transizione pulita, giusta e competitiva.

Questa audizione di conferma è organizzata congiuntamente dalle commissioni ENVI, ECON e ITRE. Desidero porgere il benvenuto ai membri delle tre commissioni responsabili congiuntamente dell'audizione, ai membri e ai presidenti delle cinque commissioni invitate – IMCO, EMPL, TRAN, REGI e AGRI – e a tutti i presenti.

Salutiamo anche chi ci sta guardando in *streaming* o chi ci seguirà dopo in *streaming*. Do il benvenuto alle copresidenti dell'audizione di stasera, Aurore Lalucq, presidente della commissione ECON, e Tsvetelina Penkova, prima vicepresidente della commissione ITRE.

Prima dell'audizione, Teresa Ribera Rodríguez ha risposto per iscritto al questionario preparatorio. Le risposte scritte sono state distribuite ai deputati in tutte le lingue. La commissione giuridica ha valutato, sulla base dei documenti presentati, l'eventuale esistenza di conflitti di interessi reali e potenziali e non ha sollevato obiezioni allo svolgimento dell'audizione.

Prima di dare la parola alla copresidente Aurore Lalucq, volevo chiedervi di essere attenti al ruolo che ognuno di noi svolge in quest'Aula, al contegno nell'Aula, perché già entrando ho visto un clima abbastanza effervescente.

Poi, vi chiedo di rispettare i tempi. Io – lo sapete, o almeno chi fa parte della mia commissione – non uso mai il martelletto, perché al primo discorso che ho fatto al Parlamento italiano nella mia vita, il Presidente della Camera mi ha tolto la parola. Io avevo tutta la famiglia e gli amici che stavano aspettando, lì, di poter valutare il mio primo discorso, che non ho potuto finire. E quindi ho odiato quella persona per anni.

Non vorrei risultare antipatico: non ci costringete a utilizzare il martelletto. Do la parola alla copresidente, Aurore Lalucq.

1-0005-0000

**Aurore Lalucq**, *Chair of the ECON Committee*. – Thank you, dear Co-Chair. Dear colleagues, before we proceed, let me explain the organisation of this confirmation hearing. To begin, Ms Ribera Rodríguez will make an opening statement of maximum 15 minutes. After the introduction, we

will turn to the questions from you, dear Members of the European Parliament. There will be four rounds of questions.

The first round is for political group coordinators. It will consist of 5-minute slots, each with 1 minute for the question and 2 minutes for the answer from the Executive Vice-President-designate, including the possibility of a follow-up question from the same Member: no longer than 1 minute, with 1 minute available for the reply.

Afterwards, we will have a second round, with 3-minute slots for each Member based on the overall distribution of speaking time among the political groups, including a representative from the non-attached Members. The third round is for the chairs of the invited committee, with 3 minutes each. The final round of questions will be for the political groups in reverse order, also with 3 minutes each.

In all those rounds, slots of 3 minutes will be divided into 1 minute for a question and 2 minutes for an answer from the Executive Vice-President-designate. After the final round of questions, Ms Ribera Rodríguez will have 5 minutes for a closing statement.

Interpretation is provided in 23 languages. All speakers can therefore use their own language. However, speakers are reminded that what they say will need to be interpreted – thank you, by the way, to all the interpreters and to the staff and the secretariat for this hearing – which means that you should not speak too quickly.

I would also like to inform you that this confirmation hearing is live-streamed on Parliament's internet site. On the same site, it will be possible to access a video recording of the hearing within a few hours after its ends.

I now give the floor to my Co-Chair, Tsvetelina Penkova.

1-0006-0000

**Tsvetelina Penkova**, *Vice-Chair of the ITRE Committee*. – Good evening, everyone. Executive Vice-President-designate, before we move on to your opening statement, let me start by acknowledging your responses to the horizontal written questions and your readiness to cooperate with the European Parliament.

This is particularly important in the context of the revision of the Framework Agreement between the European Parliament and the Commission, in particular regarding your engagement to be regularly present in the committees and plenaries, to follow up on Parliament's legislative initiatives, and to timely share information to Parliament, the co-legislator and arm of the budgetary authority.

We count on the full implementation of these commitments and emphasise the Commission's role as the honest broker in the legislative procedures and interinstitutional negotiations, ensuring equal treatment of Parliament and the Council. We equally count on your full cooperation to also inform our committees in advance of all upcoming proposals, with detailed justifications for those requiring urgent actions. This will ensure transparency and allow Parliament to properly exercise its prerogatives.

I now give the floor to Ms Ribera Rodríguez, Executive Vice-President-designate for a clean, just and competitive transition for a presentation of no longer than 15 minutes.

1-0007-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez**, *Comisaria propuesta*. – Señora presidenta, señores copresidentes, es para mí un honor comparecer en esta Cámara, la casa de todos los europeos. Lo hago dos semanas después de la mayor tragedia vivida en Valencia en mucho tiempo, la segunda más mortífera en Europa en lo que va de siglo. Por eso me gustaría que mis primeras palabras, desde el dolor seguro compartido por todos, fueran de recuerdo, de afecto, de solidaridad para con las víctimas y sus familias. De agradecimiento para quienes han estado allí, desde el primer momento, ayudando. Ayudando a rescatar. Ayudando a recuperar en la medida de lo posible, en circunstancias extraordinariamente duras, la normalidad. Pero también para agradecerles a todos ustedes las muestras de cariño y de apoyo a los valencianos recibidas durante todo este tiempo.

Desgraciadamente, fenómenos meteorológicos extremos como el vivido hace dos semanas, serán cada vez más frecuentes, más intensos. Y por eso creo que es importante acordarnos de la necesidad de entender y reforzar nuestra capacidad de observación del clima, de descarbonizar nuestra economía, de invertir en preparación para adaptarnos y ser más resilientes, pero también de reforzar los sistemas de respuesta, de protección, los sistemas de alerta. Todo sigue siendo prioritario. Es un campo en el que Europa ha venido avanzando desde hace mucho tiempo y a mi juicio no solamente es irrenunciable si tenemos que hacer más y mejor.

En un momento crucial como este, es una gran oportunidad venir a compartir reflexiones sobre los retos que afronta nuestro proyecto europeo y hacerlo en línea con las directrices políticas presentadas por la presidenta Ursula von der Leyen el pasado mes de julio. Vengo aquí a hacerlo con mi compromiso con Europa y con los europeos. También con nuestros valores: con el respeto, el diálogo, la solidaridad, la democracia, la cohesión entre países y regiones y el Estado de Derecho. Son valores que representan el sueño europeo, no solo para quienes habitamos en este continente; recordemos que representan el sueño de muchas personas en muchas partes del mundo.

Y es verdad que los sueños evolucionan, como evoluciona el mundo, como evoluciona Europa; pero creo que es capital que nos mantengamos firmes en nuestros principios, principios que nos han servido para construir durante décadas el proyecto común y que confirman la necesidad de contar con un orden internacional basado en reglas y el reconocimiento y defensa de los derechos humanos, sin distinción del lugar o del colectivo amenazado.

También con nuestra implicación y defensa en la reducción de conflictos y la lucha contra la pobreza, la apuesta por la prosperidad y oportunidades para todos, sobre todo para los más jóvenes; la lucha por un planeta saludable, habitable, haciendo frente al cambio climático y la pérdida de biodiversidad. Pero también con la vocación firme de fabricar en suelo europeo más y mejor, liderando la innovación en sectores clave y haciendo un uso eficiente de los recursos, reduciendo la contaminación y generando oportunidades sobre la base de un mercado interior, que es un proyecto en curso en el que es imprescindible seguir avanzando.

En un contexto de inestabilidad geopolítica, de grandes cambios en la economía global, debemos reafirmar nuestra autonomía estratégica y reforzar nuestro tejido productivo. Y para ello sabemos que las transiciones verde y digital son vectores especialmente importantes, como también lo es profundizar en nuestro mercado interior.

Porque vivimos en un continente rico en historia, en arte, en cultura y en biodiversidad, pero no queremos conformarnos con ser un destino atractivo para quien nos visita. Queremos obtener bienes y servicios de calidad. Queremos una economía que funcione. Sabemos que las políticas de competencia nos ayudan a funcionar más y mejor, ahorrando costes a los consumidores, facilitando la inversión en nuestro continente y mejorando la calidad de vida en nuestros entornos.

We live in a world that is multipolar, turbulent, uncertain and full of interdependencies. Still, when acting united, we have the capacity to face the new challenges. We do it in a wise manner, as we did when responding to COVID and to the Russian blackmail on access to affordable energy.

The industrial race to reach climate neutrality is already ongoing and the speed of change is accelerating. The rest of the world is not going to wait for us, so let's use our very big capacities, because we know that we cannot afford to fall behind, but neither can we afford to leave anyone behind.

Clean solutions, fair transitions and a competitive, well-functioning single market are at the core of the responses that we need. The European project was conceived as a single market based on a social economy committed to the rule of law. A single market that is a very valuable asset, capturing more than 450 million European consumers, with 26 million businesses – the vast majority of them small and medium-sized enterprises, employing nearly 136 million people and generating 10 % of the global GDP.

If confirmed as Executive Vice-President for a clean, just and competitive transition, I'm committed to support the objectives set out by President von der Leyen: going faster in advancing sustainable prosperity and competitiveness, making business easier by reducing the administrative burdens, ensuring a clean and just transition. I will do so by both coordinating the green agenda with my fellow colleagues in the Commission and enforcing a competition policy based on our democratic values to support a well-functioning single market.

In doing so, we need to promote the alignment and synergies between the clean transition and a competitive European economy. If our economy depends on fossil fuels that we do not produce, we will never be able to ensure prosperity.

Europe's long-term competitiveness requires us to shift away from fossil fuels, while embracing a clean, circular, efficient economy that attracts talent and investments, and generates high-quality jobs and products.

We must stay on course of our ambitions. This is why I will work with my fellow Members of the College to implement our common climate goals for 2030, in the simplest, fairest and most cost-efficient way; to pave the way for a new architecture beyond 2030 to enable us to reach net zero by mid-century, counting on vibrant clean tech sectors and a leading decarbonised industry, as part of the Clean Industrial Deal; to ensure access to fresh water and healthy ecosystems, clean energy and an efficient circular economy, while reducing inequality gaps.

The success will depend on our ability to create prosperity, and be competitive while meeting the goals set for 2030 and paving the way for the goals of 2050. In order to achieve this, I will maintain close dialogue and collaboration with all relevant stakeholders, but very much, in particular, with the European Parliament.

I will promote the coherent use of our toolbox, both domestically and in our foreign policies, to bring down energy prices and reduce dependence on fossil fuels and other commodities; to support the decarbonisation of industry and the economy; to accelerate the just transition and facilitate access to housing, while addressing energy poverty; and to direct our foreign economic policies to reduce risk and vulnerabilities.

It is time to modernise and enforce many things – including enforcement of the competition policy – and capitalise on the benefits of the green and digital transitions. A new approach to competition policy that is more supportive of companies scaling up in global markets, and allows European businesses and consumers to enjoy the benefits of effective competition, acknowledging that external competition cannot last if we give up on competition internally.

We must progress in ensuring a level playing field, attracting investment, innovation and clean growth, protecting consumers from rising prices, while ensuring the high quality of goods and services.

It's time to safeguard and restore our very precious nature, so that we can count on the environmental services that protect our lives and supply the key elements of our economic prosperity.

Au cours du prochain mandat, le pacte pour une industrie propre devra rester un élément prioritaire. L'Europe doit relancer son tissu productif et industriel, produire en Europe pour apporter de la richesse.

Il faudra: maximiser l'impact de nos financements publics de manière plus efficace, en mobilisant davantage d'investissements privés supplémentaires; orienter les investissements vers les solutions propres grâce à une application des règles fiscales et des marchés financiers en cohérence avec les critères environnementaux, sociaux et de bonne gouvernance; développer les infrastructures nécessaires à la décarbonation dans les transports, la connectivité et les interconnexions au-delà des frontières intérieures pour compléter le marché unique; investir dans la formation et l'éducation pour s'attaquer au déficit des compétences et à la création d'opportunités, tout en créant des emplois de qualité dans la transition.

Finalement, si nous voulons promouvoir l'industrie européenne et stimuler et stimuler l'innovation pour nous repositionner sur le marché mondial, la politique de concurrence doit évoluer au rythme de la réalité dans laquelle elle opère.

In the past mandate, under the leadership of Margrethe Vestager, a lot has been done to make sure that all competition instruments are fit for purpose and aligned with the objectives of the green, digital and resilient European economy. We also count on new instruments to tackle emerging challenges, such as the new digital gatekeepers, under the Digital Markets Act, or the evaluation and response to the distortive effects of foreign subsidies under the Foreign Subsidies Regulation.

I will make full use of all these tools so that firms – large and small alike, whether incorporated in big or small Member States – have a fair shot at competing in the single market. In a market economy, there is no competitiveness without fair competition. I would add that that there is no fair competition without strong competition policy enforcement. I intend to pursue rigorous competition policy enforcement that is based on values of fairness, openness, entrepreneurship and choice, and that provides equal opportunities for all.

But new challenges require us to go further and do better in our approach, in our enforcement. If confirmed, I will defend the rigorous enforcement of that competition policy in full respect of the Treaties to ensure that competition policy remains as facilitator for the innovation and the competitiveness of European companies, taking into account contemporary needs and dynamics like globalisation, the need to decarbonise and provide sustainability, the impact of the digital transformation or the compelling demands to innovate and build resilience. Because that is the best

way to ensure that competition policy continues to fulfil its original purpose: to protect the level playing field, benefiting citizens in their everyday lives.

At the same time, there is a strong demand to simplify and speed up our competition enforcement processes. We need to avoid any delay in the support for the energy transition and the decarbonisation of the industry to gain competitiveness, all being done in a high-quality manner.

We want to become more attractive and regain investors' appetite for Europe, and this means updating our tools: for instance, acknowledging the relevant role of the pro-competitive approaches in our enforcement, or ensuring that our merger rules capture deals that prevent innovation, in particular for SMEs and mid-caps, the so-called killer acquisitions of companies with low turnover but high innovative and competitive potential. Certainly, this will be one of the more challenging tasks ahead. The same attention should be given to keeping our market open to innovation, while preventing unfair foreign subsidised investments that may undermine fair competition for European business.

During the crisis, we have responded to the needs of people and businesses. Let's build from the experience. In line with my mission letter, I will provide a new State aid framework to accelerate the rollout of renewable energy, to deploy industrial decarbonisation and to ensure sufficient manufacturing capacity of clean tech. This means the simplification of State aid, prioritising our work on the most distortive aids.

I want the State aid assessment process of IPCEIs, the most important projects of common European interest, to become simpler and faster. I'm also willing to study the proposals being made by some experts and leaders in the European economy for IPCEIs, so that they could be used for innovation in strategic sectors. By making the most effective use of IPCEIs and strengthening their cross-border dimension, we can further deepen the single market and help firms to achieve more scale.

We need to move forward with the enforcement of the Digital Markets Act, and coordinate with other jurisdictions to effectively deal with the competitive environment in the digital markets. I will work with the Executive Vice-President for technological sovereignty, security and democracy to implement the new approach to regulate digital markets, ensuring contestability and fairness – complementary to the continued enforcement of competition rules.

Working together will be crucial, and staying firm in our duty to preserve fairness and protect consumers' rights is a no-brainer. In all those aspects, I will strive for stronger global cooperation among competition authorities, making enforcement more effective and efficient, while promoting fair competition and market integrity worldwide, not to say with European business and European stakeholders.

Valuing the role of the European Parliament, keeping Parliament informed and ensuring you can contribute to the debate on policy proposals related to competition is certainly one of my most important duties. Thank you so much.

1-0011-0000

**Antonio Decaro**, *Presidente della commissione ENVI*. – Iniziamo la prima sessione di domande.



1-0012-0000

**Markus Ferber (PPE).** – Commissioner-designate, thank you very much for the words you have said on what had happened two weeks ago in Valencia, but I think it would have been more appropriate to address that in the Spanish Parliament before you do it here.

For the Commissioner for Competition, it is key to be independent and impartial and to be perceived as such. Otherwise, your role as a neutral referee can be put into question. So I have two questions about that.

Firstly, you have a very broad portfolio, not only competition but also clean and just transition. How do you intend to resolve any conflict of interest which can arise out of that?

