

QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE**Henna VIRKKUNEN****Executive Vice-President for Tech Sovereignty, Security and
Democracy****1. General competence, European commitment and personal independence**

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

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

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

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

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

Questions from the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

3. What is your vision for your portfolio over and above your mission letter and what would you like your legacy to be? What legislative proposals and other initiatives will you suggest to the College of Commissioners for adoption in the next five years and in particular in the first 100 days? How will you ensure that these proposals, as well as the implementation of existing legislation, would strengthen European competitiveness? Do you intend to base those legislative proposals on dedicated impact assessments? What are your plans in particular for the Digital Networks Act, the EU Cloud and AI Development Act, the single EU-wide Cloud policy and the European Data Union Strategy? What concrete measures will you propose in order to ensure that Europe reaches its 2030 Digital Decade targets, including in relation to digital skills? What are your views on the European Cybersecurity Certification Scheme for Cloud Services (EUCS) and the recommendations in the Draghi report related to cloud services?

4. How do you define EU tech sovereignty and competitiveness? How can the EU achieve it? In that regard, what targets and indicators will you set to ensure that substantial progress has been made by the end of your mandate? How will you reinforce the position of the EU tech sector in both hardware and software, using a holistic approach, and what immediate measures will you take to ensure tech sovereignty and promote the competitiveness of European platforms? What are your plans with respect to digital and frontier technologies, such as AI, supercomputing, quantum computing and technologies, semiconductors, space tech and the Internet of Things? What measures do you envisage to ensure a safe, trustworthy and human-centric use of digital technologies? How do you plan to ensure effective implementation of the Chips Act and strengthen EU's semiconductors supply chains? What are your plans for the expansion of the Chips Act, including support for strategic industry segments and adjacent industries, and for the long-term EU Quantum Chips plan? How will you enhance EU coordination

and participation in international ICT standard-setting bodies and promote EU digital norms and standards internationally?

5. What are your plans regarding digital infrastructure and access to quality connectivity across geographical areas? How do you intend to implement the proposals set out in the White Paper on Europe's digital infrastructure needs? What is your view on the recommendations of the White Paper and of the Draghi report on network fees? What measures do you envisage to improve gigabit connectivity, expand the roll-out of 5G, ensure a complete shift from copper to fibre by 2030 and incentivise investments from the private sector into network development? How do you plan to address the energy related aspects of digital infrastructure? What measures do you consider necessary to reinforce cyber resilience and security in all fields across the EU? How will you enhance security and defence industrial competitiveness in the context of a European Defence Union?

Questions from the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection

6. Artificial Intelligence, EU Cloud and AI Development Act

What will be the main principles and objectives of the announced proposal for a new "EU Cloud and AI Development Act", and how does the Commission plan to achieve these objectives? How will the Commission align the strategic objective of boosting AI innovation and competitiveness with the need to ensure the trustworthiness and safety of AI to the benefits of consumers and businesses? How do you intend to promote the harmonised application of EU digital norms and standards in the Single Market and internationally and ensure EU's global leadership in digital governance?

7. Digital Services Act and Digital Markets Act and negative impacts of online platforms

What will be your enforcement priorities for the Digital Services Act (DSA) and Digital Markets Act (DMA), and how will you ensure effective, transparent, and rapid enforcement mechanisms? How will the Commission address the call for simplification and reducing administrative burdens? Will the Commission be able to dedicate sufficient resources to enforcement? How do you plan to tackle harmful practices online such as dark patterns or addictive design, which impact individuals, in particular children and minors, and their mental health? Finally, what concrete actions will you take to fight cyberbullying?

8. E-commerce platforms

The President of the European Commission, Ursula von den Leyen, entrusted you with a task to lead the work to tackle challenges with e-commerce platforms, especially from third countries, to ensure consumers and business benefit from a level playing field based on effective customs, tax and safety and sustainability rules. How do you intend to achieve these objectives and in particular what have you identified as the main issues and what are the tools and measures to address them, especially when the main actors are established in third countries? How will this contribute to improving the functioning of the Single Market and the protection of EU consumers' rights? How do you plan to cooperate on this task with other Members of the College and with enforcement authorities in the Member States?

