



Conference of Presidents

Brussels, 7 October 2014

Subject: Evaluation statement on the hearing of Mr TIMMERMANS, First Vice-President designate of the European Commission

On 7 October 2014, the Conference of Presidents, following its decision of 18 September 2014, held a meeting open to all Members for the hearing of Mr TIMMERMANS, First Vice-President-designate of the European Commission, who, subject to the positive outcome of the nomination procedure, would be in charge of better regulation, inter-institutional relations, the rule of law, and the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Prior to the hearing, Parliament had sent the First Vice-President designate a list of written questions to which he replied in writing on 26 September 2014.

The Committee on Legal Affairs scrutinised Mr TIMMERMANS' declaration of interests at its meeting of 25 September 2014, and subsequently informed the President that it had no observations to make.

Mr TIMMERMANS opened the hearing by making a statement in which he referred, inter alia, to the following:

- the historical context of the year 2014 and of European integration;
- the agenda for jobs, growth, fairness and democratic change of Mr JUNCKER, President-elect of the European Commission;
- the new operational structure of the European Commission;
- the political guidelines set out by Mr JUNCKER, building on the support of a majority in the European Parliament;
- the necessity to improve and strengthen better regulation, inter-institutional relations, and the constant and comprehensive attention for all aspects of the rule of law and fundamental rights.

During the hearing, Mr TIMMERMANS made specific commitments regarding his future responsibilities, inter alia:

- to ensure the full commitment of the Commission to its special partnership with the European Parliament;
- to ensure that the Commission adopts timely communications in response to Parliament's legislative initiative reports;
- to strengthen inter-institutional relations;

- to oppose parallel and separate institutions for the Euro area, such as an Eurozone parliament;
- to ensure the application of the rule of law and respect for fundamental rights, without hesitation, and using all instruments at the Commission's disposal;
- to conclude the process of accession of the EU to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of the Council of Europe;
- to focus on transparency and bring forward a proposal for an inter-institutional agreement creating a mandatory lobbyists register covering the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council.

The questions asked during the hearing and the replies given by Mr TIMMERMANS adequately covered the full range of the responsibilities of the First Vice-President designate in steering and coordinating the Commission's work in the areas of better regulation, interinstitutional relations, the rule of law, and the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

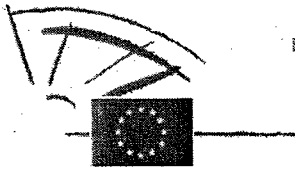
Before the end of the hearing, the First Vice-President designate made a brief closing statement in which he reaffirmed his profound sense of urgency of the work that needs to be done in the next five years, and the need to reconnect with the European citizens by delivering better concrete results.

On the basis of the written answers and the responses to the Members present at the hearing, the Conference of Presidents came to the conclusion that Mr TIMMERMANS thoroughly demonstrated his general competence and personal qualifications, such as integrity, independence, professional aptitude and relevant experience, his communication skills and initiative as well as his European commitment, and his commitment to cooperation with Parliament.

The Members of the Conference of Presidents confirmed the positive assessment of the nomination.

The clear outcome of the hearing is that Mr TIMMERMANS gave a thoroughly convincing demonstration of his aptitude to be a member of the College of Commissioners and to carry out competently the specific tasks and responsibilities assigned to him as First Vice-President.

Therefore the Conference of Presidents endorses his nomination.



Committee on Legal Affairs
The Chairman

D(2014)44195

ACCES RESERVE

Mr Martin Schulz
President of the European Parliament
PHS 09 B011
Brussels

314864 29.09.2014

Subject: *Scrutiny of Commissioner-designate Frans Timmermans's declaration of interests*

Dear Mr Schulz,

In accordance with Rule 118 of the Rules of Procedure and the third paragraph of Article 1(a) of Annex XVI thereto¹, at its meeting of 25 September 2014 the Committee on Legal Affairs scrutinised the declaration of interests of Commissioner-designate Frans Timmermans, who, subject to the positive outcome of the nomination procedure, will be appointed First Vice-President of the Commission and will be responsible for the Better Regulation, Inter-Institutional Relations, Rule of Law and Charter of Fundamental Rights portfolio.

Prior to this meeting, the Members of the Committee had been provided with the curriculum vitae of the Commissioner-designate and his declaration of interests provided under the terms of the Code of Conduct for Commissioners drawn up on the basis of Article 17 of the Treaty on European Union and Article 245 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

After duly scrutinising the Commissioner's-designate declaration of interests, the Committee had no observations to make thereon².

Yours sincerely,

Pavel SVOBODA

copy: Jerzy Buzek, Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs

Claude Moraes, Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

Danuta Hübner, Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

¹ "Parliament may seek any information relevant to its reaching a decision on the aptitude of the Commissioners-designate. It shall expect full disclosure of information relating to their financial interests. The declarations of interest of the Commissioners-designate shall be sent for scrutiny to the committee responsible for legal affairs."