Secondly, the European Commission has opened an in-depth investigation in 2021 to assess whether the arbitration award to be paid by Spain following the modification of a renewable electricity support scheme is in line with the EU State aid rules. You have been negotiating that in your capacity as minister. How would you ensure your neutrality when you have to handle this specific case?

1-0013-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Commissioner-designate.** – Thank you so much for the question, because this provides me the opportunity to commit and to stress the fact that, of course, I pay much attention to assure that this is very independent policy based on the check-and-balance elements that already exist: a professional team within the Commission, the legal service, the chief economist, and the collegiality in taking decisions.

But also, of course, the fact that it is a no-brainer, a watchdog on a well-functioning single market requires rigorous enforcement of the competition policy. In fact, it is very difficult to think of an industrial policy that is not consistent with the strong competition policy because both are quite complementary.

You're also asking about the case in Spain, which is an important case. As you know, the usual practice is that whenever there is any potential concern on to what extent there may be some interest, the usual way to proceed is to raise the issue to the President of the Commission so that the President of the Commission decides on someone else in the College of Commissioners to raise a proposal to the College. So this is the way, I think, that we will need to proceed if there is any type of concern dealing with issues, with processes, with files that are coming from Spain and I've been involved in any type of discussion as minister.

1-0014-0000

**Markus Ferber (PPE).** – To be a little bit more abstract, when investors decide whether to make an investment, they consider the predictability and the stability of the regulatory framework. Investments are significantly more likely when key parameters do not change.

The sometimes-erratic handling of government decisions in Spain, in particular in the energy and clean tech sector, has greatly undermined trust in Spain as an attractive destination for investments and investors. Yet you are tasked to be part of a green growth strategy, encouraging businesses to invest in the European Union.

Given this track record, do you think you are the right person to do so? Really to attract investors to invest in the European Union?

1-0015-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Thanks again for the question, Mr Ferber. I think that I can say that the macroeconomic data coming from Spain show that Spain is attractive. It's an appealing place to invest. It's true that when I entered in government, I had an issue to solve that came from a previous regulation being adopted in 2013 that had been challenged by the investors, and I tried to do my best so to provide solutions for the original investors, and it helped, so to provide a stable framework that was attractive and appealing for new investment in renewable energy solutions, and it helped. It has boosted in Spain in the recent years. But also to ensure that, in the transition away from fossil fuels, in the phase-out of fossil fuels, there were new opportunities linked to clean energy that could be helpful for workers and territories. So I think that this is a good example.

Of course, this energy policy in the European Commission will rely on my fellow colleague, Dan Jørgensen, and I will work with him so to ensure that we can combine the different competences and functions that we have in mission to ensure full coherence with the final decisions that we may need to undertake.

1-0016-0000

**Jonás Fernández (S&D)**. – Welcome, Commissioner-designate.

First, I have to say that I fully agree with my colleague Markus Ferber: the Spanish matter must be treated in the Spanish Congress. In any case, your mission letter tells you to develop a new competition framework, inter alia through a review of the Merger Regulation, the simplification and proper enforcement of the State aid rules and tackling killer acquisitions.

How will you take on this agenda? And specifically, how will you ensure that in the next 5 years the roles of competition policy, which are integrity of the single market and consumer protection, will work hand to hand with the need for a competitive European economy and a just transition that leaves no one behind?

Furthermore, what will be your guiding principles in enforcing competition rules, including new tools such as the Digital Market Act and Foreign Subsidies Regulation?

1-0017-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Thank you for pointing out something that I did not mention, which is very important. Last week there were no plenary sessions in the Congress or the Senate. And this week I'm here because the plenary session in the Senate is this afternoon. So, it was difficult for me to be there either today or tomorrow, but I will be there next week, and I think that this will help to clarify many things.

But on the question that you have raised, I would say that yes, after stressing the fact that we need to enforce this competition policy, we need to identify how competition policy can help even better the competitiveness of the European industry in a period where we know that we will be building great solutions for industry and for global economies, and we do not want to lag behind. So, decarbonisation, the environmental issues and green revolution, the efficiency of the use of resources or the digital transformation are very much in this in this point of the agenda.

The combination of the regulation and the single market are going to be key. I think that ensuring a level playing field requires the use of all tools in competition policy. But as I said, there is a strong demand to simplify the burdens, to ensure that an update of some of the tools that have been used for years – such as the antitrust or the Merger Regulation and guidelines – may help for purpose and

to better target those issues or those files that can create more distortive behaviours and more distortive effects in the economy.

The new rules, such as the Foreign Subsidies Regulation or the Digital Markets Act show that the challenges are being captured by the regulation. But we need to implement how they work, the interdependency between industry and competition is quite important. We cannot think of a well-functioning industry without taking into consideration the competition rules, but neither can we count on a sound industrial policy if we do not take into consideration the main drivers of change that are happening right now.

So, we will be paying attention to all these issues in our cluster. And of course, the stress on my side will be mainly on the competition policy.

1-0018-0000

**Jonás Fernández (S&D).** – In any case, can you elaborate on the tools at the Commission's disposal you will use to fulfil this agenda?

And what kind of initiatives do you intend to take?

And finally, how will you involve this Parliament here in?

1-0019-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Commissioner-designate.** – I think that we are already in the simplification and speeding up processes, thinking on how I could propose a new State aid framework to accompany the Clean Industrial Deal. I think that the Clean Industrial Deal that we need to issue in the next 100 days – together with Vice-President Séjourné and Commissioner Hoekstra – is a good opportunity to identify how competition policy can be updated to provide this connection, how the projects of common European interests can help in a speedy way, assessing the State aid process or how the antitrust procedural framework can evolve so to ensure its effectiveness.

How can we strengthen and better target competition enforcement? Paying attention to innovators, as I said, to ensure that they can contest the existing incumbents in the time to come, or how to close the enforcement gap in this killer acquisition after the Court did his judgement on the attempt being made by Commissioner Vestager that was not supported by the Court, I think that by providing upfront guidance on how to cut the red tape to enable unproblematic investments and cooperation between companies will be very important.

So, going through the different existing rules and developing the new tools that you adopted in the last mandate is important. And doing all of that, counting on you in the policy proposal moment, but also later on in the implementation to follow up the success will be very important too.

1-0020-0000

**Jorge Buxadé Villalba (Pfe).** – Señora ministra, han pasado dos semanas desde la catástrofe en Valencia en las que usted, efectivamente, se ha escondido de los españoles, lo cual no me sorprende, porque su jefe, Pedro Sánchez, ahora ha huido a Azerbaiyán. Sin embargo, no va a quedar impune.

Todos los aquí presentes, antes de votar su candidatura, deben saber que usted, como ministra de la que dependen la Confederación Hidrográfica del Júcar, las alertas meteorológicas y la gestión de proyectos hidráulicos, es responsable de la tragedia en Valencia. Disponía de la información sobre

cauces desbordados en tiempo real y no hizo nada. Conocía el riesgo de inundaciones habituales en esa zona del Levante español y no hizo nada. Nunca ejecutó las obras hidráulicas previstas en el Plan Hidrológico Nacional que habrían evitado las riadas hasta en dieciséis ayuntamientos. Ha impedido la limpieza de los cauces y dejó de ejecutar el Plan de Gestión del Riesgo de Inundación de la Demarcación Hidrográfica del Júcar, en las presas previstas en la Rambla del Poyo.

Señora Ribera, si usted es comisaria, ¿va a hacer lo mismo con la Unión Europea? ¿Va a dejar de ejecutar las obras previstas y presupuestadas? ¿Va a prohibir la limpieza de los cauces en los ríos europeos?

1-0021-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez**, *Comisaria propuesta*. – Señor Buxadé, le agradezco mucho su interés por Valencia, por las obras hidrológicas, por la seguridad de las zonas inundables, por la alarma en los supuestos en los que se producen esas inundaciones, por la inversión en los servicios públicos y por la ciencia.

Creo que no hay nada más peligroso que cuestionar o intentar minar la credibilidad de las instituciones que nos alertan. Y creo que, precisamente, este triste caso que tenemos por delante es un buen ejemplo de lo que ocurre. Así que mi compromiso es, sí, reforzar los servicios públicos, reforzar la capacidad de observación, reforzar la capacidad de anticipación y prevención de inundaciones, ejecutar aquello que corresponda desde la perspectiva de las políticas europeas y acompañar a los europeos y a los Gobiernos nacionales para que esto nos encuentre a todos preparados: reduciendo emisiones pero fortaleciendo nuestra capacidad de respuesta y anticipación. También, en este caso concreto, con esos programas de resiliencia hídrica que incorpora mi compañera Roswall en el título de su mandato.

1-0022-0000

**Jorge Buxadé Villalba (Pfe)**. – Señora Ribera, esta es una copia del sitio web de su ministerio: es una noticia del año 2004. El titular —gobernaba también su partido— era «El Gobierno anuncia la creación de una presa en Cheste para evitar riadas en dieciséis pueblos». Entre ellos estaban Massanassa, Paiporta, Picanya y Catarroja, zonas de alto riesgo de inundación. ¿Lo recuerda? ¿Le suena? «Se construirán dos diques —decía su ministerio—, uno en cada barranco, que desaguarán el cauce del Poyo para reducir el caudal por el efecto de laminación del propio embalse».

Es escalofriante saber que, hace veinte años, ustedes ya sabían que esto podía suceder y no han hecho nada. Le repito: ¿en qué se han gastado el dinero de los fondos europeos durante su legislatura? Usted ha sido una de las grandes defensoras de la restauración de los cauces naturales. Pues, mire usted, aquí tiene sus consecuencias.

No tengo más preguntas que hacerle a usted. Para nosotros no debería sentarse en la Comisión, sino en un banquillo. A quien quiero dirigirme ahora es al Partido Popular Europeo. Aquí hay dos opciones: o están del lado de Teresa Ribera o están del lado de la vida de los españoles. Ustedes verán si también quieren ser cómplices de esto. Sus amigos socialistas son unos demócratas impecables.

1-0023-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez**, *Commissioner-designate*. – I have to say that my main concern for the future is society not being able to assess the real risk, the real threat of climate change and extreme meteorological events; responsible people in institutions challenging and undermining the credibility of science and knowledge. And yes, we need public resources to be invested in build resilience, and also in water resilience.

Fue mala suerte que la crisis se llevara por delante la capacidad de inversión en esos proyectos. La recuperación de esos proyectos desde 2018 nos permite hoy tener licitados muchos de ellos. Su falta de apoyo a los presupuestos hace particularmente complicado poder invertir en servicios públicos. La vocación de recortar impuestos hace particularmente complicado disponer de recursos.

Pero creo que Europa ha de seguir comprometida porque, desgraciadamente, la aparición de este tipo de fenómenos va a ser recurrente e intensa. Por tanto, mucho más que palabras, cuando llegan momentos muy duros por no estar preparados o no reaccionar a tiempo, lo que necesitamos es reforzar nuestra preparación y nuestras alertas, y generar esas alertas para asegurar que la gente pueda estar protegida.

1-0025-0000

**Alexandr Vondra (ECR).** – As a key figure in phasing out nuclear energy in your home country, you have faced criticism for favouring renewables over nuclear, raising questions about your commitment to technological neutrality. Do you support nuclear energy as an indispensable way to achieve our decarbonisation targets? Beyond SMRs, will you support the development and lifetime extension of large-scale nuclear reactors in the EU?

State aid processes are a bottleneck, delaying projects by years. Are you ready to accelerate nuclear State aid approvals by dedicating more resources in DG COMP?

And finally, what safeguards you take to secure a level playing field between Member States? The current situation when the French taxpayers contribute to Spanish solar and wind programmes, while Spanish taxpayers do not support the French nuclear project, is simply not fair.

1-0026-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Commissioner-designate.** – Thank you for this question, which is quite an important question. I think that it is quite important to come back to the basic principles on the energy policy in Europe. I think that we are trying to build a common energy policy, but respecting each Member State decision on how to organise its energy mix. I know that there are Member States that have decided to bid hard for energy and nuclear. Others have decided to bid hard for renewable energy solutions, and all of them are trying to strive to get to the goals being set by 2030 and 2050, in terms of decarbonisation and electrification of the energy systems. All of them deserve respect.

I've tried to do my best together with the rest of the colleagues, while chairing the Energy Council, to count on electricity market design that provides room for everybody. I know that European finance counts on different initiatives to fund innovation, also in the case of nuclear solutions, including the programme being launched last February on a nuclear industrial alliance to ensure that all the different stakeholders that are willing to work in this field can count on a common platform. I think that this is important because we need to work together in all of this.

However, I have to say that what taxpayers pay at the European level is this investment fund that deals with innovation, that deals with new solutions and infrastructures and not so much how to cover the cost of every electricity market that is paid in each Member State by the electricity consumers.

1-0027-0000

**Alexandr Vondra (ECR).** – Well, I'm sorry for the question. Not a single one answered. But I will try from a different corner now.

The Commission's ambitious target to cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions seriously harm the competitiveness of energy-intensive industries, in particular the automotive sector.

Are you ready to initiate an urgent dialogue with the automotive industry to keep production in the EU competitive? Are you willing to speed up a review process for the 2035 targets to guarantee a real technological neutrality approach? And finally, will you take an urgent legal action to avoid the harmful penalties designed already for 2025?

1-0028-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Thank you so much for your question, because you point to something which is quite sensitive.

The car industry is a great industry in Europe. It's a very relevant part of our GDP. It's a very relevant player in terms of innovation. We all count on mobility. We know that it is important that the car industry is competitive in global markets.

I think that providing this stable signal in terms of what we are expecting from the car emissions in terms of the share of the decarbonisation of the economy is key.

But I think that we need to work together with the different industrial players to ensure that the transformation that ensures this competitiveness is being achieved. So, keeping and opening this dialogue with the different sectors and stakeholders dealing with infrastructure, with the technologies, with the decarbonisation of the product that they are offering to the market will be a very important task.

My intention is to work with Commissioner Hoekstra to deal with this issue, but not only him. We have a Commissioner dealing with transport and infrastructures. We have the Commissioner dealing with finance so that we can count on the capacity to finance this transformation, and we need to develop this Clean Industrial Deal together with Vice-President Séjourné.

So, yes, we need to count on this neutral approach, but at the same time, we need to bet on how to transform our car industry to ensure that they are as competitive as they have been for decades and as important in industrial terms as they have been for decades.

1-0029-0000

**Pascal Canfin (Renew)**. – Madame la Commissaire désignée, bienvenue au Parlement européen. Je vais vous poser une question sur l'adaptation au changement climatique et pour dire à quel point il est choquant de voir que mon collègue de Vox peut parler pendant deux minutes des événements à Valence sans mentionner une seule fois – une seule fois! – les mots «changement climatique», et ajouter par ailleurs qu'il se bat contre toutes les politiques que nous essayons de mener ici, au Parlement européen pour justement limiter les répercussions négatives du changement climatique.

Donc, ma question: après les événements de Valence, qui viennent prendre la suite de tellement d'événements en Europe, qu'est-ce que vous allez faire? Qu'est-ce que vous allez faire concrètement pour renforcer les politiques d'adaptation, de résilience, de prévention contre le changement climatique et ses conséquences?

Le pacte vert, c'est 95 % de réduction des émissions, mais trop peu d'attention sur les enjeux d'adaptation. Après les événements dramatiques de Valence, cela doit changer.

1-0030-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez**, *commissaire désignée*. – C'est très important, parce qu'il est vrai que, quand on regarde quels sont les risques pour l'Europe, on se rend compte qu'on n'est pas préparés.

The risk assessment report being issued by the European Environmental Agency last spring showed that even if we have done lots of things at the European level, we are still far away from what we need. So building resilience will be very important.

And this means taking into consideration the adaptation plan and the assessment, the review of the European Adaptation Plan, so to concentrate on those aspects, those policies that may help any local authority, including, of course, national governments, to take the right decisions.

Water stress is very important. Flooding is very important. The quality of the soil, because of the combination of different environmental changes or changes in the use of the soil, will be very important under the additional threat of higher temperatures in a vast part of Europe.

So I think that if we need to ensure food security and a well-functioning economy, access to fresh water for any economic or human use will be key to develop these capacities.

My engagement, together with Commissioner Hoekstra, is to develop and to ensure this European adaptation plan so that we can think, we can eventually assess, as I have heard, some of you have already suggested, on the possibility to introduce some regulation to this point.

But let's not trick ourselves. I think that we may need different approaches, different sectors, at different responses, at different realities. In any case, early warning, capacity to assess, and early response will always be a key element in the type of elements and the type of policies that we need to put in place.

