

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND  
FOOD SAFETY

INVITED COMMITTEES:

COMMITTEE ON THE INTERNAL MARKET AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND ENERGY

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**HEARING OF JESSIKA ROSWALL**

COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE

(Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy)

TUESDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2024  
BRUSSELS



1-0002-0000

**IN THE CHAIR: ANTONIO DECARO***Chair of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety*

1-0003-0000

*(The hearing opened at 18:33)*

1-0004-0000

**Antonio Decaro**, *Presidente della commissione ENVI*. – Buonasera a tutti. Desidero porgere un caloroso benvenuto a Jessika Roswall, commissaria designata per l'Ambiente, la resilienza idrica e un'economia circolare competitiva. Do inoltre il benvenuto ai membri della commissione ENVI, che è la commissione responsabile dell'audizione di conferma, e ai membri delle commissioni IMCO, ITRE e AGRI, che sono commissioni invitate.

Colleghe e colleghi, prima di iniziare vorrei esprimere la solidarietà alle comunità devastate dall'alluvione in Spagna e alle famiglie delle oltre 200 vittime di questa tragedia. Oggi la Spagna è un Paese ferito, che deve affrontare il momento più difficile: ricostruire le macerie fisiche ma ricostruire anche le macerie sociali di una popolazione lacerata dal dolore.

Le catastrofi climatiche sono sempre più violente e sono sempre più frequenti. A noi, qui, in quest'Aula, ognuno con la propria sensibilità e ognuno con le proprie proposte, il compito e l'impegno di proteggere i nostri ecosistemi naturali e il clima.

Desidero ricordare a tutti che il Parlamento valuta i commissari designati sulla base delle competenze generali, del loro impegno europeo e della loro indipendenza personale. Valutiamo anche la loro conoscenza del futuro portafoglio e le loro capacità di comunicazione. Pertanto, in fase di valutazione dell'audizione, i coordinatori della commissione ENVI dovranno indicare chiaramente se, a loro avviso, la candidata è idonea a far parte del collegio e a svolgere i compiti specifici che le sono stati assegnati.

Ricordo inoltre che, prima dell'audizione, la commissaria designata Roswall ha risposto per iscritto a un questionario preparatorio. Le risposte scritte sono state distribuite ai deputati in tutte le lingue.

Vi devo informare anche che la commissione giuridica ha valutato, sulla base dei documenti presentati, l'eventuale esistenza di conflitti d'interesse reali o potenziali e non ha sollevato obiezioni allo svolgimento dell'audizione.

Prima di procedere, permettetemi di illustrare la struttura di questa audizione di conferma. Per iniziare, la commissaria designata formulerà una dichiarazione orale di apertura di massimo 15 minuti. Dopo l'introduzione, passeremo alle domande dei deputati. Le domande saranno poste nel corso di quattro sessioni. La prima sessione è destinata ai coordinatori dei gruppi politici della commissione ENVI e consisterà in turni di cinque minuti, di cui un minuto per la domanda – un minuto – e due minuti per la risposta della commissaria designata, più un minuto per un'eventuale domanda di follow-up da parte dello stesso deputato e un minuto di risposta per la risposta da parte della commissaria designata.

La seconda sessione riguarda tutti i membri della commissione ENVI e consisterà in turni di tre minuti, sulla base della ripartizione complessiva del tempo di parola tra i gruppi politici, compreso un rappresentante dei deputati non iscritti.

La terza sessione è destinata alle domande dei presidenti delle commissioni invitate e sarà suddivisa in turni di tre minuti. L'ultima sessione è destinata alle domande dei gruppi politici della

commissione ENVI e consisterà in turni di tre minuti, in cui i gruppi politici prenderanno la parola in ordine inverso, al contrario rispetto al primo turno.

In tutte le sessioni i turni di tre minuti sono ripartiti come segue: un minuto per la domanda e due minuti per la risposta dalla commissaria designata. Dopo l'ultima sessione di domande, la commissaria designata disporrà di cinque minuti per una dichiarazione conclusiva.

Richiamo l'attenzione sul fatto che il servizio di interpretazione è fornito in 23 lingue. Tutti gli oratori si possono esprimere nella loro lingua. Gli interpreti ci chiedono sempre di avere – anche se abbiamo i tempi contingentati, e quindi la domanda la dobbiamo concentrare in pochissimo tempo – ci chiedono comunque di parlare non in maniera velocissima, perché altrimenti c'è difficoltà nella traduzione simultanea.

Vi devo anche informare che l'audizione di conferma è trasmessa in diretta *streaming* sul sito internet del Parlamento, dove è possibile accedere a una videoregistrazione dell'audizione poche ore dopo la conclusione di questa audizione.

Vi prego davvero di tenere i tempi – lo dico soprattutto ai membri della commissione ENVI: sapete che molte volte lascio andare. Vi ho anche raccontato che l'ultimo discorso che ho fatto da sindaco nella mia vita è durato un'ora e 45 minuti. Quindi nel mio Paese è stranissimo parlare soltanto per un minuto. Però mi richiamano tutti a stare attenti a rispettare i tempi, perché già così finiremo molto tardi e rischiamo di accavallarci e di non riuscire a completare le attività nei tempi che sono stati previsti dal segretariato e dalle commissioni del Parlamento europeo.

Gentile commissaria designata, prima di ascoltare la Sua dichiarazione di apertura, vorrei iniziare prendendo atto delle Sue risposte alle domande scritte e della Sua disponibilità a cooperare con il Parlamento europeo. Si tratta di un aspetto particolarmente importante nel contesto della revisione dell'accordo quadro tra il Parlamento europeo e la Commissione, in particolare per quanto riguarda il Suo impegno a partecipare periodicamente alle riunioni di commissione e alle sedute plenarie, a dare seguito alle iniziative legislative del Parlamento e a condividere tempestivamente le informazioni con il Parlamento in quanto colegislatore e ramo dell'autorità di bilancio.

Vorremmo evitare un lavoro separato della Commissione, da un lato, e delle commissioni del Parlamento europeo, dall'altro lato. Confidiamo che onorerà pienamente tali impegni e desideriamo porre l'accento sul ruolo della Commissione quale mediatore imparziale in tutte le procedure legislative e in tutti i negoziati interistituzionali per garantire la parità di trattamento tra il Parlamento e il Consiglio.

Conto altresì sulla Sua piena collaborazione nell'informare in anticipo la mia commissione di tutte le future proposte, fornendo motivazioni dettagliate per quelle che richiedono un'azione urgente. Questo garantirà la trasparenza e consentirà al Parlamento di esercitare correttamente le sue prerogative.

Do adesso la parola alla commissaria designata per l'Ambiente, la resilienza idrica e un'economia circolare competitiva per la Sua dichiarazione di apertura: Commissaria Roswall, a Lei la parola.

1-0005-0000

**Jessika Roswall**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Honourable Chair, honourable Members, I also want to start by expressing my sincere condolences to the families and friends who lost the victims in Spain.

Thank you for the invitation to share my vision for the coming mandate. It is truly a great honour. It would be easy for me to use this as an opportunity to focus on our collective achievements, but I would like to look forward, not back. Today, I hope to begin the process of setting a clear course for our future efforts.

When I was born in the early 1970s, our Union was still referred to as the European Communities. The first new members were joining, and the building blocks of our environmental policies were just being put together. As a child in a rural community nestled in the middle of Sweden, I remember taking my surroundings for granted: the deep forest, the mighty lakes and the flower meadows in mid-summer. How things have changed!

Today, we are acutely aware of the pressure on our natural resources, and our environmental *acquis* touches the lives of all our citizens. Over the past years, the European Union has achieved a lot. And as the Commissioner-designate asking for your trust, my message is clear: there is no task more important than delivering clear results that protect nature and climate, create tangible benefits for our citizens, and show real economic opportunities for our industry.

Honourable Members, there are three things that I would like to address this evening. First, my dedication to the work which I have been asked to carry out. Second, the clear objectives that the President has entrusted to me. And third, how we can work together to achieve those objectives.

To begin: my sense of dedication, the journey that has brought me here before you, my journey that has been shaped by a number of distinct phases. As a politician, I have dedicated my life to public service. I went into this field over 15 years ago because I wanted to make a difference. Since then, I have spoken up for consumer rights and for the benefits of the single market. And I have always held the view that common European problems must be dealt with through common European answers. That does not mean that one size fits all; we need to be mindful of our regional differences.

As a lawyer, I know the value of good law-making. That means clear rules that work for people and businesses. It means strong enforcement. But it is also the ability to see the greater good of our proposals to ensure that they create tangible benefits for the people that we serve.

Above all, as a mother, I'm acutely aware of the future that we want for the next generation. Indeed, as a grandmother, perhaps to my surprise, I'm even more aware of that for my granddaughter. She needs a future with clean air, fresh water and healthy biodiversity, but also a future with economic opportunity, quality jobs and clean industrial prosperity.

Honourable Members, this leads me to the second topic I want to address: the objectives that President von der Leyen has entrusted to me as Commissioner-designate. In recent years, Parliament has shown true leadership in shaping our laws for the next decades. And I know that many of you take immense pride in what we have achieved together on the Green Deal.

But I know some of you still don't see the deal part. I want to work with you to make this happen – as a true deal with citizens and businesses. And we can make it happen, because a competitive economy and the clean transition go hand in hand. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for Europe.

Honourable Members, on all my flagship initiatives, I intend to work closely with other College members. The circular economy is the best example. I want to deliver it as a priority and a key part of the clean industrial deal. Resource extraction and processing are major air polluters. They drive

much of biodiversity loss and more than half of our greenhouse gas emissions. Yet while we rely on 8 billion tonnes of raw materials per year, only about 11 % of those come from recycled materials.

I want to use the full potential of our biggest asset, the single market, to address this. All too often, it is cheaper to import new materials than to use recycled ones. I will continue to look into all available tools to make the economies of circularity work. And I want to champion clean, sustainable production. Circularity works best when products are clean.

To make our zero-pollution ambition a reality, we will present a chemical industry package quickly, in 2025. I will prepare the revision and modernisation of REACH and look into the use of PFAS. Many of you have raised that in our discussions. It is important to provide further clarity as soon as possible, notably on the use of PFAS in consumer and industrial applications. As a priority, I will seek to ban the use of PFAS in consumer products.

Overall, we need to simplify administration and speed up the substitution of hazardous chemicals. Faster decisions mean more legal certainty and predictable investments. They also mean more timely protection of our citizens' health.

Honourable Members, water management is one of the biggest challenges that we face. Floods and droughts are becoming the new normal, as shown by the tragic event in Spain. With the water resilience initiative, we will take a source-to-sea approach and consider the widely different challenges in our regions and in sectors. I will also make access to clean water for everyone a part of our just transition agenda.

I would like to say a few words on our farmers. They know first-hand the impact of water stress. They are often the first to face the damaging impact on our environment. I'm therefore keen to contribute to the vision for agriculture and food, to reward sustainable agriculture practices and provide a fair income to farmers. For farmers and many others, the bioeconomy has great potential. EU companies are already in the forefront in this sector, but we can do so much more – as long as we are mindful that our natural resources are limited.

Honourable Members, to develop the sustainable transition and restore nature, we need to give clarity to citizens and businesses. Together with you, many new laws were agreed under the last mandate. And if I'm confirmed, I want to stay the course. Now is the time to move from paper to reality. Implementation and enforcement would be front and centre of my agenda. This is when our laws can truly deliver for citizens and for businesses.

If confirmed, I will work hard to ensure that EU policies support our citizens, businesses and administrations. We need an open and inclusive dialogue in all parts of our Union – in the regions and in the cities. I look forward to engaging with young people in particular, and I'm excited about the opportunity to showcase our work together through projects in the New European Bauhaus.

Honourable Members, to simplify our rules, I want to think small first. When preparing new rules, I will check whether legislation is the only solution. I will prioritise implementation and simplification. I will always be mindful of our small and medium-sized companies. As Commissioner, I will scrutinise existing laws for consistency and legal certainty.

But I want to be very clear: under my watch, simplification would never be a form of deregulation. It should be a means to make implementation easier and, therefore, more effective. At the same time, we need to maintain a high level of protection of human health and the environment.

As a lawyer, I firmly believe in the Commission's role as guardian of the Treaties. If I'm confirmed, my commitment to dialogue will guide my relations with the Member States. But when needed, I will not hesitate to use our enforcement tools to bring about change.

Honourable Members, I want to make real progress with you on protecting biodiversity and implementing the Nature Restoration Law. This is not only essential to help protect and restore ecosystems, but also to increase our resilience and help us meet our international commitments.

And moving from paper to reality means providing the necessary funding. Strengthening our water resilience, bringing down pollution levels and boosting circularity will not come for free. The next MFF is an opportunity to make our spending simpler and more impactful. There will be many competing demands for the next EU budget. But my pledge to you is that I will always fight to secure the necessary funding for our priorities. Because when we invest in nature, we invest in the ecosystems on which our economy depends.

In the last three years alone, our Member States have suffered more than EUR 160 billion of losses due to wildfires, droughts and floods. Public funding will be important, but it will not be enough. I therefore look forward to exploring well-designed nature credits. And where private markets are not yet fully developed, I want to engage with institutions such as the European Investment Bank.

We also need to work further on financing on a global level following the COP16 on biodiversity. If confirmed, I will work with our international partners to deliver common results. As Europeans, we are proud to lead by example, but other countries need to do their part as well.

Honourable Members, this hearing is an important part of our European democratic process, but it is not the only democratic process taking place this evening. Events on the other side of the Atlantic remind us that we operate in an ever-changing global environment. And every day the sacrifices of our friends in Ukraine remind us of the privilege we too often take for granted. Both of these underline our own responsibility towards all our citizens and towards the European project.

They also bring me to my most important message here tonight. How can we work together? Because I have been in politics long enough to know that cooperation is the only way to move forward. Those of you who met me during the Swedish Presidency will know me as a bridge-builder. You will know that every time I see a gap, my first reaction is to find a way to connect the two sides.

That was true when I was a minister and worked hard to build consensus around efforts to make Europe freer, greener and safer. It was true in the Swedish Parliament, where I worked across party lines to build solid political majorities to support large-scale infrastructure. And it was true when I was a lawyer, where I worked hard not just to defend those who need the protection of the law, but also to raise awareness of our fundamental rights.

So, honourable Members, how am I going to build bridges with you? I see two building blocks for our work together. The first is being present in person. I commit to joining you for meetings here in committee, as well as debates in plenary, and I will always endeavour to attend trilogues.

The second, and perhaps most important, is dialogue. My pledge is not just to listen, but to give careful consideration to your views. We may not always agree, but you will always find in me an honest, committed counterpart.

Now I would like to say a few words in Italian.

Onorevole Presidente, nelle ultime settimane ho avuto l'occasione di discutere con Lei e molti altri onorevoli di questa commissione parlamentare.

Sono rimasta colpita dalla conoscenza e dedizione di questa commissione. So che vi aspettate molto da me e dal mio futuro lavoro.

Voglio rassicurarvi sul mio impegno, il mio impegno ad avere un dialogo aperto e rispettoso con voi durante tutto il mio mandato.

Honourable Members, I hope that this is the beginning of that dialogue. Thank you.

1-0008-0000

**Antonio Decaro**, *Presidente della commissione ENVI*. – Grazie per le Sue dichiarazioni, per la relazione e anche per l'impegno che ha preso.

Passiamo adesso alle domande dei deputati. Vi ricordo: un minuto, per favore.

1-0009-0000

**Christine Schneider (PPE)**. – Herr Vorsitzender, sehr geehrte designierte Kommissarin! Sie haben gerade am Ende noch einmal die Notwendigkeit betont, wie wichtig es ist, Brücken zu bauen, die Bevölkerung mitzunehmen, die Unternehmen in unsere Politik einzubeziehen – und das ist auch sehr entscheidend für uns, für die EVP-Fraktion, für eine wettbewerbsfähige Wirtschaft, aber vor allem auch für unsere Gesellschaft. Und deshalb müssen wir Bürokratie zurückfahren, denn wir können unsere Umweltziele nur dann erreichen, wenn wir auch die Unterstützung von den Bürgerinnen und Bürgern und den Unternehmen haben.

