

Members of Committee on the Environment, Public
Health and Food Safety (ENVI)
European Parliament
60 rue Wiertz
Brussels 1047

Brussels, 10 October 2024

Dear Member of the ENVI 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 ENVI Committee is jointly responsible:

Executive Vice-President Teresa Ribera (Spain)

- **Green transition and competitiveness:** How would you ensure that the EU meets its ambitious climate targets while safeguarding European industries' global competitiveness, particularly in energy-intensive sectors?
- **Keeping Europe Open for Business:** In your mission letter, you are tasked with modernising EU competition rules and developing a new and simplified EU state aid framework. How would you ensure that any revision to these two key sets of rules preserves open competition and contributes to making the EU an attractive economy for foreign investments?
- **Foreign Subsidies Regulation (FSR):** The Draghi report indicated a need to build DG Competition's capacity to investigate FSR cases, particularly in relation to tax, financial services and digital. How would you build DG Competition's capacity to screen cases under the FSR?

Executive Vice-President Stéphane Séjourné (France)

- **Clean Industrial Deal:** How can Europe move towards decarbonisation without altering the competitive situation of key EU industries, which could potentially result in further deindustrialisation?
- **European preference:** Is it strategic to implement public procurement reforms that include a European preference principle, when Europe can depend on strategic products and technologies supplied by American companies that are committed to Europe and the Single Market?
- **Enhancing the Single Market and reducing barriers:** How specifically would you enhance the internal market, stimulate innovation and remove onerous administrative requirements to facilitate the deployment of sustainable technologies enabling the energy transition?

- **The digital single market and innovation:** How would you balance implementing the complex digital legislation introduced in the last mandate with fostering innovation to ensure Europe remains competitive in the global artificial intelligence race?

Wopke Hoekstra (Netherlands)

- **Investing in climate neutrality:**
 - How would you ensure the EU's pathway to climate neutrality by 2050 is competitive, inclusive and technology-neutral, particularly for industries undergoing green transitions? How would you acknowledge measures already taken by industry to transition to a net-carbon economy?
 - What initiatives would you promote to attract private investment in clean energy projects across Europe?
- **Innovation and effectiveness in taxation:**
 - What would a full tax 'decluttering' exercise look like, what legislative instruments and rules would be involved, and how would this contribute to growth across the EU? Are you committed to advancing work on mechanisms designed to reduce the value-added tax compliance burden for businesses?
 - Do you think the Commission should continue to explore ways to use taxation as a means for EU resources? If so, what should it prioritise: expanding upon existing mechanisms (Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, Emissions Trading System), actualising proposed ones (financial transaction taxes, behavioural taxes, Business in Europe: Framework for Income Taxation) or proposing new ones?

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?

Jessika Roswall (Sweden)

- **Circular economy:** How would you support the business case for plastics recycling, particularly hard-to-recycle plastics? How would you improve the European Commission's existing methodologies for circular economy measures? How would you align circular economy measure with other policy measures, for example, taxation?
- **Water resilience:** In the development of the European Water Resilience Strategy, how would you foster: public-private partnerships with companies using best-in-class water management practices; the promotion of water reuse technologies; and the implementation of advanced digital monitoring systems?

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
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AmCham EU