



FLEISHMANHILLARD



THE JUNCKER
COMMISSION
Analysis & Insights
on the
New College

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The new structure of the Juncker Commission



* Information based on European Commission website : http://ec.europa.eu/about/juncker-commission/structure/index_en.htm

Analysis

THE COLLEGE OF COMMISSIONERS

President Jean-Claude Juncker has presented a very experienced College of Commissioners. Member States have nominated a college that includes 5 former PMs, 11 candidates with a financial background, 8 foreign affairs specialists, and 7 incumbent Commissioners. This is a College with a wealth of expertise, and is full of politicians who are political heavy-weights in their own right.

In its composition, Juncker has sought to balance geography, political affiliation and experience, although he stated that he was still not satisfied with the gender balance. The composition shows that he might have felt that Member States should be appeased more than the European Parliament, as is evidenced by appointing UK candidate Lord Jonathan Hill to Financial Services and French candidate Pierre Moscovici to oversee Member State budgets. He stated that they would be better able to explain its importance in their home countries and will make it harder for UK and France to criticise the Commission in those areas.

COMPOSITION OF NEW COLLEGE

Ex Prime Ministers – 5
Financial background – 11
Foreign affairs experience – 8
Members of European Parliament – 8
Female Commissioners – 9

CHALLENGES FOR THE NEW EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The new Commission will have to deal with some massive challenges ahead:

- > **Stagnating economy** – the Commission will have to give shape to an EU growth agenda, while there is a north-south divide on budgetary flexibility and structural reform
- > **Ukraine & Russia** – the gravest threat to continental security since the Cold War, refocuses EU policy on energy security, and challenges the EU's 'neighborhood policy'
- > **Britain's place in the Union** – the Commission will have to conceive of scenarios for what might happen if the UK decides to leave the EU

NEW ORDER

President Juncker clearly aims to meet these challenges by what appears to be the most radical overhaul of the workings of the European Commission in a lifetime. The introduction of Vice-Presidents could well lend itself to ending what some have seen as decision making by silos. While the overall division of VP posts is politically balanced, Juncker has appointed his political allies, Katainen and Dombrovskis, to coordinate economic

policy, potentially isolating French Commissioner Moscovici in charge of the EU budget rules for Member States. Other areas such as data protection seems to be over-crowded, with a VP for the Digital Single Market, as well as German Commissioner Oettinger for Digital Economy & Society, and Czech Commissioner Jourova in charge of DG Justice which contains the unit dealing with this subject.

At this stage it is unclear how these Super-Commissioners will, in practice, work across different Directorate-Generals to implement President Juncker's Political Guidelines for this Commission. The Vice-Presidents would have a de-facto veto on legislative proposals being presented to the college. However, it is unclear what staffing resources, whether separate from the Secretary-General or not, the Super Commissioners will have. Only time will tell whether the Commission's internal decision making systems are robust enough to prevent proposals being brought forward that differ from, or are not listed under, the ten Political Guidelines.

DYNAMICS

President Juncker is the "Spitzenkandidat". He secured his position in large part due to the support of the European Parliament. It is arguable that many in the European Parliament will want to ensure that a "Spitzenkandidat"-led Commission delivers good results. The confirmation of the Commissioners will be the first test of how close the Commission and the European Parliament can work together.

For the last 5 years, we have witnessed a European Commission that, on key issues like energy and economic governance, is finding itself being bypassed by the European Council. The European Commission is, arguably, not the engine of the European Project that it once so obviously was, under former Commission President, Jacques Delors.

It appears that President Juncker wants to re-assert the role of the European Commission by acting on the Energy Union and a Common Asylum System, issues where many national governments will be reluctant to cede control. The first year of office will show whether the Member States are prepared to co-operate with President Juncker on such sensitive issues.

The political makeup of the Commission with 14 centre-right (including Juncker), 8 centre-left, 5 liberal and 1 conservative Commissioners reflects the composition of the national governments. How this group of highly talented politicians works together will be the first major test for the new College once it is confirmed. President Juncker has an ambitious agenda, and he will need to draw on all the talents of his new College to deliver it.



Johannes HAHN

PORTFOLIO : COMMISSIONER FOR EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY & ENLARGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

insights

Johannes Hahn has been the Commissioner for Regional Policy in the second Barroso Commission. Throughout his term, Johannes Hahn has been successfully working in collaboration with the European Parliament and the Committee of the Regions. As a Commissioner he has focused on improving infrastructure projects around Europe—particularly improving the port of Naples, the airport of Gdańsk, the trans-European railway in Poland and optimising the natural gas supply in Greece. He has recently successfully negotiated partnership agreements with Bulgaria, Romania and Portugal on usage of EU Structural & Investment funds.

In contrast to his first nomination as Commissioner, Austria’s grand coalition government (SPÖ and ÖVP) this time agreed quickly on his re-nomination.

Since his first political steps in 1980, as the Chairman of the Viennese youth group of the Austrian People’s Party, Hahn has taken a pro-European stance even when Austrian accession was unpopular amongst his party peers. He is considered by many in Austria to weigh his words carefully and personifies a reflective political approach. He sees himself as a liberal-conservative, who stands for openness and freedom in politics and society.

political background

- > 2010-present—Member of the European Commission in charge of Regional Policy
- > 2007-2009—Appointed Federal Minister for Science and Research
- > 2005-2007—Chairman of the Austrian People’s Party Vienna (ÖVP Wien)
- > 2003-2005—Member of the Viennese government elected managerial Chairman of the Austrian People’s Party Vienna (ÖVP Wien), primarily responsible for Culture, Economic, and Health policies
- > 1996-2003—Member of the Viennese Council and spokesperson for Health Policy of the ÖVP Wien
- > 1992-1997—Managing Director of the ÖVP Wien
- > 1980—Chairman of the Viennese youth group of the Austrian People’s Party (JVP)

career background

PROFESSIONAL

- > 1985-1992—Held various management functions in different industry sectors
- > 1997-2003—Member of the Board and later Chairman of the Board of Novomatic AG

ACADEMIC

- > 1987—Studied philosophy at the University of Vienna, graduated with a doctoral degree in 1987

personal

- > Born 2 December 1957
- > Married, one son

Political affiliation
EPP



Austria



Marianne THYSSEN

PORTFOLIO : COMMISSIONER FOR EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL AFFAIRS, SKILLS & LABOUR MOBILITY

insights

Marianne Thyssen is a prominent Dutch-speaking Christian-Democrat politician. She is best known for her former chairmanship of the Belgian Dutch-speaking Christian-Democratic party as well as her role in the previous European Parliament as an MEP.

Her nomination is part of a complex puzzle in the framework of the currently ongoing negotiations to form a national Belgian government. In a historic move, the Belgian political parties have for the first time, put the roles of European Commissioner & Belgian Prime Minister on the same footing, marking the significance of the European role for the country.

Thyssen became one of the main figures in the European Parliament dealing with the aftermath of the financial crisis. She served as rapporteur on the landmark file transferring bank supervision in the Eurozone from national supervisors to the European Central Bank.

