

# MISSION LETTER

Brussels, 17 September 2024

Ursula von der Leyen  
President of the European Commission

**Magnus Brunner**

## Commissioner-designate for Internal Affairs and Migration

Dear Magnus,

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 Internal Affairs and Migration.**

The EU's security landscape is constantly evolving, directly impacting the lives of citizens, as well as our societies and economies. You will be responsible for strengthening Europe's internal security, designing and upgrading EU legislation, policies and operational responses to meet the many threats we face and ensure every European citizen has the basic right to feel safe.

Europe has made a lot of progress when it comes to establishing a united approach to migration, asylum and borders. However, migration will continue to be a challenge and delivering on it remains a priority for Europeans. You will be responsible for implementing the Pact on Migration and Asylum, tackling immediate operational needs and working on external aspects of migration. In doing so, we will always ensure the respect of human rights and of our international commitments.

### *A safer and more secure Europe*

- You will design and implement **a new European Internal Security Strategy** in 2025, looking at all threats online and offline.
- As part of this, you will ensure law enforcement and judicial cooperation is strengthened. You will propose to **make Europol a truly operational police agency** and more than double its staff over time. This should come with a strengthened oversight and mandate. You should also work towards enhancing coordination and complementarity between Europol and other EU agencies.
- You will lead efforts on the **fight against serious and organised crime**, notably by revising the current rules against organised crime and tackling the enablers of crime. You will propose a new European action plan against **drug trafficking**, a renewed EU action plan on **firearms** and you will lead the work on the fight against **cybercrime**.
- You will lead the work to better **protect children against sexual abuse online** and offline, including by working with the European Parliament and Council to complete negotiations and implement legislative proposals.
- You will also lead the work on a new **Counter-Terrorism Agenda** to address new and emerging threats, taking a stronger approach to terrorist financing, terrorist content online and anti-radicalisation measures.

- You should work together with other Members of College to ensure that the **critical physical and digital infrastructure** is secure and resilient. You should contribute to strengthening our approach to **cybersecurity**.
- To improve operational cooperation in the fight against terrorism and organised crime, you will work to develop and deploy **a new European Critical Communication System** to be used by public authorities in charge of security and safety.
- I want you to update **law enforcement's tools for access to digital information** and rules on data retention, while safeguarding fundamental rights.
- In light of the sharply rising threats against Jewish communities, both online and offline, you will need to support Member States to improve their safety and security. I would like you to work on the effective implementation, and update as necessary, the EU Strategy on **combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life**.
- You will also ensure that appropriate tools are in place to support Member States to **combat anti-Muslim hatred** to improve the safety and security of Muslim communities in Europe. You will contribute to the update of the Anti-Racism Strategy
- In line with Article 17 of the Treaty, you will lead the Commission's dialogue with churches and religious associations or communities, and with philosophical and non-confessional organisations.

### *Stronger common borders*

- You will promote **integrated border management** and oversee the strengthening of Frontex, setting out how to boost its operational capabilities for border management and return, including by reaching a standing corps of 30,000.
- You will lead the work on ensuring a **fully functional European digital border management**. You will oversee the start of operations of the new interoperable IT architecture and work on further digitalising border management and visa procedures.
- You will work to prepare and respond to **hybrid attacks and the instrumentalisation of migrants** at the EU's external borders, working closely with Member States and stakeholders.
- You will work with non-EU countries on border security, notably by developing an **EU visa policy strategy** that can better secure our borders and manage migration.
- You will be responsible for implementing recent improvements to the **Schengen framework**, consolidating the governance framework, and ensuring implementation, notably of the Schengen Borders Code.



## *Standing fair and firm on migration*

- You will oversee the **implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum**, working with Member States and EU agencies to turn legal commitments into action. You will continue the work on the operational aspects and bring all elements of the Pact to reality. This approach will be brought together in the first five-year **European Asylum and Migration Management Strategy**. You will update the European Parliament and Member States regularly on progress.
- You will develop **a new common approach on the return of irregular migrants**, with new modern rules to speed up and simplify the process, ensure that returns of those who have no right to stay take place in a dignified manner and that return decisions are mutually recognised across Europe.
- You will lead the work in the **fight against smugglers and people traffickers**. You will work with the Parliament and Council to swiftly complete negotiations and implement our legislative proposals. You will strengthen Europol's capacity to tackle illegal profits, as well as the Centre against Migrant Smuggling.
- You should step up enforcement and, where necessary, review the rules on **preventing exploitation of workers in Europe with an irregular status**.
- Working together with international partners, you will take forward the **Global Alliance to counter migrant smuggling** and identify new areas of global cooperation in the fight against smuggling, including through new operational partnerships with neighbouring countries.
- You will work with Member States on a **stronger coordination of rescue operations**, including with neighbouring countries, and increased surveillance capabilities for Frontex. One life lost at sea is one life too many.
- You will steer further reflections on **innovative operational solutions to counter irregular migration**, while respecting international law and ensuring sustainable and fair solutions for the migrants themselves.
- You will work on the **external aspects of migration**. You will ensure that migration issues are an operational part of our comprehensive partnerships, while fully respecting fundamental rights and ensuring parliamentary scrutiny. In this context, you will contribute to the Pact for the **Mediterranean**.

- You should work on ensuring real and viable **legal pathways for refugees** and a strategy for their **integration** in communities and the labour market, while strengthening our **readmission** policies.
- You will also work on **legal migration** to attract people with the right skills to match local labour market needs. You will contribute to the **Union of Skills**, building on the work of the Talent Pool and stepping up work on the recognition of qualifications.

As a rule, you will work under the guidance of the Executive Vice-President for Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy. The Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs will support you in your 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*