1-0032-0000

**Pascal Canfin (Renew)**. – Je voulais poser une question sur l'industrie automobile: le groupe Renew soutient les objectifs qu'il a votés, et les différentes prises de parole dans ces auditions tendent à laisser penser que la Commission est sur cette ligne, et nous nous en félicitons. Néanmoins, nous savons que, pour certains sous-traitants de l'industrie automobile, il y aura des difficultés sociales, et elles sont en train d'arriver. Le Parlement s'est beaucoup battu pour avoir un Fonds de transition juste consacré aux sous-traitants des industries automobiles.

Puisque vous êtes chargée de la transition juste, est-ce que vous pouvez vous engager, dans les discussions budgétaires à venir, à soutenir cette demande du Parlement, qui figure dans le texte sur les standards CO<sub>2</sub> des voitures, mais qui peut malheureusement toujours se perdre dans les négociations budgétaires? Pouvons-nous compter sur votre soutien affiché aujourd'hui?

1-0033-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez**, *commissaire désignée*. – Merci pour la question. Comme je le disais, je pense qu'il est très important d'assurer que l'industrie automobile – et toute la chaîne industrielle qu'elle implique – aussi bien que le secteur de l'innovation se portent bien en Europe. Pour ça, nous devons travailler ensemble. Il faut assurer une égalité des conditions de concurrence, sans investissement provenant d'une source externe ni subvention de la part d'un pays tiers – lesquels viendraient casser cette égalité.

Il est par ailleurs tout aussi important de réfléchir aux répercussions que ces transformations ont sur les travailleurs. Je ne peux pas m'engager sur un sujet concret, mais je peux m'engager à faire de mon mieux pour assurer que la transition soit juste dans le domaine de l'automobile aussi et pour voir comment il est possible de procéder avec les différents instruments financiers dont nous disposons, dans le contexte de la discussion budgétaire et du Multiannual Financial Framework to ensure that there will be solutions for workers in this sector and that we can deal with these issues in due time to avoid additional burdens and additional harm.

1-0034-0000

**Rasmus Andresen (Verts/ALE).** – Thank you so much, Ms Ribera, for attending the committee. I think it's good to have you here.

High food, energy or housing prices hit ordinary citizens in Europe hard, and the cost of living crisis, I think, is one of the major challenges we are facing. Market concentration and price agreements from big corporations are part of the problem and they are hurting our citizens.

And one example for this, I mean, companies coordinating price hikes to increase their profit margins is the sweets industry, where big corporations already had to pay fines of illegal price agreements and information sharing.

I would like you with the responsibility for competition policy, if you can commit to an assessment of unfair pricing for key sectors like food, including an analysis of all approved mergers over the past 10 or 20 years in those sectors and their impact on market concentration.

And also, if my assessment is true, also to act with a framework for enforcement on this.

1-0035-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Commissioner-designate.** – Yes, I think that food and energy are very important for anyone, for any consumer. And, of course, the evolution of prices, the spike in energy prices in the previous year had such a terrible impact in households, in families, SMEs, but particular in the families when dealing with food.

And I think it is a question that can not only be solved through competition policies. On many occasions it is connected to other regulatory requirements or to behaviours that are connected to other types of evolution in the markets. But I think that, yes, competition policy and competition tools have to pay attention to any potential behaviour that can create additional problems or that can be behind this evolution in profits for companies and not so much for consumers.

There have been some experiences in some of the fields that are sensitive for consumers, such as in pharma or food and not so much in the energy field or in the role that traders in the energy field can play, to explain why prices have a certain evolution.

So, my commitment here is to pay much attention on what is happening at every single moment, to be observing how these markets may be evolving, if there are behaviours coming from companies that can explain why this happens and to assess and learn and to issue our own conclusions and recommendations, including guidelines to ensure that we can protect consumers, and at the same time, to make full use of the funds and policies within reach to ensure the protection of consumers and very much in particular to vulnerable consumers.



In the case of energy, there is some statement in the mission letter of one of my colleagues to address energy poverty. And I think that this is going to be a very important issue.

So, having an eye on how the market is functioning and at the same time addressing the issue of energy poverty, in particular for those groups that are particularly vulnerable.

1-0036-0000

**Rasmus Andresen (Verts/ALE).** – Good to hear that you will prioritise this. I would like to specify a little bit on the context and where I think there is also a possibility to address this in the field of competition. This is about Article 102 in the Treaty, which actually gives the Commission the ability to act in questions like this.

So, my follow up question is on specific measures linked to Article 102 and to the enforcement part. So maybe you could also come with a remark on if you would be willing to explore, for example, also how Article 102 could apply to price increases in the context of bottlenecks, and also if you would be willing to do also guidelines on the enforcement, especially linked to the Article 102.

1-0037-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Commissioner-designate.** – You know that there is an ongoing process to assess to what extent we can improve our guidelines to avoid exclusionary abuses.

But yes, it is probably important to think about the possibility to develop and update the guidelines on exploitative abuses to avoid a direct impact on consumers, not only on how competitors may be taking positions or may be behaving in such a way that they exclude, they abuse against some other competitors, but also how through these abusive clauses, there may be a direct impact on consumers.

Under Article 102 of the Treaty there is much that can be done and I think that being sure that it is also focused on the impact on consumers is part of the traditional purpose or goal of the services and the DG Competition and the competition policy. But much more focus may be required as we are seeing new products, new services, dealing with digital, but also dealing with energy or food.

1-0038-0000

**Martin Schirdewan (The Left).** – Frau Ribera Rodríguez! Ich habe Ihnen sehr aufmerksam zugehört, vor allem bei Ihren Ausführungen zum Wettbewerbsrecht, auch zu staatlicher Beihilfe, und ich würde gern eine sehr konkrete Frage an dieser Stelle stellen.

Wir haben es ja mit einer massiven *Housing*-Krise in Europa zu tun, es fehlt an bezahlbarem Wohnraum. Und dazu hat unter anderem auch das europäische Beihilferecht beigetragen. Seitdem es in Kraft ist, ist der soziale Wohnungsbau in allen Mitgliedstaaten zurückgegangen. Der private Markt kann das natürlich nicht abfedern. In der Stadt, aus der ich komme, in Berlin, haben ungefähr 60 % der Haushalte eigentlich Anrecht auf soziale Wohnraumförderung. Das kriegt natürlich nur ein Bruchteil.

Deswegen ist meine Frage an Sie ganz konkret, welche Maßnahmen Sie als Vizepräsidentin der Kommission denn ergreifen möchten, um die Wohnungskrise zu bekämpfen? Das heißt speziell, welche Maßnahmen Sie beim Beihilferecht ergreifen möchten, wie das geändert werden muss, damit wir ausreichend bezahlbaren und sozialen Wohnraum in Europa haben?

1-0039-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez**, *Commissioner-designate*. – I think that this is going to be one of those very important new challenges in this mandate. There is this generalised concern on the difficulties for the youth, but not only, to ensure access to affordable housing in every part in Europe.

I could say that we need to combine different policies. We need to combine the responsibilities of Ms Mînzatu with the responsibilities of Mr Jørgensen and, of course, the competition approach. There is the option of counting on the support of the national governments to provide access to affordable houses or the direct help to consumers. But I think that it is still important to think to what extent we can expand this identification of an update in the State aid guidance on the use of State aid for access to housing.

At the same time, I think that we need to work with local and national authorities. At the end, ensuring affordable access to housing to everybody is not going to be something that we can do only from Europe. We can help, we can do much more of what we have done up to now, but it would be very difficult to do it on our own. So I think that this is probably one of the most appealing and important policies to kick off in this mandate. And I honestly think it will be very important to deliver, and to deliver in due time.

1-0040-0000

**Martin Schirdewan (The Left)**. – Ich würde gerne noch mal nachhaken an der Stelle, weil es mir doch erscheint, dass wir eigentlich über eine grundlegende Reform des Beihilferechts zu diskutieren haben und damit natürlich auch des Wettbewerbsrechts.

Ich stimme komplett überein, dass wir natürlich massiv investieren müssen und dass öffentliche Unterstützung für private, gewinnorientierte Unternehmen stattzufinden hat. Aber da gibt es ja Beispiele wie den *Inflation Reduction Act*, wo diese Unterstützung an klare Bedingungen – soziale Bedingungen, ökologische Bedingungen – gekoppelt ist, also zum Beispiel Mitbestimmungsrechte, gute Löhne, die Schaffung von Ausbildungsplätzen.

Ich finde, dass zum Beispiel staatliche Unterstützung oder Investitionen öffentlicher Art auch daran gekoppelt sein müssen, dass es eben keine Dividendenausschüttung geben darf oder Bonizahlungen an Aktionäre oder Topmanager.

Drittens denke ich, dass staatliche Förderung auch daran gekoppelt sein muss, dass die wirtschaftliche Aktivität nicht in Steueroasen stattfindet, damit dort kein Steuerraub an der Gesellschaft vollzogen wird mit Unterstützung öffentlicher Mittel. Wie stehen Sie denn zu diesen Reformmaßnahmen, die, glaube ich, sehr sinnvoll wären, wenn über das Beihilferecht und Wettbewerbsrecht diskutiert wird?

1-0041-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez**, *Commissioner-designate*. – I think that this is a very broad issue. We've been also talking about the use of the Social Climate Fund to ensure the improvements, the retrofitting of housing to allow much more isolated homes, very much in particular for vulnerable families dealing with energy efficiency.

We have talked about thinking of how we can inspire social and environmental conditions when tackling State aid proposals coming from different Member States. In principle, when thinking about competition policy, we are thinking about the Treaty and the regulations. But it is also true that opening this conversation, this dialogue, to what extent the State aid proposals are fit for

purpose, so to cover a market failure through this public funding, can also be tracked in such a way that we can learn and we can ensure that we are consistent when accepting, when supporting and when using public funding for these type of purposes.

So, something still to be written and to be adopted, but something where I take your recommendations and comments because I think it is one of those questions that could be demanded by the public opinion.

1-0042-0000

**Anja Arndt (ESN).** – Frau Ribera Rodríguez! Der CO<sub>2</sub>-Anteil in der Luft beträgt nur 0,04 %. Davon stammen jedoch nur 4 % vom Menschen. Das sind 0,002 % CO<sub>2</sub>, weil der Rest aus der Natur stammt. Die Menschen in der EU verursachen davon etwa 7 %. Es geht in der gesamten EU-Klimapolitik also um einen Anteil von 0,0001 % CO<sub>2</sub>. Selbst wenn die EU diesen auf Null reduziert, wird das keinerlei Einfluss auf das Klima haben.

Trotzdem betreibt die EU Panikmache, zerstört unsere Industrie und Arbeitsplätze, unsere Mobilität und unsere Heizungssysteme. Die Menschen werden für nichts in die Armut getrieben. Können Sie uns vom ESN bitte den Beweis nennen, dass 0,0001 % weniger CO<sub>2</sub> einen großen Unterschied machen und das Klima retten? Ich bitte Sie um eine genaue Quelle zum Nachlesen.

1-0043-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Commissioner-designate.** – I appreciate your comment, but maybe not because I agree with you – because I deeply disagree with your comments – but because it is useful to stress something that I said before.

The most worrying concern for me, for my children, my grandchildren, the people of my generation is denying the impact of climate change in our lives, in our expectations of prosperity and in our expectations on the economy.

The data is terrifying. We have overpassed 1.5 °C in 2024, as Copernicus stated last week. The Gulf Current, the North Atlantic Stream is near collapse, and that could create very difficult circumstances for northern Europe. And we are unfortunately seeing more and more extreme events in our continent, not to say what is happening in other continents.

So I think that we all need to decarbonise, and we in Europe have the capacities, the tools, the human resources, the intellectual capacities to do many things and to create prosperity through this transformation, including to ensure the competitiveness of our industry.

But the fact is that we needed to do it, taking into consideration the distributional impacts of the change. The change in such a short period of time may have a social impact, so we need to combine the update of the industry and the reduction of inequalities. I think that all of us, as members of public institutions, should be united in the identification of the proposals that can help us to do it in a fair, smartest and quick way.

1-0044-0000

**Anja Arndt (ESN).** – Frau Ribera Rodríguez, also den Beweis haben Sie jetzt nicht angetreten. Ich habe jetzt noch eine Frage.

Die konservative Partei in Alberta in Kanada hat beschlossen, CO<sub>2</sub> nicht mehr als Schadstoff zu betrachten, sondern als grundlegenden Nährstoff für das Leben auf der Erde. Er fördert das

Wachstum von Pflanzen. Deshalb ist die Hetzjagd auf CO<sub>2</sub> absurd. Warmzeiten hat es auch schon vor der Industrialisierung gegeben. Wie konnte es denn früher wärmer werden? Durch Schwankungen der Sonnenaktivität, durch die Milanković-Zyklen, die die Position der Erde relativ zur Sonne ändern, und weitere natürliche Ursachen.

Keiner kann messen, welchen Anteil heute natürliche Ursachen auf die Erderwärmung haben, und welchen Effekt die 0,0001 % CO<sub>2</sub> der EU daran haben. Die Klimamodelle sind kein Beweis; das ist Konsens in der Wissenschaft. Die Modelle täuschen eine Katastrophe vor. Denken Sie, dass es gerechtfertigt ist für eine Reduzierung der 0,0001 % CO<sub>2</sub> die Lebensgrundlagen der Menschen in der EU zu zerstören?

Ich finde es unmöglich, wie laut das hier war. Das ist nicht demokratisch. Pfui!

1-0045-0000

**Aurore Lalucq**, *présidente de la commission ECON*. – Madame Arndt, il est absolument démocratique que tout le monde ait une minute, et que cette minute soit respectée par chacun. La démocratie, c'est faire en sorte que tous les groupes politiques aient le même temps de parole: à vous, après, de le respecter, et ce sera bon pour les autres groupes et pour les autres orateurs. Ça s'appelle la justice, ça s'appelle l'équité.

1-0046-0000

**Antonio Decaro**, *Presidente della commissione ENVI*. – Avevo fatto una premessa, all'inizio, che era quella di mantenere i toni bassi e di rispettare i tempi.

L'abbiamo fatto fino a poco tempo fa.

Proseguiamo nel rispettare i tempi e nel tenere i toni bassi.

Prego, Commissaria, per la replica.

1-0047-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez**, *Commissioner-designate*. – I will always be polite to all of you, because I think it is my duty, it is the duty of every single citizen. But I honestly think that it is not worth to waste time on discussing things that are proven and that are assessed by people that know much more than us. The problem is sufficiently big to concentrate our efforts to find solutions, not to deny the reality or the science.

1-0048-0000

**Aurore Lalucq**, *Chair of the ECON Committee*. – Okay, let's move to the second round of questions. Dear Members of the European Parliament, it will be 1 minute for the question, 2 minutes for the answer. As you know, I'll be very strict on the respect of the timing. You know that for sure. You're kind of used to it right now. I think it's the seventh hearing that I chair.

1-0049-0000

**Dolors Montserrat (PPE)**. – Señora ministra, el campo español la considera su principal enemiga. Ha arruinado a ganaderos y agricultores. La industria, la energía, la automoción denuncian su radicalismo. Su gestión es una larga lista de imposiciones sin diálogo. Pero déjeme decirle una cosa: este examen es ya totalmente innecesario. Hace quince días se enfrentó al examen de su vida en Valencia. Como actual ministra de Clima ha suspendido. A usted le correspondía haber evitado la

tragedia porque usted es responsable de la prevención, preparación y respuesta de los desastres climáticos. Es responsable de las inversiones en la gestión de los ríos, de la prevención de inundaciones y de las alertas climáticas.

Hoy no debería estar compareciendo aquí, debería haber comparecido ya en el Parlamento español ante sus conciudadanos. Pero ha preferido estar escondida para salvar su sillón europeo y, por eso, estoy segura de que la historia y quizás también los jueces la juzgarán por su inacción y su incompetencia.

Contésteme, señora Ribera, ¿se compromete usted a dimitir si se ve involucrada judicialmente para no arrastrar al descrédito a la presidenta von der Leyen y a todo el Colegio de Comisarios?

1-0050-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Thank you so much, Ms Montserrat, because this allows me to explain the different responsibilities in a decentralised country, as it can happen in Germany, where the national government has the responsibility to issue methodological warnings and to follow the water data in real time and to provide the means that are requested by the regional governments.

