

Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural
Development (AGRI)
European Parliament
60 rue Wiertz
Brussels 1047

Brussels, 10 October 2024

Dear Member of the AGRI Committee,

The upcoming hearings of the Commissioners-designate provide an opportunity for Members of the European Parliament to put boosting the EU economy and its attractiveness for investment at the top of the political agenda. As the voice for more than 160 American companies committed to Europe on trade, investment and competitiveness issues, the American Chamber of Commerce to the EU (AmCham EU) has a vital interest in ensuring that the EU's competitiveness ambitions are translated into actionable policies.

AmCham EU's internal committees and taskforces, composed of American company representatives invested in Europe and staunchly supportive of the Single Market, have identified several key questions for the European Parliament's upcoming confirmation hearings of the Commissioners-designate. The following questions are designed to elicit concrete strategies to embed competitiveness in their respective portfolios and guide the evaluation of candidates at the hearings for which the AGRI Committee is solely or jointly responsible.

Olivér Várhelyi (Hungary)

- **Streamlining to support innovation and resilience of healthcare systems:** How can the EU streamline regulatory incentives and processes as well as the requirements for supply chain transparency and preventing shortage in a manner that ensures healthcare system resilience while maintaining medical product manufacturers' competitiveness? Would you commit to revisiting the Medical Devices Regulation to address bottlenecks in its implementation?
- **Digitisation of healthcare:** How can the EU use the European Health Data Space and developments in artificial intelligence to bolster Europe's competitiveness in drug and medical device development while delivering better outcomes for patients?
- **Public-private and international collaboration:** How would you concretely facilitate collaboration between healthcare providers, researchers and technology companies to leverage the private sector's expertise and resources? What role do you foresee for international collaboration and regulatory convergence to help drive innovation and improve health outcomes for European patients?

Christophe Hansen (Luxembourg)

- **Agriculture fit for the future:** Increased polarisation in the agri-food sector has become a significant barrier to consensus building. Considering the EU's climate ambitions, along with the need to ensure the competitiveness of the EU market and secure robust agricultural value chains, how would you address this polarisation and ensure fair and non-discriminatory treatment of local versus imported raw materials?
- **Prioritising innovation:** Even though digitalisation is one of the most crucial factors in boosting competitiveness, the uptake of new technologies in agriculture lags behind other sectors, with a low percentage of resources dedicated to agricultural knowledge and innovation. How would you make

innovation accessible to farmers to enable them to fulfil their full production potential with the advancement of sustainable agricultural machinery technologies?

- **Public-private partnerships:** One of the proposals from the Strategic Dialogue on the future of EU Agriculture was a European Board of Agri-Food. How would you implement this broad proposal, and how would it fit in the broader agenda for public-private collaboration?

We hope these questions will contribute to a robust and constructive dialogue during the hearings. AmCham EU remains at your disposal for any further information.



Roger Coelho
Senior Policy Director
AmCham EU