

Mission Letter

Name of Commissioner

Executive Vice-President for Future Generations

I would like to entrust you with the role of Executive Vice-President for Future Generations.

Safeguarding the interests of future generations is our era's defining challenge. It is an urgent moral, human, and political imperative that is also reflected in our Treaties. It is also a long-term strategic necessity: those who act decisively to address intergenerational fairness will be the ones who secure a sustainable and prosperous future for Europe.

The commitment to future generations must become Europe's new hallmark. At its core is our dedication to creating a Union that not only thrives today but also preserves and enhances opportunities for those yet to come. This requires sustained collective ambition, visionary leadership, and a fair balance between present needs and future imperatives.

As Executive Vice-President, you will spearhead this crucial mission and chair the Commissioners' Group on Future Generations. In leading this work, you will collaborate closely with portfolio Commissioners across key areas such as climate action, social rights, economy, environment, and cohesion policy. Your role will be to ensure that the long-term implications of our decisions are fully considered in all policy dimensions, from the green and digital transitions to democratic resilience and economic sustainability.

Your mission

Intergenerational justice

Your role focuses on the long-term goals of the European Union and needs cooperation among EU Institutions, member states and further stakeholders, such as civic society and the scientific community. Through dialogue and information sharing and with the tool of direct citizen engagement, I entrust you with the mission of harmonizing our efforts for intergenerational justice and establishing constructive cooperation between actors having different competencies and mandates.

To facilitate this process, you will be entitled to engage with every single Member of the College, to request information and ask questions from all services in the preparation of legislative files and other initiatives. You will use this information to guide the political discourse and to keep the long-term perspective always on the table.

1. Interinstitutional Declaration on Intergenerational Justice: Your primary task will be to lead efforts in developing and implementing a comprehensive interinstitutional declaration on the rights of future generations, working closely with the European Parliament and the Council of the EU. This declaration should:

- a. Operationalize intergenerational fairness by ensuring that the burden of mitigating threats or adapting to unavoidable pressures is not unfairly offloaded onto future generations.
- b. Define priority areas and outcomes where future generations' interests are especially considered.
- c. Emphasize the EU's existing long-term commitment to become the first climate-neutral continent by 2050.

2. Policy Coordination and Impact Assessment: You will lead the development of updated Better Regulation Guidelines to include Future Generations Impact Assessments. This should include:

- a. Making foresight a compulsory and integral part of the impact assessment process, guided by the priorities set out in the interinstitutional declaration on future generations.
- b. Ensuring that assessments consider the long-term implications of policies on intergenerational fairness, particularly in relation to the green and digital transitions. For this, you will propose an assessment framework to be used by the Regulatory Scrutiny Board.
- c. Based on the Commission's foresight work, scientific advisory boards, citizen engagement and collaboration with civil society actors, you will provide public and regularly updated assessments on the long-term priority goals defined by the interinstitutional declaration.
- d. Ensure policy coherence for sustainable development, in line with the EU's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDGs 16 and 17. This approach will address the challenge where EU countries, despite progress in socioeconomic and ecological areas, may inadvertently create environmental pressures globally. You will work to ensure that EU policies consider their full impact, including on regions and populations beyond the EU's borders.

A new approach to planning and legislating

3. Long-term Strategy and Foresight: You will ensure that strategic foresight becomes a core element of the Commission's decision-making process. This foresight work should:

- a. Be directly linked to the impact assessment process and guided by the priorities established in the interinstitutional declaration on future generations.
- b. Should provide insight into how the feasibility of the priority goals evolves and what conditions are necessary to achieve them.

4. Stakeholder Engagement and Citizen Dialogue: Building on the experiences of the Conference on the Future of Europe and the Citizens' Engagement Platform, you will establish a participatory advisory platform where European citizens advise the Commission in strategic matters. This platform should:

- a. Ensure broad and diverse representation in shaping policies that will affect our long-term future.
- b. Engage citizens in discussions about the green transition and its impact on their lives and communities.
- c. Facilitate discussions on potential trade-offs between short-term needs and long-term goals, helping to develop solutions to mitigate intergenerational conflicts.

Economic Policy for Future Generations

5. Sustainable Economic Model: You will work towards developing and promoting a sustainable economic model that balances competitiveness with long-term environmental and social considerations. This includes:

- a. Advocating for economic policies that prioritize long-term sustainability over short-term gains, while acknowledging and addressing potential trade-offs between immediate economic needs and future sustainability goals.
- b. Promoting the integration of environmental and social costs into economic decision-making processes.
- c. Align and monitor macroeconomic policies with agreed EU and Member State indicators for well-being and sustainable development. This will include proposing reforms to the European Semester methodology and practices to better reflect these long-term priorities.
- d. Collaborating with other Commissioners to ensure that EU trade policies, including trade agreements, align with our climate and sustainability goals.

6. Sustainable Financing for Future Generations: You will collaborate with fellow Commissioners and Member States to develop coherent financial mechanisms that support policy objectives, enhance the well-being of current EU citizens, and safeguard the rights and sustainable development of future generations. This includes:

- a. Promoting sustainable finance mechanisms to facilitate the transition to a green economy and the phase-out of fossil fuel assets.
- b. Aligning EU and Member State budgeting procedures with well-being and sustainable development objectives.
- c. Developing financial instruments to support the EU's global commitments, particularly in implementing the Paris Agreement and advancing the 2030 Agenda in developing countries.
- d. Engaging with major global partners to implement shared sustainable development goals, while mitigating potential geopolitical risks associated with green development agendas.

7. Innovation for Future Generations: Working with the Commissioners for Research and Innovation and Internal Market, you will foster innovation that addresses long-term challenges and creates sustainable opportunities for future generations. This includes:

- a. Promoting research and innovation in clean technologies, renewable energy, and sustainable practices in land management.
- b. Promoting research, policies and other measures that address preventing and managing emerging health challenges, including those related to pollution, climate change, environmental factors and social/commercial determinants.
- c. Supporting the development of key technologies crucial for the green transition, such as energy storage, smart grids, and recycling key raw materials.
- d. Encouraging interdisciplinary research that addresses complex, long-term challenges and resilience to the planetary crisis.

Tackling global challenges

8. Resilience and Preparedness: You will lead efforts to enhance the EU's long-term resilience and preparedness for future challenges. This encompasses:

- a. Developing strategies to address long-term risks related to climate change, including adaptation measures for various sectors and regions.
- b. Coordinating with relevant Commissioners to strengthen the EU's food and water security in the face of climate change, pollution and loss of biodiversity.
- c. Working on policies to enhance the EU's strategic autonomy in critical sectors, ensuring the resilience of supply chains for future generations.
- d. Promoting research and policies that address emerging health challenges, including those related to climate change and environmental factors.

9. Global Leadership on Future Generations: You will represent the EU in international forums on matters related to intergenerational equity and long-term sustainability. In particular, you will:

- a. Be responsible for ensuring the implementation and coordination of relevant UN decisions within the EU, especially those arising from the UN Summit of the Future.
- b. Express EU leadership at the UN level on climate action and sustainable development.
- c. Promote global efforts to protect nature and reverse ecosystem degradation.

The way forward

The mission outlined above is not exhaustive or prescriptive. Other opportunities and challenges will no doubt appear over the course of this Commission's term of office. On all of these issues, I will ask you to work closely with me and with other Members of the College. I look forward to working closely together at what is an exciting and testing time for our Union. You can count on my full personal and political support throughout our mandate.