As in other decentralised states in Europe, the regional government is the one in charge of generating the alerts to the general public and to adopt the measures to protect the people.

The warnings were issued in due time. In fact, there were many institutions that, according to those warnings in the previous days, at 7:30 in the morning on the 29th, decided to cancel all the activity, as the University of Valencia, as the local authorities in many towns. That was not the case for some other local institutions.

And I think, as I said before, that there will be time to come back to this and I will go to the Spanish Congress next week in Madrid. But it could be good to think on how undermining the credibility of the meteorological agency, not taking seriously the risk warnings that were sent, may have catastrophic consequences for the people. So we need to strengthen our response.

Pero siendo muy serios con respecto a la capacidad de combinar mejor y entender mejor el riesgo en cada momento. Y el riesgo de grandes inundaciones se resuelve en muy poco tiempo: solamente cuando se toma en serio la señal, la alerta meteorológica, que en este caso era una alerta roja con arreglo a Meteo Alert, un sistema estandarizado a nivel europeo, que recomienda que todo el mundo se quede en casa, que se corte la movilidad y se generen las alertas a la población civil.

1-0052-0000

**Tiemo Wölken (S&D)**. – Dear Commissioner-designate, we can surely all agree – okay, maybe everyone in this room except colleague Arndt who obviously cannot read the IPCC report – that we have to adapt quickly to the climate crisis as disasters driven and enhanced by the climate crisis are hitting European citizens ever more frequently and ever more horrifically.

Given that urgency, what will be the concrete actions taken under the European climate adaptation plan? In your written answers, you referred to the protection of critical infrastructure and natural capital inputs. What other assets do you intend to protect? How will you combine these efforts with the need to restore Europe's ecosystems and increase their resilience to climate change effects? What actions will you take under the announced water resilience initiative? And finally, by which

legislative means do you intend to achieve these goals, and how will you mobilise the necessary additional financial resources?

1-0053-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Commissioner-designate.** – I think that my role in this field is to work to support Commissioner Roswall, in charge of the environmental functions, environmental responsibilities and the water resilience. But not only her, also Commissioner Hoekstra – dealing with climate policy is also very important. And beyond that, it is also true that there may be effects in other relevant fields such as critical infrastructure, including energy infrastructure or mobility infrastructure or food security – agriculture policy is also important, as stated also in the report being issued by Professor Strohschneider.

I think that it is important to take this overview, this comprehensive understanding on the impacts of climate change in different aspects of our social and economic life, and I think it is important that we mainstream this concern in every single policy.

But as I said, we have the opportunity under the review of the European adaptation plan to introduce the reference and the recommendations being issued by this report on the climate risk assessment issued by the European Environmental Agency last February.

So, I think that we will need to work a lot. And I think that this is an exercise that is not only part of members of the Commission and the staff in the different Directorates-General, but also the Members of the Parliament and the different stakeholders. I think that ensuring that there is a proper ownership by the different constituencies is going to be very important.

At the end, we may decide to introduce this reference in a concrete regulation or to adopt a strategy covering different measures. But I think that having the capacity to identify 'what', 'how' and 'when' will be very important, as well as when thinking about the funding through the different existing funds or in the discussion of the budget to come.

1-0054-0000

**Christine Schneider (PPE).** – The difference between dealing with a flood in Spain and Germany at the beginning is that in Germany the responsible environment minister has returned. A beginning remark.

But now I want to have a question about your written answers. About the question, you said that you are characterised as a person who engages in dialogue, who seeks consensus, and who builds bridges. Ms Ribera, on 10 May 2024, in an interview, you accused Commissioner President Ursula von der Leyen of having caused 'enormous damage on European interests by making the CAP more flexible, as farmers demand'.

Furthermore, you also lashed out to European farmers themselves, accusing them of lying when they protest about the excesses of the Green Deal. Is this the dialogue and the consensus that you mean? Please give me an answer beyond buzzwords how European farmers should trust you when you insult them in public and ignore them.

1-0055-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Commissioner-designate.** – I don't ignore anyone, least of all the farmers.

I think that the farmers are facing difficult challenges, very difficult challenges, including water stress or soil quality, or the combination of different requirements and a loss of quality in the ecosystems

where they develop their lives or the social services that they need in order to fulfil their needs there where they may live.

This is why I think that the exercise being led by Professor Strohschneider is so important, and it is so important that he managed to get a very broad consensus around the main premises, principles and proposals.

So, my duty in this field is to work with the fellow colleague in charge of Agriculture, Commissioner Hansen, to ensure that we can combine the different responsibilities in our portfolios and in my cluster.

But as I said, I think that the most important aspect is to ensure that this dialogue takes place and that the capacity to share the identification of problems and the acceptability of the proposals of the responses is met.

1-0056-0000

**Silvia Sardone (Pfe).** – Gli elettori – negli Stati Uniti con Trump e in Europa con le recenti elezioni – hanno respinto la vostra ideologia ambientalista talebana. Il Green Deal che avete ideato è una vera e propria follia, a partire dall'auto elettrica, che si sta dimostrando un fallimento per i produttori e i consumatori. Gli industriali di tutta Europa denunciano regole e vincoli *green* che li penalizzano pesantemente.

Possiamo dire che la vostra strategia è tutt'altro che lungimirante, che porterete l'Europa verso la deindustrializzazione e che la Cina festeggia le vostre scelte, avendo oramai il monopolio nelle materie prime e un vantaggio competitivo immenso sulle batterie elettriche e sui pannelli solari?

Pensate di rivedere il Green Deal? Lei pensa di rivederlo, almeno in una sua piccola parte, o ci vuole condurre verso un autentico suicidio economico di tutta l'Europa?

Infine, sulle telecomunicazioni, ha intenzione di favorire od ostacolare il consolidamento del settore? E in che modo?

1-0057-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Comisaria propuesta.** – Gracias por la pregunta y por la intensidad en el minuto que tiene. Necesita ahora muchas respuestas y las que no podamos abordar hoy seguro que las abordaremos de cara al futuro.

Yo creo que tenemos un marco verde que nos puede orientar en muchas decisiones importantes desde el punto de vista económico, social y ambiental. Pienso que negar la importancia a la dificultad del problema no facilita las cosas. Creo que debemos mantenernos firmes con respecto a ese acuerdo y a esa visión de conjunto ya establecida. Sin embargo, tenemos que ser enormemente flexibles, abiertos y tolerantes y generar los consensos para hacer posible ese recorrido, generando las oportunidades.

Decía en mi introducción que el mundo no va a esperarnos. Creo que los grandes dilemas de competitividad industrial en este momento no están en si la industria ha de ser más eficiente en el uso de los recursos o si debe firmar acuerdos, asociaciones y alianzas con terceros países donde puedan existir esas materias primas, sino en hacerlo de manera inteligente, para que la gente pueda disfrutarlas, aprovecharlas y reducir sus facturas, pero también generar oportunidades de empleo e innovación. A eso sí me comprometo y lo hago con mucho gusto.

1-0058-0000

**Nicola Procaccini (ECR).** – Lo scorso anno è stato raggiunto il picco massimo di emissioni di CO<sub>2</sub> nel mondo, nonostante le emissioni nell'intera Unione europea siano scese a meno dell'8 % del totale. Alla luce di questo dato, non pensa che la nostra priorità dovrebbe essere la resilienza dei territori di fronte ai fenomeni meteorologici causati dal riscaldamento globale?

A proposito del Suo ruolo da ministro, come giustifica il fatto che la Spagna è diventata leader nell'importazione di gas dalla Russia? Dal 2022 ad oggi, ha dato a Putin quasi 8 miliardi di euro, sei volte e mezzo più degli aiuti dati all'Ucraina.

Infine, come valuta il lavoro del suo predecessore Timmermans? Ritieni che sia stato apprezzato dai cittadini europei?

1-0059-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Commissioner-designate.** – I will try to reply to the first two questions. I am not going to comment on my fellow colleague Frans Timmermans, who did his best to do things, and probably we still need to learn how to do better.

I think that, yes, last year CO<sub>2</sub> emissions went up once again, and I think that this is quite a concern. We need to break this tendency and to go down with CO<sub>2</sub> emissions globally. And we need to honour our commitment to fulfil a decarbonised European economy by 2050. We have time, but not so much, and we need to do many things in a very short period of time in many different sectors.

I think that this goes well with the other very important priority, which is to ensure that our different territories are ready for the climate impacts that we are already suffering. You come from a country, Italy, that, like mine, Spain, suffers wildfires, suffers droughts, suffers from flooding. I think that this means that we need to accommodate to this new reality. We need to fight against this new reality. And probably we may get some inspiration coming from nature to be much more resilient in the type of response that we can develop.

But, as I said before, we also need to concentrate in research, observation and attribution of weather events so that we can understand better how this may evolve in the time to come. So we need the two things: reducing emissions, but also developing and deepening our policies, dealing with resilience, adaptation and observation.

1-0060-0000

**Stéphanie Yon-Courtin (Renew).** – Tout d'abord, pardon de vous décevoir si je ne crie pas ou si je ne prononce pas les noms de Trump ou de Poutine dans mon intervention. Madame la Commissaire et Vice-Présidente désignée, la mise en œuvre effective du DMA sera essentielle pour garantir une concurrence loyale sur les marchés numériques et s'attaquer à l'abus de position dominante des grandes entreprises technologiques, qui contrôlent un grand nombre de plateformes, de services ou de technologies dont nous dépendons, à plus forte raison à la lumière du résultat des élections américaines.

Pourtant, depuis l'entrée en vigueur du DMA, nous avons vu plusieurs cas où les contrôleurs d'accès n'ont pas correctement assuré leurs obligations et qui ont – c'est notamment le cas d'Apple, de Google et de Meta – fait l'objet d'une enquête de la direction générale de la concurrence pour non-conformité. Quelles mesures comptez-vous donc prendre pour renforcer l'application de la législation, et comment allez-vous vous assurer que la direction générale de la concurrence dispose des ressources nécessaires pour faire son travail correctement?



D'ailleurs, êtes-vous favorable à l'introduction de frais de surveillance, prélevés directement auprès des contrôleurs d'accès, pour accroître les capacités de mise en œuvre? Enfin, serez-vous bien le nouveau shérif qui veillera à assurer la concurrence à l'ère du numérique en Europe tout en étant géante verte?

1-0061-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Commissioner-designate.** – I forgot to comment on the energy question. I think that we are getting rid of Russian fossil fuels and we still need to do a lot. And I think that this is a free market and sometimes it is difficult to address this issue for traders. So I think that we need to do much more.

A common decision at the European level could be very helpful. For the time being, we still don't count on the unanimity that we require to take this decision.

Dealing with the DMA and how we can ensure that we take the right decisions, I think that we are bound by the existing legal framework, and I think that we need to do our best. The digital world is going very fast, and we need to address the concerns being expressed by users. It can concentrate much power, and we need to pay attention with the existing tools, together with the Commissioner, with the Executive Vice-President Virkkunen and the DG for competition services.

And it is true that we still miss much more to deal with this problem, counting on a team that is of a sufficient size for this purpose. For the time being, what we are doing is counting on a team that combines the efforts of the DG dealing with the regulation and the DG dealing with competition tools. And we also count on the support of the national authorities.

But yes, I think that we need to find other means to structurally strengthen the capacity of the Commission to deal with these portfolios, very much in particular understanding that this is an issue that goes beyond our borders, beyond Europe. Working with other competition authorities is good, but we need to strengthen our capacities back home.

1-0062-0000

**Nicolás González Casares (S&D).** – Señora Ribera, usted es conocida por encontrar soluciones a laberintos en la cumbre del clima, por forjar acuerdos y negociaciones desde una perspectiva europea, centrándose en soluciones europeas, también desde el Gobierno de España. Una habilidad negociadora que es bien reconocida más allá también de las fronteras de nuestro país. Y creo que esas habilidades van a ser muy necesarias para la próxima Comisión Europea, dado el escenario de alta volatilidad geopolítica que está afectando, entre otras cosas, a la certidumbre de precios en los mercados energéticos.

Y dado que no podemos descartar nuevos cisnes negros en el futuro, quiero preguntarle cuál será su papel en la aplicación de los mecanismos para hacer frente a posibles nuevas crisis de precios o para fomentar la flexibilidad de la demanda. Y también si tiene previstas medidas adicionales para hacer más competitivos y transparentes los mercados eléctricos para desacoplar los precios del gas de los de la electricidad, como recomienda el Informe Draghi y para hacer más atractiva la electrificación de la demanda.

1-0063-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Comisaria propuesta.** – Creo que, en efecto, la transformación de nuestro sistema energético está en curso. Creo que la experiencia de la crisis pasada como consecuencia de la invasión de Ucrania por parte de Rusia y la evolución de los mercados energéticos en todo el

mundo, y en particular en Europa, nos ha permitido aprender muchas cosas. También extraer lecciones que serán importantes en la aplicación en los próximos años. Algunas las hemos capturado ya en la modernización, en la regulación que hemos adoptado desde entonces. Otras nos permitirán —decía— extraer lecciones: de qué forma todos los marcos extraordinarios, muchos de los cuales incluyen proyectos o procesos que incorporan ayudas de Estado, nos pueden ser útiles para seguir agilizando o acelerando todos los procesos de participación, de implicación de actores públicos y privados en esta transformación.

En todo caso, yo creo que es muy importante poder incorporar, desarrollar y aprender de los instrumentos que hemos aprobado recientemente. ¿Qué ocurre con los contratos por diferencias? ¿Qué ocurre con los contratos a medio y largo plazo? ¿De qué manera modernizar nuestras redes? ¿De qué manera garantizar que esas interconexiones todavía pendientes a nivel europeo nos dan mayor garantía de estabilidad y de alternativa en el supuesto de encontrarnos alguna crisis por el camino o de qué forma las alternativas que nos puede ofrecer el almacenamiento para compensar las otras soluciones técnicas, que existen en muchos de nuestros países, dan estabilidad y una capacidad de hacer un uso mucho más eficiente e intenso de las redes de las que disponemos?

Todo esto lo tendremos que comprobar en estos años reforzando simultáneamente la gobernanza de nuestros operadores de red, la gobernanza de los operadores del mercado.

1-0064-0000

**François-Xavier Bellamy (PPE).** – Madame la Commissaire désignée, vous avez parlé de ceux qui fragilisent la confiance dans les institutions, mais qui en est vraiment responsable? Dans son dernier rapport sur l'état de droit en Espagne, la Commission européenne s'est inquiétée des attaques du gouvernement contre la magistrature, qui s'y multiplient. Vous-même, le 19 janvier dernier, vous avez attaqué avec vigueur un juge espagnol qui venait de rendre une décision contraire aux intérêts de votre gouvernement.

Par ailleurs, le même rapport de la Commission européenne rappelle qu'aujourd'hui les attaques se multiplient contre des journalistes qui osent critiquer votre gouvernement, et que l'indépendance des médias du service public en Espagne est «en grand danger». Comment pouvons-nous croire que vous respecterez l'état de droit, qui est indispensable à toute bonne politique, à toute politique crédible, lorsque vous avez assumé la responsabilité que ce gouvernement a prise dans la fragilisation terrible de l'état de droit aujourd'hui en Espagne?

Ma question est très simple: si, puisque vous semblez ne pas vouloir assumer la responsabilité de la tragédie qui vient d'arriver en Espagne, vous êtes mise en cause demain par la justice, démissionnerez-vous oui ou non de votre poste au sein de la Commission européenne?

1-0065-0000

**Aurore Lalucq, présidente de la commission ECON.** – Je vais être très claire: les questions ne commencent pas à une minute. Je veux bien laisser trois, quatre ou cinq secondes de plus lorsqu'une question a été commencée avant, mais on ne commence pas sa question à une minute. Je vous laisse répondre, madame la Commissaire désignée.

1-0066-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Comisaria propuesta.** – Creo que el Estado de Derecho y las libertades — incluida la libertad de información y de prensa— son valores esenciales del proyecto europeo, también de los Estados miembros de la Unión Europea y también de España, donde se cumple a rajatabla, como bien se puede observar por la variada opinión publicada.

Creo que, simultáneamente, debemos pensar en la forma en la que tenemos la capacidad de desarrollar buena información para entender los problemas de nuestro tiempo. Así que sí: el respeto al Estado de derecho y a las leyes, el respeto al papel que a cada cual le corresponde desempeñar en las instituciones y el respeto a la libertad de prensa y al debate público son reglas esenciales, como también lo son la cortesía parlamentaria y la buena educación.

