D 104611 05.11.2024

European Parliament

Committee on International Trade
Committee on Constitutional Affairs
The Chairs

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr Bernd LANGE
Chair
Conference of Committee Chairs

Dear Mr Lange,

The Committee on International Trade and the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, in accordance with Rule 129 of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament, held a public confirmation hearing on 4 November 2024 with Mr Maroš Šefčovič, Commissioner-designate, who, subject to the positive outcome of the nomination procedure, will be responsible for Trade and Economic Security, Interinstitutional Relations and Transparency.

On 16 October 2024 the Committee on International Trade and the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, pursuant to Rule 129 of the Rules of Procedure and Article 2 of Annex VII thereto, received the letter from the Chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs regarding the scrutiny of the declaration of financial interests of Mr Šefčovič.

Prior to the confirmation hearing, Parliament had sent the Commissioner-designate a list of written questions. Our committees noted that Mr Šefčovič answered those questions in a satisfactory manner.

The course of the confirmation hearing is described in the verbatim transcript of the proceedings.

The Commissioner-designate made a number of commitments regarding the manner in which he intends to engage with the European Parliament, in particular:

- to further strengthen the special partnership between the European Parliament and the Commission, notably by revising the Framework Agreement on cooperation between the Parliament and the Commission;
- to engage regularly with the Parliament's relevant committees, including through dedicated briefings to its members;
- to ensure that parliamentary committees are involved in any major developments under his responsibility;
- to keep Parliament and its committees immediately and fully informed at all stages of the procedure for the negotiation of international agreements, and to look at ways to ensure that Parliament is informed also on non-binding agreements;

- to continue to provide the Parliament with the same trade policy documents it provides the Council;
- to support the Parliament's right of legislative initiative, including the right to initiate and revoke legislation, and to uphold the Commission's commitment to respond to Parliament's resolutions under Article 225 TFEU with legislative proposals;
- to honour and uphold the commitment to seek the consent of the European Parliament prior to the provisional application of trade and investment agreements;
- to build a common understanding with the European Parliament and Council on concluding as many trade and investment agreements as possible as EU competence agreements;
- to be ready for the Commission and its President to play their institutional role in the treaty revision process according to Article 48 TEU;
- to provide comprehensive justifications on the exceptional cases where Commission proposals are based on Article 122 of the TFEU;
- to continue engaging with Member States to move from unanimity to qualified majority voting in Council whenever possible in order to enhance Europe's capacity to act;
- to support the Parliament and the Council in finding solutions to modernise the European Parliament's right of inquiry, including in the event of a new legislative proposal by Parliament.

The INTA and AFCO coordinators met in camera after the confirmation hearing under our chairmanship to evaluate the Commissioner-designate's performance. Given the Commissioner-designate's exemplary record and qualifications and despite diverging views on the commitments made, INTA and AFCO coordinators representing a majority of at least two thirds of committee members belonging to a political group confirmed the Commissioner-designate's general competence, European commitment and personal independence, as well as his knowledge of his prospective portfolio and his communication skills.

In accordance with Rule 129 of the Rules of Procedure and Article 5 of Annex VII thereto, INTA and AFCO coordinators representing a large majority of at least two thirds of committee members belonging to a political group approved that the Commissioner-designate is qualified both to be a member of the College of Commissioners and to carry out the specific tasks assigned to him.

The opinions of the committees invited to participate in the confirmation hearing are in the annex.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Bernd LANGE
Chair
Committee on International Trade

Mr Sven SIMON
Chair
Committee on Constitutional Affairs

Annex

European Parliament

Committee on Foreign Affairs
The Chair

CONFIDENTIAL

D 104567 05.11.2024

Mr Bernd Lange
Chair
Committee on International Trade

Mr Sven Simon
Chair
Committee on Constitutional Affairs

Subject: Evaluation of Maroš Šefčovič, Commissioner-designate for trade and economic security and Commissioner-designate for inter-institutional relations and transparency

Dear Mr Lange and Mr Simon,

The Committee on Foreign Affairs, invited to the confirmation hearing of Commissioner-designate Maroš Šefčovič, which took place on 4 November 2024, considers that the Commissioner-designate is qualified to be member of the College and is qualified to carry out the particular duties he has been assigned in the field of strengthening of political relations with third countries, in particular concerning leading on relations with the United Kingdom, Switzerland and other Western partners.

This opinion has been adopted by Coordinators representing at least a simple majority of committee members belonging to a political group.