She is known as a pragmatic centre-right politician. She rose to political significance through the Christian-Democrat Party's sister association for SMEs, giving her valuable experience in dealing with challenges facing businesses.

political background

- > 1991-2014—Member of the European Parliament
- > 2009-2014—Leader of the Belgian delegation in the EPP Group
- > 2008-2010—Chairwoman of the Dutch-speaking Christian Democratic Party (CD&V)
- > 2004-2009—First Vice-Chairwoman of the EPP Group in the European Parliament
- > 2001-2008—First Deputy Mayor of Oud-Heverlee, Belgium
- > 1999-2014—Member of the Bureau of the European People's Party
- > 1998-1999—Vice-Chairwoman of the EPP-ED Group's SME Circle

career background

PROFESSIONAL

- > 1980-1991—Legal assistant in the Office of the State Secretary for Health, and legal adviser for the head of a research department and acting Secretary-General at UNIZO (organisation for the self-employed and small and medium-sized businesses).
- > 1979-1981—Academic assistant at the University of Leuven's Law School.

ACADEMIC

- > 1979—Thyssen obtained a Degree in Law from the Catholic University of Leuven (KUL).

PERSONAL

- > Born 24 July 1956 in Oud-Heverlee, Belgium

Political affiliation
EPP



Belgium



Kristalina GEORGIEVA

PORTFOLIO : VICE-PRESIDENT FOR BUDGET & HUMAN RESOURCES

insights

Since February 2010 Kristalina Georgieva has been the European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid & Crisis Response. She is widely respected and admired as an adept and efficient leader; her efforts in coordinating the European response to the recently downed civilian aircraft over Ukraine providing the most recent example.

In 2009, Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borissov named her as Bulgaria's candidate for European Commissioner following the unsuccessful presentation and the withdrawal of former Foreign Minister Rumiana Jeleva as Commissioner-designate. Georgieva has gained an excellent reputation as Commissioner. Both GERB (Citizens for a European development of Bulgaria) – the political party of former PM, Boyko Borissov, affiliated with the EPP and Bulgaria's Caretaker Government strongly support Georgieva for a second mandate. She is supported by the Bulgarian President Rossen Plevneliev, while Juncker has also made it clear that he sees her as a trusted colleague.

Georgieva became Vice-President and Corporate Secretary of the World Bank in 2008. She is the first and only Bulgarian at such a senior position in the organisation. In this position, she facilitated cooperation and strategic dialog between the Bank's Boards of Directors and its senior management. Georgieva held a number of technical and managerial positions in bank operations and was a leading voice on environmental and sustainable development issues.

career background

PROFESSIONAL

- > 1993-2010—World Bank Group – Environmental Economist, Senior Environmental Economist, Sector Manager on Environment for the East Asia and Pacific Region, Director in charge of World Bank Environmental Strategy, Policies and Lending
- > 2004—Appointed World Bank Director for the Russian Federation
- > 1977-1993—Assistant Professor/Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of National and World Economy, Sofia, Bulgaria
- > 1991—Visiting Professor, University of the South Pacific, Fiji; and Australian National University

ACADEMIC

- > 1998—World Bank Executive Development Programme, Harvard Business School
- > 1996—Ph.D. (Economic Sciences) – University of National and World Economy, Sofia
- > 1976—M.A. Political Economy and Sociology, University of National and World Economy, Sofia
- > Prolific academic author

personal

- > Born 13 August 1953
- > Married, one child

Political affiliation
EPP



Bulgaria



Neven MIMICA

PORTFOLIO : COMMISSIONER FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION & DEVELOPMENT

insights

Neven Mimica had his first EU-related position in 2000, as the chief negotiator for Croatia’s accession to the EU, negotiating the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, as well as Croatia’s accession to the World Trade Organisation.

Upon joining the Union, Mimica became European Commissioner for Consumer Protection on 1 July 2013. At the time, President of the Commission, Barroso expressed his pleasure about the appointment of an “experienced and committed European”.

Mimica is also the current Deputy Prime Minister for Home, Foreign and European Affairs in the Croatian government, led by Prime Minister Zoran Milanovic (Social Democratic Party of Croatia). Mimica’s appointment to the role is no accident. Mimica has proven to be an effective dvocate of the EU’s role in consumer policy.

political background

- > 2013—European Commissioner for Consumer Protection
- > 2011-2014—Deputy Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Integration
- > 2008-2011—Deputy Speaker of Parliament; Chair of the European Integration Committee
- > 2004-2008—Member of Parliament
- > 2001-2003—Minister of European Integration
- > 1997-2001—Assistant Minister, then Deputy Minister for Economic Affairs; Chief negotiator for the Stabilisation and Association Agreement and WTO accession

career background

PROFESSIONAL

- > 1987-1997—Diplomatic service of the SFR Yugoslavia and Croatia including postings in Cairo, Zagreb, and Ankara
- > 1983-1987—Assistant Chairman of the Republic's Committee for Foreign Relations
- > 1980-1983—Adviser at the Republic's Committee for Foreign Relations
- > 1978-1980—Staff member of the Republic's Committee for Foreign Relations

ACADEMIC

- > 1997—Masters degree in economics, University of Zagreb
- > 1976—Graduated in foreign trade, University of Zagreb

personal

- > Born 12 October 1953
- > Married, two children

Political affiliation
S&D



Croatia



Christos STYLIANIDES

PORTFOLIO : COMMISSIONER FOR HUMANITARIAN AID & CRISIS MANAGEMENT

insights

Christos Stylianides has a varied background; he was trained as a dentist and then moved into politics in the 1990s with a strong interest in foreign affairs. After stepping down from the post of government spokesman in the Spring of 2014, Stylianides ran and was elected to be an MEP in May 2014.

Styliandes has been Deputy Chairman of the Cypriot Parliament’s Committee on Foreign and European Affairs and a party spokesperson on European affairs.

During his time as government spokesman, Stylianides was often the point person to answer questions regarding Cyprus’ bail-out earlier in 2014. He is well-regarded by his current government as being competent and confident under pressure.

political background

- > 2014—MEP, Member of the Budget Committee and of the Delegation for relations with the United States
- > 2013-2014—Government Spokesman under Nicos Anastasiades, President of Cyprus
- > 2006-2013—Deputy Chairman of the House Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs,
- > 2006-2013—Member of the House Standing Committee on Labour and Social Insurance, and member of the delegation of the House to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
- > 2008-2011—Coordinator of the Democratic Alliance Internal and Decentralisation Sector
- > 2006-2008—Democratic Alliance Commissioner for European Affairs
- > 2006-ongoing—Member of the Democratic Alliance Party Executive Bureau
- > 1998-1999—Government Spokesman under Glafkos Clerides, President of Cyprus

career background

PROFESSIONAL

- > Dental surgeon as initial profession

ACADEMIC

- > Dental Surgery at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece
- > Postgraduate studies in Political Science, International Relations and European Studies with specialisation in European Institutions in the United Kingdom and at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, USA

personal

- > Born 26 June 1958
- > Married, one son

Political affiliation
EPP



Cyprus



VĚRA JOUROVÁ

PORTFOLIO : COMMISSIONER FOR JUSTICE, CONSUMERS & GENDER EQUALITY

insights

Věra Jourová’s nomination followed the early call for female commissioners and she has allegedly been put forward as part of an agreement between the Czech Prime Minister and Commission President Juncker, with the expectation that the Czech Republic would receive a high-profile portfolio in return.

Jourová is a leading member of the 2012-formed ANO political party. At the national level, the Social Democrats (ČSSD) have reportedly agreed to a trade-off with ANO party, in which ANO agreed to increase the budget for social services and the minimum wage in exchange for the nomination of Jourová.