1-0067-0000

**Kai Tegethoff (Verts/ALE).** – First of all, let me express my solidarity with victims of the flooding in Valencia.

In Spain and elsewhere across Europe, we are witnessing entire communities being swept away, families being displaced, livelihoods being lost.

It is clear that we will need massive funding to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Obviously, we need to address this on the European level and find European solutions. And obviously we need to talk about this here today.

Nature-based solutions are not only often more cost effective than concrete infrastructure projects and promote, for example, food and water security, they actually address the root cause of climate related disasters.

So I'm pleased to hear you said and focus on this in the past.

How will you ensure that the upcoming Water Resilience Strategy and Climate Adaptation Plan follow this approach, and will not just waste huge amounts of taxpayers money?

And will you require Member States to reduce each of the risks identified by the European Climate Risk Assessment report to climate-proof all critical infrastructure and to protect the most affected citizens and workers?

1-0068-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Commissioner-designate.** – I will strive, if confirmed, to work with my fellow colleagues responsible for environment policies and climate policies and not only, as I say, there may be other impacts dealing with funds, with finance, and with other sectoral policies that may help or difficult a proper resilience and adaptation process in our countries.

Dealing with water, I think that it is quite interesting and quite important that the water resilience appears connected to the title of one of the Commissioners, because water, as it happens in the case of energy or food, is absolutely essential for the welfare of any human being and economic activity and food security and farming and so on.

And the changes in land use, the mismanagement of water, the climate impacts, the pollution of water are part of the issues that we need to address. So to preserve water quality and quantity, to enhance the competitive and innovative services that we have been developing in Europe for a very long while and to address the root causes of water challenges.

So, yes, I commit myself to support and to work with my fellow colleagues on this issue. Yes, I think that water deserves much more attention. It is not that it has not been part of the European policies for a very long while, but I think that it is increasingly compelling. So this will be one of the priorities for this mandate.

1-0069-0000

**Raúl de la Hoz Quintano (PPE).** – Señora Ribera, conviene ser fiel a la verdad, también aquí, en este Parlamento. Usted ha dicho antes —en respuesta a una pregunta que ha formulado un compañero de mi grupo parlamentario— que la Confederación Hidrográfica del Júcar mandó alertas. La propia Confederación —usted lo sabe— ha manifestado públicamente que no mandó ninguna alerta alegando que no le competía hacerlo.

No conviene mentir, señora Ribera, pero usted está aquí, además de para demostrarnos su competencia, para demostrarnos su integridad en el cargo.

La semana pasada, el Tribunal Supremo de España abría diligencias contra su amigo, compañero de partido, ministro de Transportes durante tres años con usted en el Gobierno del señor Sánchez y secretario de Organización (número dos) de su partido, también durante tres años. Se le imputan a su amigo Ábalos los delitos de tráfico de influencias, cohecho, organización criminal y malversación en relación con la llamada «mafia de los hidrocarburos». Sabemos que su Ministerio fue una pieza necesaria para que esta mafia pudiera operar. Sabemos que se defraudaron 182 millones. Le hago la pregunta: ¿se compromete usted a dimitir en el caso de...?

*(la presidenta retira la palabra al orador)*

1-0070-0000

**Aurore Lalucq, présidente de la commission ECON.** – Jusqu'à présent, on a eu des auditions où j'ai été relativement stricte sur le temps de parole, et tout le monde a à peu près joué le jeu. Là, je vois que ça déborde régulièrement. Je vais vraiment vous demander, par respect pour le Parlement européen, de respecter votre temps de parole et de ne pas commencer vos questions à partir de une minute. En fait, quand on dispose de une minute, une minute trente, ça fait une très très grosse différence. J'arrêterai les rappels à l'ordre quand ce sera respecté, monsieur Bellamy, merci beaucoup. Je donne maintenant la parole à la commissaire désignée.

1-0071-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Commissioner-designate.** – I will try to respond in European terms, because I think that it matters.

First, I insisted since the very beginning: the rule of law is absolutely capital. Second, I always honour the truth, so please be polite. Third, I think that respecting the Rules of Procedure, but also ensuring that the procedure and the decisions are being taken under the rule of law is very important, and I'm sure that this is the case.

So please, if you have any problem, go back to Spain and, yes, the rule of law.

1-0072-0000

**Dario Tamburrano (The Left).** – Dottoressa Ribera, benvenuta in commissione ITRE. Vari settori industriali europei, come gli energivori e l'*automotive*, sono oggi in una situazione di insufficiente competitività, anche a causa dei costi dell'energia. Inoltre, i sussidi pubblici e le politiche industriali ed economiche di lungo termine di Cina e Stati Uniti pongono le nostre imprese in una situazione di svantaggio ancora maggiore. Sono a rischio milioni di posti di lavoro ma anche la stabilità socioeconomica e politica dell'Unione.

Nonostante il Green Deal non sia realmente nemmeno iniziato, sono in molti, anche qui dentro, stasera, a dare alla decarbonizzazione la responsabilità dell'attuale contingenza e a chiedere, quindi, passi indietro in nome della competitività.

Può rispondere a chi chiede questi passi indietro, chiarendo come la decarbonizzazione sarà invece in grado di supportare industria, posti di lavoro e potere di acquisto degli europei? E quali sarebbero, viceversa, secondo Lei, le conseguenze del non fare e del rallentare la decarbonizzazione in termini di impatto sociale ed economico?

1-0073-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez**, *Commissioner-designate*. – I appreciate very much your question because you stated very well, I think, that we have problems of the cost of energy, we have problems of competitiveness in some of our very classical industry, we have a very strong concern on how the car sector can adapt to the existing demands and how we can ensure that the infrastructure ensures that the new models can be bought by consumers at a reasonable price.

I think that if we want to be attractive for investments, we need to be stable when taking decisions. We cannot change or we cannot say that we don't know if we want to be green or not to be green. We go forwards or we go backwards. I think that that's not a very smart strategy.

What I think is very, very important is to ensure that once we fix a target, we know how to reach the target and we develop the pathway to reach that pathway in a very open manner with all the different stakeholders.

So my impression is that what we need to do is to deepen the conversation, the capacity to develop a common strategy with the main stakeholders in this sector, paying much attention to the workers. So it is not only the main figures in terms of output or balance, but also what does this mean in terms of the impact for workers or the skills that we may need or the transformations that this will require?

I think that this is something that we need to do in any case. There is no way to ensure that the rest of the world will wait for the right moment for Europe to change our industry. We need to ensure that we back support our industry to gain the competitiveness that they want to win.

1-0074-0000

**César Luena (S&D)**. – Señora vicepresidenta, ya ve que *No mires arriba* no es solo una película, que de vez en cuando se nos cuelan extras en el Parlamento Europeo. Y, claro, esto es un riesgo y hay que tomárselo muy en serio. No hay que minusvalorarlos, hay que combatirlos como usted hace, con paciencia, con datos y con ciencia.

Y es muy importante que sigamos el Pacto Verde Europeo. ¿Cómo cree usted que tenemos que seguir para cumplir con las estrategias y con los objetivos y, también, para incrementar nuestra presencia y nuestro rol en las cumbres internacionales? Ayer empezó la cumbre en Bakú. Teniendo en cuenta que en enero tendremos a un inquilino nuevo en la Casa Blanca y que posiblemente deje un espacio, la Unión Europea tiene que ocuparlo con credibilidad y con coherencia.

Y una última pregunta sobre la Ley de Restauración de la Naturaleza, porque en 2030 tenemos que conseguir que el 20 % de las tierras y de los mares estén restaurados. ¿Cómo va usted a impulsarlo?

Mucha suerte en los próximos cinco años.

1-0075-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Comisaria propuesta.** – Creo que las tres cuestiones son relevantes. Primero, el papel de la Unión Europea en los grandes debates internacionales. La cuestión del clima, la cuestión de pérdida de la biodiversidad no son cuestiones que se puedan restringir a un solo territorio, a un solo continente, a un solo país; requieren de la cooperación global. Y, siendo problemas enormemente complejos, contamos con un marco de gobernanza que permite que todo el mundo esté alrededor de la mesa discutiendo las soluciones. Por eso es importante una COP como la que efectivamente se inició ayer en Azerbaiyán y que el año que viene se celebrará en Brasil.

Creo que en todo caso debemos hacerlo no solamente porque sea importante para el conjunto de la humanidad. Es que es importante para nosotros. Es que la industria europea no va a ser competitiva si no introduce estas variables de uso eficiente de los recursos y economía circular, de acceso a las materias primas, de autonomía estratégica, pero también de descarbonización del conjunto de la economía y alternativas desde el punto de vista de las soluciones energéticas. Es que nuestros hijos y nuestros nietos no tendrán ocasión ni de tener empleo, ni de tener una economía que funcione bien si no lo hacemos. Les dejaremos una carga mayor y mucha más complejidad en la búsqueda de soluciones. Y creo que esto es con independencia de quien esté en la Casa Blanca. Tendremos que buscar las mejores alianzas. Tendremos que trabajar para conseguir que sea quien sea quien esté en cualquier capital, en cualquier país de las Naciones Unidas, pueda contribuir a su esfuerzo.

Lo mismo le digo de la Ley de Restauración de la Naturaleza. Respeto mucho las discusiones que hubo en esta Cámara. Sé que no fue un expediente fácil. Sé que es relevante no solamente desde el punto de vista del cumplimiento de nuestras obligaciones internacionales en materia de biodiversidad, sino también para contar con ecosistemas que provean los servicios que requiere nuestra economía en ámbitos muy diferentes. Y ya no basta con pensar que se puede preservar lo que hay, sino que tenemos que trabajar, ayudar para esa restauración. Por eso creo que, desde la Comisión, trabajando con los colegas que trabajan en agricultura, en medio ambiente, en clima, en políticas vinculadas a la ocupación del territorio, se ha de hacer un gran esfuerzo para poder acompañar a los países, a las capitales y a los actores locales.

1-0076-0000

**Jana Nagyová (PFE).** – Madam Commissioner-designate, thank you. Nuclear energy is an extremely important part of Europe's energy mix on the pathway to carbon neutrality. Not everywhere does the sunshine like in Spain or the wind blow like in the North Sea, but construction of such sources is extremely financially demanding, and some form of State aid is inevitable.

The notification of State aid for Dukovany, a nuclear power plant in the Czech Republic, including the pre-notification phase, took nearly 4 years, ending in April 2024. I worked with some decarbonisation projects for energy-intensive industry, where notification took 2 to 4 year due to constantly changing rules in the area of State aid, and added questions and requests from the European Commission. But for the EU economy to survive, time is crucial.

Question: how will you streamline competition policy so it does not create additional market barriers as it does now? And how will you approach State aid notifications for the construction of nuclear sources?

1-0077-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Commissioner-designate.** – Thank you so much for your question. I think that this is one of those issues that has been raised constantly in the last years: how we can speed up

and simplify the management procedures dealing with State aid. So how we can update the guidelines, to concentrate our efforts on those aspects that may be more complicated to simplify and standardise, but at the same time ensure that competition services to deal with the cases that may be more distortive and facilitate the resolutions in many other cases that could be simple are more obvious.

You have been commenting on two particular aspects or sectors that may require to support private decisions in the business community: what to do whenever there is a new development in a nuclear plant, or what to do in energy-intensive industry that may require some help in order to decarbonise and to go along the strategy.

I think that the first comment I would say is that I'm not in charge. I don't know the particular cases. In case I am confirmed as Vice-President, I may know the case, but it is not so clear that I can come in. But what is important is that we take into consideration that each single case should be assessed in a case-based ground: to identify where there may be problems and how to solve these concrete problems.

But as I said, my impression is that drawing lessons from the past and coming up with new guidelines on State aid may help to identify where we need to concentrate the efforts, and where we can understand that things could be much easier, because recent experience shows where things are much more common or frequently solved in a similar manner.

1-0078-0000

**Denis Nesci (ECR).** – Signora Vicepresidente esecutiva designata, Le farò delle domande secche.

Condivide l'architettura complessiva del Collegio dei commissari così come è stata presentata dalla Presidente eletta von der Leyen?

Lei ha un grandissimo portafoglio e anche la vicepresidenza esecutiva. Qualche collega, anche qualche istante fa, ha messo in dubbio la sua adeguatezza rispetto a tale ruolo.

Secondo Lei, all'Italia, che è un grande paese, nonché la seconda manifattura in Europa, spetta una vicepresidenza esecutiva? E secondo Lei, nello specifico, Raffaele Fitto merita la vicepresidenza esecutiva?

Vicepresidente esecutiva designata, mi aspetto delle risposte secche: sì o no?

1-0079-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Comisaria propuesta.** – Muchas gracias por la pregunta. Respeto las decisiones que se adopten en cualquiera de los Gobiernos de los veintisiete Estados miembros. Respeto y defiendo el principio de colegialidad en el trabajo de la Comisión. Y no le quepa la menor duda de que, en el caso de ser confirmada, trabajaré con el resto de mis compañeros para garantizar la coherencia y la eficacia de las decisiones de la Comisión.

1-0080-0000

**Christophe Grudler (Renew).** – Madame Ribera, j'aurai deux questions. En ce qui concerne la compétitivité, tout d'abord: comment voulez-vous adapter la politique de concurrence pour favoriser l'émergence de champions industriels européens capables de prospérer à l'international tout en évitant la concentration excessive, les risques de monopole et les distorsions de concurrence au sein de notre marché intérieur? C'est clairement urgent pour la défense, l'espace, les technologies

et l'industrie lourde, à l'heure où l'Europe fait face à une fragmentation et à une concurrence internationale intenses.

Deuxièmement, je reviens sur la neutralité technologique et le financement, abordés par notre collègue M. Vondra dans une question à laquelle vous n'avez pas répondu. La neutralité technologique est inscrite dans les traités européens et défendue par Ursula von der Leyen. Pouvez-vous nous dire clairement si vous êtes, oui ou non, favorable à des mécanismes de soutien identiques pour les énergies renouvelables et pour le nucléaire?

1-0081-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez**, *commissaire désignée*. – Je pense que, quand on parle du droit de la concurrence et de la capacité d'améliorer le fonctionnement du marché intérieur, il y a au moins trois références, parmi les publications récentes, qui comptent au niveau européen: Draghi, Letta et Christine Lagarde. Je pense que tous trois sont importants, parce qu'il est vrai que nous devons développer encore plus notre marché intérieur et prendre en compte qu'il faut travailler sur la compétitivité et les droits de la concurrence. C'est la manière d'assurer de meilleurs prix, une meilleure capacité d'innovation des entreprises, mais aussi des marchés attrayants, pour aller plus loin, au-delà de la situation qui est la nôtre à l'heure actuelle.

Il nous faut par ailleurs développer des infrastructures, des connexions et des cadres communs à toute l'Europe. En même temps, nous savons bien qu'il nous faut réfléchir sur le marché en cause ici. Parfois, nous avons l'impression que, si l'on parle des champions européens mais pas de la fragmentation dans le marché intérieur, on peut peut-être réduire la concurrence entre des acteurs qui sont installés dans une portion du marché européen, mais pas dans le marché des Vingt-Sept dans son ensemble.

Alors oui, il faut combiner les deux approches: l'approche du marché intérieur et celle de la concurrence, travailler pour une concurrence et pour des champions qui ont beaucoup plus de capacités dans le marché international. (*Passage inintelligible*) de la concurrence dans le domestique n'est pas une bonne solution. Alors il faudra voir à quel point les nouvelles demandes – l'espace, l'industrie décarbonée, la défense – peuvent compter sur les différents mécanismes et en même temps, il faut...

(*La Présidente retire la parole à l'oratrice*)

1-0082-0000

**Aura Salla (PPE)**. – Experience pays off. While your predecessor was familiar with the challenges of competition policy, your background is mainly in environmental and climate issues. In addition to your competence, you have to prove us today your integrity beyond all doubt.

Do you commit to resigning if information were to come to light proving that you or members of your ministry in Spain were in contact with members of the Mafia or that some members of your ministry acted to benefit the Mafia in cooperation with the accused minister? Would you accept your responsibility for having accepted the operation of the company responsible for the fraud?

1-0083-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez**, *Commissioner-designate*. – On funding nuclear, because I saw that the other day you were asking to Dan Jørgensen, and I think that he provided a very wise response to that fact. The essence is that the type of State aid is not the same when we are thinking about big plants or when we are thinking on how to incentivise small investments in renewables. So the cases



are different, but I think that this is already clear in the existing framework dealing with energy and the decarbonisation of the whole energy system in Europe.