Und leider haben viele Menschen das Vertrauen in Politik verloren – von der Landwirtschaft über die Industrie bis hin zu unseren kleinen Unternehmen. Der *Clean Industrial Deal* wird eines Ihrer wichtigsten Projekte sein, und deshalb möchte ich Sie fragen: Welche Maßnahmen planen Sie im Rahmen des *Clean Industrial Deal*? Auf welche Schlüsselsektoren werden Sie sich konzentrieren, um Emissionen zu senken und gleichzeitig unsere industrielle Wettbewerbsfähigkeit zu stärken?

1-0010-0000

**Jessika Roswall**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Thank you, honourable Member Ms Schneider. You raised the question of citizens and businesses to bring them along, and I think this is a crucial question on how we can work, and I know also that you have worked hard on that in this Parliament. And I think it's important that we have this on our radar.

As President von der Leyen has said in her political guidelines, there is this urgency of both decarbonise and industrialise our economy at the same time. And as I said in my opening remarks, in this House, together we have done a lot of historical progress on the Green Deal, but obviously we also need to speed up and scale up our work.

I think that the Clean Industrial Deal is where it's going to happen and I think that, together with Stéphane Séjourné, we will also set the path.

I think this is an opportunity for the EU both to go on the competitiveness and have it clean. And here I also would say that I totally agree with Mr Draghi and Mr Letta on their analysis that the EU is lagging in competitiveness, but that we can do something about it.



Also we know that our industries are on the forefront, but now we need to help them. For me, my vision is to make that with legal certainty, strong single market and policy coherence.

I would say for me, if I'm confirmed as a Commissioner, when it comes to the Green Industrial Deal, I see three main key areas: first is the circular economy: that's the key to decarbonise. The second is the chemical industry package: that will be essential. And third, we need to accelerate the permitting processes to make this happen. Thank you.

1-0011-0000

**Christine Schneider (PPE).** – Vielen herzlichen Dank für diese Ausführungen. Sie zeigen auch, dass Sie eine klare Agenda haben und wie wichtig es Ihnen ist, Umwelt-, Klima- und Ressourcenschutz auch als gesamtgesellschaftliche Aufgabe anzugehen, denn wir dürfen da niemanden auf dem Weg zurücklassen. Aber ich möchte noch mal einen Punkt betonen, weil es gerade in der letzten Legislaturperiode ein großes Problem war, dass viel Vertrauen verloren gegangen ist, dass viel versucht wurde, über Verbote zu regeln, und dass dadurch auch eine wachsende Europaskepsis zustande gekommen ist.

Und da ist die Frage, wie wir dem begegnen, denn Naturschutz und Biodiversitätsschutz werden nur funktionieren, wenn sie Hand in Hand mit der Wirtschaft gehen, mit der Industrie gehen, mit der Landwirtschaft gehen. Und deshalb noch mal meine ganz konkrete Nachfrage: Was haben Sie vor? Was sind Ihre Ziele, um dieses verloren gegangene Vertrauen wieder zurückzugewinnen? Weil es ist ganz entscheidend, dass wir auch unsere Ziele im Naturschutz erreichen, indem wir dieses Vertrauen zurückgewinnen.

1-0012-0000

**Jessika Roswall, Commissioner-designate.** – Yes, I think it's about trust. And I think also it goes hand in hand definitely when it comes to economic and environment. So I'm determined to make it easier to do sustainable businesses in Europe and my key words are modernisation, digitalisation and simplification.

So I see a couple of parts when it comes to simplification and get the people on board and regain the trust. I think first is stress-testing the existing rules that we have made, through dialogue, through the reality checks close to the stakeholders. Second is digitalisation, which is not the silver bullet to everything, but it will help. We can use it more. One thing is once-only principle, and also when it comes to implementing new rules, we will always be careful on doing it. Simple. And third or fourth, maybe, is that I will always be careful when it comes to small and medium businesses.

1-0013-0000

**Delara Burkhardt (S&D).** – Designierte Kommissarin Roswall! Auch im Namen der S&D ein herzliches Willkommen. Lassen Sie mich aber direkt zum Punkt kommen: Es war Ihre Parteienfamilie, die immer wieder versucht hat, Maßnahmen des Naturschutzes im Rahmen des *Green Deal* abzuschwächen. Sie entstammen selbst einer Regierung in Schweden, unter der nationale Umweltpolitik zurückgedreht wurde. Umso mehr freut es mich aber, dass Sie sich heute hier klar bekannt haben zu einer Umsetzung aller Maßnahmen des *Green Deal* – da nehmen wir Sie als S&D ganz klar beim Wort.

Ich habe zwei konkrete Nachfragen: Sind Ihrer Einschätzung nach weitere gesetzliche Maßnahmen erforderlich, um unsere Naturschutzziele zu erreichen? Ich denke da z. B. an den Bereich der Pestizidreduktion, aber auch an den Eintrag chemischer Stoffe in die Natur. Und die zweite Frage:

Wie werden Sie Mitgliedstaaten konkret unterstützen, unsere Naturschutzziele zu erreichen, beispielsweise bei der Moorvernässung?

1-0014-0000

**Jessika Roswall**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Thank you, Ms Burkhardt, I'm very happy that you listened carefully to my opening remark. Definitely, I think it's important for me to stay the course. I'm very clear on that and will, of course, continue with that.

So when it comes to it, I think now is time, as I said, also to go from paper to get the results. There is a lot of focus on implementation, and the Nature Restoration Law is one, as you raised, and here I will work closely with Member States and stakeholders to make that as smooth as possible so we also see the results.

That is one, then we have water, which is also very important for our environment when it comes to pollution, comes with other things, forestry, as a lot of things that are in my agenda, and I will build on all the good legislation that we, together, have made during the last mandate to really get the results.

So it's a lot of things that we have done, but also that we need to make clearer and more simpler, and I will do my best to implement them.

1-0015-0000

**Delara Burkhardt (S&D)**. – Vielen Dank schon mal für Ihre Antworten. Lassen Sie mich da noch mal nachhaken, was die Unterstützung der Mitgliedstaaten angeht. Sie haben nämlich die Rolle der Finanzierung schon angesprochen. Wir glauben, dass das ziemlich zentral ist, um nicht nur den Naturschutz zu stärken, sondern auch unsere Resilienz bei Klimaschäden. Ihr Kollege, Herr Hansen, hat gestern darüber gesprochen, den *Just Transition Fund* dafür anzapfen zu wollen. Wir glauben, dass der *Just Transition Fund* schon recht knapp bemessen ist für das Ziel, das er eigentlich verfolgt, nämlich die gerechte Transformation.

Deswegen die Nachfrage: Glauben Sie nicht, dass die EU-Agrarförderung ein richtiger Hebel ist, dort eben z. B. zu untersuchen, welche umweltschädlichen Subventionen wir damit fördern? Sehen Sie das als Ihre Aufgabe, das im Kollegium zu bearbeiten? Die zweite Frage wäre: Wie stehen Sie zur Einrichtung eines Naturschutzfonds?

1-0016-0000

**Jessika Roswall**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Absolutely, I think that financing will be key, and that's why I raised it quite maybe not early in my statement, but as I said in my statement, public funding will be important – is and will be. But we also need to look at alternatives. And that will be nature credits, but also other incentives together with other banks. When it comes to – and also maybe I will add – because you point on a very important question then – also Mr Schneider did – on getting people and businesses on board. And there it is very important that we do this transition with the help of the *Just Transition Fund*, for one example. When it comes to specifically looking for funding, I would say using the current MFF is important. I will work closely with, for example, for cohesion, with Commissioner-designate Fitto, but also on other parts of the current MFF, but also next budget will be important. I will work closely with Piotr Serafin on that one.

1-0017-0000

**Susanna Ceccardi (PFE)**. – Buonasera commissaria designata Roswall, complimenti per il Suo italiano, l'ho apprezzato molto.

Nel libro dei sogni dell'Unione europea c'è il desiderio di diventare leader globali nelle politiche ambientali, puntando sulla sostenibilità e la decarbonizzazione. Però è un desiderio che per molti assomiglia a un incubo, soprattutto per molti elettori europei che hanno severamente punito queste politiche antieconomiche, con molte imprese che si sono rivoltate rispetto alle politiche del Green Deal e molti agricoltori che hanno manifestato contro il Green Deal nei mesi scorsi.

E proprio il commissario ai Trasporti, Apostolos Tzitzikostas, ha confermato che le regole e le tempistiche per lo stop alle immatricolazioni delle auto diesel e benzina non verranno modificate.

Lei pensa che sia necessario rivedere la politica portata avanti negli ultimi cinque anni dai precedenti commissari e questo piano *green* che sta pesantemente penalizzando le imprese oppure no? E visto che ha parlato di collaborazione, cosa pensa rispetto al cordone sanitario che viene applicato nei confronti del gruppo di centro-destra dei Patrioti proprio in questo Parlamento europeo?

1-0018-0000

**Jessika Roswall**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Thank you and good evening, honourable Member. As I said in my introductory remarks and also for previous questions, I can think of no more important task than delivering clear results to protect nature and the climate, and give tangible results and benefits to our citizens.

As I see it, and I'm very committed to that, we have to stay the course when it comes to the Green Deal.

Also in that perspective, as I also said in a previous question, it's important to get the businesses and people along, that we show, both supporting and also in the just transition, so everybody is on board on this, on the green transition, but also making Europe competitive and prospering again.

So that is my strong belief, and that is my strong commitment that I will focus on if I get confirmed in the coming five years.

1-0019-0000

**Susanna Ceccardi (Pfe)**. – Grazie, anche se non ha risposto a tutte le domande che Le ho posto.

Ma, volevo capire ulteriormente: rispetto al regolamento sugli imballaggi, che è una Sua competenza e che promuove nella sua formulazione il riuso, senza dare sufficiente considerazione al riciclo, riciclo che rappresenta invece un settore in cui l'Italia, il mio Paese, ha investito molto e ha raggiunto una posizione di leadership in Europa anche rispetto ad altri Paesi.

Volevo capire se Lei manterrà questo approccio nel regolamento imballaggi, quindi favorendo il riuso invece del riciclo, oppure darà possibilità agli Stati membri di raggiungere gli obiettivi perseguendo però quella che è la via che alcuni Paesi hanno elaborato e sviluppato maggiormente.

Nel caso dell'Italia, noi abbiamo raggiunto gli obiettivi sulla differenziazione e sul riciclo addirittura molti anni prima rispetto agli obiettivi prefissati. Quindi, volevo capire il suo approccio rispetto al regolamento imballaggi.

1-0020-0000

**Jessika Roswall**, *Commissioner-designate*. – No, but, as I said, a lot of legislation has been done. My most and foremost in the centre of this mandate will be to implement in the most efficient and simple way. So when it comes to local legislation, that you raised, for example, is enforced and has

been. But I would say that one thing that you touched on, which is really quite important for me, is the circularity, because I think that we really need to do more, we have done a lot, but we need to do more. And for me, that is the kind of words that you use – reuse, recycle and reduce – I will focus on all these things. And I think that all our Member States and all of our citizens also deserve that. And they expect that of us.

1-0021-0000

**Alexandr Vondra (ECR).** – Well, thank you very much, welcome here. So, the water resilience is definitely an issue which may require a proper European answer. However, 'one size fits all' can actually cause harm too, as you admit.

So how do you plan to balance the need for compliance with flexibility and the subsidiarity principle, given that water challenges vary widely across regions?

What specific incentives will you offer to help regions, farmers and businesses to fit their unique needs?

Additionally, considering the budget constraint, how will you prioritise the investment in water infrastructure?

And finally, do you foresee a significant role for the public-private partnerships that do not overly rely on increased public spending?

1-0022-0000

**Jessika Roswall, Commissioner-designate.** – Thank you, honourable Member, Mr Vondra, I also would like to thank you on your valuable work when it comes to being a shadow rapporteur on many important proposals, for example, the end-of-life-vehicle proposal.

When it comes to water management, that is very much on my mind today, but probably a lot of others also, due to the terrible situation in Valencia and all of Spain.

So I would start with saying that I will act quickly when it comes to the water resilience initiative, and I see that water management is an important question, but of course – and on this one as well I will work closely of course with Commissioner-designate Hoekstra and also Hadja Lahbib – but as you mentioned, this is also something that we have different situation in different regions and different Member States. And I would say that we need to work on all levels together.

I also want to say that there are very innovative solutions around the European Union that we need to build on. And there is also where financing will play a crucial part. I'm open to work on the broader perspective, when it comes to public and private financing.

I don't have all the solutions here today, but I think this is a crucial because we all know the situation on infrastructure, when it comes to water management, is not working very well around the European Union.

But I think one thing that is striking me is that we need to work more together and exchange best practices. I know the work is already going, but I think we can level this up because we need also to make the water legislation more simple and more streamlined.

1-0023-0000

**Alexandr Vondra (ECR).** – So, from a bit different corner, with rising demand for critical raw materials driven by electrification, the EU faces significant risk due to a reliance on uncertain imports from the third countries.

To meet the target of 25 % recycling rate by 2030, what action will you take to strengthen the recycling and recovery systems, making secondary raw market material less costly than those on the primary market?

So you argue that the virgin materials are too cheap and they are too costly, so are you going to raise the prices of the virgin, or are you going down the secondary market? That's what the consumers are interested in.

How would you ensure that future single market for circular economy would not bring additional burden for the businesses, particularly for SMEs?

1-0024-0000

**Jessika Roswall, Commissioner-designate.** – Thank you for a very relevant question, and I also raised it in my opening statement because I think and I know that Mr Draghi spelled it out in his report, that EU could potentially meet more than half to three quarters of its metric requirements for clean technology in 2050 through recycling.

Now, as you say, virgin material is too expensive. So what can we do? One thing is that it's an opportunity. We need to make this single market really work, and we need to use our single market because both is important due to the environment, but also to our own resilience.

And I would say that I will look into a lot of things, both when it comes to incentives, but I also know we need to look for skills, we need to look on collection, we need to look on the infrastructure when it comes to the secondary raw material.

So it's a lot of things that I will absolutely look into, but I think here we have an opportunity and possibility if we do things right.

1-0025-0000

**Pascal Canfin (Renew).** – Madame la Commissaire désignée, au nom du groupe Renew, je vous souhaite la bienvenue en commission de l'environnement. Nous sommes évidemment très attentifs à ce que vous avez dit dans vos propos introductifs sur le fait qu'il n'y ait pas de retour en arrière, mais au contraire la confirmation du cap qui a été donné dans le mandat précédent avec le pacte vert, et évidemment sur la nécessité de le mettre en œuvre correctement aujourd'hui.

Ma question porte sur l'une des lois qui a fait l'objet de la plus grande polarisation, notamment de la part de votre famille politique et de l'extrême droite, c'est la loi sur la restauration de la nature. En deux minutes, pouvez-vous nous dire pourquoi avec vous, ce sera différent, pourquoi il n'y aura pas de polarisation et pourquoi vous serez capable d'expliquer à votre propre famille politique que protéger la nature, c'est aussi s'adapter au climat et protéger les rendements agricoles.

1-0026-0000

**Jessika Roswall, Commissioner-designate.** – Thank you, honourable Member, Mr Canfin, for raising this. I know you've been very engaged in this. We have had discussions on this. Yes, I can be very clear, and I think I was also in my opening remarks, because I think we all agree on the objectives of

the Nature Restoration Law. For me, now we have the Nature Restoration Law, I will do my utmost to implement it in close connection with the stakeholders and Member States.

It was true when I said in my first statement that if we lose nature and biodiversity, we also lose resilience. Also it's a foundation, it's important for our economy. Without nature we cannot move on the competitiveness agenda either. So I'm fully committed to implementing and doing my work when it comes to enforcement on the legislation, and also when it comes to other international aspects, because the Nature Restoration Law is a huge, important part of our global engagement when it comes to reaching our global targets from the Kunming-Montreal.

So for my sake I will say implementation is important; simplification and reducing unnecessary burdens, and that is important also using digitalisation. Also close contact with the Member States and also using AI, maybe. So I'm open to discussing this further with you, but I think for me I see it as necessary to restore and uphold nature.