² Members present: Marie-Christine Boutonnet, Jean-Marie Cavada, Therese Comodini Cachia, Mady Delvaux, Andrzej Duda, Pascal Durand, Rosa Estaràs Ferragut, Heidi Hautala, Dietmar Köster, Constance Le Grip, Gilles Lebreton, António Marinho e Pinto, Alessandra Moretti, Emil Radev, Julia Reda, Evelyn Regner, Virginie Rozière, Pavel Svoboda, Viktor Uspaskich, Axel Voss, Luis de Grandes Pascual.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COMMISSIONERS

C(2011)2904

ANNEX 1 – DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Full name: Franciscus Cornelis Gerardus Maria TIMMERMANS

I. PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES

I.1 Posts held over the last 10 years, in foundations or similar bodies

(Please indicate the nature of the post, the name of the body and its objective/activity)

- Member daily governing board European Movement Netherlands (2005)
- Board member Foundation Theatre Group 'the Federation' (until February 2007)*
- Member supervisory board Foundation Homeless Young People Limburg (until February 2007)*
- Board member Foundation "Prinsjesdagontbijt" (until February 2007)*
- Member advisory committee Kamp Vught National Monument (until February 2007)*
- Member supervisory board Theatre Group 'Het Vervolg' in Maastricht (until February 2007)*
- Member Advisory Committee 2012 Treaties of Nijmegen Medal ('Vrede van Nijmegen-Penning 2012) (2012)
- Member advisory council European Cultural Foundation (until November 2012)**
- Member Advisory Board John Adams Institute (until November 2012)**
- Chairman of the board for the Piket Foundation (until November 2012)** (foundation for the support of painting, theatre and dancing arts in The Hague)
- Member Advisory Board Thomas More Foundation – previously Radboud Foundation (until November 2012)**
- Neighbourhood platform 'Wittevrouwenveld Actief' (April 2011 - November 2012)**

I.2 Posts held over the last 10 years in educational institutions

(Please indicate the nature of the post and the name of the institution)

- Guest lecturer masterclass European Integration at the University of Leiden (until December 2004)
- Guest lecturer at Netherlands Institute of International Relations, 'Clingendael' (1995 – February 2007)*
- Guest lecturer "Instituut Defensie Leergangen" (1995 – February 2007)*
- "Vrede van Utrecht" Professor at Utrecht University (September 2010 – January 2011)

I.3 Post held over the last 10 years in the governing, supervisory and advisory organs of companies and other bodies devoted to commercial or economic activities.

(Please indicate the nature of the post and the name and the business of the company or other body)

None

I.4 Other professional activities held over the last 10 years, including services, liberal profession, consulting activities.

(Please indicate the nature of the activity)

- Member of Parliament, PvdA (19 May 1998 – 22 February 2007)*
- Member Assemblée Parlementaire Council of Europe and Western European Union (21 September 1998 – February 2007)*
- Columnist newspaper 'De Limburger': monthly column (every first Saturday) (December 2005 – July 2010)
- Secretary of State for European Affairs (22 February 2007 – 23 February 2010)
- Author "Gluck Auf, the Story of a Limburg European" (Gluck Auf, het Relaa van een Limburgse Europeaan), published April 2010
- Columnist newspaper 'NRC Handelsblad' (September 2011 – December 2011)
- Member of Parliament, PvdA, spokesperson for Foreign Affairs (17 June 2010 – 5 November 2012)
- Member of the Supervisory Board (Raad van Commissarissen) of Roda JC Kerkrade Football Club (February 2011 – November 2012)**
- Member of think tank 'Nation, Branding & Investment' (until November 2012)**
- Minister of Foreign Affairs (November 2012 – ...)

Party-related positions:

- Member of the Commission Koole / Duivesteyn on the PvdA and Europe (2005) – following the EU Constitutional referendum.
- Chairman jury for the "Europe in 2030" scenario competition, organised by the Wiardi Beckman Foundation Europe Fund ('WBS Europafonds') (June 2012)

* All functions marked with * have ended upon assuming my position as Secretary of State for European Affairs on February 22, 2007.

** All functions marked with ** have ended upon assuming my position as Minister of Foreign Affairs on November 5, 2012.

II. OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES

II.1 Posts currently held in foundations, similar bodies or educational institution

(Please indicate the nature of the post, the name of the body and its objective/activity)

None

II.2 Additional relevant information (e.g. other functions of an honorary nature and/or attributed for life)

III. FINANCIAL INTERESTS

Shares:

Company

None

Number of shares

Total current value

Other stock:

Company

None

Number of securities

None

Total current value

IV. ASSETS

(except the homes reserved for the exclusive use of the owner and his/her family)

Real estate: None

Other property: None

V. SPOUSE'S / PARTNER'S PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

(please include also spouse's/ partner's financial interests which might entail a conflict of interests)

My wife is a judge (vice-president) at the District Court of Limburg (NL). She has no financial interests which might entail a conflict of interest.

I hereby declare that the information given above is correct.

Date: 16 September 2014

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, abstract shape on the left and a long horizontal line extending to the right.