So, let's see, there are things that are ongoing and let's see how we can combine all these different references in the existing policies and the existing fundings, including the Innovation Fund and the industrial alliance or the IPCEI for dealing with equipment.

On your question, I come back to the rule of law. So please do respect the courts and do respect the institutions. But I can tell you that of course I have nothing to do with these references.

1-0084-0000

**René Repasi (S&D).** – Ms Ribera, returning to the subject matter of your portfolio – which is, amongst others, competition – citizens currently are facing massive accumulation of private power that you will have to deal with.

In my eyes, competition law has to address accumulation of private power rather than only its excesses; it has to address market structure rather than its behaviours. A tool to achieve this objective is the new competition tool as it was proposed by Draghi and not totally unknown to the Commission's services.

Will you support the introduction of the new competition tool in order to address structural competition issues? Do you intend to make use of structural remedies, something your predecessor was unfortunately shying away from?

And moreover, you were mentioning killer acquisitions and the reform of the Merger Regulation – necessary after the Illumina/Grail case – can you commit to changing the Merger Regulation in order to properly and adequately address harmful acquisitions?

1-0085-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Commissioner-designate.** – Thank you for your question, which I think is very interesting. And I think that we need to come back to assess to what extent we need a new tool, because the existing tools do not provide sufficient ways to respond, or to what extent the existing tools can provide the right answers to those problems.

And I think that you have also mentioned two things that are very important: the structural remedies – and to certain extent, my reading is that there is an attempt in the existing Digital Markets Act and the designation of gatekeepers to introduce this type of approach – and the killer acquisitions, where we are missing a structural solution.

For the time being, once the Court declared against the approach being supported by the DG Competition in the Illumina/Grail case, we are working with the national authorities that count on this competence in their national legislation. But I think that we will need to think further how we can improve this solution to count on a structural response.

1-0086-0000

**Fulvio Martusciello (PPE).** – Io ho l'impressione che Lei sia venuta qui un po' a fare la vittima. "Tutti quelli che mi criticano, lo fanno per motivi politici": questa è stata la Sua idea. Ma non è così.

Questo Parlamento è seriamente preoccupato. È preoccupato della sua inesperienza nel tema della concorrenza. Lei non ha alcuna esperienza in questa materia. Ritene che questa mancanza di esperienza possa essere un ostacolo?

Il secondo motivo di preoccupazione è ancora più forte. È indiscutibile che ci sia stata un'incapacità da parte del governo a prevenire il disastro che ha attraversato la città di Valencia, l'incapacità di investimenti necessari per preparare i canali che prevenissero l'alluvione a causa della vostra disastrosa e tragica visione costi-benefici. Ci sono tre denunce nei Suoi confronti.

Signora Ribera, noi siamo preoccupati per la sua incapacità nel gestire questa materia e siamo preoccupati come cittadini europei, perché quello che ha combinato in Spagna lo potrebbe combinare in qualsiasi altro Paese dell'Europa.

Risponda sì o no: qualora si dimostrasse il suo coinvolgimento giudiziario nell'alluvione di Valencia, Lei si dimetterà?

1-0087-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Commissioner-designate.** – Thank you for your question, but I insist on the importance to count on the distribution of competence between the regional and the national government. And it was not the factual or the prediction warnings that failed. It was the alerts dedicated to the population and the measures to protect the population that failed, and that's not under the responsibility of the national government. The national government was ready to help and was already working since very early in the morning: many local authorities and public and private institutions noticed and adopted the right measures. But I will come back to this issue in the national politics.

I think that it is important to take into consideration why we cannot afford making the same mistake. We Europeans need to be serious in the warning alerts, in the assessment of the risk, and not undermine the capacity and the confidence of those issuing these alerts because it saves lives, or we count on dead people.

On the other aspect, I think that it has been said once and again, of course competition policy is absolutely key, and I think that we count on a great team, on a great check and balance system, on my full commitment, and on the capacity to develop the tools in order to ensure a well-functioning internal market, and to respond to the existing and incoming challenges in markets that go beyond the European borders. This is my commitment and this is what I will try to do if confirmed as Vice-President.

1-0088-0000

**Kateřina Konečná (NI).** – Paní místopředsedkyně, já mám dva krátké dotazy. První se týká toho, jaké konkrétní opatření hodláte navrhnout poté, co Spojené státy odstoupí od Pařížské dohody? Plánujete v této souvislosti jako Evropská komise znovu přepočítat a přehodnotit plány na snížení emisí o 90 % do roku 2040? A druhý je financování jádra, protože mi přijde, že se vyhýbáte a podle mě tady tomu vlastně nikdo nerozuměl. Víte, že bez státního financování či záruk se nepostaví ani reaktor, že? Tak jak se na to díváte vy? A prosím, neříkejte nám to, co jsme schopni si všichni přečíst v zakládajících smlouvách, protože je životně důležité pro některé členské státy, aby byly schopny vyrábět i v následujících desetiletích energii z jádra. A mně přijde, že se k tomu nestavíte dostatečně zodpovědně.

1-0089-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez**, *Commissioner-designate*. – I respect the decision of each Member State. And as I said, when dealing with State aid, that is the way we have traditionally worked, on a case-by-case basis, and I'm committed to keep on going in this direction.

At the same time, it is also important to be aware of the fact that some decisions and frameworks were opened under this industrial alliance, taking note on the interest to develop an IPCEI dedicated to nuclear equipment. And I think that this will be important to ensure innovation so SMEs can be a reality, while counting on safe responses, but ensuring that those willing to promote these solutions can count on the existing framework.

Dealing with the Paris Agreement, I think that it is an early stage still to think what may come from Washington. For the time being, the race has also been launched at the industrial and business case in the United States. Maybe if there is a market case to ensure that the investment does match the Paris Agreement goals, there may be a social demand to keep the existing regulation in the United States.

I think that we would need to concentrate on how we can ensure that things become easier in a much more level response, but not to accept that because there may be different political parties willing to do less, or denying the possibility to do anything, we need to revisit our regulation. On the contrary, I think that what we have done is because it is a great driver to boost innovation, industry and welfare for all.

1-0090-0000

**Paolo Borchia (PfE)**. – Señora Ribera, voy a ser muy claro: Europa no necesita ni quiere otro Timmermans.

The Green Deal opens the door to Chinese electric cars. The 'farm to fork' tried to kill European agriculture and the ETS is diverting maritime traffic to non-EU ports, while European workers, citizens and enterprises claim for a reasonable transition.

A few months ago, you criticised President von der Leyen for slowing down with the Green Deal agenda. I'm very curious on the way you will cooperate with each other. In your mission letter, you are asked to work towards reducing energy prices and energy poverty. However, during your tenure as Minister of Energy, electricity prices reached record heights and, according to Eurostat, Spain has the highest proportion of its population in Europe unable to keep their homes adequately warm.

So how do you plan to achieve for the EU the same goals that you've not been able to reach for Spain.

1-0092-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Thank you so much for the questions. First, I'm not Frans Timmermans, I am Teresa Ribera. I will do my best.

Second, yes, the energy price is an important issue for all families, and industry, small and big. And as I said, probably fossil fuels is not the best response to lower energy prices. But at the same time, we need to ensure that energy prices can lower down. Because we count on operational costs that are lower thanks to the technology that we use. Because we count on interconnections and grids that are modern and being used in an efficient manner. Because we count on other non-energy costs in our bills that are not as high as they are right now, and this is a complicated discussion for the

time to come. And because we can take advantage of the complementarities of each energy system in each of our countries.

So I think that we need to develop the things that are in our regulation and to identify where there may be challenges that still need new responses. But as I said, energy is a great opportunity to boost innovation, to recover competitiveness and to avoid the inequalities gap that we need to face.

And yes, we need to take into consideration, in a very serious manner, access to energy at an affordable price for all, so facing the energy poverty that many Europeans still face – not only through social policies, which are very important, but through proper insulation of their households to reduce consumption for heating and cooling, and to ensure that other concrete solutions at the smallest scale can reduce the dependency of the grid and the system.

So much needs to be done and it is part of our priorities, following the political lines of Madam von der Leyen.

1-0093-0000

**Bruno Tobbac (S&D).** – Chair, Commissioner-designate, welcome. The Clean Industrial Deal is obviously a flagship project for this Commission and very central to your portfolio. And it is rightly so, because right now it's the only credible roadmap to prosperity that Europe has.

Of course, it makes necessary a number of choices. Apart from the automotive sector and the nuclear sector, I think we all, or at least most of us, are aware that the European economy has a number of other relevant sectors for that and a number where we need to invest in. So I would like to hear from you. What are the criteria and what are the central sectors that you see where you need to take measures and what will those measures be?

Without giving the answer myself, I would say that a revised public procurement framework will be part of that package. So my last question is how can we prioritise EU companies that contribute to decarbonising our economy through that public procurement?

1-0094-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Commissioner-designate.** – I think that your question is quite broad, but I will take this opportunity to develop a little bit on what I think we should be focusing on when working with Vice-President Séjourné, Commissioners Hoekstra, Roswall, Albuquerque and others, because I think that we need to combine, and Mínez, to not forget about labour market skilling and reskilling people.

I think that we need to address the energy price, as we were saying before, I think that we need to address how the traditional industry can be decarbonised and how we can support this decarbonisation at low cost, how we can make full use of the circular economy and the strategic autonomy and the partnerships that we may develop with our through our colleague Síkela or Šeřčovič with third countries to ensure that we have access to the raw materials, how we can unlock the incentives to invest in Europe, providing stability and credibility, including the goals. If we do not provide this stability around the goals, it could be very uncertain that people can trust us. And how we can simplify the whole administrative burden.

You see another issue which is very, very important, which is the fact that in many occasions, the capacity of the public procurement to provide a signal to the suppliers, the providers and the SMEs that are behind the big providers is key. I think that this deserves full attention, and to what extent

this may be one of the elements to be included in the Clean Industrial Deal. So not too much to have any change on what concrete sectors we are thinking of, but how we can make full use of the different tools to provide a much more cross-border and cross-cutting approach on this transformational engine that we need to put in place.

I take note of the recommendation, and I think that it is worth it to explore and to work around.

1-0095-0000

**Peter Liese (PPE).** – Vice-President-designate, personally, I went to this hearing open-minded. But I have to be honest, I didn't find a lot of arguments to convince my group that you are the right one. But I give you two other chances to give clear commitments that will also please the EPP.

First, on the protection of farmers against the wolf: you know that this Parliament started a process to reduce the protection of the wolf, and we mean it especially for the farmers. The Commission and the Council supported that. You didn't. Now you are the responsible Vice-President, if confirmed, will you fight like a lion for the new position?

Second, my colleague Christian Ehler and me, we gave you a paper on competitiveness in the Green Deal – how to make Europe more competitive by keeping the climate targets but changing the Green Deal. Did you read it? And do you support the proposals in particular to include negative emissions in the ETS? Yes or no?

1-0096-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Commissioner-designate.** – Dealing with this species, I think that the process is ongoing and there will be a need to go to the Bern Convention and then to incorporate in the European legislation and then to accept that each Member State can decide on whether this is the basic protection or other protections, and what are the means to come up to support the farmers, which is also very important. And counting on real data is very important too. So, it depends on how sound the real data may be in order to take the decisions.

Dealing with your document on competitiveness, which I find quite interesting, and your comments on to what extent negative emissions may be an issue to be introduced in the review of the ETS, I think that probably we will need to go beyond what it is, the low-hanging fruit that we need to accelerate right now, and to start thinking how we can create the atmosphere, the ecosystem, to ensure that we can resolve those emissions that we will not be able to solve beyond 2030 or 2040.

So, I think that this is a very interesting proposal to be taken into consideration in due time and to develop the methodology, not to make a mistake, but on the contrary, to ensure that it can work in a smooth manner.

1-0097-0000

**Sara Mathieu (Verts/ALE).** – Dear Commissioner-designate, just transition that means more financing, especially for the Social Climate Fund. But it also means better financing. And we know that public funds are often used to cover corporate risks, that, of course, benefits the companies, the shareholders, but less the taxpayers or the citizens.

So do you commit that national State aid and EU funding needs to be conditional on fulfilling environmental and social commitments, like the just transition plans, like decent wages, respect for workers rights, reskilling and banning of dividends, and share buybacks?

Will you clawback the funding when companies have not complied with those conditions?

Will the new State aid rules exclude fossil-fuel projects and large companies that face no barriers when it comes to access to private finance?

And, finally, workers need guarantees to the industrial transition that it is anticipated and managed well.

So will you propose a directive on just transition that includes social dialogue and collective bargaining?

1-0098-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Commissioner-designate.** – Thank you so much for the questions to be worked out with my fellow colleague dealing with funds and dealing with the Just Transition Fund, Commissioner Hoekstra.

I think that this is very, very, very important. Such a deep transformation in our energy model, in our industrial model requires paying attention to workers and requires ensuring that the transition is just.

And we have developed different measures, including the creation of the Just Transition Fund, that took some time to kick off, and that is still under the assessment of to what extent it is enough, how we can work and how it can be combined with other funds that have similar social approaches in different regions.

So what I can commit right now is: be sure that I will do my best to ensure that workers have a role to play in this transformation, and that the public policies should be supporting the responses to this impact on workers – training and reskilling, but also creating the opportunities. It is not just a transfer of wealth. It is being sure that we invest in the creation of new opportunities. Otherwise, it is not going to work. We need to be sure that people feel like they are owning this transformation and people means workers and consumers.

1-0099-0000

**Anna Zalewska (ECR).** – Pani Kandydatko na komisarza! Mówię o tym z ogromnym żalem, ale mam nieodparte wrażenie, bo dostaję SMSy od przemysłu, że wygłasza Pani manifesty polityczne, a nie recepty, a nie pomysły, a nie zaangażowanie, a przede wszystkim źródła finansowania. Proszę nie zaczarowywać rzeczywistości. Europa nie tylko jest na zakręcie, ale jest już w tyle. O tym mówi zresztą raport Draghiego pokazujący, że potrzebujemy ośmiuset miliardów euro rocznie. Proszę o propozycje – skąd 800 miliardów rocznie? I proszę, bo on tego nie policzył, ile trzeba na sieci przemysłowe, o których Pani tak często tutaj mówi? Bo zdaje się, że to nie miliardy, ale biliony euro. Mówi Pani o tym, że trzeba zapobiegać kryzysowi mieszkaniowemu przy pomocy dyrektywy budynkowej o efektywności energetycznej – tylko to Pani podroży. W związku z tym proszę o konkrety i szczegóły.

1-0100-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Commissioner-designate.** – I agree with you on the importance to provide solutions, and not only to provide obligations or to provide deadlines or targets. And solutions means investing in the retrofitting of housing, starting by the most vulnerable people, and providing sufficient finance to be able to do so – so working with the local authorities and identifying when and how this can be done in an easy manner.

I think that we have lots of ideas and we need to craft a consistent response. And I think that when dealing with funding, we need to identify the best ways to de-risk the private investment and the best way, the most effective way, to combine – to pool – public and private funding: public coming from the European funds; public coming from the national governments.

This is why I was commenting on the IPCEIs, because it is a nice idea that is being quite successful – how we can combine this public funding to ensure that there is a right answer and right incentive for the private investment to cash in.

And this is not the only way. I think that working on capital markets, working on finance and regulation of finance, using the taxonomy that has been developed in the previous mandate, will be quite helpful. I'm not saying that what we need to do is easy. Of course not. But I am convinced that if we react in a united manner and we pay attention to the different contributions that each of us and each of the different stakeholders can make – identifying what the barriers and the difficulties may be – we can do it.

We have already done it in a very difficult circumstance: with the unprecedented crisis on energy prices or with the unprecedented crisis on health issues during COVID. So I'm deeply convinced that we Europeans can provide the right answers, can invest in a much more competitive industry, can invest in people. But we need to discuss the potential solutions.

1-0101-0000

**Emma Wiesner (Renew).** – I have three questions. In the coming years, we will have to focus a lot on the implementation of the Green Deal, but there are also regulatory gaps and you will oversee the work on the bioeconomy strategy, the Circular Economy Act and the market for secondary raw material.

However, there are very few incentives for using those alternative raw materials compared to our fossils. We have the polluter pays principle, but there is no pricing of fossil raw materials. So, my question is what concrete steps will you take to close the legislative gap on transitioning to alternative materials?