1-0027-0000

**Pascal Canfin (Renew).** – Une deuxième question, sur une autre loi concernant la protection de la nature, celle sur la déforestation importée. Vous venez d'un pays, la Suède, qui a voté non seulement contre la loi sur la restauration de la nature, mais aussi contre la loi sur la déforestation importée. Nous avons donc, je pense, la responsabilité de nous assurer que vous agirez bien en commissaire européenne, et non pas en défendant les positions minoritaires sur ce sujet de votre pays, qui est par ailleurs très ambitieux sur d'autres sujets qui sont dans votre portefeuille.

Ma question est donc: sur la loi sur la déforestation importée, pouvez-vous vous engager aujourd'hui à soutenir la mise en œuvre de la loi, rien que la loi, mais toute la loi?

1-0028-0000

**Jessika Roswall, Commissioner-designate.** – On the Deforestation Law, I also want to remind us all of the objectives of why we have made this decision, and also that the Commission moves forward from the initiative from the European Parliament. I will absolutely commit to implementing that, also. We have also discussed the additional 12-month period of phasing in this law. I think that was a good balance, and I will do my utmost also to discuss this with other stakeholders, with third countries and others.

I understand the underlying tone in your question – coming from Sweden can you really trust me on doing this? Yes, you can. I'm here asking you for the trust to be a Commissioner, not the Swedish Ambassador to the EU, but the Commissioner. And in that role I will of course serve and represent the whole of the EU.

1-0029-0000

**Sara Matthieu (Verts/ALE).** – Also on behalf of the Greens, welcome, Ms Commissioner-designate.

I think it's very good to hear how much importance you put into circularity, but also into reduction. So to dive into that, you know that the JRC has said that the European resource use actually accounts for 70 % to 97 % of what can be provided sustainably for the entire world, but of course we only represent 6% of the global population, so I think it's clear that is really unsustainable. And that's of course why we as a parliament, but also the Council, have laid down in the eighth environmental action programme that an EU-wide reduction target of our material and our consumption footprint should be set for 2030. So to get there, I think we really need a clear governance framework for

sustainable resource use, similar to what we have on the EU climate policy, something actually the Council has asked for as well in its 17 June Council conclusions. So do you commit to set up such a framework including a significant and binding reduction target for our material and consumption footprint by 2025? Of course, as a cornerstone to the new clean industrial deal.

1-0030-0000

**Jessika Roswall**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Thank you, honourable Member Matthieu, for raising the circularity, because it's really important for me. And I think it's key, also, to combine the sustainability together with the competitiveness and especially key in the clean industrial deal. And as you say, circularity is also essential to reduce our environmental footprint. And that's why I also talk about reduce and recycle, which we talked about you and I earlier.

I would like to say that targets is one thing that is important. We have it on climate. I think that has served us well. It also shows us the path where we are going to and the directions in the circular economy. We have targets in certain sectors like plastic and batteries.

On the specific question you raised, I will of course commit to look into and see if and how we can see on the Circular Economy Act to set up governance for how we can reach our goals – because for me, the important thing is how we can get the results on both secondary materials, as mentioned by Mr Vondra, but also on other objectives that are important for getting the real circularity. So I will absolutely continue working together with you and others on getting the results on the circular economy.

1-0031-0000

**Sara Matthieu (Verts/ALE)**. – Maybe to dive a little bit deeper into it, I'm glad that you indeed say we need a governance for this and that you indeed also confirm that if we look at the climate policy, we really see the force of those quantified binding targets, that they are really powerful drivers for change.

I think that that's really what we need to make sure that we actually reach that reduction. And I think it's important also to state, and you've mentioned it, that it's not just important to help us move within those planetary boundaries, but also to improve our European competitiveness and to create jobs.

So maybe more specifically then, will you commit to work on that, in particular when it comes to critical raw materials? Because, well, as you know, the CRM Act does ask the Commission to take action on resource efficiency in order to mitigate the increase for the demands of those CRMs. So what would you do on that, and how will you help the Member States include that in their national plans?

1-0032-0000

**Jessika Roswall**, *Commissioner-designate*. – I referred to Draghi earlier this night, and I think we have seen a lot of reports recently which is good in many ways, but also on the critical raw materials, I think he is spot on it when it comes to, I already raised it, how important it is that we use the secondary materials, but also see the opportunity – if we do this right, we really have an opportunity to make Europe both greener and more competitive.

I touched a lot on some things that I would like to do when it comes to the circular economy, but on the specific question that you have, to say it out, the critical raw material act is on Stéphane Séjourné, but, of course, I will be on the secondary materials and also when it comes to the waste.

(*Inaudible*) I know there's an ongoing evaluation on the Extractive Waste Directive, which we will of course look into and follow up. And I'm looking forward to working together with you.

1-0033-0000

**Jonas Sjöstedt (The Left).** – Välkommen hit, Jessika Roswall. De senaste två åren har du suttit i Sveriges regering, och det är en regering som har gjort en historisk nedmontering av svensk klimat- och miljöpolitik. Det är regeringens aktiva beslut som har lett till att Sverige nu ökar utsläppen av växthusgaser och inte ser ut att klara de mål på klimatområdet som EU har satt upp. Regeringen har gjort dramatiska nedskärningar i anslagen för att bevara värdefull natur och när det gäller naturvård. Det gör det väldigt svårt för Sverige att klara EU:s krav vad gäller naturrestaurering. Den svenska skogspolitiken gör det svårt att klara målen om biodiversitet och försvårar också möjligheterna att klara målen för klimatpolitiken. Hur tycker du att den svenska regeringens politik har varit? Har den varit lyckad?

Min andra fråga är, om ett land gör som Sveriges regering har gjort, hur kommer du att agera som kommissionär för att se till att man följer EU-rätten?

1-0034-0000

**Jessika Roswall, Nominerad kommissionsledamot.** – Tack Jonas. Jag kommer också att prata svenska.

Du ställer flera frågor, och den ena delen handlar ju om tillämpningen och genomförandet av regler, och som jag sa i mitt inledningsanförande kommer det att vara av avgörande stor vikt i mitt arbete och högst upp på min agenda. Jag kommer i det arbetet att både fördjupa den inre marknaden och genomföra mina och våra prioriteringar på miljöområdet: några saker som jag tagit upp om cirkulär ekonomi, bioekonomi, vattenresiliens. För mig handlar det om en likabehandling, det vill säga att alla medlemsstater ska genomföra de gemensamma regler som vi bestämmer.

Men också kommer jag att behandla alla medlemsstater lika. Jag hoppas också att jag var tydlig i mitt inledningsanförande. I första hand kommer jag att föra en dialog med medlemsstaterna, om jag blir godkänd som kommissionär. Men jag kommer också att titta på hur jag kan hjälpa till att effektivt implementera de regler som vi har fattat beslut om. Men jag kommer – och jag kommer att vara tydlig här – jag kommer inte att tveka att vidta andra åtgärder när jag finner det nödvändigt. För mig som jurist är det viktigt att alla följer alla våra gemensamma regler.

Avslutningsvis kan jag bara svara för mig att det här arbetet handlar om att vi tillsammans ska driva miljöarbetet vidare i den riktning som vi har beslutat om. Och för mig, som sagt, är det här typiskt sådana regler där vi gemensamt gagnas av det. Jag har själv varit med att fatta viktiga beslut de senaste åren vad gäller den gröna agendan. Till exempel reglerna kring 55 %-paketet som vi avhandlade under det svenska ordförandeskapet. Tack!

1-0035-0000

**Jonas Sjöstedt (The Left).** – Tack för svaren, Jessika Roswall. Låt mig formulera frågorna på ett annat sätt. Anser du att Sverige – den svenska regeringen – har varit bra nog, för att klara målen i EU:s miljö- och klimatpolitik? Ja eller nej? Den andra frågan: Vad ska kommissionär Roswall göra om hon möter en regering med minister Roswall, som för den politik som Sverige har fört? Vilka verktyg kommer EU-kommissionen att använda för att se till att ett sådant land faktiskt genomför det man har lovat?



1-0036-0000

**Jessika Roswall**, *Nominerad kommissionsledamot*. – Tack! Jag tyckte att jag var tydlig i mitt förra svar, men jag kan upprepa det. För det första tycker jag att det är viktigt att alla medlemsstater genomför den lagstiftning som vi gemensamt har fattat beslut om. Det har jag tyckt förut, och det tycker jag fortfarande. Jag kommer i första hand att med medlemsstaterna ha en dialog.

Jag kommer att hjälpa till att på ett effektivt sätt implementera de lagar som vi har fattat beslut om. Men jag kommer heller inte att tveka att vidta andra åtgärder som finns i verktygslådan för de medlemsstater som inte uppfyller de gemensamma kraven. Det är viktigt för mig. Det är viktigt för mig som person, och det är viktigt för mig som advokat. Och det är viktigt, tror jag, för att vi ska lyckas med den gröna omställningen och för att vi ska få en konkurrenskraftig union.

Det tycker jag har blivit väldigt tydligt i de rapporter som jag har lite grann snuddat vid tidigare ikväll, både Letta-rapporten och Draghi-rapporten. Tack!

1-0037-0000

**Anja Arndt (ESN)**. – Sehr geehrte Frau Roswall! Schweden hat ja, wie bekannt, kein Problem mit Wölfen. Aber in meiner Heimat in Deutschland haben Wölfe allein in der kleinen Gemeinde Jemgum in den letzten drei Monaten 32 Schafe, vier Rinder, zwei Kälber und etliche Lämmer gerissen. Für die Landwirte in Deutschland ist es nicht nur erschütternd, wenn sie ihre Tiere, die sie gehegt und gepflegt haben, noch teilweise lebend, angefressen oder völlig zerfetzt auf der Weide finden. Erschütternd ist für sie vor allem, wie sie von der Kommission mit diesem grassierenden Problem alleingelassen werden.

Auch Menschen sind inzwischen akut gefährdet. Wölfe haben die Scheu vor Menschen verloren – in den Niederlanden wurde ein Kind und in Italien kürzlich ein Radrennfahrer verfolgt und gebissen. Sie kommen an Schulen, in Siedlungen und Ställe. Die Angst in Deutschland und in der Europäischen Union wächst. In der EU leben 20 000 Wölfe, in einem Jahr werden es schon 26 000 sein. Keiner darf bisher geschossen werden. Was werden Sie tun, um dieses Umweltproblem zu lösen?

1-0038-0000

**Jessika Roswall**, *Nominerad kommissionsledamot*. – Jo, jag bor faktiskt i ett område där det finns varg.

Sorry! I forgot I was supposed to speak English!

I live in an area in Sweden where we have wolves, so I would say that I am very aware of the tendencies between people, and I'm also very aware of the situation for farmers. We have had a discussion on how the recovery of the wolf population has looked in recent years. We also have a Commission proposal in line with the European Parliament's opinion, and the Council has also agreed with the clear majority to propose to reduce the protection status of the wolf under the Bern Convention. If that is agreed, it would lead to similar changes in the EU legislation, and then we will also adopt the protection level of wolves under EU law. That said, I would also remind everybody that Member States still have the possibility to maintain a higher level of protection if they deem it necessary.

So that is what I'm going to do if the Bern Convention decision will be, as we suppose, in early December.

1-0040-0000

**Anja Arndt (ESN).** – Herzlichen Dank für die Antwort. Wenn jetzt im Dezember auf der Sitzung des Ständigen Ausschusses der Berner Konvention das Problem zur Abstimmung vorgelegt wird und der Wolf von einer streng geschützten Tierart zu einer geschützten Tierart herabgesetzt wird, dann tritt ja drei Monate später die Änderung in Kraft. Aber in der EU wäre die Senkung des Schutzniveaus dennoch nicht sofort anwendbar, denn in der EU müsste dann erst einmal die Habitat-Richtlinie geändert werden. Und das erfordert wieder einen Rechtsvorschlag der Kommission, welcher in den Ausschüssen in Parlament und Rat noch beschlossen werden muss, und das dauert sehr lang.

Das Wolfsproblem ist aber extrem akut für viele Menschen und vor allem auch für die Landwirte. Und wie könnte das beschleunigt werden?

1-0041-0000

**Jessika Roswall, Commissioner-designate.** – Two reflections on that. Yes, maybe we think that the EU sometimes takes too long to make decisions, and sometimes it also takes a long time to implement. But for me – and that’s in the core of my agenda to implement – that doesn’t particularly come to rules. But I think for me it’s important that we do the implementation of a lot of legislation in an effective way. The other part of that question is also, maybe being a lawyer, I would say that for me, it’s really important that we follow our procedures by the rule of law, that the decisions that we make are made in good regulation and that we follow the rules that we have. So both, of course, efficient, but also according to the rule of law.

1-0042-0000

**Antonio Decaro, Presidente della commissione ENVI.** – È terminata la prima sessione.

Passiamo adesso alla seconda fase con gli interventi dei membri della commissione ENVI. Avremo tre minuti: un minuto per la domanda e due minuti per la risposta della commissaria designata: un minuto per ogni domanda.

Stiamo rispettando i tempi: siamo fuori di sei minuti, quindi siamo stati bravi, anzi siete stati bravi!

1-0043-0000

**Susana Solís Pérez (PPE).** – Señora comisaria propuesta, gracias por sus condolencias. Desde aquí la invitamos a que su primera visita como comisaria a España sea precisamente a Valencia, donde esa terrible DANA se ha cobrado la vida de más de doscientas personas y miles se han quedado prácticamente sin nada: una tragedia que también pone en evidencia la falta de preparación de Europa ante fenómenos meteorológicos extremos que cada vez son más frecuentes, y precisamente usted como comisaria tendría la responsabilidad de la resiliencia hídrica. Para que estas catástrofes no vuelvan a ocurrir tenemos que trabajar en prevención y mitigación.

Tengo dos preguntas precisamente al respecto. La primera es sobre el mantenimiento de las cuencas hidrográficas, porque en la Directiva marco sobre el agua se exige a los Estados miembros que evalúen el estado ecológico y químico de las aguas, pero no se requiere a los Estados que evalúen el riesgo de inundaciones, y después de lo ocurrido en Valencia me gustaría, señora comisaria propuesta, tener su compromiso de poner en marcha un plan integral de cuencas hidrográficas que obligue a los países a informar a la Comisión también sobre la seguridad de sus cuencas, su mantenimiento y su preparación ante posibles inundaciones.

Mi segunda pregunta es sobre esa nueva estrategia europea de resiliencia hídrica que ha mencionado, donde es imprescindible que se aborden tanto las sequías como las inundaciones:

¿cómo planea coordinarse con la comisaria de Preparación y Gestión de Crisis para reforzar la protección civil ante catástrofes como la DANA?

1-0044-0000

**Jessika Roswall**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Thank you, honourable Member Ms Solís, you raised a very important question tonight and again, this disaster of Spain following extreme weather event is a tragedy for Spain, a tragedy for Europe. The images and the testimonies that we have witnessed in all of Europe has been heartbreaking.

Let me start again to send my deepest condolences, but also now I think the time is for all Europe to show our support and solidarity to Spain to recover as quickly as possible.

This is also, as I mentioned rapidly in my opening remarks, that we have seen floodings all over Europe for many years now, and it was some years ago that we talked that this will be once in a century, but now we see it's the new normal. So that, of course, is why it's so important for me to start working on the water resilience strategy urgently, as quick as possible.

And as you had a lot of questions, then maybe I will not go in deep today, but I will also remind us all that the cost of doing nothing is also very, very high.

And I see a lot of things when it comes to the resilience strategy. We need to, as you pointed out, manage our river and waters in an integrated matter across borders. This will help us to reduce the damages when rainfall comes in these quantities as it has in Spain.

We need to focus also on nature-based solutions, we need to do that better. Also it is important that we do this in close contact and work together with the stakeholders and that also we have very good, innovative solutions around the EU.

Just briefly, I would say on your point on watershed safety, I will look into this very urgently because we see with our own eyes the urgency to start working on this.

1-0045-0000

**Javi López (S&D)**. – Agradezco a la comisaria propuesta los comentarios y las apreciaciones sobre la tragedia que hemos tenido en Valencia muy recientemente. Añadiría que la mejor forma de combatir algo que hemos reconocido aquí como uno de los efectos del cambio climático es luchar contra este y ser ambiciosos al combatirlo, porque en todas las intervenciones que hemos tenido lo hemos valorado como eso, como uno de los efectos meteorológicos de mucho impacto, que cada vez son más recurrentes y tienen mayor intensidad.