Question from the Committee on Foreign Affairs / Question from the Subcommittee on Security and Defence

9. The EU is facing the most complex set of threats and a deteriorating security environment since the end of the Cold War, with threats emanating from outside as well as inside the Union. You have been tasked with working with the Commissioner for Defence and Space and the Vice-President of the European Commission and High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) in bringing the Defence Union to life and to drive our defence industrial consolidation, reduce fragmentation, duplication and inefficiencies. A key element in this will be harnessing new and innovative technologies to ensure we have the defence technological edge, as Executive Vice-President, how do you intend to support innovation and digital development in Defence industry, as well as its dual-use and civil-military potential as well as ensure that efforts to regulate dual-use technologies like AI do not fall behind the rapid pace of development in military applications, both within and beyond EU borders? In addition, how do you plan to engage with Member States, the VP/HR, international partners to establish governance frameworks for the responsible development and use of dual-use technologies including military application of AI that guarantees meaningful human control? How do you intend to enhance security of critical infrastructures in the EU?

Question from the Committee on Culture and Education

10. Considering the large scope of your portfolio, how will you work towards making sure that the media and audiovisual sectors receive the priority, focus and adequate budgetary resources in line with their cultural, societal and economic role as well as the current digital transformation challenges? In particular, how do you intend to continue ensuring the coherent implementation and monitoring of the complex EU legal framework that has an impact on the media, audiovisual and creative sectors, notably when it comes to the implementation of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD) and the European Media Freedom Act (EMFA)?

Question from the Committee on Legal Affairs

11. Copyright

In your mission letter, you are invited to “consider the need to further improve the copyright framework to address new challenges raised by market and technology developments” and to “help combat unethical techniques online, such as dark patterns”.

Such a framework will play a crucial role in the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other technologies in the future. The relationship between AI and copyright and related rights is a vast and complex area of exploration. The recently adopted AI Act, whose aim is to improve the functioning of the internal market and promote the uptake of human-centric and trustworthy AI while at the same time ensuring a high level of protection (of health, safety, personal data and fundamental rights enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights), addressed partly the issue of the use of copyright-protected content by the training of general-purpose AI models. It stresses that general-purpose AI systems must meet certain transparency requirements with the publication of detailed summaries of the content used for training of AI and the need to comply with EU copyright law, and in particular the text-and-data mining exceptions as laid down in the 2019 Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market (CDSM). Now, it remains to be seen how, in practice, those rules and related codes will be efficiently implemented. While the AI Act began to address the relationship between Generative AI and copyright, other areas of that relationship would need to be clarified. Generative AI poses new challenges to the copyright legal framework that still remain unaddressed and that may have potential effects on creativity, innovation and on the EU’s competitiveness, such as the possible copyright protection of AI generated output, the appropriate remuneration of authors for the use of their works by Generative AI or the infringement of copyright within the context of Generative AI. At the same time, the unethical techniques employed online are not only at the intersection of consumers protection but also of the very ethical questions that relate to the use of modern technologies and to intellectual property rights, in particular copyright, where the dark patterns may lead to the copyright’s frustration. In light of the above, firstly - what would be your strategy to make sure that the copyright framework fully addresses all the challenges raised by AI and new technologies, continues to boost creativity, innovation and the EU’s competitiveness in the digital age, including any legislative initiatives you may intend to put forward in this regards, secondly - how would you coordinate work with the Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport to develop a strategy for cultural and creative industries addressing the challenges posed by AI and - thirdly - how would you ensure that the risks posed by dark patterns online are tackled at the intersection of ethics, IP law and consumer protection?

Question from the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

12. Your portfolio encompasses a broad range of policy areas for which the LIBE Committee is competent, from border management, asylum and migration, freedom, security and justice, and the rule of law, to artificial intelligence and digital policy.

On the one hand, therefore, you will be in charge of overseeing the Commission's work on external borders and the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, as well as strengthening the rule of law – including in areas such as judicial independence, anticorruption and media freedom – in cooperation with the Commissioners responsible. In each of these areas, how will you guide that work and what will be your priorities?

On the other hand, you will be responsible for the implementation and enforcement of all major digital policy legislation adopted in the past years to address data-driven technological advances, such as the Digital Services Act, the Digital Markets Act and the Artificial Intelligence Act, all having a significant impact on the fundamental rights to data protection and privacy. How will you ensure that these different laws co-exist harmoniously and are implemented and enforced while preserving the EU standards for fundamental rights compliance? And how can competent authorities responsible for enforcing digital laws, but also the GDPR and the e-Privacy Directive, collaborate effectively?