The ANO party has stated that it opposes further European integration, though most of its focus is domestic, where it entered the political scene as an un-aligned movement against corruption in Czech politics.

Jourová has described herself as a “pitbull” who will fight to show what she can do.

political background

- > 2014—Czech Minister for Regional Development
- > 2012—Active member of the ANO party since its establishment in 2012, participating as the movement's manager, and working on its economic programme.
- > 2013—Elected as first deputy head of the ANO political party in the October general election, selected as ANO's leader in Vysočina region.
- > 2003-2006—Social Democrat (ČSSD) member
- > 2002—Member of Trebic assembly for Social Democrats (ČSSD)

career background

PROFESSIONAL

- > 2003-2006—Deputy local development minister
- > 2001-2003—Headed regional development department of Vysocina Regional Authority
- > 2000-2001—Worked with DHV CR consultancy firm
- > 1995-2000—Secretary and press spokeswoman for Trebic municipal authority
- > 1991-1994—Deputy director of the Municipal Cultural Centre in Trebic

ACADEMIC

- > 2012—Faculty of Law of Charles University in Prague
- > 1991—Graduated from Faculty of Arts of Charles University

personal

- > Born 18 August 1964
- > Divorced, two children

Political affiliation
ALDE



Czech Republic



Margrethe VESTAGER

PORTFOLIO : COMMISSIONER FOR COMPETITION

insights

Margrethe Vestager is an experienced politician from the governing Danish Social Liberal Party. She has held multiple ministerial positions and various senior positions within her party. Prime Minister Thorning-Schmidt is sending one of her strongest colleagues to Brussels.

In Brussels, she is highly respected amongst colleagues, in particular for having led the negotiations in ECOFIN during the high point of the financial crisis in European history during the Danish Presidency.

As Economic Affairs and Interior Minister she has continuously expressed the need for fiscal discipline and being economically responsible. During the Danish EU-Presidency, Vestager also emphasized the importance of the joining the Fiscal Compact to show to Danish voters that the government is taking steps towards fiscal consolidation.

political background

- > 2011-2014—Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Affairs and the Interior
- > 2011—Political leader of the Social Liberal Party
- > 2007-2011—Chairwoman of the Social Liberal parliamentary group
- > 2001-ongoing—Member of Danish Parliament
- > 2000-2001—Minister for Education
- > 1998-2000—Minister for Education and Minister for Ecclesiastical Affairs
- > 1993-1997—Chairwoman of the Social Liberal Party
- > 1989—Member of the central board and Executive Committee of the Social Liberal Party and of the European Affairs Committee

career background

PROFESSIONAL

- > 2010-2011—Member of the Trilateral Commission, and NGO fostering co-operation between North America, Europe, and Asia
- > 2007-2011—Member of the Executive Committee of UNICEF Denmark Suspendisse
- > 2003-2008—Chairwoman of the Advisory Board for the Institute for Management, Politics and Philosophy

ACADEMIC

- > 1993—Master of Science in Economics from the University of Copenhagen

personal

- > Born in 1968
- > Married, three children

Political affiliation
ALDE



Denmark



Andrus ANSIP

PORTFOLIO : VICE-PRESIDENT FOR THE DIGITAL SINGLE MARKET

insights

Andrus Ansip is seen as the poster child for defenders of austerity. He adeptly led Estonia out of the 2008-2009 recession. Today, Estonia has brought about an economy notable for its low tax and low government debt. He was one of the longest serving leaders in Europe, having served as Prime Minister of Estonia from 2005 to 2014.

Since May of 2014, he has been an MEP and has been outspoken in his support for economic and political freedom. He has also been critical of French plans to sell naval vessels to Russia during foreign discussions over European sanctions. Along with fellow European Commissioner-delegate from Latvia, Ansip has also received the Friedrich August von Hayek Foundation award for achievements in the promotion of economic and social liberalism.

political background

- > 2014—MEP
- > 2005-2014—Prime Minister of Estonia
- > 2004-2005—Minister of Economic Affairs
- > 2004—Member of Parliament
- > 1998-2004—Mayor of Tartu

career background

PROFESSIONAL

- > 1995-1996—Livonia Privatization IF, Chairman of the Board
- > 1995-1996—Fondijuhtide AS, Chairman of the Management Board
- > 1994-1998—Radio Tartu Ltd, Chairman of the Board

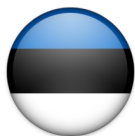
ACADEMIC

- > 1987-1989—Estonian Academy of Agriculture, Specialty in Agronomy
- > 1992—York University in Toronto, Business Management

personal

- > Born 1 October 1956
- > Married, three Children

Political affiliation
ALDE



Estonia



Jyrki KATAINEN

PORTFOLIO : VICE-PRESIDENT FOR JOBS, GROWTH, INVESTMENT & COMPETITIVENESS

insights

Jyrki Katainen is a professional politician from a centre-right party. Despite his relatively young age he is experienced. During his term as Prime Minister of Finland, the National Coalition Party moved from being a socially conservative party to a more socially liberal, catch-all party which became, for the first time ever, the biggest party in the Parliament of Finland. Katainen is regarded as well as an inspiring leader.

His political style is more conciliatory and pragmatic than ideological. As Prime Minister he led a coalition government of six-parties while introducing reformatory politics. His earlier years as the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance overlapped with the Eurozone crisis, giving him both experience and connections at the EU-level.

In spring 2014, Katainen quite unexpectedly announced that he would leave his position as the Chairman of the National Coalition Party and resigned mid-term from the post of Prime Minister. Later he announced his interest in a top EU post. While being clearly pro-European, he has stated that EU-politics should be reality-based.

political background

- > 2014—European Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs and the Euro, replacing Olli Rehn
- > 2011-2014—Prime Minister of Finland
- > 2007-2011—Minister of Finance and Minister Deputy Prime Minister, spanning two governments
- > 2004-2014—Chairman of the National Coalition Party (Kokoomus)
- > 2001-2014—Vice Chair of the National Coalition Party (Kokoomus)
- > 2006-2012—Vice President of the European People's Party
- > 1999-2014—Member of the Finnish parliament
- > 1998-2000—Vice Chair, Youth of the European People's Party
- > 1993—First formal political position

career background

PROFESSIONAL

- > Prior to politics, a brief career in teaching

ACADEMIC

- > 1998—MSc in Political Science, University of Tampere

personal

- > Born 14 October 1971
- > Married, two children

Political affiliation

EPP



Finland



Pierre MOSCOVICI

PORTFOLIO : COMMISSIONER FOR ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS, TAXATION AND CUSTOMS UNION

insights

Pierre Moscovici was Minister for Economy and Finance under the first formation of the Government of François Hollande. As part of a recent government reshuffle, Moscovici was left out of the new government in April 2014, with the clear ambition of appointing him the French candidate to the European Commission.

His experience as Minister for Economy and Finance, and before that as Junior Minister for European Affairs and as a former Member of the European Parliament will be an advantage for Pierre Moscovici, who is well acquainted with the functioning of the European Union.