No obstante, mi pregunta hoy tiene que ver con el Plan de Acción de la UE «Contaminación cero para el aire, el agua y el suelo» y, especialmente, también con las nuevas Directivas que la Comisión espera presentar durante el siguiente mandato. Sabemos que necesitamos un enfoque integral que aborde todos los contaminantes clave y todas sus fuentes porque reconocemos que un medio ambiente limpio y saludable y sostenible es un derecho humano. Mi pregunta es sobre la Directiva sobre techos nacionales de emisión: ¿quiere usted regular el amoníaco y garantizar la inclusión del metano en la nueva propuesta que tiene que hacer durante este mandato? En segundo lugar, quería saber si vamos a tener una aplicación efectiva de todas las leyes del Plan de Acción ya mencionado, así como de la nueva Directiva relativa a la calidad del aire ambiente y a una atmósfera más limpia en Europa que recientemente hemos aprobado.

1-0046-0000

**Jessika Roswall**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Thank you, honourable Member López and you're right on underlining the importance of zero pollution – and as I said in my first statement, I didn't say maybe a human right, but for my daughter and granddaughter – of course, this is very important for all of us and it's vital for all humans, but it also important for the environment. I am fully committed to the 2021 zero pollution action plan and its targets that we have made for 2030 and 2050.

And you and I know that more than 90% of the zero pollution action agenda has already been implemented, and that we also see that we do improvements when it comes to air quality, but we also need to do more because we see that some emissions are increasing again, for example, when it comes to transports. So it is clearly something that we need to work more on. I see many things that we need to do: it's about timely implementation of existing legislation, support for Member States also and finalising the ongoing legislation on, for example, surface water and soil monitoring and also an evaluation on other legislations like this. Noise pollution is also important for the next step. I will also be very careful when it comes to new initiatives when it comes to zero pollution, for example, water resilience, but also on the Chemical Industry Act that I will look into.

I will get back to you on the typical specific questions that you asked. But I think that, we have the same objectives here, and it's important that we really move forward and as quickly as possible. If confirmed Commissioner, I will look into it.

1-0047-0000

**Radan Kanev (PPE)**. – Thank you, Commissioner-designate, especially for your really positive and pragmatic approach today. Preparing for these hearings I had meetings with many Bulgarian and European industries, and they all expressed that a stronger legal framework and enhanced financial incentives for reuse and recycling of industrial by-products could bolster the industrial value chain, facilitate transition to net zero and reduce dependency on imports from third countries. There are so many promising synergies between different industries where we can use waste by-products for feedstock in another industry, but they really lack appropriate financing and that results in higher pollution and high CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

So my question is this: what measures are you considering as part of the Circular Economy Act for targeted financial support for such industrial synergies? And what reward-based mechanisms do you envision as well?

1-0048-0000

**Jessika Roswall**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Thank you, Mr Kanev. My view is that we have been talking about the circular economy for a long time. We have done a lot, but our first framework is from the 1970s, actually. The first circular economy action plan was adopted in 2015, and we now have the Green Deal. We have taken important steps when it comes to batteries, eco-design, green claims and right to repair, but we still don't have the results that we need, and I think that is a little bit what you're looking at. I will take this really seriously, but I do believe that there is a momentum now that we all can build on if we do this right.

One thing I think we really need is a single market for circularity. That will be important for the environment, but it will also drive the economy and resilience, as I pointed out earlier.

What will I do? I think one thing is that this is a key part of the Clean Industrial Deal. I pointed out some things earlier in a previous answer, but I think for me it's important to implement the legislation that we have. I mentioned some of that, but eco-design for sustainable products is one

that I'm going to work on as a first step. And then of course there is strengthening the secondary market for raw materials, which I was talking about earlier, and also creating a real single market for waste.

We need to harmonise a lot of rules. We need to streamline and simplify. We also need a level playing field when it comes to the external position. I would say that also I would come back again to streamlining and simplification: that will be key if we will have success in the circular economy.

1-0049-0000

**Anne-Sophie Frigout (PFE).** – Madame la Commissaire, les entreprises européennes sont aujourd'hui confrontées à une avalanche de nouvelles normes environnementales et de sécurité des produits. Ces centaines d'exigences supplémentaires, même si elles sont animées de bonnes intentions, étouffent l'innovation et menacent la viabilité économique de nombreuses petites entreprises. Comment envisagez-vous de préserver la compétitivité de celles-ci face à cet excès de régulation qui risque de les asphyxier, voire de les pousser à la fermeture?

Puis je voudrais évoquer la question des éoliennes, qui me tient particulièrement à cœur puisque je viens d'un territoire français, la Marne, qui en est littéralement saturée. Or, cela fait des années que l'on sait que les éoliennes sont une arnaque à tous les niveaux. Ce sont des installations d'inutilité publique que nous importons de Chine, qui produisent une électricité intermittente et très chère, et qui défigurent nos paysages. Par ailleurs, de nombreuses recherches démontrent leurs conséquences néfastes sur les écosystèmes, qu'elles soient situées en mer ou sur terre. Donc, comment justifiez-vous la poursuite de cette politique d'implantation intensive alors que ses gains écologiques sont quasi nuls, qu'elle a causé une explosion des prix de l'électricité pour le consommateur et que l'on connaît l'impact nocif sur la biodiversité?

1-0050-0000

**Jessika Roswall, Commissioner-designate.** – Honourable Member, if I may go back to when I was the minister of EU affairs during the Swedish Presidency, I think that one thing that we worked very hard on was making Europe greener, freer and safer. And that was combining 'greener' and 'safer' in that way that we need for prosperity and that we need to be more competitive.

And as I already talked about the Draghi Report and the Letta Report, I think their analysis is very clear. Yes, there are a lot of rules and the burden is too heavy in many ways. And that is also in all our designated commissioners mission letters, that we need to make the rules and the EU more efficient.

But I do believe that there is a possibility here if we do it right. And from my point of view, competitiveness and environment are two side of the same coin. And I would say that I will do the utmost to do – and I think it's definitely possible to do – the European Union possibility to have sustainable businesses. And our businesses are actually in the forefront. They are driving the green transition in many ways. And we need, as I said to Mr Schneider on an earlier question, help and support them on the path.

And so then, of course, another question that was raised from you, maybe more for Commissioner-designate Jørgensen, but of course, a lot of our work – and I said that in my opening remarks – we will need to work closely together, a lot of us in the Commission, and that is a good thing because when it comes to the environment, that is nothing that is solely for me to handle. It's something that crosses the lines, which I see as a possibility also for me.

1-0051-0000

**Beatrice Timgren (ECR).** – Välkommen till Bryssel! Sedan 2019 har EU infört 13 000 nya lagar – jämfört med 3 500 i USA. Det här hämmar innovation och konkurrenskraft och urholkar självbestämmandet. Skogsfrågorna borde vara, och är enligt fördragen, nationella. Trots detta driver EU igenom avverkningsförbud av stora arealer för att de ska fungera som kolsänkor, så att Tyskland kan fortsätta att elda kol.

En ekonomisk förlustaffär som ökar risken för bränder och skadedjur och undergräver själva klimatnyttan. Du vet redan hur viktig skogsindustrin är för finsk och svensk ekonomi, vilket även påverkar EU:s konkurrenskraft. Beslut om vår skog bör fattas av personer med djup förståelse för skogen och industrin, och inte detaljstyras från Bryssel. Kan du ge ett klart besked till våra skogsägare att inga fler orealistiska krav införs? Och ta ägarskap över skogsfrågorna innan någon mindre lämpad socialdemokrat gör detta?

1-0052-0000

**Jessika Roswall, Nominerad kommissionsledamot.** – Tack Beatrice! Jag är glad att du tar upp frågan om skogen, och jag vill gärna passa på att dela min vision på det här viktiga området. Som du vet kommer jag från en del av Sverige som har väldigt mycket stora, vidsträckta skogar. Jag är övertygad om att jag i min roll som kommissionär, om jag blir godkänd, kommer att ha nytta av den kunskapen som jag har av den svenska skogen och det svenska skogsbruket. Med det sagt vill jag vara tydlig – precis som jag var med Jonas Sjöstedt tidigare – med att i den här utfrågningen handlar det om att jag ber om ert förtroende om att bli kommissionär.

Som kommissionär kommer jag alltid att ha det europeiska perspektivet och arbeta för det europeiska allmänintresset. Med det sagt är våra skogar nationella skatter som präglar våra respektive länders både kultur och historia. Samtidigt är vår skog också vår gemensamma natur och vår biologiska mångfald, som är gränsöverskridande. Det är därför skogen också har ett sådant stort värde, och det finns också en tydlig roll för unionen på policyområden som påverkar skogen.

För friska skogar är centrala för EU-policy för klimatanpassningar, för återställande av natur eller för bioekonomi och vattenresiliens. Men avslutningsvis vill jag också säga att skogen har så mycket att bidra med. Skogen har betytt så oerhört mycket för generationer och kommer att fortsätta göra det för generationer. Men vi behöver en frisk skog för vårt klimat som bidrar till både kolsänka men också för bioekonomin.

1-0053-0000

**Martin Hojsík (Renew).** – Commissioner-designate, now I didn't hear certain words in your introductory statement, and those were 'human health'. I really appreciate that you talked about the chemical package and industry, but children are born with hazardous chemicals in their bodies. It is not new: scientists have been warning about this for years. It's not only non-hazardous chemicals: I'm happy that you mentioned PFAS. We have a really substantial problem with endocrine-disrupting chemicals or EDCs. Fertility is declining because our bodies are simply being attacked by hazardous chemicals.

So I wonder – and I would really like to hear a very concrete answer – what you will do to ensure that we identify and restrict endocrine-disrupting chemicals, especially in consumer products, that we will use this to also cover products imported into our market, and that we will use it to spur innovation.

1-0054-0000

**Jessika Roswall**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Thank you for giving me the time to mention some important aspects on REACH and chemicals. Let me start by commending you on your work as the rapporteur on 'one substance', because I would say that 'one substance, one assessment' is an example of how we can and have to streamline and simplify when we need to. And that's a good example. I know also that that's a good example of how we can see that all our agencies work together.

If I get confirmed, I will say that I will work quickly together with Stéphane Séjourné on the revision of REACH and also when it comes to moving forward on the proposal, as I said, into 2025. I will say that we need to use the impact assessments that have been already ongoing; of course we will maybe do some adjustments, but I think that we will use the work that is ongoing, as I said. We need to have this clear, both from a competitiveness point of view but also on the health and environmental issues. I will be very mindful of the work that has already been done and I have no intention to delay this process.

On the endocrines I think that's an example of why we should do the modernisation of the REACH, because that was an old legislation, a very good and important one, but we need to have more information on the endocrines so that the public and children and everybody also know where these harmful substances are in our products.

1-0055-0000

**Heléne Fritzon (S&D)**. – Välkommen Sveriges kandidat, Jessika Roswall! Du har lovat att revisionen av Reach blir av redan nästa år, och jag går direkt till mina frågor.

Hur ska du säkerställa att de nuvarande höga skyddsnivåerna för hälsa och miljö inte sänks i samband med att du vill förenkla reglerna? Jag tänker till exempel på om man frångår individuella tillstånd för användningen av farliga ämnen.

Vad är din tidsplan för att förbjuda PFAS i konsumentprodukter som du har lovat? Och vilka kriterier ska gälla för att avgöra om användningen av PFAS i industrin är nödvändig för samhället eller inte? Och slutligen en fråga för våra barn och barnbarns framtid: vad är din syn på en långsiktig plan för ett PFAS-förbud inom EU?

1-0056-0000

**Jessika Roswall**, *Nominerad kommissionsledamot*. – Tack, Heléne! Låt mig börja med att tacka för frågan och tacka för det arbete som jag vet att du har gjort – om många andra viktiga frågor, men också om avfallsdirektivet. Jag har inte pratat så mycket om det, men har pratat om cirkulär ekonomi. Vad gäller då PFAS eller evighetskemikalier som tidigare frågan också tog upp. Det kan ju orsaka väldigt allvarliga problem för människors hälsa och för vår miljö. Som jag har skrivit i mina skriftliga svar kommer jag, om jag blir godkänd som kommissionär, att arbeta med den här viktiga frågan tillsammans med Stéphane Séjourné.

För tydligheten kring användningen av PFAS är oerhört viktig för att vi som konsumenter ska kunna känna oss säkra på att de produkter som vi använder är ofarliga. Samtidigt förväntar sig och kräver våra företag klara besked för att de ska kunna planera sin verksamhet och för att de ska kunna göra de nödvändiga investeringar som behövs, också för att ställa om och byta ut farliga kemikalier.

Och ja, som jag skrev och också sa, kommer jag att arbeta så fort som möjligt med att försöka få klarhet, men kommer också att arbeta för att förbjuda PFAS i konsumentvaror såsom kosmetika, livsmedel och ytterkläder. Exakt tidpunkt för detta är svårt att säga, men jag kommer att snabba på

den processen så fort som möjligt, och jag vet att du också vet att det finns en ansökan från fem medlemsstater som jag lämnat in till Europeiska kemikaliemyndigheten.

Jag kommer, som jag svarade på min tidigare fråga här, försöka ta del eller dra nytta av det arbete som redan har skett, så att vi kan både göra en rigorös process och också skynda på. Nu hann jag tyvärr inte svara på alla dina frågor, men jag kommer att jobba vidare också i nära samarbete med dig.

1-0057-0000

**Alexander Bernhuber (PPE).** – Dear Commissioner-designate, your mission statement includes the development of a new bioeconomy and the development of the European Bauhaus. You mentioned it already in your statement at the beginning, and you mentioned the importance of forests.

In Europe, both forest area and the wood supply have increased in recent decades, which is an important factor when it comes to fighting against climate change and when we want to reach our climate neutrality goals till 2050.

Nevertheless, numerous legislative files of the European Green Deal aimed to reduce the use of wood to even less wood than we use right now, or make the use of wood more difficult through bureaucracy or expensive certification systems.

So what strategy and measures are you considering to scale up the bioeconomy and ensure the protection and the sustainable use of forests?

1-0058-0000

**Jessika Roswall, Commissioner-designate.** – Thank you very much Mr Bernhuber, and thank you for the question on bioeconomy, because this is an area, as I stated earlier, where we can do so much more. Of course I know a lot of the work that you have already done when it comes to this and also on forestry and forestry monitoring law.

I see that this is an opportunity, and we have to remind ourselves how this is an important part of our economy already today. It's big, comparable with automobile, but it's growing, also, and the demand for sustainable, fossil-free products is also growing. So we have had good laws, we have had good innovations, but we need to really go from the from the lab to the fab, so to speak, in order to reach our climate goals.

So in the bioeconomy strategy I want to explore, I would say, the full potential of the bioeconomy – how can it contribute to competitiveness and to prosperity and circularity, and also, in the EU, in the Clean Industrial Deal? And maybe I didn't mention that earlier, but I would have, because it's an important part. But as you also point out, it's important that we also manage to do this right, because we need to use the resources in a sustainable way. So of course I would do this in a sustainable way, but I also want to mention that this is also an opportunity for farmers and for foresters, but I will put a lot of things in this strategy. I will use the technologies, look into different sectors. I will also always protect the biodiversity. I will also always also use the materials in a sustainable way, in line with the cascade principle, and also use the waste from food and so forth. But thank you for the question.



1-0059-0000

**Pär Holmgren (Verts/ALE).** – Varmt välkommen hit till miljöutskottet, Jessika Roswall! Räddningsarbetet i Spanien pågår fortfarande efter de fruktansvärda översvämningarna, och vi vet att den här typen av naturkatastrofer, extrema väderhändelser, snabbt kommer att bli vanligare och värre nu när vi passerar en och en halv grad. Det gör att klimatanpassningsarbetet kommer att bli allt viktigare även här i Europa. Vi vet också att ett väl fungerande ekosystem, inte minst biologisk mångfald, är helt centralt för att vi ska kunna klara av just klimatanpassningen och inte minst vattenresiliensen.

Vi behöver återställa våtmarker. Vi behöver ställa om till mer naturnära skogsbruk för att minska katastrofriskerna helt enkelt, både när det gäller torka, översvämningar, skogsbränder och angrepp av skadedjur, inte minst i de svenska skogarna.

