

14 - 18 October 2024

I. Political and Policy Developments

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I. Political and Policy Developments

1. von der Leyen revises rules for Commission cabinets

Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has revised the hiring rules for incoming commissioners as they form their cabinets. Under the new rules, von der Leyen's team will have 12 senior members, executive vice presidents will have 9, and other commissioners will have 6.

According to the revised rules:

- Cabinets cannot include more than 2 members with the same nationality as the commissioner.
- At least 5 nationalities need to be represented in senior commissioners' cabinets, and 3 in junior ones.
- Cabinets need to include an equal number of men and women.
- For the first time, all heads of cabinet must pass a security clearance conducted by a member state.

2. New European Parliament intergroups on the horizon

Centre-left MEPs are pushing to establish new intergroups. A proposed “Intergroup for Peace, Diplomacy and Multilateral Dialogue” would focus on disarmament, hunger, disease, and poverty, with conflicts like the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East likely to dominate the agenda. The S&D has also invited MEPs to form an intergroup dedicated to preventing and addressing Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs).

Intergroups are cross-party fora that advocate for specific issues within Parliament. A final list of intergroups is expected by December.

3. Climate commissioner-designate to commit to 2040 climate target

Climate commissioner-designate Wopke Hoekstra is set to make significant policy commitments during his confirmation hearing.

According to leaked notes from his team, key pledges will include:

- **2040 climate target:** A proposal for a 90% emissions reduction by 2040.
- **Clean Industrial Deal:** Focus on industrial decarbonisation and clean energy rollout, and ensuring financial support through innovation and competitiveness funds.
- **Climate adaptation:** Promoting climate preparedness, especially in food production, through incentives and simplified policies.
- **Agriculture emissions:** Delivering incentives to make agriculture and land sectors climate-neutral by 2035.
- **2035 combustion engine ban:** Support for the ‘fossil’ combustion engine ban while leaving the door open for ‘carbon-neutral’ fuels.
- **Critical raw materials:** Strengthening EU strategic autonomy by delivering projects on critical raw materials, ensuring steady financial support.
- **Nuclear energy:** Funding for hydrogen projects powered by low-carbon sources, including nuclear energy.

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