Pierre Moscovici is expected to focus on boosting investment following the support already shown by France to Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker’s investment plan of 300 billion euros over three years. Moscovici has taken a position in favour of competence clusters as well as integrating the presidency of the Eurogroup within the Commission.

political background

- > 2014-ongoing—City Counsellor of Valentigney
- > 2014-ongoing—Member of the French Parliament
- > 2012-2014—Minister for Economy and Finance
- > 2008-2012—President of the agglomeration community of Montbeliard
- > 2004-2007—Member of the European Parliament
- > 1998-2004—Regional Advisor, Franche-Comté
- > 1997-ongoing—Member of the French Parliament
- > 1997-2002—Junior Minister for European Affairs
- > 1995-1997—National Secretary responsible for Studies, Socialist Party
- > 1994-1997—Member of the European Parliament
- > 1994-2001—General Counsellor of the Doubs for Sochaux-Grand-Charmont
- > 1992-1994—National Treasurer, Socialist Party
- > 1990-1994—Head of the Public Service Modernization and Financing Department, French Planning Office
- > 1990-1992—National Secretary responsible for Studies, Socialist Party
- > 1989—Project Manager in the Cabinet of Lionel Jospin, Minister for Education

career background

PROFESSIONAL

- > Senior member of the French Court of Auditors
- > 1984-1988—Auditor, French Court of Auditors

ACADEMIC

- > 1984—National School of Administration (ENA)
- > 1980—Paris Institute of Political Sciences (Sciences Po)
- > 1980—Master in Philosophy, University Paris IV
- > 1979—DEA in macroeconomics, University Paris I
- > 1978—Master of Economic Sciences, University Paris X
- > 1978—Master of Political Science, University Paris I

personal

- > Born 16 September 1957
- > He is the author of numerous books on French and European politics

Political affiliation
S&D



France



PORTFOLIO : COMMISSIONER FOR DIGITAL ECONOMY & SOCIETY

Günther OETTINGER

insights

Günther Oettinger had a successful first term as Commissioner for Energy. His re-nomination was the result of a deal struck between the parties of the German coalition government. Mr Oettinger, affiliated with the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), kept his seat at the Commission while Social Democrats (SPD) maintained Martin Schulz – the former S&D *Spitzenkandidat* for the Commission Presidency – as President of the European Parliament.

Throughout his first term he finalised the Energy Roadmap 2050 fixing ambitious goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions whilst ensuring continued competitiveness. Additionally, he oversaw the implementation of stress tests for nuclear energy plants.

In 2013, he wanted to reduce subsidies in the EU for renewable energies arguing they were unreasonably expensive even though it came to light that other energy sources such as coal and nuclear energy benefitted from even higher subsidies. Nonetheless, he is still perceived as a critic of renewable energies and supports the extraction of shale gas. Mr Oettinger’s hands-on handling of the energy portfolio as well as his rather conservative views on energy resources has resulted in a number of criticisms against him, especially in his home country. However, Mr. Oettinger’s charisma and sensitive portfolio has allowed him to emerge as a mediator between Russia, the EU and Ukraine.

political background

- > 2014—Vice-President of the European Commission
- > 2010-2014—European Commissioner for Energy
- > 2005-2010—Minister President of Baden-Württemberg
- > 2005-2009—Chairman of the Christian Democrats (CDU) in Baden- Württemberg
- > 2005-ongoing—Member of the Governing Board and the Federal Executive Committee of the CDU
- > 2007-2009—Chairman of the commission responsible for financial reform at federal level (Föderalismusreform II)
- > 2006-2010—Chairman of the national media policy expert group for the CDU
- > 1984-2010—Member of the Regional Parliament of Baden-Württemberg

career background

PROFESSIONAL

- > 1988—2005 Lawyer
- > 1984—1988 Assessor in an audit and tax consultancy

ACADEMIC

- > Degree in law and economics at the University of Tübingen

personal

- > Born 15 October 1953
- > Divorced, one son

Political affiliation

EPP



Germany



Dimitris AVRAMOPOULOS

PORTFOLIO : COMMISSIONER FOR MIGRATION & HOME AFFAIRS

insights

Dimitris Avramopoulos, currently Minister of National Defence has been a politician since 1993, when he left the Greek diplomatic service. He has been a member of New Democracy (currently the governing political party) for the last 21 years, aside from a short period of time when he initiated his own political movement, the “Movement of Free Citizens”, back in 2001-2002.

He is one of the most popular politicians in Greece and became very well known during his two terms as Mayor of Athens. He was the youngest ever mayor of Athens at the time. This, as well as his years in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has made him a well known European figure. The Greek Prime Minister chose him for the European Commission over fellow member of New Democracy, Dora Bakoyanni, whose name featured as the most probable candidate until the last minute.

Speculations from the media refer to his smooth relationship with the political opposition in Greece, and especially with Mr. Alexis Tsipras, President of SYRIZA, as a key reason for his candidature. His nomination is said to be a “peaceful”, widely accepted one, which will possibly guarantee a smooth term for the party and himself. During his years as Minister of Health, he was a supporter of public-private initiatives.

political background

- > 2011 & 2013—Minister of National Defence
- > 2012—Minister of Foreign Affairs
- > 2006-2009—Minister of Health and Social Solidarity
- > 2004-2009—Minister of Tourism Development
- > 1997-2002—Member of the Committee of the Regions of the European Union and Vice President of its Bureau
- > 1994-2004—Mayor of Athens, two consecutive terms
- > 1993-1994—Elected Deputy, Member of the Greek Parliament

career background

PROFESSIONAL

- > 1980-1993—Diplomatic Service, with his last year spent as Director of the Diplomatic Office of the Greek Prime Minister, Costas Mitsotakis

ACADEMIC

- > 1986—Masters of European Studies (Institute of European Affairs of the Université Libre de Bruxelles)
- > 1979-1980—Postgraduate Specialisation course on International Organisation (Boston University/Brussels).
- > 1978—B.A Public Law and Political Sciences from the School of Law of the University of Athens

personal

- > Born 6 June 1953
- > Married, two children

Political affiliation

EPP



Greece



PORTFOLIO : COMMISSIONER FOR EDUCATION, CULTURE, YOUTH & CITIZENSHIP

Tibor NAVRACSICS

insights

Tibor Navracsics is currently Hungary’s Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade in the government of Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, and a member of the centre-right Fidesz party. Having only taken on the Foreign Affairs portfolio in June 2014, Navracsics previously served as Hungary’s Minister of Public Administration and Justice between 2010 and 2014.

Initially trained in law, Navracsics became interested in politics following the fall of Hungary’s communist government. After a number of years as a professor and researcher, he took on senior roles in Viktor Orbán’s first government between 1998 and 2002, leading the press and communications work of the Prime Minister’s Office. Since that time, Navracsics has been a close political ally of Orbán’s, serving as his Head of Cabinet and chief strategist while in opposition, and has played a strong role in developing Fidesz policy in the areas of economics, competitiveness, public administration, justice and neighbourhood relations.

Navracsics made the jump to elected politics in 2006 when he was elected to the Hungarian Parliament and immediately took on a parliamentary leadership role in the Fidesz caucus.

