

Committee on Budgets  
Committee on Budgetary Control

IPOL-COM-CONT D(2024)32843

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr Bernd Lange  
Chair  
Conference of Committee Chairs  
SPINELLI 12G301

Dear Chair, dear Bernd,

The Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Budgetary Control, in accordance with Rule 129 of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament, held a public confirmation hearing on 7 November 2024 with Mr Piotr Serafin, Commissioner-designate, who, subject to the positive outcome of the nomination procedure, will be responsible for Budget, Anti-Fraud and Public Administration.

On 16 October 2024, the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Budgetary Control, 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 Piotr Serafin.

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

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

On the basis of the responses of the Members present at the confirmation hearing, as well as the comments made by our committees' coordinators, who met in camera after the confirmation hearing under our chairmanship, we hereby give the following assessment:

During the hearing, Mr Serafin gave a positive impression to the Members. He presented a clear picture of the portfolio which he has been assigned.

Members appreciated his commitment to act as an honest broker, ensure equal treatment and access of information to Parliament and the Council.

Members took note of his vision for the next MFF and welcomed the commitment to preserving cohesion policy and ensuring a key role for regional and local authorities in its design and delivery, simplifying rules for final beneficiaries, enhancing flexibility, and reviewing and implementing the mainstreaming architecture, including the methodologies.

Members also appreciated his commitment to uphold the highest standards of control of the EU budget and protection of the financial interests of the EU, in particular by strengthening the anti-fraud architecture.

In the area of own resources, he also committed sparing no effort to convince Member States in the Council to make progress on the introduction of new revenue for the EU budget necessary to finance EU political priorities.

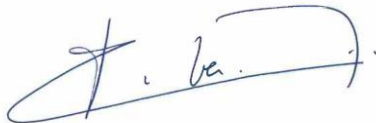
On the rule of law conditionality mechanism, Members expect the Commissioner-designate to fully apply the provisions of the regulation and to take all appropriate measures in case of serious risks affecting the sound financial management of the EU budget or the protection of the financial interests of the Union in a sufficiently direct way.

On the basis of the above assessment, the general outcome of this confirmation hearing is that the Commissioner-designate gave a convincing impression of his aptitude to be a member of the College of Commissioners and to carry out the specific tasks assigned to him.

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

During the evaluation meeting, the coordinators of Patriots for Europe and The Left requested to put on the record minority views (see annex).

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



Johan Van Overtveldt  
Chair of the Committee  
on Budgets



Niclas Herbst  
Chair of the Committee  
on Budgetary Control

Annexes:

- Minority views
- Opinion of the Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI)
- Opinion of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE)
- Verbatim transcript

Copy: Javier Zarzalejos, Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs  
Ilhan Kyuchuk, Chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs

## **Minority views**

### *Patriots of Europe*

For the Patriots of Europe's political group, the nomination of the Commissioner-designate Piotr Serafin is strongly unacceptable given his view on the rules of law and on the conditionality principle.

Piotr Serafin has repeatedly stated that he will base his actions on European law and jurisprudence. In reality, this means entrusting crucial decisions to politicised judges, whose choices will be masked behind legal arguments, posing a major risk to the independence of the Member States

### *The Left*

The Left Group does not support Piotr Serafin because the candidate has not been able to ensure an approach to the budget and to the new MFF after 2027 that stands for political priorities in the financing of cohesion, public services, housing, productive sectors or support SMEs. On the contrary, he has supported policies that abandon these objectives, opting to divert budgetary resources to objectives that are contrary to the interests of the people, namely supporting the privileges of large transnational corporations and without proper responses for the SMEs.

He also has not explained how its proposals to increase national contributions to the EU budget and strengthen own resources can be reconciled without undermining the redistributive nature of the budget.

The link between the disbursement of funds and the implementation of structural reforms remains a deep concern of the new EU budget model defended by Mr Serafin.

The Commissioner-designate did not compromise on the inclusion and enforcement of social clauses in access to EU funds or the exclusion of companies that do not respect labour and social standards.

D 308618 08.11.2024



Committee on Legal Affairs  
The Chair

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Mr Johan VAN OVERTVELDT  
Chair of the Committee on Budgets  
European Parliament  
SCHOLL 05U012

Mr Niclas HERBST  
Chair of the Committee on Budgetary Control  
European Parliament  
SPINELLI 14E202

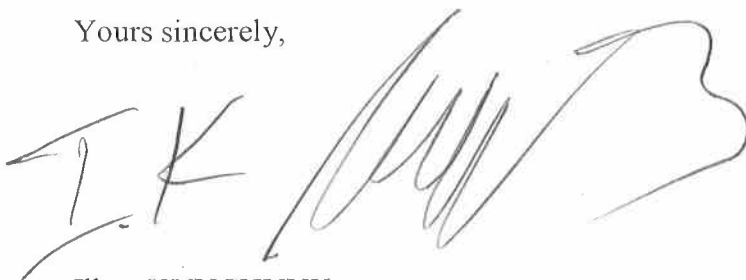
**Subject: Opinion of the JURI Committee concerning the Commissioner-designate Piotr Serafin following the assessment meeting of the JURI Coordinators**

Dear Chairs,

The Committee on Legal Affairs, invited to the confirmation hearing of Commissioner-designate Piotr Serafin, which took place on 7 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 his portfolio on Budget, Anti-fraud and Public administration 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

D 308639 08.11.2024



Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs  
The Chairman

IPOL-COM-LIBE D (2024) 33186

**CONFIDENTIAL**

*Johan VAN OVERTVELDT*  
*Chair of the Committee on Budgets*

*Niclas HERBST*  
*Chair of the Committee on Budgetary Control*

***Subject: LIBE Committee opinion on the Confirmation Hearing of Piotr SERAFIN***

Dear Chairs,

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs was invited to the confirmation hearing of the Commissioner-designate for Budget, Anti-Fraud and Public Administration, Piotr SERAFIN, which took place on Thursday 7 November 2024.

Following his replies to LIBE-related questions, the Committee considers that the Commissioner-designate is qualified to be a member of the College and is qualified to carry out the particular duties he has been assigned in the LIBE Committee's remit.

The LIBE Committee takes note of the commitments made by Mr Serafin during the course of the hearing to appear regularly before the Committee, and encourages the Commissioner-designate to work closely with the Commissioner for Justice on the basis of the annual rule of law report.

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

Yours sincerely,

Javier ZARZALEJOS, Chair of the LIBE Committee

cc:

Bernd LANGE, Conference of Committee Chairs  
Committee Coordination and Legislative Programming Unit (Coordleg)