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I. Political and Policy Developments

1. Report calls for boosting EU civilian and military preparedness

The European Commission published a [report](#) on EU civilian and military preparedness written by former Finnish President Sauli Niinistö at von der Leyen's request.

The report includes several recommendations expected to shape the next Commission's agenda, such as boosting the EU's defence budget, creating an EU-wide intelligence cooperation service, and adopting an EU-wide stockpiling strategy to secure the supply of critical resources, including foodstuffs, energy, critical raw materials, and medicines.

Sector-specific highlights include:

- **Tech:** Embed key technologies like AI and quantum computing into defence policy development; combat disinformation through the Digital Services Act
- **Energy:** Leverage clean energy to reduce import dependency; protect critical infrastructure such as power supply, connected devices and infrastructure networks
- **Environment / Climate:** Embed climate adaptation and mitigation into all policies; push forward with the European Water Resilience Strategy, the Soil Monitoring Law, and the European Climate Adaptation Plan
- **Health:** Support long-term investment in R&D and strengthen supply chains through public-private partnerships
- **Trade:** De-risk and diversify supply chains through new partnerships on energy, defence, and raw materials (including via Clean Trade and Investment Partnerships).

2. Incoming Commissioners' cabinets taking shape

With confirmation hearings set to begin next week, commissioners-designate are finalising preparations for their cabinets, in anticipation of the new Commission starting in December.

Media reports indicate that commissioners are likely to pick the following heads of cabinet:

- **President Ursula von der Leyen:** Björn Seibert, outgoing head of cabinet
- **EVP Stéphane Séjourné** (Prosperity and Industrial Strategy): Bertrand L'Huillier, currently the deputy head of cabinet of the French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs

- **EVP Raffaele Fitto** (Cohesion and Reforms): Claudio Casini, currently senior advisor in the Italian Prime Minister’s Office
- **EVP Roxana Mînzatu** (People, Skills and Preparedness): Alina-Stefania Ujupan, seasoned Commission civil servant with cabinet experience under Cioloş, Gabriel, and Vestager
- **Commissioner Piotr Serafin** (Budget, Anti-Fraud, and Public Administration): Grzegorz Radziejewski, previously the head of cabinet of a former Polish Budget Commissioner
- **Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič** (Trade and Economic Security): Bernd Biervert, currently head of Clean Energy Transition Unit at the Commission Directorate-General for Research and Innovation
- **Commissioner Andrius Kubilius** (Defence and Space): Simonas Šatūnas, outgoing Deputy Minister for EU Affairs
- **Commissioner Glenn Micallef** (Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture, and Sport): David Ciliberti, currently Legal and Policy Officer at the Commission Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers
- **Commissioner Costas Kadis** (Fisheries and Oceans): Ioannis Hadjiyiannis, currently Head of Unit in Horizontal Policies at the Commission Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support
- **Commissioner Marta Kos** (Enlargement): Marko Makovec, currently Deputy Managing Director on Europe at the European External Action Service (EEAS)
- **Commissioner Ekaterina Zaharieva** (Startups, Research, and Innovation): Andreas Schwarz, currently Deputy Director-General at the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF)

3. EPP under scrutiny over allegations of misuse of EU funds

The centre-right European People’s Party (EPP) is under scrutiny as reports emerge of an investigation by the European Public Prosecutor’s Office (EPPO) and Belgian authorities into the misuse of EU funds by EPP MEPs. Although the EPP has denied receiving any inquiries about its staff, EPPO confirmed that the investigation is ongoing and stated it would unveil more information as the probe unfolds.

The investigation is expected to increase pressure on EPP chief Manfred Weber, who is already facing criticism following a dispute with the group’s outgoing Secretary General, Thanasis Bakolas, regarding the allocation of key positions within the group.

II. Key institutional milestones

Date	Event
4 - 12 November	European Commissioners-designate hearings
27 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