Second question: how would you deal with Member States, as Vice-President of the Commission, with Member States not fulfilling their climate target, just like Sweden is projected not to reach the mandatory climate targets?

And thirdly, Mr Orbán is right now in Baku at COP29, saying that we should keep using fossil fuels as business as usual. What's your message to him?

1-0102-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Commissioner-designate.** – I think that we need to create the markets and infrastructures to ensure that using circular secondary raw materials is more efficient and more appealing in terms of pricing than raw materials as such. And we have some nice experience, but a lot needs to be done yet. The market does not exist yet, or the infrastructure. So, the certainty on the availability is still to be improved. On that I agree with you.

You were mentioning taxing possible tools, and I think that this is something to explore, to what extent the recommendations on the Energy Taxation Directive may help to prioritise these types of uses.

And you were also commenting on Member States not fulfilling their targets. That is, of course, something that deals with the agenda of Commissioner Hoekstra, and I think that the most important thing is to focus with sufficient anticipated time to ensure that everybody delivers their target, because we jointly need to deliver, but we individually need to deliver too.

Then you enter into something which is also critical: how we can work in a united manner with a common voice, to develop our capacities to decarbonise and to fight against climate change. And I think that we have done a lot of good things, but we can still do better. There are other heads of government in Baku asking for the fulfilment, for the honouring of the Paris Agreement and being in solidarity with other parties to the UNFCCC that suffer much more than ourselves the climate impacts.

1-0103-0000

**Anja Arndt (ESN).** – Frau Ribera Rodríguez! In meiner Heimat, in Ostfriesland, verlieren wahrscheinlich in Kürze 8 000 Menschen ihre Arbeit bei VW, weil die EU willkürliche CO<sub>2</sub>-Flottengrenzwerte für Automobilhersteller festgelegt hat. Diese verursachen hohe Strafzahlungen. E-Autos sind 2019 als emissionsfrei erklärt worden. Das war eine schwere Täuschung der Bürger, weil auch E-Autos umfangreiche CO<sub>2</sub>-Emissionen verursachen. Darauf hat meine Partei, die AfD, schon damals aufmerksam gemacht.

Die aktuell gültige Verordnung zu den CO<sub>2</sub>-Emissionsnormen für Autos legt in Artikel 7a fest, dass die Kommission bis zum Ende nächsten Jahres eine Messmethode vorlegt; eine Messmethode, mit der die CO<sub>2</sub>-Emissionen aller Pkw-Arten über den gesamten Lebenszyklus erfasst werden können.

Wird die Kommission diese Verpflichtung einhalten, und werden Sie dafür sorgen, dass diese Täuschung, E-Autos wären emissionsfrei, endlich beendet wird?

1-0104-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Commissioner-designate.** – I acknowledge and I have in the list of my priorities and concerns the situation of the car industry in Europe. I have said it in several locations, and I think that we have to come to support and to identify the best pathways to ensure that the car industry in Europe remains competitive and the value chain around the car industry is still a European base and innovation industry in Europe.

I do not think that changing the targets can help into that. I think that we need to concentrate our efforts on the identification of the concrete measures that can help into this. There are good examples: I think that we have tried to develop these common initiatives around the electric vehicles and batteries, and we may need to get much deeper in this approach.

Dealing with methodologies to count the emissions, I think that we need to pay attention. Some of your colleagues pointed out, during the conversations I had in the previous weeks, that there may be many delegated acts that can be written, drafted in different manners, meaning different things and having different impacts. So I think that we need to pay attention to be consistent and to ensure that what is provided makes sense.

1-0105-0000

**Carola Rackete (The Left).** – Ms Ribera, you have mentioned several times the importance of science and in the written questions you mentioned the success of the EU in decoupling economic growth from emissions. However, that is only so if we do not take into account anything which we are importing.



So my questions are: firstly, do you agree with me that what actually matters is rapid and absolute reduction of our resource consumption and, to prevent the destruction of our living planet, that we actually need a cap on material resource consumption and also binding reduction targets? Will you implement those in the EU as well as will you push for a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty?

1-0106-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Thank you for the two questions because, in fact, it is true that one of the most frustrating things is that sometimes when we improve the efficiency, we do not provide net reductions because the efficiency brings back more consumption. So I think that we need to address this issue.

I think that this explains to a certain extent why it is not only a question of engineers, but also a question of social preference and values. So I think that education is very important in order to address the type of suggestions that we are making – education and cultural values, priorities, how to reduce consumption and how to be more efficient in the use of the different materials.

Then you raise the issue of fossil fuels and how we can ensure that there is no proliferation. We achieved something last year which is very important and that is being challenged in certain places: transitioning away from fossil fuels. I think that transitioning away from fossil fuels can cover many things. Of course, one of them is non-proliferation of new fossil fuels exploitations.

So I think that, yes, there are initiatives trying to identify how to ensure the most successful result in terms of getting rid of fossil fuels. One of them, very obviously, is to facilitate no more fossil fuels exploitations. Dan Jørgensen, the Commissioner in charge of energy, has been working a lot about this, and I think that for the time being, there may be no consensus at the European level to reach an agreement being supported by all the Member States. But I think that there is a broad consensus on the need to transition away from fossil fuels.

1-0107-0000

**Tsvetelina Penkova**, *Vice-Chair of the ITRE Committee*. – Now we are moving to the third round, with the invited committees. The same rules apply: 1 minute for the question, 2 minutes for the answer.

1-0108-0000

**Anna Cavazzini**, *Chair of the IMCO Committee*. – *Buenas tardes*, Señora Ribera. I'm asking the question on behalf of the committee. I know you mentioned already the DMA today. I'm sorry, I was in another hearing – that's why I just jumped in. Nevertheless, probably you could be a little bit more concrete.

You stated in your written replies that the vigorous enforcement of the DMA will be one of your priorities, and I think my committee shares this. The European Parliament has repeatedly called for an increase in the human resources and technical capabilities necessary for the effective DMA enforcement. Can you spell out concrete measures you intend to take to ensure that the Commission is well equipped to monitor compliance and timely enforce the DMA?

You further stated in your written answers that one of the three important dimensions that will guide the prioritisation of your work on the DMA is to give consumers choice when gatekeepers impose on them their own terms and conditions. So could you please specify in concrete terms: how do you plan to empower consumers and provide them with more control over terms and conditions in their position against the large digital companies?

1-0109-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Thank you so much for your question. The answer is probably a combination of the capacities and the tools that the services of Vice-President Virkkunen and myself need to ensure work in a very smooth and effective manner.

I think that, yes, we need to open up these locked ecosystems in this digital world, where there may be limitations to introduce new start-ups or new services being provided in any type of platform or device where we can access these services. And we need to protect the capacity of consumers to make full use of their data – so the data belong to the consumers or those providing the data, not to those that get the data through the platforms and the digital solutions.

The gatekeepers being identified had some deadlines to comply with their dos or not-dos being introduced in the Digital Markets Act, and we will start seeing what is happening, and follow and be transparent on how this has been achieved or not. So I think that this will require many more people working in the team.

And of course, I cannot commit yet – not being Commissioner yet and not knowing yet how it works within the services of the Commission – but I can commit to do my best, because I identify this as a very complicated issue that goes beyond our borders, that works in a different type of context, far away from what it has been, the traditional way to deal with these competition problems.

It will require very specialised people and services that should be helping in the proper identification and monitoring of the compliance coming from these players. Working with the national authorities is a great help, but probably it is not enough and probably it is not structural.

1-0110-0000

**Jagna Marczułajtis-Walczak**, *Vice-Chair of the EMPL Committee*. – Ms Ribera, the EMPL Committee is not fully satisfied with your written answers. Could you please elaborate further with clearer and more concrete commitments on the following questions?

What concrete measures will you take to ensure that the most vulnerable households are protected and that the transition is beneficial for workers, that their rights are respected and promoted and that no one is left behind?

What concrete measures will you take in the better regulation agenda to ensure the EU labour law *acquis* and to ensure improved employment rights and social standards?

In addition, which concrete steps will you take to combat energy poverty as a part of addressing the housing crisis?

1-0111-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez**, *Commissioner-designate*. – These are issues where my intention is to work very closely with Vice-President Minzatu. I think that Europeans cannot trust their institutions if we do not pay attention to this type of concerns. How do we work and develop policies towards vulnerable households? How do we ensure that workers count on the same rights and can count on elements to develop their skills and training capacities and how rights may be respected? And we may be bound by the existing laws, but we may improve the existing laws and regulations or try to identify the best possible ways forward on the basis of consensus and improving the social dialogue and the conversation with the social players.

I think that a better regulation in labour rights is important. It's not part of my duty, but I will support Vice-President Minzatu.

It is part of my duty to try to identify the means to combat energy poverty, particularly in the access of households to affordable energy and retrofitting houses, very much in particular starting with or focusing on the most vulnerable houses. This is something that can be done by Member States, but this is something that should be promoted and backed by the European institutions. This is something where we already may count with existing funds and this is something that should be part of the priorities under the Social Climate Fund and under the Just Transition Fund.

So, my commitment on that, both dealing with the competition policy, but at the same time, working with my colleagues dealing with energy and climate is very much giving priority to this focus on vulnerability approach to deal with energy poverty and to deal with the retrofitting of houses.

1-0112-0000

**Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi**, *Chair of the TRAN Committee*. – Honourable Ms Ribera, as Executive Vice-President you will be responsible for modernising the EU's competition policy and for developing a new State aid framework under the Clean Industrial Deal.

How will you be dealing with unfair competition and State aid from authoritarian third countries in the transport sector? In particular, how will you handle foreign direct investments in critical transport infrastructures in Europe? Your written answers do not openly address this particular challenge from countries such as China.

On another page, when looking at the competitiveness of SMEs that you mention, how concretely will you contribute to reducing administrative burden in EU legislation that has an impact on transport and tourism?

1-0113-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Thank you for your question.

I think that probably there is not a silver bullet, but there are different tools that can address these type of problems. We do not want Trojan horses that may challenge the existing European businesses that compete on a level playing field. It is much welcome to count on private investors coming from abroad, but we need to ensure that the level playing field is applied to all and that we pay attention to avoid any type of subsidised product that may create a real problem for our companies, for our business communities.

At the same time, it is true that there are other existing tools, such as the control of foreign investment, and dealing with trade - the CBAM. So paying attention to avoid that, we may count on carbon leakage because we do not treat in a similar manner products that do not pay for what they pollute.

And at the same time we need to address this discussion also in the new guidelines dealing with mergers.

So how we can ensure that this new approach counting on time horizons where they may be potential new investors that may be taking positions in our market that could challenge, through a non-fair approach the existing companies in our countries.

So I think that the combination of the different tools should help in order to ensure, as I say, a fair treatment for all, either if they come from a Member State, small or big, or if they come from abroad, but that comply with the World Trade Organization rules, and that do ensure a proper respect for the existing rules in Europe.

1-0114-0000

**Nora Mebarek**, *vice-présidente de la commission REGI*. – Madame la Présidente, madame la Vice-Présidente exécutive désignée, au nom de la commission du développement régional, nous apprécions votre engagement à soutenir les régions touchées par la transition vers une économie neutre pour le climat.

Pourriez-vous nous apporter des précisions sur les points suivants: proposerez-vous la création d'un Fonds pour une transition juste 2.0? Si tel est le cas, comment envisagez-vous les développements futurs du Fonds pour une transition juste? À défaut, soutiendrez-vous l'intégration des objectifs de transition juste dans les autres fonds de la politique de cohésion, ou bien êtes-vous favorable à l'abandon des instruments actuels de la politique de cohésion (tels que le Fonds pour une transition juste) au profit d'un modèle de facilité pour la reprise et la résilience qui serait élargi à tous les domaines d'action, pour un programme national unique?

1-0115-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez**, *commissaire désignée*. – Je pense qu'il faut assurer la compatibilité et la complémentarité des différents fonds, mais pas supprimer le Fonds pour la transition juste. Nous avons besoin du Fonds pour la transition juste. Bien sûr, beaucoup d'autres fonds ont une incidence régionale sur les territoires, sur les gens qui habitent dans un territoire donné qui se trouve dans un processus de désindustrialisation très dangereux. Je le disais tout à l'heure, il ne s'agit pas d'un transfert des ressources sans aucune suite. Il s'agit d'investir en faveur des gens et de la création de nouvelles possibilités.

The Just Transition Fund has kicked off a very short time ago. So I think that we need to develop to ensure that it can deliver and we need to learn from the experience. I think that there are many different experiences in the different Member States that can help to ensure that it is performing since the very first day. That could be my very bold comment.

Yes, I'm committed to a just transition and to take into consideration the social concerns when accelerating the transformation of our economy, when ensuring that we are going to be competitive and count on a Clean Industrial Deal, but a Clean Industrial Deal that addresses the industry and the business community, but also addresses the people, the Europeans.

1-0117-0000

**Veronika Vrecionová**, *Chair of the AGRI Committee*. – Ms Ribera, on behalf of the AGRI Committee, I would first like to note that your answer to the question on the role of agriculture and forestry in the just transition was somewhat ambiguous.

Therefore, I would like to repeat my question on how agriculture and forestry are included in the just transition, especially with regard to the accessibility of water.

In order to achieve the EU's ambitious climate targets and climate neutrality by 2050, agriculture will also have to contribute to reducing its emissions. How do you intend to support the sector in reducing emissions without disregarding the fact that ensuring food security must remain a priority? What are your ideas regarding animal husbandry in this context?

1-0118-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez**, *Commissioner-designate*. – I think that food security is a must, and I think that quality of life for our farmers is a must too. I think that a fair policy needs to address both things, taking into consideration that, of course, there are big challenges in terms of climate impact, as you say, but there are big, important contributions through farming that are not fully recognised in many cases.

This is why I think that my commitment to work with Commissioner Hansen, to follow the consensus being achieved around the work being led by Professor Strohschneider is so important – because he managed to get something which is really difficult, which is broad support coming from many different stakeholders and people that work on the ground around these issues.

Then there are two other aspects that you are raising, how this can be recognised through existing climate policies in a positive and monetary manner. And I think that you are right, there are different aspects that need to be addressed because they contribute in terms of sinks, because they contribute in terms of preventing other type of risk, for soil quality or for production of food or preventing wildfires. So many relevant things.

And my impression is that we will need to pay attention to this in the context of the review of the ETS and the adaptation plans, how the agricultural sector may contribute to the common efforts, but at the same time, maybe recognise further common efforts too.

1-0119-0000

**Tsvetelina Penkova**, *Vice-Chair of the ITRE Committee*. – We had almost perfect timings in this round, so thank you so much for respecting the rules and your colleagues in the room. Let's hope for the same behaviour in the final round.

1-0120-0000

**Marcin Sypniewski (ESN)**. – Szanowna Pani! To bardzo źle, kiedy ideologię włączamy w regulowanie gospodarki i Zielony Ład jest tego kolejnym przykładem. Bardzo ładnie się mówi o redukcji emisji, o transformacji, natomiast kryją się za tym wysokie ceny energii i też upadek zakładów pracy, utrata pracy przez wiele osób.

Jakie ma Pani konkretne propozycje w zakresie obniżania cen energii? Czy zgadza się Pani z wnioskami zawartymi w raporcie Draghiego i jego apelem o oddzielenie cen energii elektrycznej od gazu, czy też proponuje Pani inne rozwiązania? Jakie konkretne środki przewiduje Pani dla energochłonnych gałęzi gospodarki, na przykład dla niezwykle istotnego przemysłu stalowego. Mówimy tyle o obronności, o budowie mieszkań, natomiast ten przemysł został bardzo mocno dotknięty w efekcie transformacji. W jaki sposób zamierza Pani wesprzeć właśnie tę gałąź przemysłu?

1-0121-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez**, *Commissioner-designate*. – I think that there were a few points in your question, the first of them being something that I don't know if I have understood properly, which is that you think that it is the Green Deal that raises the price of energy. If this is the case, if this is what you said, I disagree. I think that it is the opposite. The renewable energy solutions that have been boosted in the recent years have very low operational costs. A different thing is that we may need to upgrade and to invest in our infrastructure, our grids, our storage, our capacity to modernise our infrastructures, which is important.

But, as I said, the highest cost of energy and volatility of energy prices is connected very precisely to fossil fuels that we do not produce. This is why we need to be sure that we do it, taking the opportunity to build new opportunities and to think on the industrial equipment and the industrial innovation that is connected to this energy transformation. So not thinking on the colours of the electrons and the molecules, but thinking on the industry and the services that we need to put in place.

