

The New EU Commission: implications for the press distribution sector

Miruna Herovanu
EU Affairs Manager at EMMA-ENPA

24 September 2019, 12th European Press
Distribution Roundtable,
Berlin, Germany.

The Commissioners Designate 2019-2024

- The New Commission: an overview of the Commissioners designate who could shape Media and Digital Policies in the next 5 years
- What happens next: a timeline of the following steps

The Proposed Commissioners

‘The Seven’ who will shape media and digital policies

Ursula Von der Leyen (EPP, Germany)

The Commission President



- CDU Member;
- Defence Minister of Germany between 2013-2019;
- Considered a non-divisive political figure in the EU;
- Proposed as Commission President as result of discussions and comprises in the European Council.

Margrethe Vestager (Denmark, Renew Europe) Executive VP 'a Europe Fit for the Digital Age & Competition'



- To serve dual function: chairing a Commissioners' Group on Europe fit for the Digital Age and in charge of DG Competition;
- Tasked with: producing **report on AI**, upgrading liability and safety rules for digital platforms, services and products as part of the new **Digital Services Act**;
- Coordination role in digital taxation, required to find international consensus by end of 2020 to design an **EU Digital Tax**.

Sylvie Goulard (France, Renew Europe)

‘Internal Market’



- Responsible for: DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, **DG Communications Networks, Content and Technology** & DG Defense Industry and Space;
- Tasks include: promoting the **Digital Single Market**, investing in the next frontier of technologies, such as blockchain, high-performance computing, algorithms, and **data-sharing and data usage tools**, leading approach on **AI** and on the **Digital Services Act** and examining the **IP regime**.

Věra Jourová (Czech Republic, Renew Europe) VP 'Values and Transparency'



- Focus on countering **disinformation and fake information**, while preserving **freedom of expression, freedom of the press and media pluralism**;
- In charge of monitoring the implementation of the **Code of Practice** and of proposing **regulatory intervention on disinformation** if necessary;
- Use **Media Pluralism Monitor** to identify risks to plurality in the media sector. She should also propose cross-border projects to support **independent and diverse journalistic activities**.

Didier Reynders (Belgium, Renew Europe) 'Justice'



- Responsible for ensuring full **implementation and enforcement of GDPR**;
- To contribute to the upcoming legislation on a coordinated approach on **AI**;
- Will also lead the work on **consumer protection**, notably for **cross-border and online transactions (Geo-blocking)**.

Mariya Gabriel (Bulgaria, EPP) **‘Innovation and Youth’**



- From Digital portfolio, Gabriel moves to heading DG Research and Innovation and DG Education, Youth, Sport and **Culture**;
- Focus on closing the digital skills gap by fostering digital literacy and education;
- In charge of **increasing awareness of disinformation and other online threats** - as well as of promoting **creative industries** and the maximization of the **Creative Europe Programme**.

Ylva Johansson (Sweden, S&D) 'Home Affairs'



- Head of DG Migration and Home Affairs;
- Responsible for continuing the EU efforts to **prevent and remove terrorist content online** and to keep driving forward the **EU Internet Forum to bring together internet platforms and authorities to counter hate speech and terrorist content online** as part of the continued fight against radicalization.

What happens next?

A Timeline of the following steps

Next Steps

- Hearings of the Commissioners-designate in the relevant Parliamentary committees should take place between 30 September and 8 October.
- **Timeline:**
- Gabriel: @ITRE/CULT - 30 Sept 18.30-21.30
- Reynders: @ LIBE/JURI (+IMCO) - 2 Oct 9.00-12.00
- Goulard: @IMCO/ITRE (+JURI/CULT) - 2 Oct 14.30-17.30
- Jourová : @AFCO/LIBE (+JURI) - 7 Oct 14.30-17.30
- Vestager: @ITRE/IMCO/ECON (+JURI) - 8 Oct 14.30-17.30