Navracsics, who has retained his teaching post at the University of ELTE throughout his political career, has a strong research interest in EU governance and the politics of the former Yugoslavia.

political background

- > 2014—Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- > 2010-2014—Minister of Public Administration and Justice
- > 2006-ongoing—Member of the Hungarian Parliament
- > 2003-2006—Head of President’s Cabinet, Fidesz
- > 2002-2003—Head of Political Strategy, Fidesz Parliamentary Group
- > 1998-2002—Director of Communications, Prime Minister’s Office

career background

PROFESSIONAL

- > 2001-ongoing—Professor of Political Science, University of ELTE
- > 1993-1997—Assistant Professor, University of Economics, Budapest
- > 1990-1993—Tribunal Clerk, Municipal Court of Veszprem

ACADEMIC

- > 1990-1992—Studied law and judicial practice at the University of ELTE
- > 2000—PhD in Political Science (ELTE)

personal

- > Born 13 June 1966

Political affiliation
EPP



Hungary



PORTFOLIO : COMMISSIONER FOR AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Phil HOGAN

insights

While Ireland is the first country to exit the Eurozone bailout programme, deep cuts and austerity measures continue to put the current coalition government of Fine Gael (centre-right) and Labour (centre-left) under considerable pressure. Nevertheless, with rising employment, better than anticipated tax returns, and increasing confidence on the growth front, there is a likelihood of softer budgets than expected this year and next, with some concessions to hard pressed tax payers.

Phil Hogan has been caught in the crossfire following the introduction of new taxes on property and water, which he agreed with the now-departed Troika in his role as Minister for the Environment. Against this background, the majority party Fine Gael asserted its claim for the nomination of the European Commissioner. As expected, Phil Hogan was awarded the nomination.

His loyalty to the Taoiseach (Prime Minister) over the years, in particular running Enda Kenny's 2011 general election campaign and previously being the key strategist in defeating Kenny's challenger for leadership of the party, Richard Bruton, meant that there was never much doubt that he would be given this top post. Hogan can count on the strong backing at European level of the popular Enda Kenny.

political career

- > 2011-2014—Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government
- > 1989-ongoing—Teachta Dála (TD/MP) in the Dáil (Parliament) for the Carlow–Kilkenny constituency
- > 1995-2001—Chairman of the Fine Gael parliamentary party
- > 1994-1995—Minister of State at the Department of Finance
- > 1991-1994—Regional Affairs and European Development
- > 1991-1999— Member of the South-Eastern Health Board
- > 1989-1991—Opposition spokesperson on the Food Industry, Consumer Affairs
- > 1987 & 1989—Elected to the Seanad (Senate), Fine Gael spokesman on Justice and Industry and Commerce
- > 1985-1986; 1989-1990—Chairman of the Kilkenny County Council
- > 1982-2003—Member of Kilkenny County Council

career background

ACADEMIC

- > BA and Higher Diploma in Education, University College Cork

Personal

- > Born 4 July 1960
- > Separated, one son

Political affiliation

EPP



Ireland



PORTFOLIO : HIGH REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNION FOR FOREIGN POLICY & SECURITY POLICY

Federica MOGHERINI

insights

Federica Mogherini was appointed the Italian Foreign Affairs Minister in February 2014. On 30 August, the European Council appointed her High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

Her career started within the Partito Comunista from which she moved to Democratici di Sinistra (leftist political party) which then merged with the Partito Democratico (PD, the Democratic Party) in 2007. She was elected MP in 2008, sitting as member of the International Affairs committee, as well as member of the Security and Defence committee in the Lower Chamber (Camera dei deputati). She is particularly active on the issues of gender discrimination and nuclear weapons.

Prior to her candidature for European Commission office, Mogherini was appointed Foreign Minister for the current Italian government. This appointment allowed Prime Minister Matteo Renzi to campaign for her to be installed as the High Representative for Foreign Affairs. A key point of discussion in the run-up to her appointment was her allegedly soft position vis-à-vis the Kremlin and the issue of respecting the EU's eastern borders. Nonetheless, her perceived pro-Russian stance comes from historic economic and political relations between the Russian Federation and Italy rather than political affiliation. Her views have however, been consistent with Italy's foreign policy towards Russia in recent decades. Italy is Russia's second biggest EU trading partner.

She was appointed as High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on 30 August 2014 at the Special Meeting of the European Council. Lithuania's President Dalia Grybauskaitė abstained during the vote on her confirmation.

political background

- > 2014—Foreign Minister in Prime Minister Renzi's government
- > 2013—Member of the PD national secretariat
- > 2008-ongoing—Elected as MP in the lower chamber of the Italian Parliament
- > 2007—Member of the PD national executive
- > She was president of the Italian Delegation to the Parliamentary assembly of the NATO
- > Member of the Council for IT-US relations and fellow of the German Marshall Fund
- > She was responsible for the foreign policy of the DS party (which merged with the PD)

career background

ACADEMIC

- > 1994— Degree in Political Science

personal

- > Born 16 June 1973
- > Married, two daughters

Political affiliation
S&D



Italy



PORTFOLIO : VICE-PRESIDENT FOR THE EURO & SOCIAL DIALOGUE

Valdis DOMBROVSKIS

insights

Valdis Dombrovskis was Prime Minister of Latvia since March 2009. He resigned on 27 November 2013 following the Riga supermarket roof collapse in which 54 people were killed.

He was a founding Member of the classical liberal New Era political party in February 2002. He is widely credited for steering Latvia through the economic crisis of 2008-2009, on which he has co-authored the book: "How Latvia Came Through the Financial Crisis".

Along with Estonia's Commissioner-designate, Andrus Ansip, Dombrovskis has received the Friedrich August von Hayek Foundation award for implementing liberal economic policy. He led his country into membership of the euro on 1 January 2014.

political background

- > 2009-2014—Prime Minister
- > 2004-2009 – Member of the European Parliament
- > 2002-2004—Minister of Finance
- > 2002 & 2010—Elected to the Latvian Parliament

career background

PROFESSIONAL

- > 2001-2002—Bank of Latvia, Chief Economist
- > 1999-2001— Bank of Latvia, Senior Economist
- > 1998-1999—Bank of Latvia, macroeconomic specialist
- > 1991-1998—Held a number of academic research posts in Electrical Engineering in Germany and the US

ACADEMIC

- > 1995—B.A. Economics, Riga Technical University
- > 1996—MSC Physics from University of Latvia
- > 1995-1996—Institute of Physics, Mainz University, Germany
- > 1998— Researcher, University of Maryland

personal

- > Born 5 August 1971
- > Married

Political affiliation

EPP



Latvia



Vytenis ANDRIUKAITIS

PORTFOLIO : COMMISSIONER FOR HEALTH & FOOD SAFETY

insights

Vytenis Andriukaitis is Minister of Health in the Republic of Lithuania. As Minister, he is outspoken on the state of healthcare as well as pharmaceutical access and pricing in Lithuania and has often been criticized for raising issues which may appear to be currently unsolvable. Under his guidance, the administration has been much more methodical and systematic. He is well regarded for his idealism, and in his political career, he has easily moved between addressing problems of national health and issues of national/international importance to Lithuania.

In 2002-2003, he led the Lithuanian delegation to the Convention on the Future of Europe. Born in the extreme north of Yakutsk to parents deported to Siberia from Soviet-occupied Lithuania, Andriukaitis was allowed to return to his homeland in 1958 where he completed school and pursued a medical education, specializing in surgery. He eventually became a Social Democrat out of principle, and only later in 1989 helped to formally re-establish the Social Democratic Party of Lithuania.