Yours sincerely,

David McAllister

Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection
The Chair

MaC/JEA/ls
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D 104563 05.11.2024

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressees:
Mr Bernd Lange, Chair of the Committee on International Trade (INTA)
Mr Sven Simon, Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO)

Opinion by IMCO as invited committee to the confirmation hearing of Commissioner-designate Maroš Šefčovič

Dear Mr Lange, dear Mr Simon,

The Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) has been invited to the INTA-AFCO confirmation hearing of Commissioner-designate Maroš Šefčovič, which took place on 4 November 2024.

IMCO considers that the Commissioner-designate is qualified to be member of the College and is qualified to carry out the particular duties he has been assigned in the field of customs policy, which falls to a substantial extent within the responsibility of IMCO.

In particular, the Commissioner-designate intends to lead efforts on the negotiations and implementation of the EU Customs reform and the establishment of the EU Customs Authority as a necessary next step to achieve a world-class, data-driven vision for EU Customs, which due to the Customs Data Hub will simplify customs processes for businesses and will save significant operating costs. He also aims to tackle the challenges related to non-EU imports via e-commerce platforms, showing willingness to further work in particular on: safety compliance of the goods, unfair competition between EU-established businesses and third-country traders and marketplaces, and environmental sustainability.

This opinion has been adopted by IMCO Coordinators representing a large majority of committee members belonging to a political group.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Cavazzini
IMCO Chair

Cc: Committee Coordination and Legislative Programming Unit (Coordleg)

Chair

Committee on Petitions

European Parliament

CONFIDENTIAL

D 104562 05.11.2024

Brussels
[IPOL-COM-PETI D (2024) 32499]

Mr. Bernd LANGE
Chair
Committee on International Trade
Altiero Spinelli (ASP) 12G301
Brussels

Mr. Sven SIMON
Chair
Committee on Constitutional Affairs
Altiero Spinelli (ASP) 15E134
Brussels

Dear Chairs,

The Committee on Petitions (PETI), invited to the confirmation hearing of Commissioner-designate Maroš Šefčovič, which took place on 4 November 2024, considers that the Commissioner-designate is qualified to be member of the College and is qualified to carry out the particular duties he has been assigned in the field of petitions.

This opinion has been adopted by Coordinators representing at least a simple majority of committee members belonging to a political group.

Bogdan RZOŃCA
Chair of the Committee on Petitions

Committee on Development
The Chair

European Parliament

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr Bernd Lange
Chair
Committee on International Trade

D 104575 05.11.2024

Mr Sven Simon
Chair
Committee on Constitutional Affairs

Dear Chairs,

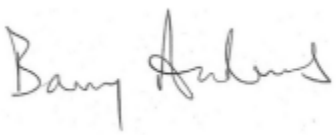
The Committee on Development, invited to the confirmation hearing of Commissioner-designate Mr Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ, which took place on 4 November 2024, considers that the Commissioner-designate is qualified to be member of the College and is qualified to carry out the particular duties he has been assigned in the field of Trade and Economic Security.

The trade and development nexus means, inter alia, that trade is one of the most important tools to help partner countries on their path to sustainable development. The Committee on Development takes due note of the commitments made by Commissioner-designate Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ during his hearing and the preceding written answers, as regards the trade-development nexus and expresses the expectation that the Commissioner-designate will implement the commitments to:

- Carrying out more outreach and engagement with our partners in developing countries, in particular to develop the attractiveness of our EPAs and GSP+, through effective and flexible rules of origin, allowing development partners to make use of the preferences they are entitled to;
- Ensuring that Sustainable Investment Facilitation Agreements, Clean Trade and Investment Partnerships and the Global Gateway strategy align with the Treaty obligations and the pursuit of the Agenda 2030;
- Transparency and accountability, including with regard to development financing.

This opinion has been adopted by Coordinators by consensus.

Yours sincerely,



Barry Andrews

European Parliament

Committee on Legal Affairs
The Chair

D 104564 05.11.2024

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr Bernd Lange
Chair of the Committee on International Trade
European Parliament
SPINELLI 12G301

Mr Sven Simon
Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs
European Parliament
SPINELLI 15E134

Subject: Opinion of the JURI Committee concerning the Commissioner - designate Maroš Šefčovič following the assessment meeting of the JURI Coordinators

Dear Chairs,

The Committee on Legal Affairs, invited to the confirmation hearing of Commissioner-designate Maroš Šefčovič, which took place on 4 November 2024, considers that the Commissioner-designate is qualified to be a member of the College and is qualified to carry out the particular duties that he has been assigned in the field of those parts of a candidate's portfolio Trade and Economic Security and Interinstitutional Relations and Transparency, which fall to a substantial extent within the responsibility of the Committee on Legal Affairs.

This opinion has been adopted by the Coordinators representing at least a simple majority of committee members belonging to a political group.

Yours sincerely,

Ilhan KYUCHYUK

Copy:
Mr Bernd Lange, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs
CCC Secretariat

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