

Press release – Hearing of Commissioner-designate Jutta Urpilainen



Political groups' coordinators from the committee will meet within 24 hours to assess the performance of Commissioner-designate Urpilainen.

EU-Africa strategy, gender in development, and EU values

During her introductory [speech](#), Jutta Urpilainen said that the 2030 agenda for sustainable development goals is “a golden opportunity for the European Union” to continue to play a leadership role in supporting partner countries to eradicate poverty worldwide, whilst also “promoting values, including empowering women and girls as a precondition for inclusive societies”. Gender equality should be a top priority and mainstreamed in all policies and programmes, she added.

MEPs put forward several questions on the ongoing negotiations on the proposed Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument, the post-Cotonou agreement with countries from the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, calling for greater transparency to keep the European Parliament and the public informed.

Members also questioned the Commissioner-designate on how she would ensure

that EU values are respected, particularly on gender equality and women's empowerment, which are a priority in international cooperation. Later in the hearing, MEPs raised the issue of linking development to migration challenges and the Paris Agreement on climate action.

You can watch the video recording of the full hearing [here](#).

Press point

At the end of the hearing, Committee Chair [Tomas Tobé \(EPP, SE\)](#) held a press point outside the meeting room: watch it [here](#).

Next steps

Based on the committees' recommendations, the Conference of Presidents will decide on 17 October if Parliament has received sufficient information to declare the hearing process closed. If so, the plenary will vote on whether or not to elect the Commission as a whole on 23 October, in Strasbourg.