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EU Issue Tracker

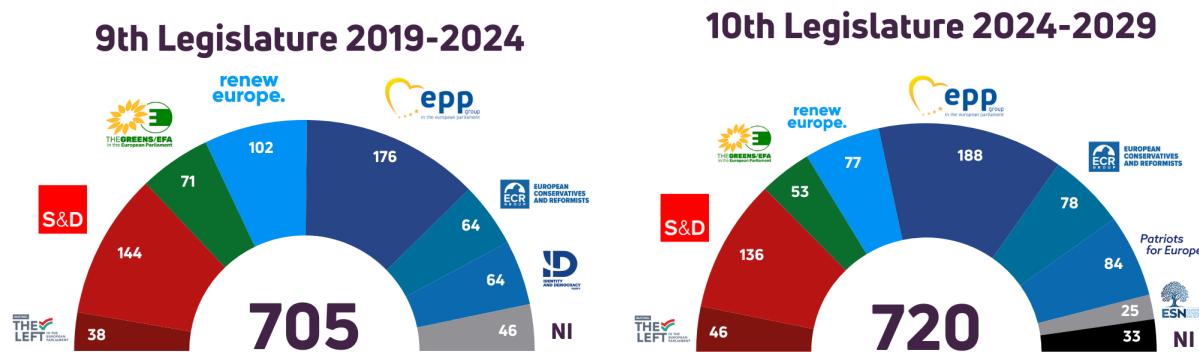
2024 EU Post-Elections Analysis Sample

A sample from our review of the composition of the new Commission, including six Executive Vice-Presidents.



Post-EU Election Insights

Following the 6-9 June 2024 elections, the new European Parliament (10th Legislature) now comprises 720 MEPs (up from 705 in the 2019-2024 term) as numbers were rebalanced to account for demographic changes in the EU since 2019. Consequently, Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, Latvia, Austria, Poland, Finland, Slovenia, and Slovakia received one additional seat, whereas France, Netherlands, and Spain gained two seats each.



Turnover of MEPs was also quite significant at 54 per cent. Of the 385 MEPs not returning, 153 were not re-elected and 23 — almost a third of MEPs — chose not to stand for re-election.

Composition of the New Commission

Commission President Ursula von der Leyen revealed the composition of her new College on 17 September 2024.

Assignments are significantly different from the previous College with new titles and combined portfolios, creating overlaps between various Commissioners, Executive Vice-Presidents (EVPs), and their areas of competence. The Commission President stated that this College will be structured on a linear and balanced basis. Von der Leyen [hopes](#) this new model of governance will foster more collaboration within the new College.

Von der Leyen's aim to achieve parity in the gender composition of the new Commission came close, with 40 per cent of women in the college and overall 11 women and 16 men, compared to 22 per cent of women at the beginning of negotiations with Member States.

The key aims and principles that the new Commission will operate on are based around notably three core priorities: Prosperity, Security, and Democracy.

This further translates into areas of focus:

1. Strengthening tech security, autonomy, democracy, and competitiveness
2. Decarbonising the economy, building a strong industrial policy, reinforcing cohesion between regions
3. Focusing on the external dimensions of the EU to defend common interests.

The [Mission Letters](#) to the Executive Vice-Presidents and Commissioners outline their exact tasks, scopes of portfolios, and potential overlaps. The attribution of the roles and summary of the scope and tasks of each Member of the College includes:

Six Executive Vice-Presidents

Kaja Kallas (Estonia) will be Executive Vice-President and a High Representative on Foreign and Security Policy, a role already agreed with the European Council.

Kallas' main three priorities will be to (i) strengthen EU's security and defence through solidarity with Ukraine, building peace and EU Defence Union, (ii) create more strategic approach to the EU neighbourhood and its partners, especially through the Mediterranean Pact, a comprehensive EU Middle East Strategy, and an increased transatlantic partnership with the UK and collaboration with Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Indo-Pacific and Sahel regions, as well as Central Asia, and finally (iii) develop a modern foreign policy in cooperation with EVP Stéphane Séjourné, responsible for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy.

In her new role, Kallas will aim to strengthen the EU democracy and institutional relationships, and increase global partnerships. These aims will likely contribute to increased cooperation and collegiality between the College members, who in turn will contribute to a better long term budget and investment, also in relation to the climate objectives. Kallas will also cooperate with candidate countries and support and prepare them to join the EU. She will also fight disinformation and ensure transparent communication.

Henna Virkkunen (Finland) will be responsible for Tech-Sovereignty, Security, and Democracy. Virkkunen will also be responsible for the digital and frontier technologies portfolio and focus on internal and external aspects of security, while strengthening democracy and the rule of law.

In her new role, EVP Virkkunen will focus on the EU's increasingly complex security threats and ensure strong external borders, freedom, security, and justice. Furthermore, she will combat obstacles to democracy, fortify the rule of law, address corruption, and issues related to the Single Market. She will also focus on cybersecurity and will cooperate with EVP for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy, Stéphane Séjourné. While continuing to boost AI innovation, Virkkunen will also focus on a long-term EU Chips plan, secure, fast, and reliable connectivity, and increased investments in digital infrastructure.