Därför har jag två frågor. För det första, kan du tänka dig att lägga fram lagstiftning med obligatoriska åtgärder för klimatanpassning och vattenresiliens, där just de naturbaserade lösningarna står i centrum? För det andra, hur kommer du att i dina politiska åtgärder i ditt ansvarsområde se till att samtidigt bidra till vattensäkerhet, minskning av katastrofrisker, förbättrad biologisk mångfald och minskad klimatpåverkan?

1-0060-0000

**Jessika Roswall, Commissioner-designate.** – Thank you, honourable Member Holmgren. *Tack, Pär.* I know the work that you have done in the Parliament in forest monitoring and textiles, but definitely, as you say, when it comes to the devastating floods in Spain last week it reminds us how important this work is. Also, I would like to add that the work of the Niinistö report also points out how important this work is, and when it comes to the climate adaptation, this work needs to be sped up, because that has also been in a report very recently for the European Environment Agency – how climate change is a risk factor and vice-versa. So we really need to speed it up. That work will be led by Commissioner-designate Hoekstra, and of course I will contribute a lot especially when it comes to water resilience.

When you talked about wetlands, I would say one important thing and part of this is the implementation of the Nature Restoration Law which I have been asked about earlier on in this hearing. And that will be a crucial part, both for the resilience of water, but also when it comes to wetlands, which are an important part of the mitigation of the climate change, and also when it comes to biodiversity loss. The Nature Restoration Law has specific provisions when it comes to wetlands, but I would say that the existing EU adaptation strategy includes also nature-based solutions that I will look into and work further with. And also the thing is that – as I think I mentioned in the beginning – the Soil Monitoring Law will also be important when it comes to finding new tools to monitor and manage this water management.

1-0061-0000

**Sander Smit (PPE).** – Commissioner-designate Roswall, thank you for mentioning our farmers in your speech. Commissioner-designate, how will you enable an even further reduction of the environmental footprint of our EU arable and livestock farming through science-based, innovative technological solutions, while safeguarding vulnerable food production chains and family farms of the Union's Member States?

Will you work closely together with the Commissioner for Agriculture and Food, farmers, stakeholders, and national and regional authorities on an enhanced approach to lower emissions, including innovative circular nutrient cycle solutions, fertilising products and feed additives, while simultaneously safeguarding the continuity of EU family farms, which are essential for our food

security, and while fully taking into account the specific climatological, socio-economic and geographical circumstances of our Member States and regions? Let's build bridges together after times of polarisation.

1-0062-0000

**Jessika Roswall**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Thank you, honourable Member, Mr Smit, I definitely agree when you say we need to build together and work together and that was also my commitment in my opening statement.

I think that we know that we have very much of the innovative technological solutions when it comes to agriculture. And I know this is something that we need to build on and it's also important not only for research, it's also important for farming, of course, both when it comes to sustainable farming, but also for keeping the new families to bring into agriculture. But it's also important, and maybe you said that, when it comes to rural prosperity but also food security.

I will work closely with Commissioner-designate for agriculture. Of course I will, I have been meeting with him, of course. And I will also contribute a lot of things when it comes to the vision for agriculture.

One thing on which I will work closely with him is reducing the emissions from agriculture. And here I think that you and I share the view that farmers want to be a part of the solution. That's why we need to work closely together and that's why we also need to work on the technology already there.

But also I will build on my work when it comes to that – and I suppose that Christophe Hansen said that yesterday – unveiled in the Professor Strohschneider Report, which is more or less a consensus report. There are a lot of things we can use in that report.

Then, of course, I will contribute on a lot of other things when it comes to farmers and the situation for farmers. And the situation is specific. I know the situation is different for many different Member States. I'm looking forward to working closely with you and others.

1-0063-0000

**Per Clausen (The Left)**. – EU's vandmiljø er i krise. Det sker, selv om EU's medlemslande har forpligtet sig til at efterleve målsætningen i EU's vandrammedirektiv om at skabe god økologisk tilstand i alle vandløb, søer, fjorde og kystnære områder og i grundvandet i 2027. I 2021 opnåede kun 37 procent af Europas overfladevandområder en god eller høj økologisk tilstand, og kun 29 procent opnåede en god kemisk status. Og meget tyder på, at de fleste medlemslande ikke vil være i stand til at opnå god status i 2027. Blandt andet ved jeg jo, at mit eget medlemsland Danmark ønsker at udskyde implementeringen af vandrammedirektivet til 2030. Derfor spørger jeg: Hvordan vil du sikre, at Kommissionen fokuserer på at opretholde høje standarder for vandbeskyttelse og sikre håndhævelsen af vandrammedirektivet? Vil du tage de nødvendige skridt for, at medlemsstaterne overholder 2027-fristen og har gennemført veldokumenterede foranstaltninger inden udgangen af dette år for at opnå en god økologisk status? Og hvilke midler vil du tage i anvendelse?

1-0064-0000

**Jessika Roswall**, *Commissioner-designate*. – The targets when it comes to water?

Min danska var inte tillräckligt bra, men jag provar.

If I got the question right, it was what will I do when it comes to the Member States to reach the targets that we already have in water? You raise a very important question, I would say, because we have a lot of legislation, quite old when it comes to water, and we know, as you are well aware in Denmark, that most of the Member States don't reach the goals, the targets.

So again I will see to it that the legislation is implemented effectively. I do believe that we need to benchmark and exchange views between Member States. But I would definitely work harder on the implementation of the existing legislation. There is the framework, there is the surface water directive, there is the reuse directive.

We also need to have the funding when it comes to infrastructure. We need to use the technology, we need to use the innovation that there is, we need to use the money in the Cohesion Fund. We need to find the money in the MFF. But here again, I would like to say that I will also need to work with private money and other institutions, maybe on the nature credits, and then I will also need to work on the global agenda on this.

But I also say one thing – and I know that it is a situation in a lot of Member States when it comes to specific pollution, like nitrates in Denmark and others – I need to work closely with Member States to see that we reach our goals, because this is important not only for nature but also for people's health. So I will follow that closely.

1-0067-0000

**Kristian Vigenin (S&D).** – Madam Commissioner-designate, the Draghi report clearly states that the EU is not keeping pace with its competitors, it is lacking a comprehensive strategy covering all stages of the supply chain, from exploration to recycling.

Recycling more plastics is of paramount importance in order to deliver EU circular economy ambition. However, incineration is increasing and some Member States are failing to meet their recycling targets. Virgin materials are often the cheaper option. These are barriers to plastic circularity.

My questions are: what specific actions will you take to increase plastic recycling rates across the EU?

What specific financial incentives will you put in place to actively promote plastic recycling?

What measures will be implemented to guarantee that recycled plastics are free from dangerous levels of hazardous substances?

Finally, a comment, not a question: we need urgent actions under the European water resilience strategy to improve water efficiency and tackle scarcity, a huge challenge for large parts of Europe in the coming years. Thank you.

1-0068-0000

**Jessika Roswall, Commissioner-designate.** – Thank you, honourable Member, a lot of questions, I will not have the time to answer everybody, but I hope that we can have a discussion afterwards also.

I hope that I've been very clear – well, maybe I didn't mention plastic for itself – but plastic is an important question. When it comes to recycling and also reduce and also reuse, a lot of legislation

has been put in order, but we need to do more. We have, for example, the eco-design regulations that will come into force that I will work hard on also.

Also, it came a little bit to my surprise that my own country didn't do the recycling when it comes to plastics that I thought, so definitely this is something that we need. But I would say one thing, I know I mentioned that, is the harmonisation, because we really need a single market for waste. Harmonisation is one thing, more incentives. So it's a lot of things that we can do and need to do.

When it comes to water scarcity, yes, maybe we today have talked a lot about flooding due to the devastating situation in Spain, of course, but you raise also the important question of scarcity, because the situation in Europe and in the world we sometimes have too much water and sometimes lack of water and sometimes even both at the same time. Here again, there are some legislations that are already in force when it comes to the reuse of water, but we need to use the techniques that are there, we need to scale them up, and I think that is possible, but that is also something that I will look into urgently, also when it comes to the water strategy.

1-0069-0000

**Jana Nagyová (PFE).** – Thank you, Chair. Dear Commissioner-designate, while we are analysing, reporting and discussing, the US and China are acting.

We all see that EU competitiveness is falling fast – to a certain extent also due to the over-ambitious Green Deal and its bureaucratic implementation, which came in the form of delegated acts and guidelines from the European Commission, among others – also from DG ENVI.

More specifically, the application of confusing and sometimes very difficult to understand 'do no significant harm' criteria that are created by the Commission services towards investment projects that would otherwise qualify for the support from the Modernisation Fund or Social Climate Fund make those investments almost impossible to finance.

The same problem is apparent in the banking sector and financial markets more broadly, as the pool of investable green assets is very small. As a result, we have good projects on the one side, we have finances available in the funds and bank on the other side, but very limited realisation.

How do you intend to reconcile the ambitious objectives of the Green Deal with the urgent need to secure financing and minimise bureaucracy in this situation? Thank you very much.

1-0070-0000

**Jessika Roswall,** *Commissioner-designate.* – Thank you, honourable Member, and thank you for maybe two questions in one.

So, one part of what you started your question with was on the bureaucracy. I hope I made it very clear that that will be in the centre of my agenda, to simplify when it comes to implementation and in close contact with stakeholders – for example, stress-test the existing legislation, but also, best practices, and also in cooperation with how they actually work out in reality.

So, that is something that will be important and is important for all of us if we want the result of the legislations that we have done.

'Do no significant harm' is an important part of the fundings, I would say, and it's important in a lot of legislations. When it comes to funding, this will be crucial if we want to do all these things that we are in, not only in my portfolio, in a lot of other portfolios.

So I will look into the current MFF, see what we can do so that fundings are used in an effective way. The next MFF argues that we need fundings for environment that are also achieving the results and premiering the things that are having effects.

Then, as I said earlier the demands are very heavy, so we also need to look into other financing, so that will be, for example, nature credit, but that will also be working with the EIB, working with other banks. There are a lot of things that we will need to look into if we are going to have enough funding for the next years to come.

1-0071-0000

**Paolo Inselvini (ECR).** – Signora commissaria designata, gli agricoltori rappresentano i nostri migliori alleati nella difesa dell’ambiente, nella tutela della biodiversità e nella prevenzione delle calamità naturali. Il nostro settore zootecnico è inoltre il più sostenibile e i nostri allevatori sono fondamentali, per esempio nelle aree interne, dove gli animali al pascolo sono fattore dirimente per evitare frane e dissesti idrogeologici.

Le chiedo quindi cosa ha intenzione di fare per favorire i nostri allevatori ed evitare l’abbandono di queste zone.

Come coinvolgerebbe, inoltre, i nostri cacciatori per contenere la fauna selvatica che, se non controllata, come abbiamo visto in questi anni, porta danni all’ambiente, all’economia e agli animali, diffondendo epidemie come PSA, aviaria e lingua blu?

Come possiamo agevolare il ruolo degli agricoltori nel contesto dell’economia circolare? Ad esempio, come si comporterebbe di fronte a una proposta di revisione della direttiva “nitrati”?

In generale, perciò, Le chiedo se è disponibile a contrastare il racconto ideologico, secondo il quale l’ambiente e l’agricoltura si troverebbero su due piani contrapposti, cooperando invece con gli agricoltori stessi, considerandoli i primi – i primissimi – alleati nella difesa della natura.

1-0072-0000

**Jessika Roswall, Commissioner-designate.** – Thank you, honourable Member, Mr Inselvini. I would say that, definitely, I think that I was clear in my opening statement on the farmers.

Yes, the farmers feel and see the scarcity of water firsthand, they see the degradation of the environment firsthand and the consequences of climate change.

And I would like, as I said to Mr Smit earlier, that we build on the necessary work together with the farmers, because we will have to work together on this.

It’s also a question on the environment, but also a question on the social situation for the farmers and the food security. So, we all have all an interest in doing this right.

So how will I use the circularity? I think that was the question for the farmers. And I will say one thing. There are a lot of things here, but one thing is the bioeconomy. Because I think there is an opportunity for farmers also to be a part and they are already a part of the bioeconomy. But there is a business opportunity here, if we mainstream and boost the bioeconomy, because we see that the demands are there, we just need to get it – as I said in an earlier question – from lab to fab.

So it’s a lot of things that I will do. You also touched on the nitrates and I didn’t maybe have the time on the earlier question on what I see in that. I know the question. I’m fully aware of the situation for

farmers and also fully aware of the situation in many Member States. There is an evaluation ongoing on the directive and the implementation and the countries that have derogations. I will, of course, follow that closely, in close contact with the Member States, and be back with you on that question.

1-0073-0000

**Ana Vasconcelos (Renew).** – Madam Commissioner-designate, I was pleased to hear you recognise the need to act quickly on delivering on water resilience. So my first question to you is: what is the expected timeline to deliver on the water resilience strategy?

Now my second question has to do with national accountability in EU fund management. EU funds are not directly addressed in your mission letter. For the north and south of Europe to become water-resilient, fund attribution and measurable outcomes must go hand in hand. So far, EU investments in Portugal, Spain, Italy and Greece have been hampered due to short-sighted planning and administrative inefficiencies that delay much-needed upgrades and undermine resilience efforts. How do you plan to ensure that future EU funds avoid subsidy dependence and lead to meaningful, sustainable progress in water governance?

Specifically, what mechanisms will you put in place to hold national authorities accountable for achieving measurable outcomes in water management, ensuring that EU investments result in sustainable and resilient water infrastructure across Europe?

1-0074-0000

**Jessika Roswall, Commissioner-designate.** – Thank you, honourable Member. I've been talking about water in several questions tonight. I think that is very accurate and I said it's not only due to the devastating situation in Spain, it's also that we know the situation in Europe and around the globe is really bad.

I maybe cannot answer all of the questions in detail because, from my point of view, it's a whole-of-government approach on this matter, and I will, of course, also work closely with other Commissioners-designate – for example, Costas Kadis, Wopke Hoekstra, Hadja Lahbib and others – to see how we can look at this.

The timeline is as soon as possible, because the situation is acute. Why I say that is also because I read – and you probably also read too – recently a report from the European Environment Agency and one from the Global Commission on the Economics of Water confirming the situation.

So I will stress a lot of things when it comes to how I will focus. I will focus on implementation, and investment, as you pointed out, will be crucial. Here, I will work closely with the Member States and see that they fulfil their obligations.

But also, I think we see that we need funding both from Member States, but also from, for example, cohesion. I will work with Raffaele Fitto here. And of course, we also need again private funding. I think the President of the Commission stated that we are going to be an investment Commission, and here there is really important work to be done by Commissioner-designate Albuquerque.

Finally, I just want to say that this is not only a question for the European Union. It's a question also on a global level – that we need to be in the front line, of course, and lead by example.

1-0075-0000

**Letizia Moratti (PPE).** – Dear Madam Commissioner-designate, the European regulatory framework on chemical is among the best in the world, but certainly needs adjustments with reasonable and differentiated approaches to ensure simplification, predictability and speed of authorisation, while ensuring human health.

Considering that 75 % of global plants closures happens in the European Union, how do you foresee the work ahead to strengthen the competitiveness of this sector?

Generally, will you make sure that there is a proper social and economic impact assessment? And how do you intend to involve stakeholders, paying particular attention to SMEs? Thank you.

1-0076-0000

**Jessika Roswall, Commissioner-designate.** – Strengthening the sector on chemicals is an important question, as I also stated several times because, as we have chemicals all around, everywhere where we are breathing and when we wash our hands or wherever, it's everywhere. It's also been something that we've been discussing for a long time. So it's very clear from my mission letter and Mr Séjourné's mission letter that we urgently need to work on the chemical industry package.

From my side, two things: we need to have a framework and legal certainty that protect the environment and the health of people, at the same time supporting a competitive EU industry. This is also an important part of the Clean Industrial Deal, and I would say that it's hurrying, when it comes to the need of decision-making, it's cutting the red tape but also providing clarity for consumers as well as for businesses. We also have to remind ourselves that we need to do this right, because we need to avoid that companies don't leave Europe in this sector. And that is not only for the sector, which is important for EU, but it's also important for our consumers too to avoid the potentially less safe and imported products.

