**12 September 2014** 

## **The Juncker Commission**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of September, **Jean-Claude Juncker**, the president-elect of the European Commission, presented the line-up of Commissioners who are going to lead the Union for the next five years. The new College consists of 28 Commissioners (including Juncker) and one portfolio for each Member State.

For the first time in history, the College has a First Vice-President whose name is **Frans Timmermans** – a Dutch from the center-left political family. The First Vice-President will have the right to stop any legislative initiative and will essentially lead the Commission together with Juncker. The other 6 Vice-President are

- Kristalina Georgieva (BL): Budget and Human Resources
- Andrus Ansip (EE): Digital Single Market
- Valdis Dombrovskis (LV): Euro and Social Dialogue
- **Jyrki Katainen** (FI): Growth and Competitiveness
- Alenka Bratušek (SL): Energy Union
- **Federica Mogherini** (IT): High Representative of the Union for Foreign Policy



Each Vice-President will guide a team of Commissioners with related portfolios. This is also the first time that a hierarchy is officially established within the College of Commissioners. <u>Click on the picture to see all new Commissioners and their responsibilities.</u>

## **Next Steps**

The new Commission now needs to be approved by the European Parliament. MEPs may accept or reject the new College only in its entirety, meaning that they cannot object to merely one nominee. So far, party leaders have been overall satisfied with the new Commission's structure. However, names that have raised some doubts include the British **Jonathan Hill** at the Financial Markets portfolio, the Spanish **Miguel Arias Cañete** for the Climate Action and Energy portfolio and **Alenka Bratušek** for Energy Union.

• The new Commissioners will be questioned by the MEPs at the beginning of October. The final vote will take place on 23 October in Strasbourg.

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