

**QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE****Teresa RIBERA****Executive Vice-President for the Clean, Just and Competitive  
Transition****1. General competence, European commitment and personal independence**

What aspects of your personal qualifications and experience are particularly relevant for becoming Commissioner and promoting the European general interest, particularly in the area you would be responsible for? How will you contribute to implementing the political guidelines of the Commission? How will you implement gender mainstreaming and integrate a gender perspective into all policy areas of your portfolio? How will you implement youth mainstreaming?

What guarantees of independence are you able to give Parliament, and how would you make sure that any past, current or future activities you carry out could not cast doubt on the performance of your duties within the Commission?

**2. Management of the portfolio and cooperation with the European Parliament**

Can you commit to duly informing Parliament about your actions and those of your departments? In what respect do you consider yourself accountable to Parliament?

What specific commitments are you prepared to make in terms of your engagement with and presence in Parliament, both in committee and in plenary, transparency, cooperation and effective follow-up to Parliament's positions and requests for legislative initiatives? In relation to planned initiatives or ongoing procedures, are you ready to provide Parliament with timely information and documents on an equal footing with the Council?

Questions from the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs**State aid**

3. You are tasked to develop a new State-aid framework as part of the Clean Industrial deal. How do you intend to find the right balance between supporting industrial policy, maintaining fair competition and a level playing field? Do you recognise risks of fragmentation of the single market emerging from the diverging fiscal space of Member States? What safeguards do you see to prevent market distortions and economies with less fiscal capacities?

**Mergers**

4. What changes might the 'new approach to competition policy' involve, and how can it be better aligned with industrial policy? Are you satisfied with the current state of play of the application of the Merger Regulation? Would you be in favour of Commission's possibilities to also look into mergers below the notification threshold? How will you protect our EU innovators from killer acquisitions or acquisitions of EU based undertakings by foreign-based state-owned enterprises supported and subsidised by their governments in ways that the EU single market rules prohibit for EU entities?

**Draghi report**

5. Will you take steps to develop a 'New Competition Tool', as proposed in the Draghi report, to address structural competition problems, paying particular attention to sensitive categories of consumers? Which other competition

proposals in the Letta and Draghi Reports would you support being implemented? What should be the role of competition policy to address inflationary dynamics?

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

6. What concrete steps will you take to ensure the full and timely implementation of the environmental acquis and the Green Deal, in particular in relation to the Fit for 55 legislation? How will you implement this task “in the simplest, fairest way and in dialogue with all stakeholders” as stated in your mission letter, while ensuring competitiveness, also considering the specific situation of SMEs, and ensuring a just transition? Which remaining gaps and which regulatory inconsistencies or overlaps do you still see in the European Green Deal and related policies, and what concrete actions will you take to address these?

7. Which specific actions will you propose to ensure a coherent approach towards a Clean, Just and Competitive transition, and how do you see the links between these three aspects of your portfolio? What specific new actions do you plan to propose as an enabling framework to support the achievement of the climate targets, including as part of the Clean Industrial Deal and covering all sectors of the economy? How do you plan to create a more streamlined and supportive regulatory and investment environment to encourage climate-friendly investment and innovation, and the uptake of clean technologies, ensuring a just transition for all? What kind of measures will you propose to mobilise the necessary investments for this transition, including for SMEs, to support all involved stakeholders, in particular businesses, workers and households? What is your position on the targeted amendment of the regulation setting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions performance standards for cars and vans?

8. How will you ensure effective coordination with the Executive Vice-President for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy, as well as the Commissioners working under your guidance, to fulfil the tasks mentioned in your mission letter? Which concrete initiatives will you propose in relation to the 2040 climate target, environment, clean circular economy, and just transition? How will you ensure coherence between the clean transition and achieving the climate and biodiversity targets on the one hand, and competition policy on the other?

#### Questions from the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

9. What is your vision for your portfolio over and above your mission letter and what would you like your legacy to be? What legislative proposals and other initiatives will you suggest to the College of Commissioners for adoption in the next five years and in particular in the first 100 days? How will you ensure that these proposals, as well as the implementation of existing legislation, would strengthen European competitiveness? Do you intend to base those legislative proposals on dedicated impact assessments? What other measures will you propose to ensure clean, social, just and competitive transition, notably in the most affected sectors? What are your plans in particular for the Clean Industrial Deal? How do you plan to guide the work on the implementation of the existing legal framework to achieve the 2030 targets and prepare, once the 2040 emission-reduction target has been adopted, a new architecture to reach net-zero by 2050, ensuring stability and predictability for European companies and investors, reduction of energy prices and competitiveness? What enabling measures will you propose to help EU companies achieve the net-zero target? What measures do you envisage to close the annual private and public investment gap of around €800 billion identified in the Draghi report including through the European Competitiveness Fund? How do you intend to strengthen citizen participation in your work?