On my timeline, I think I answered earlier, it would be that we'll have to be ready under 2025, and that will mean simplifying REACH, bringing clarity on PFAS, and I will also encourage and do what I can also to get the industry to do innovation when it comes to changing hazardous chemicals.

1-0077-0000

**Thomas Bajada (S&D).** – Commissioner-designate Roswall, you have been asked repeatedly, but we need an answer. What tangible actions will you take to create a comprehensive and binding water resilience framework? Will you take a lead in water resilience, which is clearly fragmented under the layout of the upcoming Commission?

Secondly, given the persistent impact on water quality and biodiversity by PFAS, nitrates, pesticides and pollution from all land-based sources, what targeted measures do you propose to tackle these issues in a holistic manner?

Third, will there be focus on setting efficiency targets for water-intensive sectors such as hydrogen production, semiconductor manufacturing and agriculture within a broader source-to-sea approach?

And finally, I stress for adequate funding and effective management of water supplies across the EU and in particular in water-stressed areas, peripheral regions and islands.

1-0078-0000

**Jessika Roswall**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Thank you, honourable Member, also a lot of questions in one question.

So maybe I will be brief on chemicals, not because it's not important, but I answered some questions on that. I think it's extremely important that we get this right, both for consumer health and the environment, but also for the businesses, because it's about our competitiveness.

Also when it comes to making the green transition a reality, because the green transition is also in need of these chemicals. We all know that.

That also leads me maybe to the question on water, because these industries and a lot of industries also are dependent on water. We have, as I said earlier, both scarcity and too much water sometimes. But we need also to be secure that we have water all around Europe, both for humans but also for the businesses.

So how will I do this efficiently? And that will also come to the third – or fourth, I don't know – question that you had on funding, and I've been into that earlier, because this will cost money. This is already costing us money and the cost of doing nothing is even higher. So that's why we need to urgently use the money that we already spent wisely so that we see effects. And I would like to remind us all that we have, when it comes to water, the greatest ideas and innovations in Europe, in our Union, but we need to scale them up.

So here I think there is an opportunity for the EU, but we need to have simple, efficient rules. But I am very hopeful that – if we do it rightly, together, all of us – it will have good results.

1-0079-0000

**Adam Jarubas (PPE)**. – Madam Commissioner-designate, I am deeply impressed with your answers so far. I know that it's not an easy task to prepare a policy that suits such a broad palette of points of view on so many topics that we have seen today, but I think that you have made a great job in doing so.

In my question, I would like to come back to the circular economy. In your answer to the questions of Mr Vondra and Mr Kanev, you already mentioned the need to work on the single market of secondary raw materials. And we know that the single market for waste and secondary raw materials is far from being completed, and at the same time it is crucial for both the environment and business, especially in times of transition.

As an example, I could mention the steel sector that is hard to abate and has two ways of carbonisation – a clean steel made from hydrogen, but we know that we are short of hydrogen, or with use of electricity where the main raw material is ferrous scrap.

In this context, I would like to ask what step are you considering to strengthen the single market for waste and secondary raw materials?

1-0080-0000

**Jessika Roswall**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Thank you, honourable Member Jarubas. I think I've been very clear on the circularity and the need to use circularity to achieve a sustainable transition and also, at the same time, a competitive Europe. And one is the secondary raw materials, as you mentioned. It's important for our environment, but also for our resilience.



Again, I want to stress that I think the political momentum is now not only due to the fact that we have had a lot of discussions here tonight, but also from when we see the conclusions from the European Council or as we see from all my talks with you and from other parts. So I think we need to do something now. It's a possibility.

When it comes to steel, I will take on board your comments because I know you know a lot about this, and this is something on which I will work again with Stéphane Séjourné, but I also would emphasise, as you do, that the steel industry is important, has been important, for the EU and for our resilience and competitiveness for a long time.

I would like to say that just when it comes to steel, we have not talked so much just tonight about the eco-design for sustainable products, but I would like to have the opportunity to mention that that is one thing that I will implement soon. I mean, the work has already been begun, but then in that legislation, there is a part when it comes to steel, which also will hopefully help the steel industry in many ways.

So, there's a lot of things that we need to do and can do, and the work has already started and the political momentum is here and now.

1-0081-0000

**Ondřej Dostál (NI).** – Commissioner-designate Roswall, I have read the questionnaire for candidates, and I would like to better understand your answers.

You state that you want to focus on the circular economy and moving away from the linear approach to products and materials. Could you please give an example? What will be the measurable outcome of your efforts?

Will manufacturing processes that make it impossible to repair products be banned or limited? Can we expect a prolonged lifetime for, for example, washing machines, televisions or dishwashers? Will it be possible to keep our cars running for longer? Thank you for your reply.

1-0082-0000

**Jessika Roswall, Commissioner-designate.** – Thank you, honourable Member. I will not talk about banning or something. My point of view when it comes to circular economy is that this is important for the European Union, due to sustainability. It's important for our competitiveness. We have seen that very clearly from both the Draghi and Letta reports.

So I will build on that. I will build on the opportunities that are in the circularity. I see that, again, we have a lot of European businesses in Europe that already are in the forefront when it comes to circularity. I will build on that.

But again, I would say that we have the obligation as legislators to see to it that the businesses have the opportunity and the possibilities. That meaning that the regulations need to be efficient and very well implemented. That will be my point of view.

I do hope that we will see the results, and I will build on the political momentum that is here and now. And I said, now is the time to go from paper to see the results.

1-0083-0000

**Mireia Borrás Pabón (Pfe).** – Gracias, comisaria propuesta, por sus condolencias. Mientras en España lloramos todos a nuestros muertos y desaparecidos, vemos cómo la presidenta Von der Leyen y algunos aquí, en esta comisión, usan la catástrofe de la DANA para seguir impulsando su fanatismo climático: si esta tragedia nos ha enseñado algo es precisamente que no podemos dejar a nuestros ciudadanos a merced de decisiones ideológicas alejadas completamente de la realidad.

En España se han destruido más de quinientas infraestructuras hídricas en nombre de la tiranía ecologista. El embalse de Forata, en Valencia, pudo retener un caudal de más de mil cien metros cúbicos por segundo. ¿Qué hubiera pasado si también lo hubieran destruido? Que hoy estaríamos lamentando muchas más pérdidas, muchas más muertes.

Mi primera pregunta es muy sencilla: ¿va a poner usted en el centro de sus políticas ambientales al ser humano, permitirá que nuestros agricultores y ganaderos puedan gestionar el territorio y el cauce de los ríos? Ha hablado usted en su intervención mucho de resiliencia hídrica; tradúzcame esto, por favor: ¿qué significa? ¿Defenderá la construcción y conservación de infraestructuras hídricas que protegen y sostienen a nuestras comunidades locales?

En definitiva, señora Roswall, necesitamos saber si está aquí para servir a los ciudadanos y a nuestro mundo rural o para perpetuar las agendas globalistas.

1-0084-0000

**Jessika Roswall, Commissioner-designate.** – I think that why we have talked so much about water today is – several times I said – because the situation is acute. Water is absolutely something that is different for a lot of Member States. It's different for regions, and sometimes regions between Member States. Of course, we always need to be mindful of the differences in our union. But absolutely, it is also very clear to me that the situation for water demands common answers. That is why water resilience is so important to me and it's also important that we work very hard on it.

So, what will I do? I will help, of course, but with your help, because we need to have the answers for the Member States, for the people, for the ones who need it.

What would I do? Yes, I have said some things earlier on my approach on this. It will be, as I said, the water system is broken so we need to have the source-to-sea approach. We need to use our full potential when it comes to the innovation that I speak to on several questions. And again, we need to go back to the root causes, why the situation has been this way. But also, again, we have a lot of legislations that we need to get implemented correctly of the existing legislation that we already have.

And then again, I will emphasise that we need also to invest in water infrastructure and use the technologies that we have. And that is something that is high on my agenda due to the situation that we are in.

1-0085-0000

**Marta Temido (S&D).** – Cara Comissária indigitada, as boas políticas ambientais não são ideologia nem radicalismo quando são baseadas na ciência. A agricultura, todos sabemos, sobretudo quando a agricultura é intensiva, é um dos principais fatores de impacto na biodiversidade e nos serviços ecossistémicos associados. Mas, até à data, a Política Agrícola Comum não conseguiu refletir suficientemente a ambição que precisamos de ter nesta matéria.

Por isso, queria colocar-lhe três questões:

No âmbito da próxima revisão da PAC, como tenciona melhorar a relação entre a aplicação da Lei do Restauro da Natureza e de todas as outras medidas destinadas à transição para um setor alimentar e agrícola sustentável?

Como pretende assegurar que os objetivos ambientais e climáticos estarão refletidos na nova estrutura de financiamento da PAC, não só de incentivos, mas também de regras de condicionalidade?

E finalmente, que ações concretas, legislativas ou não, planeia apresentar para melhorar o papel vital dos solos saudáveis e de água potável no novo modelo da PAC?

1-0086-0000

**Jessika Roswall**, *Commissioner-designate*. – I would say that, yes, we maybe have not talked enough about biodiversity tonight, and I don't know the reasons for that, but last week we had the COP16, which is an important step forward. Of course, we are not enough satisfied probably with all the results from the COP, but I think it's one important global conference where we need also to stick to our targets – so I think that we are very proud, all of us – of the incoming Montreal Agreement two years ago.

One of the answers from the European perspective is the Nature Restoration Law. That's why I've been quite, I hope, clear on the implementation on the Nature Restoration Law, because that is one of the answers of securing the biodiversity. That's something that again, comes with a little bit of the discussion on the funding – because otherwise we will not have the results that we want. So I will of course look into that with my colleagues, with the people in the Member States.

But again, there is of course, a lot of other things that we need to do, but we have also a lot of legislations that need to be implemented. It's Natura 2000, it's net zero. We have a lot of things that are on the agenda that we need to see to, that they are fully implemented.

1-0087-0000

**Norbert Lins (PPE)**. – Commissioner-designate, in your written answers, you mentioned that you are committed to assessing how you can best contribute to biodiversity from a variety of sources and how you can create incentives to reward farmers and other land managers who are working with nature in a respectful manner. This is an important message for the EPP, since we believe that environmental measures and rural prosperity must go hand in hand.

I would therefore like to ask you, Commissioner-designate, how you intend to proceed with the work on nature credits. How will you ensure that these instruments benefit land managers that commit to sustainable practices? And importantly, how will you put in place pragmatic criteria to ensure that these credits are not misused?

1-0088-0000

**Jessika Roswall**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Thank you very much, Mr Lins. Farmers are important. We have been discussing that a lot this evening and as I said, they play an important part when it comes to biodiversity. They're also the first to see the consequences of their degraded ecosystems, also the water scarcity and the pollution. I'm fully convinced that farmers will be a part of the solution, but I think the nature credits, which I will explore further, could be and will be an important part.

I understand that there will be difficulties because it's not easy to measure nature or set a price on nature, but we all know that there is an economic value on doing the right thing for the ecosystem, and that the ecosystem also gives provides us biodiversity in the economy. Nature credit is for rewarding those who actually do something right and improve the nature, like the farmers and the foresters do. I understand that sometimes we compare it with the carbon pricing on our emissions system. That is one thing, of course, but I understand that this will be more complicated, especially as you mentioned that we will have to prevent fraud. In that, I think that it is possible to have system modelling, and that this will function. We already have pilot projects around Europe that we will follow, and I also know that in Finland, for example, there are already voluntary markets to encourage the private sector. But this is part of my work that I'm really looking forward to and I think that this is a possibility for the farmers.

1-0089-0000

**Jutta Paulus (Verts/ALE).** – Vor zwei Jahren war die EU eine treibende Kraft hinter dem globalen Naturschutzabkommen von Kunming-Montreal. Leider ist die Natur auf der europäischen Ebene ins Hintertreffen geraten: Die Pestizidverordnung wurde zurückgenommen, die Umweltaspekte in der Gemeinsamen Agrarpolitik wurden weitgehend gestrichen, demnächst wird die Fauna-Flora-Habitat-Richtlinie zur Senkung des Schutzstatus des Wolfs geöffnet. Und der Zustand der europäischen Natur hat sich leider in den letzten Jahren und Jahrzehnten eben nicht verbessert, sondern verschlechtert – das zeigen die Berichte der Europäischen Umweltagentur.

Frau Roswall, Sie sollen laut Ihrem *mission letter* sicherstellen, dass das Kunming-Montreal-Abkommen, das wir ja federführend als EU mitverhandelt haben, auch umgesetzt wird. Und ich frage hier nach zwei zentralen Punkten, die in bestehenden Gesetzen nicht enthalten sind.

Erstens: Können Sie versprechen, dass Sie, falls die Ziele für die geschützten – 30 % – Gebiete und die streng geschützten – 10 % – Gebiete nicht durch freiwillige Zusagen erreicht werden, einen rechtsverbindlichen Vorschlag vorlegen werden, der das Konzept des strengen Schutzes gemäß der aktuellen Leitlinie verwendet? Und zweitens: Werden Sie gemeinsam mit dem Agrarkommissar Hansen einen Vorschlag vorlegen, der den Einsatz von Pestiziden um 50 % reduziert unter Berücksichtigung ihrer Gefährlichkeit?

1-0090-0000

**Jessika Roswall, Commissioner-designate.** – Thank you, Ms Paulus, and since we talked a lot about the Nature Restoration Regulation, I would thank you for your work as shadow rapporteur. Yes, on the COP16 and the great achievements when it comes to the Kunming-Montreal agreement two years ago I think we should be proud. We agree that healthy ecosystems are really important for people and for society, and also when it comes to adaptation and climate mitigation.

When it comes to the nature restoration legislation, as I pointed out earlier tonight, I do believe that if we implement that correctly, it's important too, together with other nature directives that we also have, like Natura 2000 – that was Swedish, I'm sorry – that will be the answer for us to reach our global targets. And I think, as I said in an earlier question, it's very important to have targets, of course, that lead and guide us. For me, it's also important to have the results. Here I think that we will need to work together with the Member States, together with you also, to see that the implementation goes right.

When it comes to pesticides, the GBF, or the Global Biodiversity Framework, has this target that we agreed on as partners to reduce pesticides by half by 2030. We have already as the European Union targets in the Green Deal to reduce this and I will, of course, work hard to see that we can reach our

targets on this. Specifically, I will work together with Commissioner-designate Olivér Várhelyi and also Christophe Hansen, because there are also combined in their portfolios.

1-0091-0000

**Pietro Fiocchi (ECR).** – Thank you, Madam Jessica Roswall. I pity you, because if you became a Commissioner, you have to do the implementation of CO2 emissions, renewables, building energy efficiency, packaging, labelling, analytical network, bio and synthetic fuels, critical raw materials, forcing EU producers to follow the EU laws. And we were talking about pesticides, the wolf, the bad conditions, deforestation laws and urban wastewater. So I don't envy you.

I have two questions. Number one, REACH – what is your plan on this? I need dates. Do you intend to push for the revision of REACH? And how do you intend to approach this topic? This is extremely important.

Before some of my colleagues talked about PFAS – let's remember, if we ban PFAS tomorrow morning, we kill 3 % of the gross national product of Europe. So we need to be extremely careful of what we do with REACH and the revision of REACH. But when we do it and how we do it is important.

And the other point, which is extremely important for Italy but also Spain and other countries, do you intend to push for funds for preventive action in hydrogeological risk? This is incredibly important given the climate change.

1-0092-0000

**Jessika Roswall, Commissioner-designate.** – Thank you, honourable Member Fiocchi, and thank you for reading my mission letter. I'm fully aware of all the parts of it. I'm really looking forward to work with all the parts together with you.

On REACH, as I said in my introductory remarks, I intend to present a chemical package in 2025 and I will work with this with Commissioner-designate EVP Stéphane Séjourné.

Of course, there is a lot of demand to work quickly on this, as we heard from several other MEPs here tonight. For me, it's very important to work, of course, rapidly and urgently, because it's important to give the clarity and certainty to the companies, and also that we need to protect the environment, the health and the people.

Going fast doesn't mean compromising on the preparatory work. I answered on another question tonight that for me, it's important that the legislative work that we do always is very good. So it's important that we do better regulation. That's another word also. But it's important everywhere. And also that we follow the rule of law.

