

# Press release – Parliament elects the von der Leyen Commission



In a roll call vote that took place at noon on Wednesday, MEPs approved [the new College of Commissioners](#) with 461 votes in favour, 157 against and 89 abstentions.

During her opening statement, European Commission President-elect Ursula von der Leyen reiterated many of the [commitments](#) she made in Parliament's plenary chamber in July, and [by the Commissioners-designate](#) during the [hearings process](#). She highlighted that appropriate investment and regulatory frameworks will be put into place for Europe to lead the way internationally on a range of critical issues: environmental protection and climate change, growth, inclusion, innovation and digitalisation, as well as the protection of democracy, European values, citizens' rights and the rule of law. She also confirmed one more portfolio change that Parliament had requested following the hearings, which established the candidates' suitability for the role and for the College of Commissioners.

Before the election at noon, political groups held brief meetings to decide on their voting intentions, which were followed by statements from their leaders in plenary. You can watch recordings from the plenary debate and the vote by clicking on the following links:

[Presentation by the Commission President-elect of the College of](#)

[Commissioners and their programme: statement by Ursula von der LEYEN, President-elect of the EC](#)

[Presentation by the Commission President-elect of the College of Commissioners and their programme: one round of political group leaders](#)

[Presentation by the Commission President-elect of the College of Commissioners and their programme: MEPs debate – Part 1](#)

[Presentation by the Commission President-elect of the College of Commissioners and their programme: MEPs debate – Part 2](#)

[Presentation by the Commission President-elect of the College of Commissioners and their programme: MEPs debate and Catch the eye – Part 3](#)

## **Background**

Female representation in the Commission is the highest it has ever been: in addition to the President-elect, the current composition of the Commission comprises 11 female members and 15 male members.

Results of previous Commission investiture votes:

- 22.10.2014 Jean-Claude Juncker 423 votes in favour – 209 against – 67 abstentions (total number of MEPs 751)
- 09.02.2010 José Manuel Barroso 488-137-72 (total number of MEPs – 736)
- 18.11.2004 José Manuel Barroso 478-84-98 (total number of MEPs – 732)
- 15.09.1999 Romano Prodi 510-51-28 (total number of MEPs – 626)
- 18.01.1995 Jacques Santer 417-104-59 (total number of MEPs – 626)

## **Next steps**

The new Commission needs to be formally appointed by EU heads of state or government. Its five-year term is expected to start on 1 December.

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[\*\*Article – Infographic: find out more about the new European Commission\*\*](#)



The youngest new commissioner is 29-year-old Lithuanian Virginijus Sinkevičius, while the oldest is former European Parliament president Josep Borrell at 72.

The Parliament organised [hearings with all commissioners-designate](#) so that MEPs could assess their suitability and ensure that they have the capacity and vision to act in the interests of Europeans.

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## [Spain: EIB grants EUR 50m loan to Iberdrola and Caja Rural de Navarra to build new wind complex in Navarra](#)



- The Cavar wind complex – including four wind farms with a total capacity of 111 MW – will be operational in the first quarter of 2020
- This new renewable energy project will enable the creation of up to 200 jobs during the construction phase
- This project is being developed by Renovables de la Ribera, a 50-50 joint venture between Iberdrola and Caja Rural de Navarra



The European Investment Bank (EIB) has taken another step forward in the promotion of clean energy production in Spain. The EU bank will provide EUR 50m in financing to Renovables de la Ribera, a 50-50 joint venture between Iberdrola and Caja Rural de Navarra to build a new renewable energy project – the Cavar wind complex – in Navarra, Spain.

The EIB is assisting this project via a Green Loan, the features of which are fully in line with the requirements set out in its [Climate Awareness Bonds](#) programme. As a result, it is likely to be allocated to its portfolio of loan operations financed via the issuance of these bonds.

The new project, located between the municipalities of Cadreita and Valtierra, includes four wind farms and will have an installed capacity of 111 MW. Construction will enable the creation of up to 200 jobs and the complex is expected to become operational in the first quarter of 2020.

In this way, the EU bank financing provided to Renovables de la Ribera will help meet the goal proposed by the European Commission of generating 32% of the energy used in the EU using renewable sources by 2030. The new wind complex – which will not release any polluting emissions – will generate enough clean energy to meet the electricity needs of 46 500 people and will avoid the release 84 000 tonnes of CO<sup>2</sup> into the atmosphere a year.

Cavar is also the first wind project in Spain to sell its energy to a large corporation. A long-term bilateral contract (a Power Purchase Agreement or PPA) will see it produce 40 MW of clean energy for Nike in Europe.

