



renew europe.

Valérie Hayer
Member of the European Parliament
President of the Renew Europe Group

Brussels, 31 October 2024

Ms. Ursula von der Leyen
President-elect
European Commission
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
1049 Brussels
Belgium

Dear President-elect von der Leyen,

As the confirmation hearings for the next European Commission approach, the Renew Europe Group wishes to share our priorities and expectations for your incoming team. This is a defining moment for our Union, **requiring leadership with unshakable integrity, a deep-rooted commitment to EU values, and a dedication to proposing bold reforms.** Enclosed with this letter is a detailed list of policy priorities that will guide our engagement with each Commissioner-designate throughout the hearings and confirmation process.

First and foremost, we expect each candidate to embody the highest standards of competence, independence, and alignment with EU values. It is essential that they demonstrate a **proactive commitment to safeguarding Article 2 of the Treaty** and the Charter of Fundamental Rights. They must work independently of national biases and respect the Parliament's role.

Our policy priorities are clear: Liberty, Prosperity, and Security.

We need an effective and complete toolbox of measures to preserve liberty, shield our democracies, and restore the rule of law where it has been damaged. We demand full commitment to ensure timely, coordinated, and efficient implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum as negotiated in the previous mandate. We also expect an unwavering commitment to safeguard free movement and the integrity of the Schengen area, and to fully apply the revised Schengen Borders Code.

In this globalised world, we urge a bold and strategic approach to economic policy. As outlined in the Draghi report, economic resilience and competitiveness are essential to the EU's stability and influence on the global stage. **We call for robust steps toward completing the capital markets union, strengthening financial stability, and fostering an environment where innovation can thrive.** Renew Europe expects concrete action to drive forward financial reforms that enable both stability and growth, ensuring that Europe is equipped to meet future economic challenges.

We aim to pave the way for sustainable economic growth across sectors. We urge the next Commission to sustain and accelerate efforts under the Green Deal. **The road to climate neutrality must remain steadfast, with no tolerance for backtracking on the Fit for 55 package.** The implementation of these ambitious goals should be comprehensive, ensuring that Europe remains a global leader in climate action.


Finally, **we want the EU to take a leadership role in foreign affairs** and to uphold EU values by strengthening support for Ukraine, reinforcing multilateralism, and stabilizing the Southern

Neighbourhood, particularly the Middle East. Renew Europe seeks a Commission that champions democratic principles globally and protects EU interests with firm, consistent action. We also need a credible enlargement process and internal EU reform. We expect the Commission to actively advance an "ever closer union" and **commit to reforming the institutional setup of the Union through Treaty change.**

These expectations and the detailed list in the annex will serve as the foundation for our evaluation of each candidate's suitability. **Renew Europe will also hold the new Commission accountable to these priorities for the vote on the College of Commissioners and throughout its legislative term.** They are complementary to your Political Guidelines disclosed in July. In this regard, we recall our attachment to the majority that supported you for a second term as President of the European Commission. We will not accept any betrayal over this platform and the goals we pursue as pro-Europeans - either within the Parliament or the Commission's College. Progress lies in the centre, not the extremes. We look forward to engaging in constructive dialogue with you and the Commissioners-designate to ensure that the incoming Commission reflects these commitments and serves European citizens with conviction and purpose.

Thank you for your attention to these priorities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "V. Aeyers". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. The first letter "V" is large and prominent, followed by a period and the name "Aeyers".