My view is that if we do this right, we can absolutely help the companies in Europe to stay competitive in the chemical industry. But also, as you pointed out, these chemicals are used in several different areas that are necessary both for all of us, but also when it comes to medicines, for example, and also when it comes to competitiveness.

Very rapidly on the funding on water, because I understand absolutely that we need more substantial funds, not only for Italy but for Spain, for others. So this is something that is high on my agenda, and I need to work hard on. There is some funding already in different various funds like LIFE and the Cohesion Fund, but, of course, I need to do more work.

1-0093-0000

**Michał Wieszik (Renew).** – Dear Commissioner-designate, to follow up on the question of strict protection and very much needed balance: your written replies would indicate much stronger affinity to developing a bioeconomy strategy than to protection of ecosystems and their services.

In your response, you don't mention no-go zones and principles of exclusion which any bioeconomy must adhere to. Not in one sentence you mentioned that the EU set for itself a strict protection of the most valuable ecosystems.

The Commission published more than a year ago guidelines for defending, mapping, biomonitoring and strictly protecting Europeans' primary and old-growth forest, and again, no recognition of this in your written reply.

While the implementation of EU legislation clearly requires the location of primary forests and old-growth forests, the Member States are reluctant to define and map them – also because they have their eyes on scaling up the bioeconomy.

In this regard, we really need a strong commissioner who will commit and stand behind the natural capital part of the portfolio. Hence my question: do you commit to being an honest broker and a strong voice, bringing in concrete timelines for Member States to have these ecosystems defined, mapped and strictly protected?

My question is concrete, and I kindly ask you to reply concretely – and if you start with yes, that would be the real music to my ears.

1-0094-0000

**Jessika Roswall, Commissioner-designate.** – Yes. No, but I think – thank you, honourable Member for that question.

To start maybe from the back, an honest broker perspective. I tried to explain in my opening remark that where I come from and the different phases that have put me here in front of you today is that I see myself as an honest broker. I think that for you, hopefully the ones who met me during the Swedish Presidency also know that I am an honest broker, but I always want to see results, so I try to move things forwards.

In that respect, I understand that the question is what role will I now have and that role will be, and I ask for your trust to be Commissioner and have the EU role in my first perspective, and I will represent the whole of the EU.

When the questions that you raised on forest, and particularly primary and old-growth forest – thank you for raising this important dimension, because we know – you know better than I, probably – but you know, we know that protection of primary and old-growth forest is a key to tackle the biodiversity loss and the mitigation for climate change.

I say that, for me, how can we strengthen this? There are two things. It's about enabling the collection and sharing the timely data, as you mentioned, and how can we make use of the forest data, and how can we compare that between different Member States and also between agencies.

The second part of this, beside monitoring, is the Nature Restoration Law, the implementing of that. But of course that also includes rules on the ecosystem, how we can restore nature. So I would say that those two parts is my contribution to your first part of your question.

1-0095-0000

**Marc Jongen (ESN).** – Frau Roswall, die ideologische Energiepolitik der EU zeigt verheerende Folgen, insbesondere der Ausbau der Windkraft. Die deutsche Bundesregierung plant, durch das neue Wind-an-Land-Gesetz 2 % der gesamten Landesfläche mit Windanlagen zu überziehen – insgesamt 90 000: eine beispiellose Zerstörung der Landschaft. Mindestabstände abzuschaffen, wie es geplant ist, heißt, Windräder direkt neben Wohnhäuser zu setzen – das ist ein massiver Angriff auf die Lebensqualität und Gesundheit unserer Bürger. Und auch mit Milliarden an Steuergeldern wird die Windkraft keine zuverlässige Energie liefern – sie ist eben nur in geringem Umfang für ein Industrieland geeignet.

Und die ökologischen Schäden sind enorm: Neben der Bodenversiegelung durch Tonnen Beton im Waldboden für jedes Windrad sterben jährlich hunderttausende Vögel und Fledermäuse. Jetzt sollen auch alle Tierschutzstandards wegfallen, um den Ausbau weiter voranzutreiben. Werden Sie die ideologisch getriebene Windkraft weiter ohne Einschränkung fördern? Oder sind Sie nicht auch der Meinung, dass hier dringend gegengesteuert werden muss, um weitere Schäden abzuwenden?

1-0096-0000

**Jessika Roswall, Commissioner-designate.** – Thank you very much for that question. On some of the questions I need to get back to you. I don't see where you are... sorry! You are too many in this room! No, you are not too many, sorry. I need to get back on the specific topic.

I would say that one of the issues when I talk about a water resilience strategy, I think that one of the parts is the management on how we see that we restore also the parts of the nature that, when it comes to floods, for example, are derogated. So of course this will be an important part, but I need to also take your comments into consideration. And of course I will look into that with my DG. So thank you for the question, I will look into that and come back to you.

1-0097-0000

**Antonio Decaro, Presidente della commissione ENVI.** – Non siamo troppi: siamo tanti però. Siamo tanti e ci somigliamo.

Per esempio, adesso do la parola a Everding, che sembra il fratello gemello di Smit, se lo guardate con precisione.

1-0098-0000

**Sebastian Everding (The Left).** – Sehr geehrte designierte Kommissarin! Die Wolfsbestände haben sich in den letzten Jahren dank strengem Schutz erhöht, aber diese langjährigen Bestrebungen sind in akuter Gefahr. Auch heute Abend wurden wieder Ängste geschürt und Panikmache betrieben. Auch für weitere Tierarten soll der hohe Schutzstatus gemäß Berner Konvention und FFH-Richtlinien abgesenkt werden, um sie so in letzter Konsequenz zum Abschuss freizugeben.

Was wollen Sie gemeinsam mit dem designierten Kommissar Várhelyi unternehmen, um den Schutz von Wildtieren wie Wölfen, Robben, aber auch Bären weiterhin zu garantieren?

Für Tierversuche sterben jedes Jahr 2 Millionen Tiere – allein für den Bereich Kosmetik 25 000. Mehr als 1 Million Europäer haben für ein Verbot von Tierversuchen in der Kosmetikindustrie unterschrieben. Welche Pläne haben Sie, Tierversuche einzudämmen und schließlich ganz zu verbieten? Und abschließend: Wie stehen Sie zu einer europaweit einheitlichen Kennzeichnung vegetarischer und veganer Produkte?

1-0099-0000

**Jessika Roswall**, *Commissioner-designate*. – So there's two questions, I will try to answer both of them.

I already answered a little bit on wolves, and I said that I understand and I know, I live myself in an area where we have wolves and I have seen, we all know the tension that can be between groups. And I know that also we are all aware that we need to share this planet also with wild animals.

I also know that wolves present a particular problem because they, by instinct, kill other animals. And of course, this is a real issue for our farmers that we have heard earlier this evening. But my belief is that we need to coexist.

I also know that the EU legislation policies so far also have had a successful recovery of the wolf population. But again, we have this tension with human activities such as livestock rearing.

So now we have to look into, and I already answered it a little bit earlier, that we need to – following the Commission proposal that was also in line with the European Parliament's opinions and also from a clear majority from the Council – reduce the protection status of the wolf under the Bern Convention. And if that is agreed, we will, of course, from the European Union, move forward to have the same changes in the EU legislation.

When it comes to the labelling, I will say that, from my perspective, as I also said in the beginning of my speech, I've been working very closely and hard on consumer protection. This is close to my heart. From my perspective, it's important that the consumer can trust whatever the labelling is. So that is something, I know we have ongoing work on green claims, for example, but on consumer protection and labelling, I will definitely work harder.

1-0100-0000

**Antonio Decaro**, *Presidente della commissione ENVI*. – Iniziamo adesso la terza fase, che prevede le domande dei presidenti delle commissioni invitate a questa riunione.

Passo quindi la parola alla presidente Anna Cavazzini per la commissione IMCO.

1-0101-0000

**Anna Cavazzini**, *Chair of the IMCO Committee*. – Welcome, Commissioner-designate. I ask my question on behalf of the IMCO Committee, although I'm sitting with my Green colleagues, but this is misleading. So, I have several questions.

You mentioned, of course, the circular economy act. You mentioned already some elements, but could you possibly go a little bit beyond what you wrote already or what was in your mission letter? For example, how do you plan to really push second-hand products? And can you say more about the timeline?

Then you mentioned the ecodesign regulation as a successful piece of legislation from the last term. We, of course, know that you have to establish a work plan, and this will determine which product groups will be in. And this will determine also how fast we can roll out the right to repair for as many products as possible. So can you say which products you will prioritise to put in the work plan? This is very important.



And then the last question. How do you plan to monitor the effective implementation of the Batteries Regulation, which was also a very important piece of legislation from last term, especially regarding the functioning of the single market for batteries?

1-0102-0000

**Jessika Roswall**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Thank you, honourable Member Cavazzini and Chair of the IMCO Committee. Let me say something, and I think this is an important question when it comes to the circular economy: we need to work together. So I'm happy that you raised the question. And I also – I think maybe I will repeat myself now – but I think that implementation is key for existing legislation. And also – and I was asked this question several times – strengthening the secondary raw materials. It is also key to get this function. It's also important.

And then creating a real market for waste. We have to harmonise our national rules and we need to also look deeper into the extended producer responsibility. We have it in several areas, but we need also look into that deeper. We need of course always to streamline and simplify, but we also have something that we need to work on, which is the end-of-waste criteria.

And then also something that is important is the external aspect, to get a level playing field for our companies. And when it comes to this, I think we need to enhance the market surveillance. Maybe that also pushes me to answer also the question on the ecodesign for sustainable products. I think this is important legislation, because it also has important parts when it comes to market surveillance, also because it includes the digital product passports, which will also help the surveillance, and help both the consumers and the producers.

On second-hand materials, that's an important part of promoting sustainable products. And also, finally, on batteries – also a crucial role when it comes to decarbonisation. It's key for our economy. And of course, I will monitor and, for example, see that it's sustainable. But we have on batteries very good legislation – first in line, maybe – so we will follow that closely. For the timeline, maybe we will come back to you later.

1-0103-0000

**Elena Donazzan**, *Chair of the ITRE Committee*. – Commissioner-designate, on behalf of the ITRE Committee, I would like to ask just the following question – and don't worry, ITRE is a big committee, about 90 members, but we came in the end to just one question.

There are complementarities between the implementation of your portfolio and that of the Commissioner for start-ups, research and innovation. How will you ensure a proactive dialogue and interaction between your DG and DG Research and Innovation?

1-0104-0000

**Jessika Roswall**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Yes, how will I and the DG to work together? Was that the question?

*(Donazzan confirms off mic)*

Yes, so how will the DG, how will we work together? Good question. Thank you. I think that's the question not only for the DGs, of course. So thank you, honourable Member, for that question. I'm very happy also that you are here today on this hearing.

When I read my mission letter the first time, I was very happy that there were so many links to others' portfolios, because as I have always seen, the environment is nothing that is over there, just that person or that group or that DG works on the solutions. That is really something that we need to do together.

So my work and contribution to see to that the different DGs work together is that of course I will work closely with my Commissioner-designates, because I think that is the way forward. And coming back to also the thing that I said in my opening remarks, I think dialogue is my strength in one way, and I will hope that I will contribute also to the DGs, because I think that the only way forward is through dialogue. And I understand that this way of you being here, representing your committee, is one of the things that we have to do, dialogue also between the committees.

So it's a lot of work to be done. I think that a lot of things already work, of course, but everything can always be a little bit better.

1-0105-0000

**Veronika Vrecionová**, *Chair of the AGRI Committee*. – Madam Commissioner-designate, on behalf of the AGRI Committee, as the committee responsible for forestry, I would first like to express my astonishment that forests weren't mentioned at all in any of the mission letters.

My question is, therefore, whether the Commission, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, now considers forest to be the competence of the Member States only?

The second part of my question: in your written answers, you talk about positive incentives to promote resilient forests. What kind of incentives do you have in mind that respect the multifunctional role of forests?

1-0106-0000

**Jessika Roswall**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Thank you very much, honourable Member, for the question. Yes, forest is extremely important, and it's extremely important for all of us.

As I said earlier on several questions, coming from a country like Sweden, country who has a surface of 70 % covered by forest, I think that my knowledge on forest also is something that is good, and I will hopefully contribute on a lot of things.

So the question was – in respect to Member States, where is the decision or the competencies? I will say that, as I also said, that we have a lot of legislations in the Treaties that are on environment. Forest is important for all of us. It's about the climate change adaptation. It's like using it for the coal. It's also for the bioeconomy and all this.

That's why it's so important for EU also to have policy decisions on that. That, in my view, is something that will continue and is very important for all of us to have healthy forests, because it's in the heart of EU policies.

On the finance, I've been quite clear earlier tonight that there's need to be, both using the current MFF, using the next MFF, in a very efficient way. But also when it comes to specifically foresters, I would say that nature credits that I explained a bit earlier will be one of the components that we can both do nature restoration, protecting biodiversity in the use and the best for the foresters.

1-0107-0000

**Antonio Decaro**, *Presidente della commissione ENVI*. – Adesso inizia l'ultima fase. Tre minuti: un minuto per la domanda e due minuti per la risposta. Viene invertito l'ordine dei gruppi politici.

Do la parola a Christine Anderson.

1-0108-0000

**Christine Anderson (ESN)**. – Die europäische Wirtschaft kämpft mit erheblichen Wettbewerbsproblemen – insbesondere kleine und mittlere Unternehmen leiden besonders darunter. Und dennoch sieht Ihr Portfolio eine Vielzahl neuer Vorgaben vor, die den ohnehin schon belasteten Unternehmen weitere hohe Kosten und noch mehr Bürokratie aufbürden. Man könnte fast meinen, die EU-Kommission legt es geradezu darauf an, die europäische Wirtschaft in den Boden zu reiten.

Wie rechtfertigen Sie solche Belastungen in einer Zeit, in der die Wirtschaft dringend Erholung bräuchte? Und welche konkreten Schritte werden Sie unternehmen, um sicherzustellen, dass diese ideologisch motivierten Umweltziele die Wettbewerbsfähigkeit nicht noch weiter gefährden und der Wirtschaft noch weiteren Schaden zufügen?

1-0109-0000

**Jessika Roswall**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Thank you, honourable Member. I don't see it like that. I see it as an opportunity. As I said, for me, green transition and competitiveness goes hand in hand and are two sides of the same coin. I see this as an opportunity for Europe. We have made historical decisions in the past together. Now is the time to deliver and get results. And in that, of course, we need to make this together with the industry and the industry are in the forefront. They have already done a lot of adaptation and we need to give them the support they need to do this transition. It's important for the environment, it's important for the industry, it's important for our competitiveness. So how I see it, this is a not a burden; it's an opportunity.

1-0110-0000

**Lynn Boylan (The Left)**. – Commissioner-designate, I have two questions so I hope I get to both of them. The first one is in relation to the maladministration regarding chemicals authorisation.

On 21 October, the EU Ombudsman issued a preliminary finding accusing the Commission of maladministration around the authorisation of dangerous chemicals. When a substance has been discovered to present a risk to human health, the Commission is supposed to review the authorisation for new and continued use of these substances within 3 months. However, on average it actually takes over 14 months and sometimes several years.

This leads to cases where we have companies, of course, continuing to use these dangerous chemicals unfettered, even when the EU's own scientific advisers have found that they threaten human health. So the first question is just: what immediate steps will you take to rectify this problem?

The second question is around the chemical substances that are banned for sale in the EU because they have been proven toxic to people in nature. I know that the Commission promised a ban on the export of these toxic chemicals in its 2020 sustainable chemicals strategy, but that hasn't materialised, so it seems like this proposal has fallen foul of massive lobbying by the chemicals industry.

So the question for you is: what clear and concrete commitments can you make to tackle this situation? And also, what is your timeline for a proposal on ending the export of toxic chemicals?

1-0111-0000

**Jessika Roswall**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Thank you very much, honourable Member, for the question.

I'm aware of the situation that you explained, the situation in the ECHA. And of course, from my side, from my point of view, it is important that the decision is made in an accurate and very sustainable way, due to both the interest of the people and the businesses and the environment. So, I will of course follow that up and know there is an evaluation ongoing, and I will follow that closely.

But I will also say that this is maybe one of the reasons that we need to have the modernisation of REACH, because of many reasons. But this maybe will be one of the reasons.