Having chaired numerous ministerial meetings during the Lithuanian Presidency of the EU in 2013, Andriukaitis is well familiar with his colleagues in the European health sectors. Years of leadership experience in the Lithuanian Parliament make him extraordinarily capable to chair meetings, maintain dialogue in challenging political situations and to seek common position. Vytenis Andriukaitis knows that Europe must reform its health sectors but recognizes that political will must first be developed and formed before action is taken. His lifelong mottos are that "form must follow function" and that "the people's interest should come first".

political background

- > 2012-2014—Minister of Health
- > 2008-2012—Deputy Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs in the Lithuanian Parliament
- > 2001-2014—Deputy Chairman of the Lithuanian Parliament (Seimas)
- > 1992-1996—Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Health and Social Affairs in the Lithuanian Parliament
- > 1990-2004, 2008-2012—Member of the Lithuanian Parliament (Seimas) - authored more than 140 legislative proposals and amendments
- > 1992—Co-signer of the Declaration of Re-establishment of Independence and one of the authors of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania
- > 1976-1989—Member of the underground (in former USSR) Social Democratic Circle and actively supported the restoration of the Social Democratic Party of Lithuania

career background

PROFESSIONAL

- > 1975-1989—Surgeon (achieved first category in cardiovascular surgery)
- > 2006-2008—Lecturer in the State Environmental Health Centre 2

ACADEMIC

- > 1969-1975—Studied medicine (surgery) Kaunas Medical Institute (MD)
- > 1979-1984—Studied history and political science (summa cum laude) University of Vilnius (diploma)

personal

- > Born 9 August 1951
- > Married, 3 children

Political affiliation
S&D



Lithuania



PORTFOLIO : PRESIDENT

Jean-Claude JUNCKER

insights

Since he began his political career at the age of 28, Jean-Claude Juncker has been a savvy political operator, riding the wave to become the President-elect of the European Commission as the European Peoples’ Party’s ‘Spitzenkandidat’.

Prior to his latest position, Juncker was the Prime Minister of Luxembourg for 18 years. Throughout that time he built up his EU credentials and was the first-ever President of the Eurogroup from 2005 to 2013. During this time, Juncker led the Finance Ministers of the Eurozone-EU Member States in their work to help pull Europe out of the financial crisis.

Taken under the wing of former Luxembourgish Prime Minister Jacques Santer, immediately following his university graduation, Juncker was groomed for high-ranking government office from the beginning. He was appointed as Minister of Finance early in his career, and being a passionate European, was appointed president of the Economic and Financial Affairs Council. In that role, he was integral to the setting up and signing of the Maastricht Treaty 1992, becoming one of the forefathers of the euro currency.

Juncker has already given a flavor of his high-level priorities for this new Commission. He intends to focus efforts on economic growth and jobs creation as well as restoring European citizens’ confidence in the European Project. Some of his flagship initiatives announced in July include pushing for “an Energy Union”; making steps towards a “Digital Single Market”, a promise to inject EUR 300 billion in the economy and working towards a “Capital Markets Union”. These agenda-setting themes will become more concrete initiatives once the new Commission is in place.

political background

- > 1995-2013—Prime Minister of Luxembourg
- > 2005-2013—President of the Eurogroup
- > 1990-1995—Chairman of CSV
- > 1989-1995—Minister of Finance in Luxembourg and Governor of the World Bank
- > 1984-1989—Minister of Labour
- > 1982-1984—Deputy Minister of Labour
- > 1974—Joined Christian Social People’s Party (CSV)

educational background

PROFESSIONAL

- > 1980—Took his oath as a barrister
- > 1979—Master’s in Law from the University of Strasbourg

ACADEMIC

- > Baccalaureate at Lycée Michel Rodange
- > Boarding School at Clairefontaine in Belgium

personal

- > Born 9 December 1954 in Redange-sur-Attert
- > Married

Political affiliation
EPP



Luxembourg



Karmenu VELLA

PORTFOLIO : COMMISSIONER FOR ENVIRONMENT, MARITIME AFFAIRS & FISHERIES

insights

Karmenu Vella is a veteran Maltese Labour politician. His nomination to the European Commission by Prime Minister Dr Joseph Muscat was a relatively surprise announcement.

He was first elected to Parliament in 1976 and has held a series of ministerial offices since 1981. His previous direct EU experience appears, at first glance, to be limited. He stood down from ministerial office on news of his nomination.

political background

- > 2013-2014—Minister for Tourism
- > 1996-1998—Minister for Tourism
- > 1981-1984—Minister for Public Works
- > 1976—Member of Maltese Parliament

career background

PROFESSIONAL

- > Architect and Civil Engineer
- > Variety of Board level appointments in Maltese companies

ACADEMIC

- > He graduated in Architecture and Civil Engineering from the University of Malta
- > Master of Science in Tourism Management from Sheffield Hallam University.

personal

- > Born 19 June 1950
- > Married, two children
- > Grandfather of two
- > Daughter-in-law is Miriam Dalli MEP

Political affiliation
S&D



Malta



PORTFOLIO : COMMISSIONER FOR INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP & SMES

Elzbieta BIENSKOWSKA

insights

Elzbieta Bienskowska’s professional career has been largely related to the implementation of European funds.

Since 2007, she has been the Minister of Regional Development. In November 2013, she was appointed Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Infrastructure and Development. In that role, she has been in charge of the strategic development of the country, including the effective disbursement of European funds. Her work resulted in the full absorption of the EU funds from the budget for 2004-2006 and the distribution of almost EUR 68 billion which Poland received for the years 2007-2013. She is responsible for preparing the implementation of funds from the subsequent EU budget for the years 2014-2020. Her tasks also include the management of transport infrastructure (roads, railway, air traffic and ship transport) and issues related to construction and housing.

She is highly regarded for her professional achievements in Poland and abroad. She is a laureate of numerous prestigious awards, including the Kisiel Award. She was awarded the Grand Officer of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit by King Harald V for involvement in building friendly relations and cooperation between Poland and Norway and effective implementation of Norwegian Financial Mechanisms.

political background

- > 2013-ongoing—Deputy Prime Minister of Poland, as well as the Minister of Infrastructure and Development
- > 2007-2013—Minister of Regional Development in the Cabinet of Donald Tusk

career background

PROFESSIONAL

- > Bieńkowska began her administrative career working in the Business Department of the Silesian Voivodeship, where she was involved in the local application of the EU's Phare program.

ACADEMIC

- > 1989— Masters Degree in Oriental Philology Law at the Jagiellonian University

PERSONAL

- > Born 4 February 1964
- > Married, three children

Political affiliation

EPP



Poland



Carlos MOEDAS

PORTFOLIO : COMMISSIONER FOR RESEARCH, SCIENCE & INNOVATION

insights

Carlos Moedas is currently Secretary of State of the Prime Minister, a role created with a single objective: to monitor the work of the Troika in Portugal. He is a member of the Partido Social Democrata (PSD). Outside of the corridors of the Portuguese government, Carlos Moedas is relatively unknown.

Before appearing on the political parquet, he worked for Goldman Sachs, EuroHypo and founded his own investment company in 2008. His nomination to the Commissioner posting was an abrupt change of plan by Portugal’s Prime Minister, keeping his trusted Finance Minister Maria Luis Albuquerque in Lisbon.