I think that this is going to be very important also for steel, as you say. The basic industry is capital in Europe. We cannot lose the basic industry in Europe, and the cost of energy is one of the major headaches that they are facing right now. So we need to adapt our energy model as soon as possible. And, as I said, to take into consideration and to promote every single line to reduce the cost of energy, including the change in the way we generate our electricity.

What we should avoid, and this is part of my competence as responsible for competition policy, is a subsidy race between Member States, because that undermines decades of construction of the single market, and it will be difficult to last in time. So I think that we need to identify very well when and how it may make sense to count on a State aid to support the next step, the innovation, and so on and so on. If we can do it – and Draghi and Letta stated in their reports – through cross-border solutions, it could be better because we could be in a position to create much more of ecosystems and reducing the vulnerabilities in terms of industrial value chains, than just concentrating on who is going to pay more in terms of subsidies.

I think that this is something that we need to deliver with Vice-President Séjourné. And my impression is that we can respond to some of these questions in the Clean Industrial Deal and some of these questions in the energy policy with Commissioner Jørgensen.

1-0122-0000

**Jonas Sjöstedt (The Left).** – Commissioner-designate Ribera, first I would like to congratulate you for the patience you have shown here tonight. Quite impressive!

My question concerns the connection between inequality, emissions and climate. According to Oxfam, the richest percentage of the global population causes as much emissions as the poorest two thirds of the global population: 5 billion people. If these ultra-rich do not change their patterns, do not change their way of living, do not cut the emissions they are causing, we will not make it.

And my question to you is: what will you do to make sure that the policies are directed to those who actually cause the major part of the emissions: the ultra-rich and the big global corporations?

1-0123-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Commissioner-designate.** – Thank you so much for your question, because I agree very much with this approach. I think that it is pretty unfair, the impact of climate change, the impact of lack of action, the cost of inaction. It creates additional burdens for the most vulnerable people. And we can see it in many aspects of day-to-day life. For instance, we were discussing before the energy cost: the share of family income dedicated to a badly insulated house of a vulnerable family is much higher than it is of a wealthy family. So there is an intrinsic aspect of inequality that we need to address.

And I think that speaking about climate policy is important for many reasons. We have been commenting on economic competitiveness and the industrial race ongoing, but I think that there are also aspects of social inequality that need to be addressed. We need to learn to promote, to

introduce, these aspects when assessing our tools and our decisions, but also to define new approaches in case they are required – internationally, but also at the European level. We have poor people that have many more difficulties to cope with climate impacts or with the impacts of this transition.

1-0124-0000

**Michael Bloss (Verts/ALE).** – Dear Teresa Ribera, I'm here, directly in front of you.

After the election victory of Donald Trump, a climate conference is taking place in a fossil autocracy in Azerbaijan, where today the European Union is represented at the Global Leaders Summit by Viktor Orbán. So it doesn't look good for climate policy right now.

But the right wing of this House is not always coherent. In September, they were asking in a resolution on the floods in Eastern Europe for an ambitious implementation and scaling-up of climate action.

So my question is, will you live up to the demands of the EPP and make sure we meet our 2030 climate targets? And will you come up with an ambitious post 2030 climate package, and with what content?

Secondly, will you make sure we have an early and targeted revision of the European climate law so we can provide a predictable policy framework for investments in our industry?

1-0125-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Commissioner-designate.** – Starting by your last question, I think that in my mission letter it's quite clear, as it is in the case of the mission letters of Vice-President Séjourné and Commissioner Hoekstra. And I feel fully committed to my mission letter and the political guidelines in it.

I think that the clean industrial deal counts on a great driver around the decarbonisation, and the 90 % reduction target by 2040 should be part of this capacity to facilitate the transformation.

The question now is how we can frame the different tools. So to show that we can achieve this goal and to show how we can combine the different elements around the clean industrial measures or the finance measures. And I think that this is going to be one of the challenges ahead of us.

The second question you were raising is how we can ensure that we scale-up our climate policies and how we can ensure that our role in the international summits and international negotiations is fully consistent?

And there I appreciate very much the efforts being made by the Europeans for a very long while, as I said, because I am convinced that we are investing in ourselves, in our industry and our societies, in our economy. But I am a very convinced person around the United Nations and the multilateral order. And I think, whether it's happening here or there, what matters is that the host commits to the result, and that we can feel proud of the European leaders and the European negotiators, doing their best to keep on advancing in this big challenge that responding to climate change represents.

The two aspects, the external dimension and the domestic dimension, matter in this case.

So yes, I think that we cannot go back in our climate ambition, but I think that we can do much better than what we have done right now in identifying the common ground and the concrete measures to pave the way to achieve the goals.

1-0126-0000

**Ludovít Ódor (Renew).** – Madam Commissioner-designate, your job is quite easy: deliver to us clean, just and competitive transition. It sounds very easy. Of course we can discuss a lot of topics, but I would like to hear from you three clear priorities: what you would like to do during your mandate and what would be your three goals to achieve.

My second question relates to the Draghi Report. According to Mr Draghi, Europe needs bigger global players in some sectors. But that might undermine, of course, competition and hurt consumers internally. So how would you like to reconcile those two conflicting objectives?

1-0127-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Commissioner-designate.** – I may say that my easy task could be possible with your help, so I hope I can count on you to develop the right answers. And when I say you, it is the whole Parliament, of course.

I think that it is a very nice question. What are the expectations for this mandate, dealing with this title, with this headline? I would say that there are at least three, but I will concentrate on these three.

The first of them is that I would like to be living with a much more fair access to affordable and stable energy for all. So, to reduce our dependencies from abroad and to use this reduction, this strategy to change our energy solutions in a way that provides jobs, wealth, innovation and opportunities for every single territory. So, addressing energy modernisation, supporting my fellow colleague Jørgensen could be a very important thing. Using the competence tools to ensure that the level playing field and the internal market, the single market, do absorb this energy transition without creating additional fragmentation of the internal market is very important.

The second issue would be to count on a competitive Europe, to ensure that all the tools are fit for purpose, including the competition tools, identifying and working with new clean tech possibilities, but also clean tech challenges so that the industry and Europe, traditional and new, can count on a level playing field no matter where they are, and that the competition tools do provide the right solutions to reduce prices for consumers, but also to ensure that we can develop innovation within our borders.

The third thing I could suggest is that it would be very important that we end this mandate providing solutions that can help the rest of our partners in other countries. I think that ensuring this strategic autonomy does not mean being isolated of the rest of the world. It means developing new partnerships and ensuring that each of the partners can count on us to develop their own capacities, development, welfare, and we can count on these common advantages approach with those things that they can provide.

1-0128-0000

**Giovanni Crosetto (ECR).** – Signora Presidente, signora Vicepresidente designata, Lei ha nel Suo portafoglio l'importantissima delega alla concorrenza, che ha riflessi interni ma anche chiare implicazioni con nazioni extraeuropee.



Nella gestione di questa delega, in un mondo globalizzato asimmetrico, è necessario avere un adeguato approccio a cooperazione e diplomazia – e possiamo dire che le relazioni con gli Stati Uniti, sotto la presidenza Trump, richiederanno una buona dose di entrambe le cose.

Eppure, nel 2019, mentre Lei era ministra del governo spagnolo, ha definito l'allora 45° Presidente degli Stati Uniti – attuale 47° presidente eletto degli Stati Uniti – Donald Trump, un analfabeta. Io Le chiedo, signora Vicepresidente designata: Lei, qui, oggi, ripeterebbe quelle parole?

Le chiedo inoltre: è in grado di rassicurarci sul fatto che i suoi commenti passati sull'attuale 47° Presidente eletto degli Stati Uniti non danneggeranno l'Unione europea e la sua posizione negoziale in un momento così delicato? Mi auguro che non si sottragga alle domande.

1-0129-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez**, *Commissioner-designate*. – I think that our duty is to work with everybody in the world, no matter who is in the White House. The United States is a very relevant ally of the European Union, and this has been the case for decades. And I think that the different offices, jurisdictions and authorities have been working with the European authorities and the representatives of the European Commission and the national governments on many different aspects, including aspects related to competition and the follow up of these new big operators in the digital world.

So, my best effort will be, of course, to work with Trump's administration on the very dedicated issues that I have under my portfolio, and I hope that we can develop stable and fruitful cooperation with the United States. And I think that this is part of democracy and politics, and we need to respect the decision of others, and we need to work in a democratic and sensible manner with the rest of the governments in the other parts of the United Nations.

1-0130-0000

**Jorge Martín Frías (Pfe)**. – Señora Ribera, usted ha reivindicado el papel de la ley sobre restauración de la naturaleza: una norma —y he aquí su mérito— inspirada en las mismas políticas del Gobierno socialista que han desprotegido a los valencianos ante la mayor catástrofe natural. Motivo por el cual, por su negligencia e incompetencia —estoy aquí, señora candidata—, VOX se ha querellado por homicidio imprudente contra usted y Pedro Sánchez, entre otros.

Señora candidata, ustedes no son las instituciones. Usted forma parte de un Gobierno envuelto en múltiples casos de corrupción, así que haga el favor de no dar lecciones, pida perdón a los españoles y conteste a la pregunta que le ha hecho mi compañero, Jorge Buxadé, y que antes no le ha contestado. ¿Va a seguir usted las políticas que han aplicado en España y que han llevado a la muerte de españoles, al empobrecimiento de agricultores y ganaderos, a la destrucción de empleos y a la ruina del sector automovilístico y de los trabajadores?

1-0131-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez**, *Commissioner-designate*. – The most dangerous thing is to build in flooding areas, to cut the public dedication of resources to well-functioning services, to undermine the credibility of knowledge and science.

So I think that you have a great responsibility: undermining the credibility and avoiding people to understand the risk. And of course, we will see what happens with the alerts that were not issued at the time.

Y sí, reivindico el papel de la ley sobre la restauración de la naturaleza. Restaurar la naturaleza permite que tengamos una mayor capacidad de resiliencia frente a fenómenos como este, que tengamos más capacidad para seguir generando riqueza en las zonas que producen —gracias a los agricultores— productos alimentarios, como puede ser en el Mar Menor, y que nos garantice la salud de las personas, la salud pública.

So yes, we will protect the Nature Restoration Law and we count on good examples, as it was in the case of Doñana, as it was in the case of the Mar Menor, fighting against pollution in ecosystems, fighting for the survival of our ecosystems.

So, taking into consideration the social impact of pollution, I think it is a win-win approach.

1-0134-0000

**Mohammed Chahim (S&D).** – I think we are witnessing a Commissioner-designate who is calmly and respectfully addressing each question posed. Some questions are a bit rude and – maybe I can drop the bit – with ungrounded accusations. But perhaps this is the new style of this House.

This candidate has an impressive record, with achievements during Spain's Presidency, clear leadership at the COP28 and her successful efforts addressing the energy crisis were beneficial to all Europeans. Thank you for that.

My question is the following. Recent reports have shown that Spain's economy is notably outperforming other eurozone economies, with strong growth supported by targeted governmental spending also in hydrogen and renewables, and resilient labour markets. Given your experience as Vice Prime Minister and the impactful policies you led in Spain, how do you envision applying these successes at the European level as an Executive Vice-President of the next Commission?

1-0135-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Commissioner-designate.** – Thank you so much. I think that it is important to build consensus and to build common ground. And I think that it is important in order to build common ground, to be sure that we all respect what has been achieved through the normal procedures, institutional procedures, along the years. We cannot change the goals every single day. We cannot backtrack on what we have already assessed as being important to do.

This is why I think we need to respect the framework that we can count on, in order to invest in a proper dialogue on how we can identify concrete measures, to be focused and to be consistent. It is very important to be consistent and coherent. We cannot do one thing and the contrary at the same time. We cannot waste time on things that are for sure being backed by science along the years.

And I think that taking this very concrete example that I was commenting on is quite important: we are not changing the colours of the electrons or the molecules. There are things that we know that we need to do, because the competition race is already ongoing. So instead of fighting each other, instead of focusing on the colours, why can't we work united with the team-work spirit to identify the best ways to combine and to ensure that everybody participates in the solutions? Identifying the solutions is a challenge that is too big to be wasting time questioning what has already been agreed on this table.

1-0136-0000

**Christian Ehler (PPE).** – This is no tribunal on the tragedy in Spain, but we simply have to notice that you didn't answer the question: how would you cope politically with the potential responsibility of your ministry in the future? That's a burden.

I think we agree in the center of this Parliament that we have to fight climate change. That's also not the tribunal on that. But the 1 300 companies of the biggest industry organisations flagged this year that this Green Deal is green, but not a deal. So we need a game changer, not a little bit of intervention. We need a signal.

So my question to you is: what is your clear message as to where you stand as Vice-President of the Commission to really make that a deal?

1-0137-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Commissioner-designate.** – I like very much your approach, and it is fully consistent with my response to the previous speaker, because I think that it is good to have targets, but it is much more important to ensure that everybody feels part of the response, so building this deal. This requires a very dedicated and intense time to identify the best solutions and the best combinations. Of course, we need to ensure that this dialogue takes place, but not only at the very highest scale. And I think that there are previous processes where we have learned how to identify the best available technologies or the briefings that can help our industry to provide the right solutions in many environmental challenges, through the Joint Research Centre in Sevilla and similar processes.

I think that we need to do three things at least. The first of them is, yes, at the technical level we need a continuous dialogue to ensure that, sector by sector, we can find the solutions. At the public opinion dialogue, we need to ensure that we can provide the adequate information and the adequate responses to the concerns that people may have, because otherwise we will be missing the support of the people overwhelmed by so many things happening at the same time. At the institutional level, I think that we need to be quite respectful, but quite committed to listen to each other, not to discuss what is already stated and established by science and experience, but discussing on the concrete solutions. This is why I think that this approach of teamwork at the level of the College in the Commission, but also this continuous appeal to have a proper and regular conversation with the Parliament is so important.

My intention is to develop the three of them. As said, as an additional comment, that competition policy also counts in this. The competition tools count on this; they can help and can be simpler or can be more equal and fair for all and need to count on regular cooperation with other jurisdictions. So I think that this mandate should be the mandate of building consensus on common ground, on the concrete responses for the implementation of what Ursula von der Leyen names the 'investment Commission': the investment mandate for a better Europe.

1-0138-0000

**Tsvetelina Penkova, Vice-Chair of the ITRE Committee.** – I would like to thank all the Members for their questions and Ms Ribera for her answers.

Before we close – please, we haven't finished yet – I would like to invite Ms Ribera to make brief final remarks of no more than 5 minutes. So please do respect the end of this long and exhausting day, but let's stay and hear the final remarks.

1-0139-0000

**Teresa Ribera Rodríguez**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Thank you so much. I think that it has been a great evening, and I appreciate very much having had the opportunity to hear from you all these very interesting and sometimes challenging questions. I especially appreciate those that came up with suggestions, ideas and solutions to the various challenges that we may be facing in the coming years if I am confirmed.

I would like to end with a note of optimism, because I know very well – and your questions show that this is the case also for you – that it is going to be difficult. It is going to be challenging. Times are pretty difficult. The geopolitics right now are not going to help to identify easygoing things. And the challenges in this globalisation process, including in the economy, show that we need to do our best.

My commitment, my engagement and my conviction are that there have been much more difficult times in the past, and that the European project has always been able to respond in a very wise manner when acting united, when trying to develop our complementarities coming from different territories and from different ideological perspectives, but feeling the commitment towards the people that live in Europe, towards progress under the rule of law.

So, I think that if we take advantage of these principles, of these values and identify a common pathway through discussion, conversation and the identification of solutions, we may be in a position to gain a much better Europe for all. That's my commitment, my engagement and my conviction.

Thanks a lot. I'm at your disposal, and if confirmed, I hope to come here to visit you whenever you invite me. It will be my pleasure. Thanks a lot.

1-0140-0000

**Tsvetelina Penkova**, *Vice-Chair of the ITRE Committee*. – Just to remind you that, in line with our obligations, there is going to be an evaluation meeting held in camera at 22:00.

And now I pass the floor to my Co-Chair, Madam Lalucq.

1-0141-0000

**Aurore Lalucq**, *présidente de la commission ECON*. – Merci à toutes et à tous, et merci à tous les services du Parlement européen pour l'organisation de ces auditions, et aux interprètes. Encore merci à tous les secrétariats.

1-0142-0000

*(The hearing closed at 21:45)*