

18 - 22 November 2024

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I. Political and Policy Developments

1. European Parliament reaches deal on new Commission

Following a deal struck between the European People's Party (EPP), Socialists and Democrats (S&D) and Renew Europe, the new European Commission is now on track to take office on 1 December.

The European Parliament is expected to approve the new Commission on 27 November with a comfortable majority, despite the opposition of individual delegations such as the [French socialists](#) and [Spanish conservatives](#).

The political groups reached this deal after signing a nine-point [Platform Cooperation Statement](#), committing to collaborate on the following issues:

1. Uniting Europe: leading Europe based on shared values
2. Delivering on prosperity: a bold agenda for sustainable growth, competitiveness, preparedness and digital transition
3. Effective migration policy and Securing Europe: advancing defence and security
4. Empowering people: strengthening societies and upholding our social model
5. Preserving our future: ensuring food security, water and a sustainable environment in an inclusive manner
6. Defending democracy: upholding values and strengthening the rule of law
7. Leveraging our power: Europe as a global leader
8. Building the future: investing in a modern budget aligned with our ambitions
9. Deepening our Union: reforming the EU to enhance its capacity to act

The actual impact of the Platform Cooperation Statement on the political balances in the European Parliament remains to be seen, as the document is unlikely to prevent the EPP from leveraging its pivotal position and cooperating with right-wing groups such as the European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) on specific policy issues.

Thanks to the deal, divisive picks such as Spain's Teresa Ribera (Clean, Just and Competitive Transition), Italy's Raffaele Fitto (Cohesion and Reforms) and Hungary's Olivér Várhelyi (Health and Animal Welfare) have all been confirmed. However, Várhelyi's portfolio has been scaled back, with reproductive rights and health preparedness now expected to be

handled by Belgium’s Hadja Lahbib (Preparedness, Crisis Management, and Equality). Várhelyi will still retain control over food and animal welfare responsibilities.

2. Member States oppose cooperation deal between Commission and Parliament

Recent reports indicate that the Council of the EU is preparing to send a letter to Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and European Parliament President Roberta Metsola, protesting the [cooperation agreement](#) both institutions recently struck.

Member States are concerned that the agreement, which foresees the revision of the Interinstitutional Framework Agreement, could upset the balance of power between the three institutions. They argue that no institution can alter or extend the powers granted to them by the EU Treaties whether unilaterally or through mutual agreements. They pledge to take "any appropriate actions" to defend these prerogatives.

3. Top EU socialist appointed; PfE elects new President

S&D has [appointed](#) Fabrizia Panzetti as its new Secretary-General, succeeding retiring Dutchman Antony Beumer. Panzetti, former head of Cabinet for Federica Mogherini during her stint as the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs, will now take on a pivotal role overseeing MEP guidance and the group's management of EU funds.

PfE has [elected](#) Santiago Abascal, President of Spain’s far-right Vox party, as their new leader, taking over from France’s Jordan Bardella. Under his leadership, the party will aim to challenge the mainstream coalition of EPP, S&D and Renew by bolstering the so-called Venezuelan majority — a right-wing alliance that includes PfE, EPP, ECR and Europe of Sovereign Nations (ESN).

II. Key institutional milestones

| Date | Event |
|------------------|--|
| 27 November | European Parliament vote on the new Commission |
| 1 December (exp) | New European Commission takes office |
| 1 December | New European Council President takes office |