**EIB Vice-President Emma Navarro, who is responsible for climate action at the Bank,** said: *“Spain has major renewable energy potential, and the EIB wants to help it to become a reference point in the sector by providing investments to promote the transition to a low-carbon economy while simultaneously fostering growth and employment. Promoting clean energy generation is one of our key priorities. As part of its aim to establish itself as the EU climate bank, the EIB has reaffirmed its commitment to increasing its financing to support Europe in its plans to become the first carbon-neutral continent by 2050.”*

**Iberdrola España CEO Ángeles Santamaría** highlighted *“the importance of access to climate financing instruments to accelerate the energy transition we need. These measures, together with emissions targets and the implementation of an environment-focused industrial and fiscal policy, will make it possible to move forward with the decarbonisation of our economy and climate change mitigation. In line with this commitment and an ambitious action plan, Iberdrola is making progress with major investment into renewables in Spain, where we plan to install 3 000 MW of new capacity by 2022 and up to 10 000 MW in 2030.”*

For **Caja Rural de Navarra**, *“investment in this renewable energy production activity falls under our focus on environmental responsibility and support for regional business. This rural operation balances traditional farming with new, environmentally friendly forms of energy generation.”*

**The EIB and climate action**

The EIB is among the world's largest multilateral providers of climate finance. The Bank's goal is to be a leader in mobilising the finance needed to keep global warming to under 2 °C and limit temperature rises to 1.5 °C to meet the Paris Agreement objectives. On 14 November, the EIB Board of Directors approved its new climate objectives and the new energy lending policy. The Bank will gradually increase its financing for climate and environmental objectives up to 50% by 2025, with the goal of ensuring that the EIB Group mobilises at least EUR 1bn by 2030 to promote investments helping to meet these objectives. It also announced its intention to align all EIB Group activities with the Paris Agreement. To this end, the EIB will cease financing fossil fuel-based projects from late 2021.

In 2018, the EIB provided almost EUR 1.3bn to support climate action in Spain by financing projects involving the development of cleaner means of transport and implementation of new, less polluting and more environmentally friendly production processes.

## **Background information**

### **About Iberdrola**

[Iberdrola](#) is a global energy leader, the number-one producer of wind power, and one of the world's biggest electricity utilities by market capitalisation. The company supplies almost 100 million people in dozens of countries including Spain, the United Kingdom (ScottishPower), the United States (AVANGRID), Brazil (Neoenergia), Mexico, Germany, Portugal, Italy and France. With a workforce of 34 000 and assets in excess of EUR 113bn, it achieved a turnover of EUR 35bn and a net profit of EUR 3bn in 2018.

Iberdrola is leading the transition towards a sustainable energy model through investments in renewable energy, smart grids, large-scale energy storage and digital transformation, offering the most advanced products and services to its customers. With its commitment to clean energy, it is one of the companies with the lowest emissions and sets an international example with its contribution to the fight against climate change and for sustainability.

### **Caja Rural de Navarra**

Caja Rural de Navarra is a financial institution with 965 employees and 252 offices. Its governing and decision-making bodies are located in their region of operations, making it an accessible company with in-depth knowledge of the local market and agile and flexible response capabilities.

**Creditworthiness:** Its high level of capitalisation means that Caja Rural de Navarra is among the most creditworthy institutions in the Spanish financial system. Its Fully Loaded Common Equity Tier 1 (CET 1) ratio was 16.40% in December 2018, one of the highest figures in the national financial sector.

Caja Rural's style is based on its professionalism, human touch, modernity and personalised service. It applies commitment, responsibility and accessibility to strengthen relationships founded on trust. Caja Rural de

Navarra has 600 000 customers across Navarra, the Basque autonomous community and La Rioja, and belongs to the Caja Rural financial group. Inspired by the European cooperative model, being part of this group enables the company to maintain full management independence while benefiting from the services and economies of scale of a large financial group. The Caja Rural group is present across Spain, with 2 338 offices, 8 413 employees, 2 500 ATMs, 6.8 million customers and 1.5 million members, with Banco Cooperativo, Rural Servicios Informáticos and Seguros RGA being its main participating entities.

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## [Press release – 2019 Lux Prize award ceremony at 13.00 on Wednesday](#)



The finalists of this year's competition are [Cold Case Hammarskjöld](#) by Mads Brügger (Denmark/Norway/Sweden/Belgium), [God Exists, Her Name Is Petrunya](#) by Teona Mitevaska (North Macedonia/Belgium/Slovenia/Croatia/France) and [The Realm](#) by Rodrigo Sorogoyen (Spain/France).

A press conference by EP Vice-President Klara Dobrev (S&D, HU) and Culture Committee Chair Sabine Verheyen (EPP, DE) with the directors of the three films is scheduled after the award ceremony, for 15.30.

You can watch the award ceremony and the press conference via [EP Live](#) and [EbS+](#).

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# [Press release – Election of the new European Commission](#)



Starting at 9.00, Ursula von der Leyen, President-elect of the European Commission, will present her [team of Commissioners-designate](#) (already vetted by MEPs in the [recent hearings](#)) and discuss the new [Commission's objectives](#) with Parliament.

After the debate, each political group will briefly meet to discuss their voting intentions.

The election at noon will be preceded by statements from the leaders of the political groups (in reverse order of the size of their groups).

A [press conference](#) by EP President Sassoli and President-elect von der Leyen is scheduled for 13.30.

## **Background**

Results of previous Commission investiture votes:

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- 02.2010 José Manuel Barroso 488-137-72 (total number of MEPs – 736)
- 11.2004 José Manuel Barroso 478-84-98 (total number of MEPs – 732)
- 09.1999 Romano Prodi 510-51-28 (total number of MEPs – 626)
- 01.1995 Jacques Santer 417-104-59 (total number of MEPs – 567)

You can follow the debate, the vote and the press conference live [here](#).