

Press release – Changes in Commission: hearings to take place on 2 October



The hearings of Mairead McGuinness – Commissioner-designate in charge of financial services, financial stability and the Capital Markets Union – and Commission Executive Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis – set to assume responsibility for the trade portfolio – are scheduled to take place on 2 October.

Mrs McGuinness will be heard by the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee from 9.00 to 12.00, where MEPs will evaluate if she is suitable to become a member of the College of Commissioners and if she is qualified to carry out the particular duties assigned to her.

Mr Dombrovskis will be heard by the International Trade Committee from 13.00 to 16.00. The Committees on Foreign Affairs, on Economic and Monetary Affairs, on Development and on Budgets will be invited to participate and can ask one oral question each. Since he is already a member of the Commission, Mr Dombrovskis only has to answer questions on whether he is suitable for the portfolio assigned to him.

Before the hearings can start, Parliament's Legal Affairs Committee examines the declaration of financial interests presented by Commissioner-designate McGuinness and Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis to confirm that there is no conflict of interests in connection with their future portfolio in the Commission. Both also have to respond to written questions addressed to them by the responsible committees.

The hearings on 2 October will be followed immediately by meetings in which the Chairs and group representatives (coordinators) of the committees will evaluate their performances.

On 5 October, the Conference of Committee Chairs will assess the outcome of

the two hearings and forward its conclusions to the Conference of Presidents. The latter is responsible for the final evaluation and decision to close the hearings or request further actions, in its meeting on 6 October.

The vote by EP Plenary is scheduled for 7 October.