She will also combat challenges concerning the e-commerce platforms, tackle unethical online practices and cyberbullying, evaluate social media impacts, while improving copyright framework. Virkkunen will also work to secure the EU's global role in digital governance and digitalise Commission through automation and AI, while ensuring the institution's resilience to cybersecurity threats. She will also collaborate with the Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jozef Síkela.

Stéphane Séjourné (France) will focus on Prosperity and Industrial Strategy. He will be responsible for the Single Market portfolio, and will work on investments, economic security, industry, and SMEs.

In his role, Séjourné will oversee industry, SMEs, and the Single Market, while promoting investments in advanced technologies and innovations and strengthening the competitiveness of EU companies.

The EVP will work closely with Executive Vice-President for Clean, Just and Competitive Transition Teresa Ribera, and Commissioner for Climate Net Zero and Clean Growth Wopke Hoekstra in relation to the Clean Industrial Deal. Furthermore, Séjourné and Ribera will establish a European Competitiveness Fund to invest in cutting-edge technologies, while Séjourné himself will co-design a Competitiveness Coordination Tool with other members of the College.

He will collaborate with Commissioner for Economy and Productivity Valdis Dombrovskis, to create a framework to boost investments from capital markets and with the Commissioner for Environment, Resilience and a Competitive Circular Autonomy Jessika Roswall on the Circular Economy Act and simplification of REACH.

Séjourné will also be tasked with continuing the InvestEU programme with the European Investment Bank, and developing new risk-absorbing measures, while fostering the Single Digital Gateway and the Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEIs) system. Finally, he will implement the Net Zero Industry Act and develop an Industrial Decarbonisation Accelerator Act to promote clean technologies and their integration into industries, while improving SME access to financing.

Raffaele Fitto (Italy) will be the Executive Vice-President for Cohesion and Reforms, focusing on cohesion policy, regional development, and cities and tasked with modernising and strengthening the growth policies in the EU.

Fitto's primary mission will be to enhance the cohesion of the EU, which drives productivity, innovation, and competitiveness. A key focus of his role will also be on integrating Cohesion Policy into the work of the College. Furthermore, Fitto will collaborate with Commissioner for

Economy and Productivity Valdis Dombrovskis on the implementation of NextGenerationEU and the investments made by Member States through the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF).

Additionally, Fitto will work on integrating Cohesion Policy into investment and reforms led by other College members, while focusing on improving the competitiveness, resilience, and sustainability of the agricultural, fishery, mobility, and tourism sectors. He will also contribute to the development of the European Affordable Housing Plan.

Finally, Fitto will be tasked with developing a policy agenda for cities to address issues such as housing, digitalisation, mobility, and climate action, while also increasing the visibility of EU projects in regions.

Roxana Mînzatu (Romania) will be the Executive Vice-President for People, Skills, and Preparedness covering skills, education and culture, quality jobs, and social rights, with the aim of creating a “united society”.

Mînzatu will focus on supporting the EU's social model, increasing prosperity and productivity, and tackling skill and labour gaps by emphasising training and education. Her responsibilities will be largely linked to the European Pillar of Social Rights, and is therefore tasked with developing a new Action Plan in 2025, which will focus on reaching 2030 goals.

She is also expected to develop a “Quality Jobs” Roadmap supporting fair wages and high standards for workers while promoting economic and social change through a dialogue with trade unions and employers. To that end, she will be required to present a new Pact for European Social Dialogue expected to be delivered in early 2025.

She will also lead the new EU Anti-Poverty Strategy, while contributing to the European Affordable Housing Plan. Mînzatu will also work on the right to disconnect and on improving the framework on tackling long-term care workforce challenges, in order to improve occupational health and safety, working conditions and better mental health at work.

Finally she will also be tasked with developing a collective and inclusive “Union of Skills”, arranging a Skills Portability Initiative, developing a European Strategy for Vocational Education and Training, an Action Plan on Basic Skills and a STEM Education Strategic Plan.

Teresa Ribera (Spain) will be responsible for Clean, Just, and Competitive Transition. Ribera will also be responsible for competition policy and achieving the European Green Deal goals with a view to ensuring that the EU's economy is decarbonised and industrialised.

Ribera will work on implementing the 2040 emission-reduction target of 90% into the European Climate Law, while working closely with the relevant stakeholders. She will also focus on

lowering energy costs, further reducing energy poverty, and improving the overall housing crisis, while collaborating with the Commissioner for Energy and Housing, Dan Jørgensen.

Furthermore, she will work on ensuring that taxation measures will be in line with the goals of the just transition and decarbonisation efforts and on using the natural capital for the development of a circular economy. To that end, she will collaborate with Wopke Hoekstra, the Commissioner for Climate, Net-Zero, and Clean Growth.

Ribera will also focus on updating the EU competition policy, including a State aid framework in the Clean Industrial Deal, reviewing the Horizontal Merger Control Guidelines, improving housing support measures, and addressing acquisition risks from foreign companies towards SMEs and small midcaps.

She will also focus on implementing the European Competitiveness Fund and on the Important Projects of Common Interest (IPECIs) for quick finance access and assistance. Finally, she will work on competition rules, develop stronger global cooperation, whilst also tackling anti competitive practices and the challenges associated with digital markets.

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