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EU change of guard – update on top jobs and next steps



We are now in the middle of the EU's institutional reshuffle. New composition of the institutions and new leadership affects their legislative priorities and ultimately shapes the regulatory environment.

A snapshot of where the EU institutions stand with regard to choosing their leadership.

European Commission

What we know?

- > *Ursula von der Leyen* – elected.
- > *College of Commissioners* – still to be appointed.

What still needs to happen?

How will the new College of Commissioners be appointed?

- > The elected Commission President, *Ursula von der Leyen*, will choose the Commissioners (and their policy areas) from candidates put forward by the Member States. The President will submit her draft list of Commissioners first to the Council of the EU (made up of the Ministers of the Member States), then to the European Parliament (EP). If the EP approves the list, the new Commission will be officially appointed by the European Council (comprising the heads of state or government of Member States). For more details, please see our [previous publication](#).

When will the new College of Commissioners be appointed?

- > In September and October 2019, the EP will organise hearings of the Commissioners-designate.
- > The EP is expected to vote on the entire College of Commissioners from 21-24 October 2019, if the hearings run smoothly.

European Parliament's right to veto.

- > The EP can veto the appointment of the College of Commissioners as a whole, but not of an individual candidate. However, in the past, the EP has successfully used the threat of its veto to force the withdrawal of particular candidates following poor hearings and could do so this time too.

Expected start date?

1 November – new European Commission to start its mandate.

European Central Bank (ECB)

What we know?

- > *Christine Lagarde* – proposed candidate.

What still needs to happen?

- > The European Council appoints the President on the basis of a Council recommendation, after having consulted the European Parliament and the ECB's Governing Council.
- > The appointment is expected for October.

Expected start date

1 November – new President to start her mandate.

European Parliament

What we know?

- > President and Vice-Presidents elected for 2.5 years mandate (July 2019 – December 2021).
- > President: *David-Maria Sassoli*.
- > Vice-Presidents: see [official European Parliament press release](#).
- > Committee Chairs and Vice-chairs elected for 2.5 years mandate (July 2019-December 2021) – see [official European Parliament press release](#).

What still needs to happen?

- > Procedure for choosing leadership completed.

Expected start date

The leadership of the EP already started their mandates.

European Council

What we know?

- > *Charles Michel* elected for 2.5 years mandate (December 2019 – May 2022).

What still needs to happen?

- > Procedure for choosing leadership completed.

Expected start date

1 December – new President to start his mandate.

Background

- > We are now in the middle of a legislative break, meaning no new legislation is being put forward and inter-institutional negotiations (“trilogues”) between the co-legislators (Council of the EU and European Parliament) are on hold until later in the year.
- > However, the Council of the EU (made up of representatives of each of the Member States) continues its normal legislative activity.
- > The Commission will start publishing new legislative proposals towards the end of 2019/beginning of 2020.

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