10. Do you believe that the current state aid rules sufficiently ensure fair competition across the Union? How do you aim to ensure that the new approach to competition policy and the new State aid framework will promote the roll-out of clean and renewable energy, energy efficiency, industrial investments and sufficient manufacturing capacity of clean tech, while also limiting external dependencies, strengthening EU competitiveness and protecting European industry from external unfair competition in line with WTO and internal market rules? What is your view on the Commission’s findings on unfair subsidisation of battery electric vehicles (BEVs) from China and the provisional countervailing duties imposed on imports of those vehicles? What measures will you propose to address the particular challenges faced by European SMEs and small midcaps? What measures will you propose to attract private investments and prevent offshoring of economic and industrial activity?

11. What actions do you envisage to bring down energy prices in the short, medium and long term and rid the EU of its dependency on fossil fuels? What will you do to speed up the phase out of gas imports from Russia? What you consider to be the main drivers behind energy price volatility in the EU and what concrete measures you think should be taken to ensure prices are competitive, market reactive and affordable? How will you ensure that businesses and households benefit from the lower production costs of renewable energy? What role should IPCEIs play with regard to energy production and interconnectivity and how additional funding can be unlocked for their

implementation? How do you view the role of technological neutrality in the context of energy supply and energy prices? What is your view on nuclear energy and SMRs?

Question from the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

12. Your portfolio covers the clean, just and competitive transition, which, according to your mission letter, must be ‘for the benefit of people and their jobs’. However, your responsibilities barely mention the social aspects of the just transition. How do you plan to work with Executive Vice-President-designate Roxana Mînzatu? What concrete measures are you going to 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 no one is left behind? Will you deliver an initiative on anticipation and management of change in the world of work, in the context of the Just Transition?

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

In particular, in view of the national Social Climate Plans expected by June 2025, how will you ensure that the Social Climate Fund does not only provide short-term support to vulnerable households but also triggers long-term changes to lift people out of energy and transport poverty? With the Just Transition Fund ending in 2027, what specific measures do you plan to accompany companies and workers in the transformation towards climate neutrality? How do you intend to contribute to the Union of skills?

Question from the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection

13. There is wide consensus that the EU’s credibility depends on the effective enforcement of its rules, including the Digital Markets Act (DMA) and the Foreign Subsidies Regulation (FSR). What are your enforcement priorities in this regard and how will you ensure the timely and effective enforcement that will result in benefits for EU consumers and businesses and contribute to the proper functioning of the internal market? Given that this work entails a high level of complexity, how will you ensure that you have adequate skilled resources and coordinated action within the European Commission?

Question from the Committee on Transport and Tourism

14. According to the corresponding mission letter, the future Executive Vice-President-designate for a Clean, Just and Competitive Transition will be responsible for the legal framework for the EU’s decarbonisation targets and the implementation of the Fit for 55 legislation. At the same time, the TRAN Committee has led the EP’s legislative work on the decarbonisation of transport (RefuelEU Aviation, FuelEU Maritime, Revision of the Directive on Deployment of Alternative Fuels Infrastructure). What is your assessment of the impact of the Green Deal legislation on the transport sector? What is your vision to prepare a new architecture on the decarbonisation of the transport sector beyond 2030 while ensuring a level playing field for European transport companies, the competitiveness of the European transport sector and high-quality and attractive jobs in Europe? In this respect, how do you envisage your cooperation with the future Executive Vice-President for Cohesion and Reforms and the future Commissioner for Sustainable Transport and Tourism?

Question from the Committee on Regional Development

15. Despite its modest budget, the Just Transition Fund (JTF) was a key achievement of the last legislature and an essential tool for territories facing socio-economic challenges tied to the climate-neutral transition. However, issues with resource allocation, administrative hurdles, and balancing environmental and social objectives limited its effectiveness. As a result, many intended beneficiaries, including thousands of workers from carbon-intensive industries, missed out on support. Currently, a major part of JTF allocations still need to be absorbed by 2026.

How do you plan to support local and regional authorities in accelerating absorption and preventing de-commitments, while ensuring the added value of projects? Are you considering creating a Just Transition Fund 2, or do you intend to incorporate its objectives into other cohesion policy funds, with the principle of just transition applied transversally? Will you allocate more resources to just transition? What measures will you take to ensure that the support reaches the most vulnerable regions and sectors? Do you plan to simplify the requirements for access of workers to support? Do you believe that state aid laws need to be revised to allow for simpler and faster access to support? Finally, do you plan to extend the Fund’s support to regions, such as those with automotive industry or intensive farming, and increase the funding proportionately?

Question from the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

16. Agriculture and forestry will have a role to play in a clean, just and competitive transition. They are two of the few sectors that not only emit carbon, but can also actively help to bind carbon, provide renewable raw materials and mitigate climate change, while ensuring food security for our citizens. How do you intend to strengthen the agricultural and forestry sectors amid a just transition? How can incentives be created for agriculture and forestry to increase their contributions as carbon sinks and achieve their sustainable competitive transition? How would you intend to help farmers and foresters to adapt to the challenges of climate change?

How do you plan to strengthen the prospects and contribution of agriculture to enhancing both socio-economic growth and environmental improvement, including by boosting the potential of bioeconomy, circular economy, resilient food supply chains and innovative methods?