Portugal’s Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho wanted a high profile Commission seat for Mrs. Albuquerque, but failed to secure one in early talks and thus preferred to keep her at his side. Portugal’s opposition sees his appointment as a missed opportunity for Portugal to leave a mark on this next Commission.

political background

- > 2011-2014—Secretary of State to Prime Minister overseeing ESAME and leading negotiations with the Troika
- > 2011—Member of Parliament
- > 2008-2011—Coordinator of the economic research unit of the Social Democratic Party

career background

PROFESSIONAL

- > 2008—Founder of Crimson Investment Management
- > 2004-2008—Managing Partner at Aguirre Newman Portugal
- > 2000-2004—M&A at Goldman Sachs and Eurohypo Investment Bank
- > 1993-1998—Project Manager at Suez Group in France

ACADEMIC

- > 1993—Studied at Instituto Superior Técnico in Lisbon obtaining a degree in Civil Engineering
- > 1998-2000—MBA from the Harvard Business School

personal

- > Married, two children

Political affiliation
EPP



Portugal



PORTFOLIO : COMMISSIONER FOR REGIONAL POLICY

Corina CREȚU

insights

Corina Crețu is a politician and journalist, and former spokesperson for the President of Romania during Ion Iliescu's time in office.

Prior to Romania joining the EU, Crețu was a Senator in the Romanian Parliament elected as a Social Democratic Party member. Following Romania's accession to the EU in 2007, she became a Member of the European Parliament on 1 January 2007. She was re-elected in May 2014, and is currently also Vice President of the European Parliament.

Prior to this, as a Senator she honed her skills as a politician working on foreign policy issues and was a full member of the Romanian Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE. In January 2005, she was invited to Amman, Jordan, where she conducted a training seminar for appointees to spokesperson positions in Iraq.

Crețu was also an OSCE observer to the parliamentary election of March 2005 in Moldova and to the general election of 2006 in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Prior to her period in elected political office, Crețu worked in President Iliescu's Spokesperson's Office for two separate mandates. She was later the President's Advisor (with the rank of Minister), Presidential Spokesperson and Head of the Public Communication Department.

political background

- > 2014—Vice President & Member of the European Parliament
- > 2007-2014—Member of the European Parliament
- > 2004-2007—Senator in the Romanian Parliament
- > 2000-2004—Presidential advisor with rank of Minister, Presidential Spokesperson and Head of the Public Communication Department
- > 1992-1996 & 2000-2004—Member of the Spokeperson's Office for Romanian President Iliescu

career background

PROFESSIONAL

- > Employed as a commentator on current events by the newspapers Azi Curierul Național, and Cronica Română
- > 1990—Economist for factories in Blaj and Bucharest

ACADEMIC

- > 2003—Graduated from the College of Security and International Studies in Germany
- > 1989—Graduated from the Academy of Economic Studies' Faculty of Cybernetics

personal

- > Born 24 June 1967 in Bucharest

Political affiliation
S&D



Romania



MAROŠ ŠEFČOVIČ

PORTFOLIO : COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT & SPACE

insights

Šefčovič returns to the College with the support of his national government and the respect of colleagues. He ran for election as an MEP, leading the Slovak PES list, and he received the highest number of votes among all European Parliament candidates in Slovakia. Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico has lauded Šefčovič's diplomatic background and success in his Vice-Presidency role as increasing the democratic legitimacy of EU officials.

In June 2014, he published *Straight Talks* which "argues that the EU must continue to move towards a more political union, to break decisively with the darker forces of chauvinism and mutual hostility that cast a shadow over much of Europe's twentieth century history."

Šefčovič is expected to maintain some of his current team of advisors in his new posting.

political background

- > 2009-2014—European Commission, Vice-President for Inter-Institutional Affairs
- > 2004-2009—Slovakian Ambassador to the EU
- > 2002-2004—Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- > 1999—Ambassador, Slovak Embassy, Tel Aviv, Israel
- > 1998—Deputy Head of Mission, Counsellor, Slovak Mission to the EU, Belgium
- > 1998—Director, Slovak Foreign Minister's Office
- > 1997—Deputy Director, Slovak Foreign Minister's Office
- > 1995-1996—Deputy Director, EU and NATO countries department, Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- > 1992—Deputy Chief of Mission and Second Secretary, Embassy of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic to Canada
- > 1991-1992—Third Secretary and Consul, Embassy of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic to Zimbabwe
- > 1990—Advisor to the first Deputy Foreign Minister, Czech and Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs

ACADEMIC

- > PhD, International Studies and European Law, Comenius University)
- > Published author (European Law – Selected Chapters)
- > Awarded the Chatam Sofer Medal for promotion of Slovak-Israeli relations

personal

- > Born 24 July 1956, in Bratislava
- > Married, three children

Political affiliation
S&D



Slovakia



PORTFOLIO : VICE-PRESIDENT FOR THE ENERGY UNION

Alenka Bratušek

insights

Alenka Bratušek was Slovenia’s Prime Minister from March 2013 until May 2014. Following the dissolution of the government and its reformation in August 2014, there was much debate and several options put forward as names for Slovenia’s next commissioner. Responding to Commission President Juncker’s call for more female nominees, Bratušek was put forward for the position by her successor from the centre-left, Miro Cerar, who won the general election on 13 July.

Until Bratušek was elected Prime Minister in February of 2013, she was a civil servant. She is credited with having managed a bailout of the local banking system in December 2013 that threatened to bring down the Slovenian economy.

She called an election after she was ousted from the leadership of her Party, by the Party's former leader, Zoran Jankovic. The Government then fell amid allegations of corruption against ministers.

political background

- > 2013-2014—Prime Minister
- > 2011—Elected to National Assembly

career background

PROFESSIONAL

- > Former civil servant

ACADEMIC

- > 2004—Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology
- > 2006—Master's degree in management of non-profit organisations from the Faculty of Social Sciences .

personal

- > Two children

Political affiliation
ALDE



Slovenia



Miguel ARIAS CAÑETE

PORTFOLIO : COMMISSIONER FOR CLIMATE ACTION & ENERGY

insights

Miguel Arias Cañete is a veteran of Spain’s conservative Partido Popular (PP). For more than three decades he has held a variety of positions ranging from town councillor to minister (twice) as well as several terms as a MEP, member of the upper and lower houses of the *Cortes*, and regional parliamentarian.

A lawyer and member of Spain’s elite State Attorneys corps since 1974, Miguel Arias joined *Alianza Popular*, forerunner of the current PP, in 1982. One year after Spain’s accession to the EU, in 1986, he won a seat in the European Parliament, where he sat until 1999. During this period he served successive stints as Chairman of the EP’s Committees on Fisheries and Regional Affairs. In 2000, then-PM José María Aznar appointed him to head the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, an important position in Spain. As minister he garnered as much recognition for his skill at the Brussels negotiating table as criticism from opposition parties who criticised his stance on conservation issues.

In 2012 Arias was again tapped as Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, receiving the added responsibility of Environmental Affairs, despite criticism of environmentalists.

