

MISSION LETTER

Brussels, 17 September 2024

Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission

Dan Jørgensen

Commissioner-designate for Energy and Housing

Dear Dan,

The Commission we will serve in together will be called upon to make choices that will shape our Continent and our Union for years and decades to come. In a time of great global instability and great expectations of Europeans, we must live up to that responsibility. **We must deliver and lead from the front**, working closely with the people and regions of Europe and the parliaments, governments and institutions that serve them.

This was the spirit of the Political Guidelines which I presented to the European Parliament in July 2024 – our common plan for European strength and unity. It focuses on ensuring our **security** in every sense in a more dangerous and turbulent world, on supporting people and citizens by strengthening our **prosperity**, our social market economy, green and digital transitions and sustaining our unique quality of life. We will strengthen our **democracy**, rally around our values and ensure that we are stronger at home. We will work with our partners and better assert our interests around the world.

Together, we will respond to the real and legitimate concerns and expectations that Europeans expressed at the last elections. We will be closer to people and businesses where it really matters with practical support and sustained investment. We will strive to **make Europe faster and simpler** in the way that we act – and in the way we interact with people. And we will work towards European unity at every turn, starting from within our College.

I am convinced that your experience, motivation, and European commitment will be an

essential part of this team. This letter sets out my expectations for our collective work, as well as for your own mission.

New Commission, new approach

The priorities that I have set out in the Political Guidelines are not standalone areas of work. They are all connected and they will all impact each other. The same will be true for the work of the College as a whole and for each of its Members working together in a spirit of **collegiality**. I expect every Member of College to take **full ownership** of what is agreed.

Every Member of College is equal and every Member of College will have an equal responsibility to deliver on our priorities. With this in mind, I expect cooperation at all levels and for you to take an active role across all priorities and to facilitate access to your services where other Commissioners' responsibilities require it.

You will work with myself and the Commissioner for Budget, Anti-Fraud and Public Administration for a **simpler, more focused and responsive long-term budget** that reflects European strategic priorities and our ambition to be an **Investment Commission**.

Given the transformative nature of the next long-term budget – and in order to adapt to our modern approach and new spending priorities – **I will review the structure of the College and the missions** of each Member of College.

I would also like you all to play an active role in **supporting candidate countries to prepare for joining our Union** in your respective policy areas. I count on you when it comes to the pre-enlargement policy reviews and for our broader **ambitious reform agenda**.

I expect you to all contribute to achieving our agreed climate objectives, notably those set for 2030 and the climate neutrality goal for 2050.

As we head to 2030, each Member of College will ensure the delivery of the EU targets and objectives defined for that year, as well as of the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals** within their policy areas. The College as a whole will be responsible for the overall implementation of the Goals.

Beyond what is listed in your individual mission below, I would like all Members of College to draw on recent or upcoming reports. This notably includes the **Draghi Report** on the future of European competitiveness, the **Niinistö Report** on how to enhance Europe's civilian and defence preparedness and readiness, the report from the **Strategic Dialogue on the future of EU agriculture**, as well as the **Letta report** on the future of the Single Market.

Working together for Europe, working closer to Europeans

To ensure trust and confidence of Europeans, I also want the College to lead when it comes to openness, transparency and representation.

First, **this Commission will strengthen its relationship with EU institutions**. I expect all Commissioners to be present in the European Parliament, both in plenary debates, in Committee meetings and in trilogues. Equally, I expect all Commissioners to engage with Member States and participate in the relevant Council formations. This is essential for ensuring accountability and better communicating our work and our planning.

I will ask you to organise a **structured dialogue** with your respective Parliamentary Committee to chart a way forward for any Article 225 Resolutions adopted by the Parliament calling for legislative proposals. This will be part of our work in ensuring **transparency and information flow** with the Parliament and Council, notably before major events and at key stages about international negotiations.

Second, this Commission will be **more present on the ground, more often and in more regions**. I would like you to visit Member States regularly. I encourage you to go local, visit places and meet Europeans from across our Union, including in cities, rural and sparsely populated areas. Our network of Representations will support you in this. You should meet with representatives from regional or local areas, notably relying on our network of EU Local Councillors, and to give **more visibility to EU projects** making a difference to people's lives on the ground. When engaging with our international partners you will also be supported by our network of EU delegations around the world.

I expect you to **actively communicate** on the Commission's actions and decisions and explain the benefits and opportunities stemming from our work. You should also help **tackle disinformation**, notably by providing clear and accurate information at all times.

Third, this Commission will start **a new era of dialogue** with citizens and stakeholders. You should organise a first edition of the **annual Youth Policy Dialogues** within the first 100 days so that young people can be heard and can help shape your work.

