

22 - 26 July 2024

We will pause the weekly updates during the summer break. The next update will be published on 30 August.

## I. Political and Policy Developments

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## II. Key institutional milestones

### I. Political and Policy Developments

#### 1. New European Parliament committees elect their chairs

MEPs [elected](#) chairs and vice-chairs for the European Parliament's 20 standing committees. The European People's Party (EPP) got 8 chairs, the Socialists and Democrats (S&D) 5, the European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) 3, Renew Europe and the Greens 3 each, The Left 2.

The deal confirms that the ECR is now considered part of the mainstream political groups, with the *cordon sanitaire* only applied to far-right groups Patriots for Europe (PfE) and Europe of Sovereign Nations (ESN).

Notable chair appointments include:

- **Borys Budka (EPP, Poland):** Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)
- **Anna Cavazzini (Greens, Germany):** Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO)
- **Antonio Decaro (S&D, Italy):** Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)
- **Adam Jarubas (EPP, Poland):** Subcommittee on Public Health (SANT)
- **Veronika Vrecionová (ECR, Czechia):** Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI)
- **Aurore Lalucq (S&D, France):** Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON)
- **Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi (EPP, Greece):** Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN)
- **Javier Zarzalejos (EPP, Spain):** Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE)
- **Johan Van Overtveldt (ECR, Belgium):** Committee on Budgets (BUDG)
- **Bernd Lange (S&D, Germany):** Committee on International Trade (INTA)
- **David McAllister (EPP, Germany):** Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET)

- **Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann (Renew, Germany):** Subcommittee on Security and Defence (SEDE)

## 2. von der Leyen working on new Commission puzzle

Following her re-election as Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen is working on assembling the puzzle for the new Commission. This week she requested national governments to nominate male and female candidates for commissioner posts (except when reappointing incumbents) by the end of August.

Governments continue to position themselves on portfolios:

- The Netherlands nominated Wopke Hoekstra, the current Commissioner for Climate Action, eyeing an economic portfolio.
- Czechia nominated Industry and Trade Minister Jozef Síkela, also looking for an economic portfolio.
- Luxembourg's PM Luc Frieden is considering choosing outgoing Commissioner Nicolas Schmit over Christophe Hansen, despite Schmit coming from a different political family. Schmit's role as the lead candidate for the S&D in the EU elections might help Luxembourg get a senior portfolio.
- Malta will not nominate Chris Fearne after a court decided he will face trial in a major corruption case. The country is now set to nominate the diplomat Glenn Micallef.
- Belgium looks increasingly likely to nominate current Commissioner Didier Reynders for another term, as the ruling parties are reluctant to spend political capital for the post.
- Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides suggested a Cypriot would suit the role of Commissioner for the Mediterranean.

## 3. Macron rejects Left's pick for PM, announces "Olympic truce"

French President Emmanuel Macron announced he will not appoint a new government before the end of the Paris Olympics in mid-August. He rejected the New Popular Front's (NFP) attempt to appoint Lucie Castets, citing potential instability due to their lack of a parliamentary majority. The NFP criticised Macron, accusing him of trying to overturn the election results.

After centrist MP Yaël Braun-Pivet was re-elected President of the National Assembly, MPs elected the rest of the parliament's executive body. The NFP secured an absolute majority in the bureau, while the far-right National Rally (RN) failed to win any positions, losing the two vice-presidencies it held since 2022.

## 4. Scholz to run for German Chancellor in 2025

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz has announced his intention to run for re-election next year, expressing confidence that his Social Democratic Party (SPD) will win. The general elections are set for 28 September 2025.

Scholz faces an uphill journey, given the SPD's poor performance in the recent EU elections, where they finished third behind the centre-right Christian Democrats (CDU/CSU) and the

far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD). It is yet unclear whether Scholz will get the support of the SPD, with Defence Minister Boris Pistorius gaining in popularity among SPD voters.

## II. Key institutional milestones

Date	Event
August-September	Commission President receives commissioner-candidates
First half of September	Presentation of organigramme & mission letters
20 September	European Parliament sends questionnaires to Commission
29 September	Commissioner replies to questionnaires
30 September - 4 October	European Commissioner-candidates hearings
21 October	European Parliament vote on the new Commission
1 November	New European Commission takes office
1 December	New European Council President takes office