I forgot one or the middle question.

The last one I think was on the export ban. Again, I'm very aware of this sensitive issue. I also know that there have been actions on national levels in some of the Member States. I also know that the Commission, as we speak, are undertaking an evaluation on the legal options for an EU-level export ban. And we will, of course, take a decision on the way ahead in the light of the findings of that evaluation.

I do apologise that I missed the middle question, but we will probably have time to speak again.

1-0112-0000

**Majdouline Sbai (Verts/ALE)**. – Merci pour ces échanges. Je pense que nous le savons tous ici, les chiffres sont alarmants: 1,4 million de décès par an en Europe seraient dus, selon l'OMS, à des produits de notre quotidien qui nous empoisonnent, à des facteurs environnementaux, à savoir notre nourriture, nos cosmétiques ou encore nos détergents. Des études montrent clairement qu'en sortir coûterait dix fois moins cher que de continuer à les utiliser, contrairement à ce qu'a dit le groupe ECR.

On vient d'évoquer le rapport de la Médiatrice qui explique qu'aujourd'hui, la Commission doit réexaminer ses procédures, mais un deuxième point apparaît dans ses recommandations: il s'agit de rejeter les demandes d'autorisation qui contiennent des informations insuffisantes. Qu'allez-vous faire en la matière?

Un deuxième point me semble très important: qu'allez-vous faire pour vous engager aujourd'hui à restreindre l'utilisation des polluants éternels?

1-0113-0000

**Jessika Roswall**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Honourable Member, thank you for your question. I hope I did get it right and maybe that's linked to the previous question, I think. I said it several times this evening that the objectives of the REACH, to protect human health and the environment – and also then, of course, against the negative effects that hazardous substances has – have to be in the front, of course. And it will be. But also we need to have this legal certainty for the chemical industry, and we need to deliver that decision fast.

I understand the question that you raised on the insufficient, not labelling, but what is in the findings. I will of course follow that and look into that. But I will follow that up, of course, when it comes to that, and maybe that was also the question on the Ombudsman's conclusion that is under evaluation.

On the PFAS, I got the question, I think, from Ms Fritzon earlier on the timeline, and I cannot be clearer today that I will do this as fast as possible. Because it is an important question, and I will absolutely work as quickly as possible. And also, as I said in my written answers and also in here today, I will work on the ban when it comes to consumer products as fast as possible.

1-0114-0000

**Karin Karlsbro (Renew).** – Commissioner-designate, Ms Roswall, climate in environmental politics is characterised by dilemmas. When we leave fossil fuels behind us, we will face new challenges. To make the green transition truly green and sustainable, we need higher ambitions for circularity, for batteries, as well as for solar panels.

What's your plan on this? Will the Circular Economy Act develop new extended producer responsibility schemes for these products?

And let me raise another question. How will you address plastic pollution, which is a huge problem on land as well as in water and in the oceans? How will the upcoming legislation successfully manage to decrease the amount of harmful microplastics in our common nature?

1-0115-0000

**Jessika Roswall, Commissioner-designate.** – *Tack, Karin.* Thank you, honourable Member Karlsbro. When it comes to the circular economy agenda, I'd like also maybe to raise the work that you have been doing on the Battery Regulation and also, if I may say, because I raised Ukraine in my first opening remark, I will also say thank you very much as you have really been a champion when it comes to supporting Ukraine. Thank you for that.

On the circular economy and the next step, as I said earlier, I think this is a key part when it comes to the Clean Industrial Deal, there is a momentum now and we need to move on that. It's important for our consumers, for our businesses and for our planet and also for us to treat it for our autonomy and our competitiveness.

I will, of course, look into different things that have been raised, in a lot of questions today. Again, I will push for the secondary raw materials. That will be an important part. I will also work for a true single market when it comes to waste, and here it's important to do streamlining and simplification, and also the level playing field when it comes to externally.

When it comes to plastic pollution, I think that we have an opportunity later this month to get an agreement. It's important not only to us, it's important for the globe, and it's something that I will work hard on together with other Commissioners, of course, but I'm really looking forward to hopefully seeing some good results on this in the future.

1-0116-0000

**Anna Zalewska (ECR).** – Pani Kandydatko! Powiedziała Pani i zapowiedziała przyspieszenie Zielonego Ładu. Dlatego mam pytanie: w jaki sposób Pani przekona Europejczyków do nowego celu klimatycznego do 2040 roku (redukcja emisji o 90%), skoro raporty i sprawozdania mówią jednoznacznie, że nie obniżymy emisji o 55% do 2030 roku?

Jaki chce mieć Pani udział w strategii czystego przemysłu w kontekście kryzysu motoryzacyjnego, mieszkaniowego i stalowego? Za moment usłyszysz Pani o kryzysie w branży zabawkowej.

Jednocześnie, jak Pani będzie wdrażać Blue Deal? Nowe dyrektywy czy rewizja starych dyrektyw?

Wreszcie, co Pani rozumie pod słowem „uproszczenie”? Będzie Pani otwierać zamknięte dokumenty czy też pisać nowe? Bo to hasło, które powtarza się właściwie już którąś kadencję, a tak naprawdę brniemy w coraz większą biurokratyzację.

Czy nie widzi Pani sprzeczności pomiędzy pieniędzmi, które potrzebne są na przeciwpowodziowe inwestycje w zbiorniki retencyjne, a rozporządzeniem o odbudowie natury? Tak twierdzą między innymi Hiszpanie, którym rząd zlikwidował kilkaset zapór i pozwolił, żeby rzeka rozlała się po ich domach i majątkach.

1-0117-0000

**Jessika Roswall**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Thank you, honourable Member. A lot of questions: maybe quick answers.

On the first one, I think it's important. It's about trust. I also got that in the beginning from Ms Schneider. This is important because we need the people on board – people and businesses on board. So this is something that I will work with, but we all need to work on that.

And when it comes to bureaucracy and implementation, I think it's good that it's been raised several times today, because that is key also to getting the people on board. And just to give some examples on how I see it – I see it like what I'm going to do. Looking to the existing law: do the stress testing for the existing law, but also in close cooperation with stakeholders.

And do reality checks with stakeholders, but also using digitalisation. I think that will be key, especially for small and medium-sized businesses. We have one data assessment that it will be important. We can use AI more – I'm certain of that. But there are a lot of other things.

When it comes to new legislation, if that would be the case, of course I'd be very firm on seeing if that is necessary. And if we do that, we need to be careful on how that affects small and medium-sized businesses.

On finding funding, finally, this is crucial for all Member States when it comes to water. I mean, funding is important, but I heard your question from a water perspective – and I've been touching on that several times this evening – and absolutely this will be of huge importance, using the money, the funding that is there now. But I will also add maybe that the cost of doing nothing is also very high.

1-0118-0000

**Roberto Vannacci (Pfe)**. – *Errare humanum est, perseverare autem diabolicum*.

Non abbiamo il traduttore in latino; però questo detto, vecchio di 2 000 anni, ci dice che continuare nell'errore ha del maligno piuttosto che dell'umano.

Le recenti vicende climatiche, ma anche quelle finanziarie ed economiche, ci dimostrano che le dighe servono e non vanno distrutte per far nuotare le trote; gli argini dei fiumi devono essere rafforzati, anche in calcestruzzo, e non vanno abbattuti per fare in modo che la natura abbia il suo corso; gli alberi vanno tagliati dagli alvei dei fiumi, altrimenti si trasformano in arieti che sfondano

case e piloni dei ponti; e le fonti energetiche vanno cambiate quando è conveniente e non quando ce lo impone una direttiva europea.

Quindi, visto che Lei, commissaria designata, ha parlato di implementazioni di regolamenti già esistenti, Le volevo chiedere se vuole dare ragione a questo vecchio proverbio latino oppure se vuole cambiare qualcosa, mostrandoci il suo vero volto umano.

1-0119-0000

**Jessika Roswall**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Thank you, honourable Member. I will say that one part of your question is about water, and that is a really important question. I would say that from my point of view, when it comes to the water resilience strategy, one part is to have the resilience along all of the Member States, because this is a problem definitely for a lot of Member States in particular, but it's a problem for all of Europe.

Here I would say the things that you mentioned on the rivers, on the banks and the trees is actually exactly why we have the legislations that we have, but we need also to see that they are implemented effectively.

Yes, I talk a lot about implementation, because that is important for me, because if we're going to go from paper to actually getting results, we need to do the implementation and we need to do that in an efficient way. It's very clear from my mission letter, it's very clear from my own point of view, and I would do that in an efficient way, in a cost-efficient way, and also in a way that actually gives the result – that means in close cooperation with different stakeholders.

1-0120-0000

**Tiemo Wölken (S&D)**. – Thank you, Chair, dear Commissioner-designate, Europe's natural carbon sinks are not meeting the 2030 climate targets and the net removals have been shrinking rapidly in recent years.

Areas that have both a high carbon stock and high value for biodiversity, such as old-growth forest, peatlands, wetlands and marshes, are shrinking even faster. What concrete actions will you take – and please be specific, it's your last chance today – to reverse the trend in carbon sinks and protect high-value biodiversity areas?

Which additional public financial resources will you mobilise? And please do not refer to the nature credits as you did several times today, I'm asking about public spending.

And finally, how do you expect to be credible given that you were a minister in a Swedish government that has been repeatedly criticised by its own climate science board and has endorsed damaging forest management practices such as extensive clearcutting?

1-0121-0000

**Jessika Roswall**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Thank you very much, honourable Member Wölken. I hear three questions, I think. On the first, climate adaptation, I've been talking about a couple of times this evening, I think that it's something that from my portfolio to contribute, and it's Wopke Hoekstra who is in charge.

It's of huge importance for my portfolio when it comes to water resilience, because we have today broken water cycles. We need the water resilience when it comes to having the green transition, when it comes to our businesses and also when it comes to pollution on water. This is something

that I will make great emphasis when it comes to the climate adaptation on my part to bring to the table, so to say.

If, of course, I am confirmed, I will, of course, also look into if there will be necessary to do other legislation proposals or if I need also to look into how we can implement different acts. Again, I said this earlier, the cost of doing nothing is also something that is too high.

And that maybe brings me to the second question that I hear from you. I don't agree that I only talked about nature credits. I do believe that I talked about how we can use the current MFF to do effective ways when it comes to environmental climate adaptation. I know there are good examples in many different funding so far, like in the wildlife, but there is much more to do.

And when it comes to the next MFF, of course I will, as I said in my opening remark, defend and also look after that the funding will go to environmental effectiveness.

Credible: I have shown that I am credible when it comes to being a Commissioner, that's why I ask you for your trust, of course. I know that I have acted as an honest broker during my past life, and I will continue to do that together with you.

1-0122-0000

**Lídia Pereira (PPE).** – Senhora Comissária indigitada, gostaria de começar por reconhecer e enaltecer a sua prestação. Tem demonstrado uma vontade genuína de cooperar com o Parlamento Europeu. A sua abordagem inclusiva e a vontade de construir pontes com os vários *stakeholders* é essencial para enfrentar os desafios que temos pela frente.

A importância da gestão da água coloca sob pressão as comunidades e os ecossistemas, como vimos recentemente na Comunidade Valenciana. Estes são desafios prementes em muitas regiões da Europa, particularmente na Península Ibérica, onde as ameaças de seca e de inundações são constantes.

Em Portugal, esta situação sente-se todos os dias, principalmente na região do Algarve, no sul, afetando o consumo de água, a agricultura e a vida diária de milhões de pessoas. Portanto, gostaria de lhe perguntar: como podem as novas tecnologias limpas ser aproveitadas para desenvolver uma estratégia hídrica mais resiliente em toda a Europa? E o que prevê fazer para criar condições para o desenvolvimento destas soluções, por exemplo, no que toca à inovação, ao financiamento e à contratação pública.

1-0123-0000

**Jessika Roswall, Commissioner-designate.** – Thank you, honourable Member, for this question and also again facing the tragedy that we have seen in Europe and how can we build on that and how can we use the technology, as you say. In my previous answer on the water resilience, well, I can refer to that because I said it many times this evening, but also I think here is one thing that you really spot is using the techniques that already are in there, but we need to scale them up.

From my point of view, the European water resilience initiative will be built in many ways with a significant focus on the clean and circular technologies. That means reusing the water in systems, also use the advanced water system treatment where there already are technologies, but also use the nature-based solutions that we need to restore and build on. And I know that in Europe, we are the leader when it comes to innovations in circular water techniques. The problem maybe is that we haven't mainstreamed them. We haven't gotten the scale. So that is a possibility, an opportunity that we need to build on. How will I do that?



Also, of course, this is nothing that only me and you can do together. We have to work, of course, close together, when it comes to funding, to the EVP-designate Fitto and also Séjourné and also with Commissioner-designate Zaharieva. Because we need to have the investments in the regions that will actually be the most effective to focus on the scarcity that we see in a lot of regions throughout the European Union. But I'm hopeful that we will see some results because we really need to act now.

1-0124-0000

**Antonio Decaro**, *Presidente della commissione ENVI*. – Abbiamo terminato i lavori di questa audizione. Questa era l'ultima fase.

Prima di concludere questa riunione, invito la commissaria designata magari a fare una breve dichiarazione finale rispetto ai lavori.

Aspettiamo che possa finire di bere l'acqua e poi può intervenire.

1-0125-0000

**Jessika Roswall**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Dear Chair, honourable Members, thank you for this rich and comprehensive exchange. Our discussions have underlined the many opportunities for our collective work during the coming mandate, and I see opportunities to work together on delivering high levels of environmental protections for our citizens and to create new economic opportunities.

This Parliament is the democratic reflection of the political realities in our Union, and I have listened carefully to your comments and questions about the future direction of the European Green Deal within the context of the political priorities set out by President von der Leyen. If confirmed as Commissioner, I will be honoured to move forward on this agenda, together with my colleagues in the Commission, in the spirit of results-oriented solidarity.

I want to thank you for challenging me and asking me important and difficult questions, and also for indicating your clear priorities and concerns. I have, of course, not failed to notice the different views represented in this committee, and this is a natural part of democracy. But overall, I would say that I see common ground on key priorities that I have presented, and that is the need to maintain a high environmental standard and to make progress on our zero-pollution agenda, and the need also to embrace the new economic opportunities of the circular economy as a part of a central part of the Clean Industrial Deal. And also the need to address the threats on nature and biodiversity in the EU and globally. It has also been clear for all of us this recent week the need to deal urgently with our water challenges.

If I'm confirmed, I'm committed to move ahead quickly on key initiatives including the Circular Economy Act, the chemical industry package, the water resilience initiative and the bioeconomy strategy. And our exchange has confirmed that the competitive economy and the clean transition can and must go hand in hand. I'm also committed to simplification on burden-reduction, while keeping our high standards.

As a committed parliamentarian for many years, I'm deeply grateful to have had this opportunity to present my motivation, my credentials and my European commitment to be confirmed as a Member of the Commission responsible for the environment, water resilience and a competitive circular economy. I would bring my perspectives as a politician, as a lawyer and as a mother to framing our vision for a sustainable and prosperous future for our children and for our future generations.

I look forward to working with you in the spirit of a bridge-builder that has shaped my political life. I am open to two-way dialogue and regular feedback on my work in the Commission to ensure that the European Parliament's role is enhanced in the collective interest of the citizens that we all serve. Thank you very much.

1-0126-0000

**Antonio Decaro (S&D).** – Grazie, commissaria designata, grazie a tutti i membri della commissione e ai presidenti delle commissioni invitate che sono stati presenti.

Abbiamo affrontato temi importanti, ognuno con la propria sensibilità, che però rappresentano le sensibilità delle comunità che ci hanno portato in quest'Aula, con elezioni democratiche, e quindi ognuno di noi rappresenta le proprie sensibilità.

Abbiamo affrontato temi di grande attualità, come la resilienza idrica, la tutela della biodiversità e l'economia circolare.

Le auguro buona fortuna. Noi adesso abbiamo l'obbligo di valutare senza indugio la commissaria designata. In data odierna è prevista una riunione di valutazione alle ore 22:30. La riunione si terrà a porte chiuse.

Grazie e buona serata a tutti voi.

1-0127-0000

*(The hearing closed at 21:55)*