

FINAL EDITION

25 - 29 November 2024

This is the final edition of the weekly EU transition update. We will, however, work on a dedicated report on the new Commission's agenda once it is published.

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I. Political and Policy Developments

1. European Parliament approves new Commission



The new European Commission was [approved](#) by the European Parliament on 27 November. MEPs gave a lukewarm endorsement, with 370 votes in favour and 282 against. This result, a far cry from the 401 votes Ursula von der Leyen secured in July, marks the weakest approval for a Commission team in decades. However, for the first time since 1999, the Parliament approved the entire lineup without rejecting a single nominee.

The majority of support came from the 'grand coalition' consisting of the centre-right European People's Party (EPP), the centrist Renew Europe and the centre-left Socialists and Democrats (S&D). However, individual delegations, such as the French socialists and the Spanish conservatives, voted against. Several Greens and European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) MEPs also endorsed the new lineup.

The approval was met with enthusiasm from [Manfred Weber \(EPP, Germany\)](#), the leader of the EPP, who expressed confidence in the team's ability to bring stability to the European Parliament. S&D leader [Iratxe García Pérez \(S&D, Spain\)](#) hailed Teresa Ribera Rodríguez's appointment as first Executive Vice-President as a major victory for citizens. [Renew Europe](#) also welcomed the outcome, emphasising that with five commissioners, the group has positioned itself as the second most influential force in the new College.

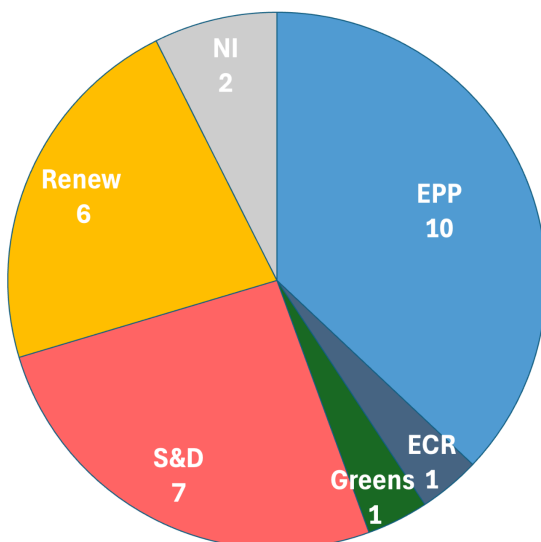
With the Council of the EU having formally [appointed](#) the new lineup, the new Commission will kick off on 1 December.

2. Key dynamics of the new Commission

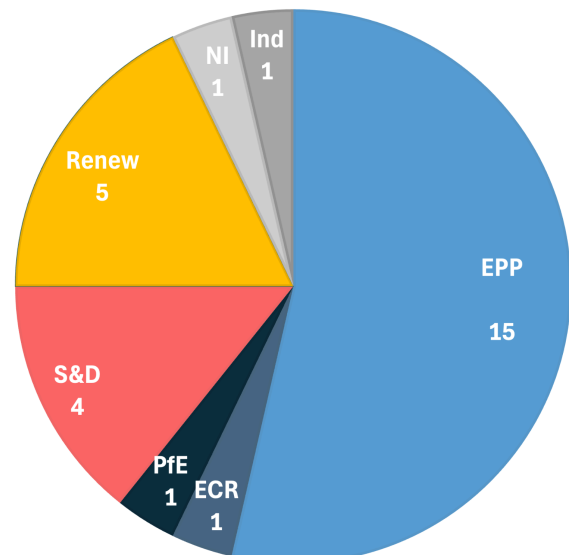
This new Commission distinguishes itself from previous ones for three key reasons:

- **A leaner structure:** The new College of Commissioners has a leaner and more interlinked structure, with individual commissioners assigned to executive vice presidents (EVPs), who, in turn, report to President Ursula von der Leyen for most policy issues. von der Leyen introduced this structure to ensure a balanced lineup, diluting powerful portfolios among multiple people, whilst also strengthening her control over the new Commission.
- **Dominated by large countries:** The new Commission is shaped by the strong influence of larger EU countries, with Germany continuing to hold the presidency under Ursula von der Leyen, while Spain, France, Finland, Romania and Italy have each secured an EVP.
- **A marked shift to the right:** Much like the European Parliament, the new Commission lineup shows a clear tilt to the right. The EPP, ECR and Patriots for Europe (PfE) now hold a combined total of 17 commissioners, a significant increase from the previous mandate, which had 11 commissioners from the EPP and ECR. In contrast, the centrist Renew Europe and the S&D have seen their influence wane, with their numbers shrinking from 6 and 7 commissioners to 5 and 4, respectively. The Greens have lost their sole commissioner.

2019-2024 COMMISSION



2024-2029 COMMISSION



The shift to the right is expected to be reflected in upcoming EU legislation. The EPP, for instance, will lead the charge on Environment (Jessika Roswall), Climate (Wopke Hoekstra), Tech Sovereignty (Henna Virkkunen) and Agriculture (Christophe Hansen). Meanwhile, the ECR and P/E are stepping into influential roles, heading Cohesion (Raffaele Fitto) and Health (Olivér Várhelyi) respectively.

3. Competitiveness and security high on the new Commission’s agenda

The agenda of the new Commission, expected to be unveiled in the coming weeks, will prominently feature competitiveness and security.

Von der Leyen stated that the Commission’s first initiative would be a “competitiveness compass” aimed at closing Europe’s innovation gap with the US and China, strengthening Europe’s security and independence and advancing decarbonisation efforts. To achieve these goals, the Commission is set to unveil a series of new proposals within its first 100 days, including:

- **The Clean Industrial Deal** to unlock investments, create lead markets for clean tech and help companies grow and compete.
- **The Vision for Agriculture and Food** to ensure the long-term competitiveness and sustainability of the agri-food sector.
- **The AI Factories Initiative** to boost new, tailored supercomputing capacity for AI start-ups and industry.
- **The European Action Plan on the cybersecurity of hospitals and healthcare providers** to better protect the security of health systems.
- **The White Paper on the Future of European Defence** to identify investments needs to ensure European defence capabilities.

II. Key institutional milestones

Date	Event
1 December	New European Commission takes office
1 December	New European Council President takes office
31 December	End of the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the EU