This will be part of our work in embedding **citizen participation** in our work. We will build on the Conference on the Future of Europe to instil a true and **lasting culture of participative democracy**. We will choose policy areas and proposals where recommendations from a European Citizens' Panel would have the greatest value and follow up on their proposals.

Fourth, every Member of College must show a **true European commitment** beyond doubt and be fully independent in their action. I expect full adherence to all applicable integrity, impartiality and ethical rules from all, starting with the **Code of Conduct**. You will ensure that the rules on transparency and meetings with interest representatives are fully respected, including for your staff and services. We will **strengthen our**

transparency system by extending the requirements of the Transparency Register to all managers.

Fifth, we will ensure that the Commission becomes **more representative** of the people we serve. We have made a lot of progress in terms of gender balance across management but there is clearly more to be done. Reflecting the EU's strength in diversity, your Cabinet should ensure **gender and geographical balance**.

While the Berlaymont will remain your primary headquarters, you will also have an office within your Directorate-General and be expected to be present on a regular basis to **work closely with your staff and services**. We will collectively ensure that the Commission is an inclusive, respectful and safe workplace.

Making Europe simpler and faster

The success of this new Commission will be measured against our ability to meet the targets and objectives we set, notably as part of the **European Green Deal**.

You will be responsible for the delivery of the policy objectives and targets within your portfolio. To achieve this, you should make full use of all instruments for implementation and enforcement, including infringement proceedings.

You will ensure that existing rules are fit-for-purpose and focus on reducing administrative burdens and simplifying legislation. You must contribute to reducing reporting obligations by at least 25% – and for SMEs at least 35%. You should leverage the power of digital tools to deliver better and faster solutions. We must listen to all companies and stakeholders who work on a daily basis to comply with EU legislation. You will organise at least two **Implementation Dialogues** per year with stakeholders to align implementation with realities on the ground. You will prepare an **Annual Progress Report on Enforcement and Implementation** for your respective Parliamentary committees and Council formations.

You will also work to **stress test the EU acquis** and table proposals to eliminate any overlaps and contradictions and be fully digitally compatible, while maintaining high standards.

New legislation must ensure that our rules are simpler, more accessible to citizens and more targeted. You will ensure the principles of **proportionality, subsidiarity and Better Regulation** are respected, including through wide consultations, impact assessments, a review by the independent **Regulatory Scrutiny Board** and a new **SME and competitiveness check**. Proposals must be evidence-based and the Joint Research Centre, our internal scientific service, can support you in that work.

Your mission

I would like to entrust you with the role of Commissioner for Energy and Housing.

As the last years have shown, secure supplies of clean and affordable energy is critical for European competitiveness, security, and our decarbonisation efforts towards 2030 and to climate neutrality by mid-century. To achieve this, we must stay the course on the goals set out in the European Green Deal and must implement the legislation already agreed.

Your task will be to bring this work together by completing a robust **Energy Union**. You will work to **bring down energy prices** for households and companies, produce more clean energy, upgrade our **grid infrastructure** and develop a resilient, interconnected and secure energy system.

You will ensure that energy is a core pillar of our industrial strategy and notably focus on boosting renewables, energy efficiency, attracting investment in the energy transition and bolstering our energy security, while ensuring **technological neutrality**. Your work will help address energy poverty and ensure a social, just and competitive transition.

- You will oversee and support the **implementation of the existing legal framework for 2030**. Upcoming reviews of legislation should be conducted in the simplest, fairest and most cost-efficient way, providing support and in partnership and **dialogue** with industry, social partners and all stakeholders. You should follow up on the assessment of the National Energy and Climate Plans.
- To support this, I would like you to update and simplify the existing governance of the **Energy Union**, working with the Commissioner for Climate, Net Zero and Clean Growth.
- I would like you to contribute on the energy dimension of the **Clean Industrial Deal** to unlock all possible decarbonization pathways for our industries. As part of this, you will put forward an **Action Plan for Affordable Energy Prices** to help bring down prices for households and business and support industries and companies through the transition.
- You should propose an initiative to boost the roll out of **renewable energy and energy storage**. You will work on demand flexibility and further implement the **energy efficiency first principle**.
- You will also propose an **Electrification Action Plan** to ensure that Europe's industrial transition towards net zero is powered by an energy system with homegrown, clean electricity. This should be accompanied by a **roadmap towards ending Russian energy imports** and the full implementation of RepowerEU.
- To support this work, you will propose a dedicated **clean energy investment strategy for Europe**, including a de-risking initiative to unlock private capital. This

will be central to efforts to prioritise investment in **clean energy infrastructure**, including grids, storage and transport infrastructure, cross-border energy infrastructure, energy efficiency measures, the digitalisation of the energy system and the deployment of a hydrogen network.