Arias is fluent in French and English – perfected during a stay at Dublin’s Trinity College in the early 1970s. Over the years he has cultivated an image that is half way between *bon vivant* (he is a notorious collector of classic cars) and that of a true *politico*.

political background

- > 2014—Elected to European Parliament after heading the Spanish PP ticket
- > 2011-2014—Appointed Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries & Environment
- > 2004-present—National Deputy, Speaker of the Economy Commission (2004) and Chairman of the EU Affairs Commission (2008)
- > 2000—Appointed Minister of Agriculture and elected to the Senate
- > 1994—Town Councillor in Jerez de la Frontera (Cádiz)
- > 1986-1999—MEP, Chairman of the EP Agriculture & Fisheries Committee and the Regional Affairs Commission in two separate mandates
- > 1982-1986—Member of the Regional Parliament of Andalusia and appointed to the national Senate for the province of Cádiz
- > 1982-1986—Joined Alianza Popular, predecessor to the current Partido Popular (PP) and shortly thereafter is appointed to the party’s leadership

professional background

ACADEMIC

- > 1971—Attorney at Law
- > 1974— Wins tenure in the State Attorneys Corps
- > 1978-1984: Several teaching positions at the University of Jerez Law School and the Secretariat for EU Institutions
- > 1975-1982—State Attorney in several Ceuta, Cádiz and Jerez de la Frontera

BUSINESS

- > According to the Mercantile Registry, he has held nearly 20 different positions as CEO or Board Member of companies in Oil & Lubricants, Agri-Business, Gaming, Construction, and Real Estate since the 1990s

personal

- > Born 24 February 1950
- > Married, three children

Political affiliation
EPP



Spain



Cecilia MALMSTRÖM

PORTFOLIO : COMMISSIONER FOR TRADE

insights

Cecilia Malmström is currently the European Commissioner responsible for Home Affairs, which includes issues around police cooperation, border control, asylum and migration. She was nominated for a second term as European Commissioner on 31 July. Her nomination was also welcomed by the current opposition parties in Sweden, as they see her as reasonable candidate.

Coming from the liberal political family, Malmström is a dedicated European who enjoys broad support and respect across the political spectrum in Sweden and Europe. She has an extensive experience in both the European Commission, the European Parliament and national politics which will be helpful in her new Commissioner role.

During her time as Commissioner responsible for Home Affairs, she has been an efficient and balanced operator, helping to unite Member States around a common EU asylum system. She also adopted new legislation to fight trafficking of human beings, tackle sexual exploitation of children, enable confiscation of criminal wealth, fight large-scale attacks on information systems, and prevent terrorism and violent extremism.

political background

- > 2010-2014–European Commissioner responsible for Home Affairs
- > 2006-2010–Minister for EU Affairs in the Swedish government
- > 2001-ongoing–Member of the Swedish Liberal Party Executive
- > 1999-2006–Member of the European Parliament
- > 1998-2001–Member of Västra Götaland Regional Council
- > 1997–Member of the Swedish Liberal Party Board

career background

PROFESSIONAL

- > 1994-1998–Senior Lecturer, Department of Political Science, Göteborg University, Sweden
- > 1991-1994–Lay assessor, Göteborg City Court

ACADEMIC

- > Ph.D. in Political Science, Department of Political Science, Göteborg University
- > Bachelor of Arts, Göteborg University
- > Studies in literature at the Sorbonne, Paris

personal

- > Born 15 May 1968 in Stockholm, Sweden
- > Author of a number of books and articles on European regionalism, European politics, Spanish politics, terrorism and immigration
- > Married, two children

Political affiliation
ALDE



Sweden



Frans TIMMERMANS

PORTFOLIO : FIRST VICE PRESIDENT FOR BETTER REGULATION, INTER-INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS, THE RULE OF LAW, AND THE CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

insights

As Foreign Minister, Frans Timmermans is well-regarded amongst his peers and the public due to his integrity, knowledge as well as his decisive handling of the aftermath of the downing of the Malaysian Airlines flight in Ukraine which killed almost 200 Dutch citizens.

During his career he gained considerable experience with the EU, amongst others having been Minister responsible for European Affairs, as well as member of cabinet of the Dutch Foreign Affairs Commissioner Hans van den Broek. His many languages (he is fluent in French, German, Italian, Spanish, Russian, English and Dutch) have helped him throughout his career and especially when he took up the Foreign Minister post in 2012.

As a Social Democrat he is centre-left, but within his own party is considered on the right flank, having criticized his party in the past for wandering too far to the left.

political background

- > 2012-2014—Minister of Foreign Affairs
- > 2010-2012—Member of the Dutch Parliament for the Dutch Labour Party (PvdA), spokesperson for Foreign Affairs & Economic Affairs
- > 2007-2010—State Secretary (Junior Minister) of Foreign Affairs responsible for European Affairs
- > 1998-2007—Member of the Dutch Parliament for the Dutch Labour Party (PvdA), spokesperson for Foreign & European Affairs

career background

PROFESSIONAL

- > 1995-1998—Advisor and secretary to Max van der Stoep, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities
- > 1994-1995—Member of Cabinet to European Commissioner for Foreign Affairs Hans van den Broek
- > 1993-1994—Civil servant at Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs working on Development Aid
- > 1990-1993—Second secretary Dutch Embassy in Moscow
- > 1987-1990—Civil servant at Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs working on European Integration

ACADEMIC

- > 1984-1985—European Law, French literature and History, University of Nancy
- > 1980-1985—French literature, Catholic University Nijmegen

Political affiliation
S&D



The Netherlands

personal

- > Born 6 May 1961 in Maastricht, Netherlands
- > Married, four children



Lord Jonathan Hill

PORTFOLIO : COMMISSIONER FOR FINANCIAL STABILITY, FINANCIAL SERVICES & CAPITAL MARKETS UNION

insights

Jonathan Hill was, until recently, Leader of the House of Lords, as was Baroness Catherine Ashton prior to her appointment as the current UK Commissioner and EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs. He is well regarded in House of Lords, Britain's upper chamber, and respected by fellow Ministers as cerebral and hard working. He worked closely with John Major in his successful election in 1992 and prior to that served him during the negotiations of the Maastricht Treaty. He also worked as an adviser for Kenneth Clarke, an openly pro-European conservative politician.

During his time out of political office he has worked for the UK-based PR firm, Bell Pottinger and left them to set up his own firm, Quiller Consultants, which he later sold to Huntsworth PLC. After his nomination he sold his £375,000 shares in Huntsworth in order to end any financial links to lobby firms, which could have endangered his approval by the European Parliament.

Lord Hill's move to Brussels from the House of Lords means that no by-election will be needed in the House of Commons, assuring the UK government's currently narrow Conservative-Liberal coalition majority remains intact.

Lord Hill will face the diplomatically delicate position of serving as British Commissioner during the UK's re-negotiation and possible referendum on the secession from the EU, provided the UK Conservative Party wins the May 2015 General Election.

Lord Hill is expected to be reform-minded and has recently stated that "Europe must become more democratic and do more to help create jobs and lead the economic recovery."

political background

- > 2013-2014—Leader of the House of Lords and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
- > 2010-2013—Under-secretary of State Department for Education
- > 1992-1994—Political secretary to Prime Minister John Major
- > 1991-1992—No. 10 Downing Street Policy Unit
- > 1986-1989—Special advisor to Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke at Department of Employment DTI and Department of Health
- > 195-1986—Conservative Research Department

career background

PROFESSIONAL

- > 1998-2010—Director Quiller Consultants, sold to Huntsworth Plc for £5.9 million
- > 1994—1998—Senior consultant Bell Pottinger Communications
- > 1989—1991—Lowe Bell Communications

ACADEMIC

- > Studied history Trinity College Cambridge (MA). First.

personal

- > Born 24 July 1960
- > Married, 3 children

Political affiliation
ECR



United Kingdom



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