

7 - 11 October 2024

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I. Political and Policy Developments

1. European Parliament submits written questions to commissioners-designate

The European Parliament has submitted [written questions](#) to commissioner-designates. Responses are due by October 22. The questions focus on commissioner-designates' policy priorities for the mandate. Key issues to be discussed include:

- **Industrial Policy:**
 - Funding for Europe's clean industry, including expectations around the Clean Industrial Deal
 - Implementation of Net Zero Industry and Critical Raw Materials acts
 - Competition policy and the EU's investment gap
- **Tech:**
 - Balance between innovation and safety in AI policy
 - Expectations around the Digital Networks and the EU Cloud and AI Development acts
 - Enforcement of the Digital Services and Markets acts
 - Enhancing support for key technologies through Important Projects of Common Interest (IPCEIs) and the revision of procurement rules
- **Energy:**
 - Role of energy efficiency in enhancing competitiveness
 - Plans to strengthen security of supply and further reduce dependence on Russian fossil fuels
 - Plans to reduce energy prices
- **Environment:**
 - Expectations around the Circular Economy Act
 - Enforcement of nature-related legislation
 - Water policy
- **Chemicals:**
 - Expectations around the Chemicals Industry Package
 - REACH revision
 - PFAS regulation
- **Agriculture:**
 - Pesticides reduction
 - Expectations around sustainable food systems

- 2030 organic farming targets
- **Health:**
 - Modernising animal welfare
 - Tackling AMR
 - Improving healthcare resilience
 - Expectations around the Critical Medicines and European Biotech acts
- **Trade:**
 - EU's foreign economic policy, including clean trade and investment partnerships

Hearings will be held from November 4 to 12, starting with junior commissioners and concluding with executive vice-presidents. According to internal parliament documents seen by Red Flag, the hearings plan was endorsed by a right-wing majority (EPP, ECR, P/E and ESN), which signals increasing tensions between the EPP and centre-left parties. The schedule is available [here](#).

2. Meloni looking to form conservative front

Italian PM Giorgia Meloni is looking to create a conservative front at EU level. She has invited the EPP and P/E to an ECR [convention](#) in Dubrovnik.

The event will focus on family, demography, and education, and as well party leadership discussions. Meloni plans to step down as ECR leader, with former Polish PM Mateusz Morawiecki as her likely successor. His nomination could however create tension with the EPP due to his rivalry with Polish PM Donald Tusk, a key EPP figure.

3. New French government survives no-confidence motion; submits 2025 budget

French PM Michel Barnier survived a no-confidence vote from the leftist New Popular Front (NFP), with only 197 MPs supporting it - far short of the 289 needed. The National Assembly also rejected an impeachment motion from the far-left France Unbowed (LFI) in response to Macron appointing Barnier over NFP candidate Lucie Castets.

Amid this political tension, Barnier presented [France's 2025 budget](#) after weeks of delay. Barnier aims to raise an additional €19.3 billion through higher taxes on large companies, electricity production, and polluting vehicles. The National Assembly will debate the budget starting 21 October, with Senate approval expected by December. Lacking a majority, Barnier will need to make concessions to secure passage. The budget is also facing scrutiny from the European Commission.

II. Key institutional milestones

Date	Event
4 - 12 November	European Commissioners-designate hearings
25 - 28 November (exp)	European Parliament vote on the new Commission
1 December (exp)	New European Commission takes office
1 December	New European Council President takes office