- You will look at the legal framework on **European Grids** with the aim to help upgrade and expand grids to support rapid electrification, speed up permitting, while remunerating those citizens that take part in the energy transition by producing or storing renewable electricity.
- You should support the acceleration of the development and deployment of **Small Modular Reactors** in Europe during the 2030s, building on the European Industrial Alliance of Small Modular Reactors. You will also continue ensuring **nuclear safety** and safeguards, including diversified supplies, safe waste management and new technologies.
- You should make full use of joint procurement for fuels and further activate and extend our **aggregate demand mechanism** to go beyond gas and include hydrogen and possibly other commodities.
- As we move to a greater share of renewables, I expect you to **advance energy system integration**. You will improve locational price signals, remove barriers to flexibility, decarbonise heating and cooling and increase energy efficiency.
- You will make proposals to incentivise and increase the uptake of **carbon capture utilisation and storage** which will play a major role in the transition towards a clean and competitive European economy.
- You will jointly, with the Commissioner for Climate, Net Zero and Clean Growth, create a framework to further scale down and phase out the **use of fossil fuel subsidies** as part of our work to reduce Europe's dependencies.
- You will contribute to the work to level the **energy taxation** playing field and the strategic use of taxation measures to incentivise the uptake of clean technologies, as notably proposed in the Draghi report.
- As part of the **review of the security of supply framework**, you will work to adapt the current framework to the geopolitical context and the electrification of the EU's energy system. You will pay close attention to emerging risks, such as climate change impacts, cyber-attacks and critical infrastructure.
- You will also leverage the potential of digital technologies with the adoption of a strategic roadmap for **digitalisation and AI** in the energy sector.

- You will develop a **Citizens Energy Package** to increase citizens' participation in the energy transition and strengthen the social dimension of the Energy Union. You will propose further measures to address **energy poverty** and contribute to the European Affordable Housing Plan.
- You will work to strengthen Europe's **energy diplomacy**, notably building on EU-led global initiatives on renewable energy and energy efficiency. You will help set our **global climate and energy vision** for COP30 in Brazil and beyond.

Housing

As part of ensuring a just transition and addressing energy poverty, I would also like to entrust you with the responsibility for housing. The crises of the past years have had a direct impact on the quality of life of many Europeans. This is acutely felt when it comes to housing as millions of young people and families struggle to find affordable housing throughout Europe. We urgently need to address this, supporting Member States to address structural drivers and unlocking public and private investment for **affordable and sustainable housing**.

- You will put forward the first-ever **European Affordable Housing Plan**. The plan should offer technical assistance to cities and Member States and focus on investment and skills needed.
- As part of the European Affordable Housing Plan, you will develop a **European Strategy for Housing Construction** to support housing supply. You will focus on measures to reduce building costs, increase the skills of the labour force, raise productivity and enhance the environmental performance of construction.
- I would like you to focus on attracting more private and public investment for affordable and sustainable housing. You will work with the European Investment Bank to establish **a pan-European investment platform for affordable and sustainable housing**. You will work closely with international financial institutions, national promotional banks and institutions and other stakeholders in this work.
- To support this, you will support the Executive Vice-President for Cohesion and Reforms on a proposal allowing Member States to inject liquidity into the housing market and double the planned **cohesion policy investments in affordable housing**.
- You will also support the Executive Vice-President for a Clean, Just and Competitive Transition to **State aid rules** to enable housing support measures, notably for energy efficiency and social housing.
- You will tackle systemic issues with **short-term accommodation rentals** and make proposals to tackle the inefficient use of the current housing stock.

As a rule, you will work under the guidance of the Executive Vice-President for a Clean, Just and Competitive Transition. The Directorate General for Energy and a new taskforce on housing will support you in this work.

Way forward

The actions listed in this letter will shape your work. However, we will need to complete and adapt as we go along and I count on your ideas and expertise in this regard. In addition to College meetings and our continuous discussions, I will invite you every six months for a structured reporting meeting to discuss progress and challenges in delivering on your mission.

Reflecting the evolving nature of political priorities, the Commission must remain agile in allocating staff where most needed. I expect you to play a collegial role in this, by working with your services to identify efficiencies and contributing to corporate redeployment efforts across the Commission.

Given the scale of the challenges and the many issues in our in-tray, we must **hit the ground running on day one**. I invite you to take contact with your future services to prepare your hearing and the work ahead.

I look forward to working closely together for Europe.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission