



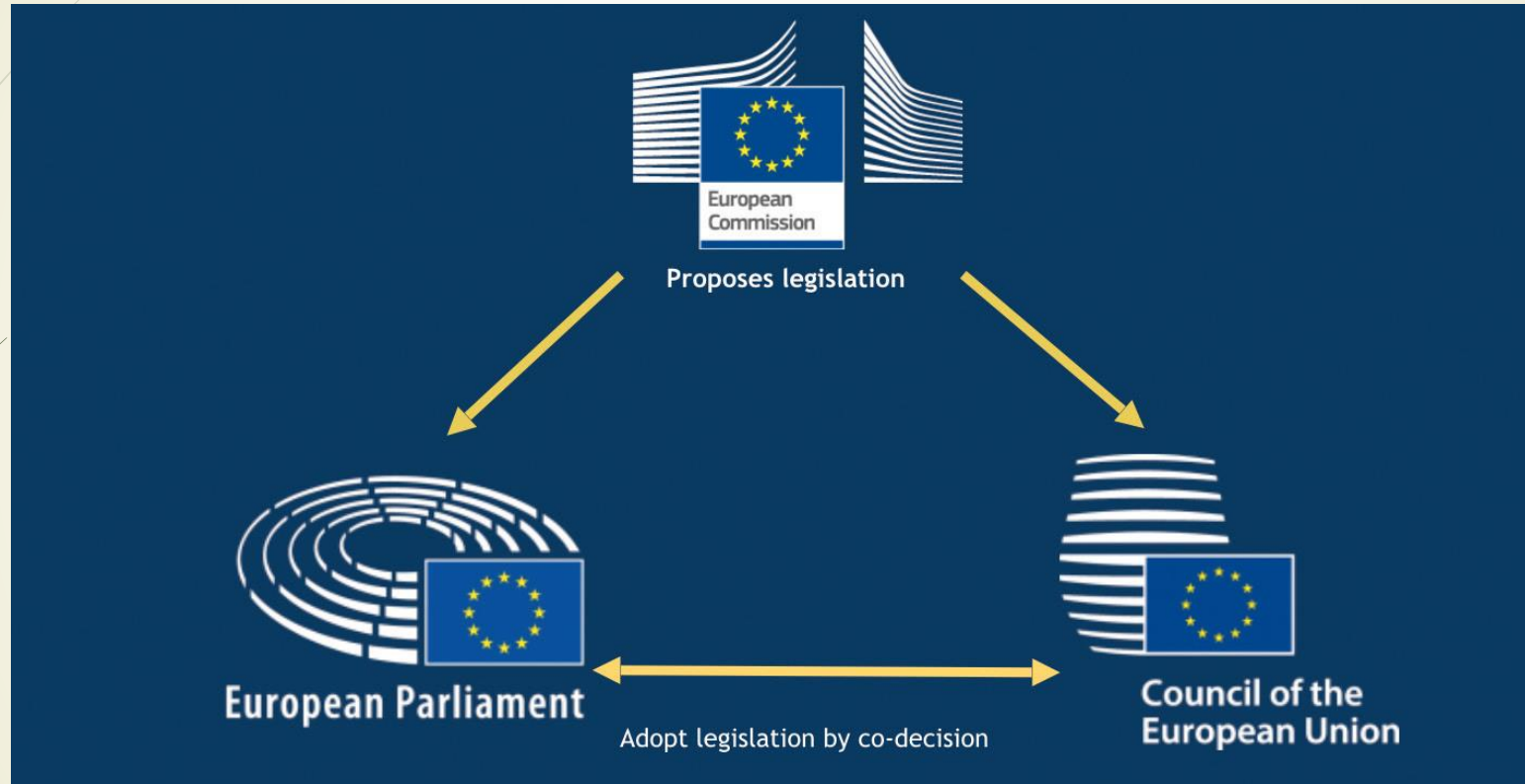
What to expect from the new European Commission

By Anca Gurzu

EU Policy Talks, Center for European Studies, Carleton University

November 28, 2019

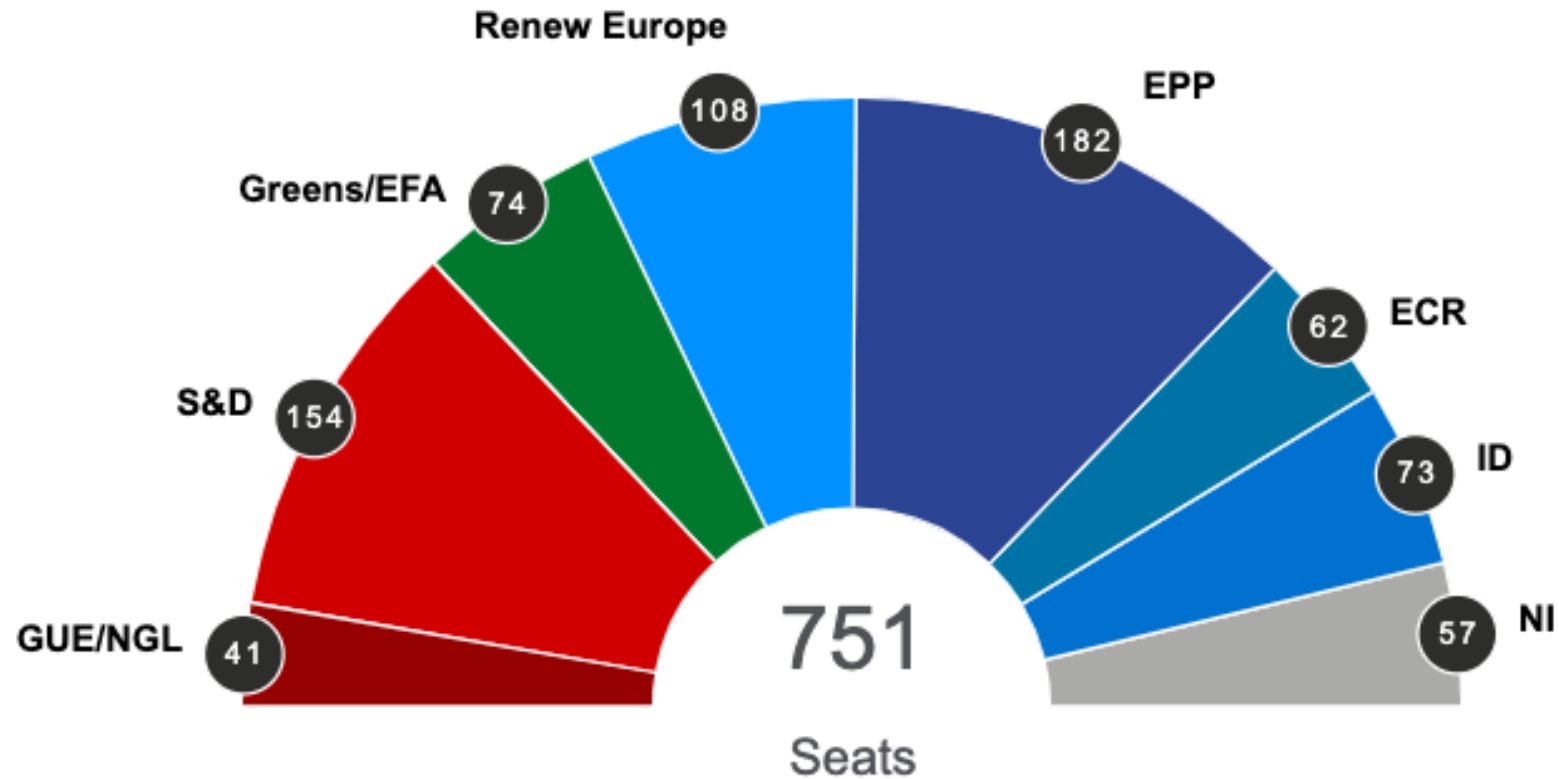
The basics:



-college of commissioners



European elections



How to choose a Commission president:

- Major political families present a nominee
- EU leaders choose, Parliament has to approve the choice
- Ideally based on the *Spitzenkandidat* process (theory vs practice)
- Lack of transparency
- Behind closed doors
- Intense political bargaining

How it happened (1):

- ▶ European People's Party (EPP):
- ▶ Socialists and Democrats (S&D):
- ▶ Liberals (7 candidates):





How it happened (2):

- Emmanuel Macron didn't want Weber
- Pushback to Timmermans
- EPP wanted the presidency
- Surprise! **Ursula von der Leyen**

Who is Ursula?

- First woman to lead the European Commission
- German, 61
- Conservative, part of EPP
- Former defence minister
- Mother of seven
- Medical degree before jumping into German politics
- Speaks French and English fluently
- Never worked in EU affairs
- Teen singing star:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8F6tPVS47LM&feature=emb_err_watch_on_yt



Von der Leyen promises the Earth to win EU top job

Nominee for Commission presidency seeks support from Parliament ahead of crucial vote.

By DAVID M. HERSZENHORN AND MAÏA DE LA BAUME | 7/15/19, 9:08 PM CET | Updated 7/16/19, 12:42 PM CET

hele Tantussi/Getty Images

STRASBOURG — A day before the vote on her nomination to be European Commission president, Ursula von der Leyen didn't quite promise members of the European Parliament the moon and the stars. But almost.

She promised "more ambitious" targets on emissions to save the Earth from climate change, to introduce a "carbon border tax" and to "turn parts of the European Investment Bank into a climate bank."

And yet a nagging question

POLITICO POLL OF POLLS

POLLING FROM ACROSS EUROPE. UPDATED DAILY.



UNITED KINGDOM
December 12 general election

[Latest polls](#)

Time until the polls close

She makes it:

383 in favour (needed 374); 327 against

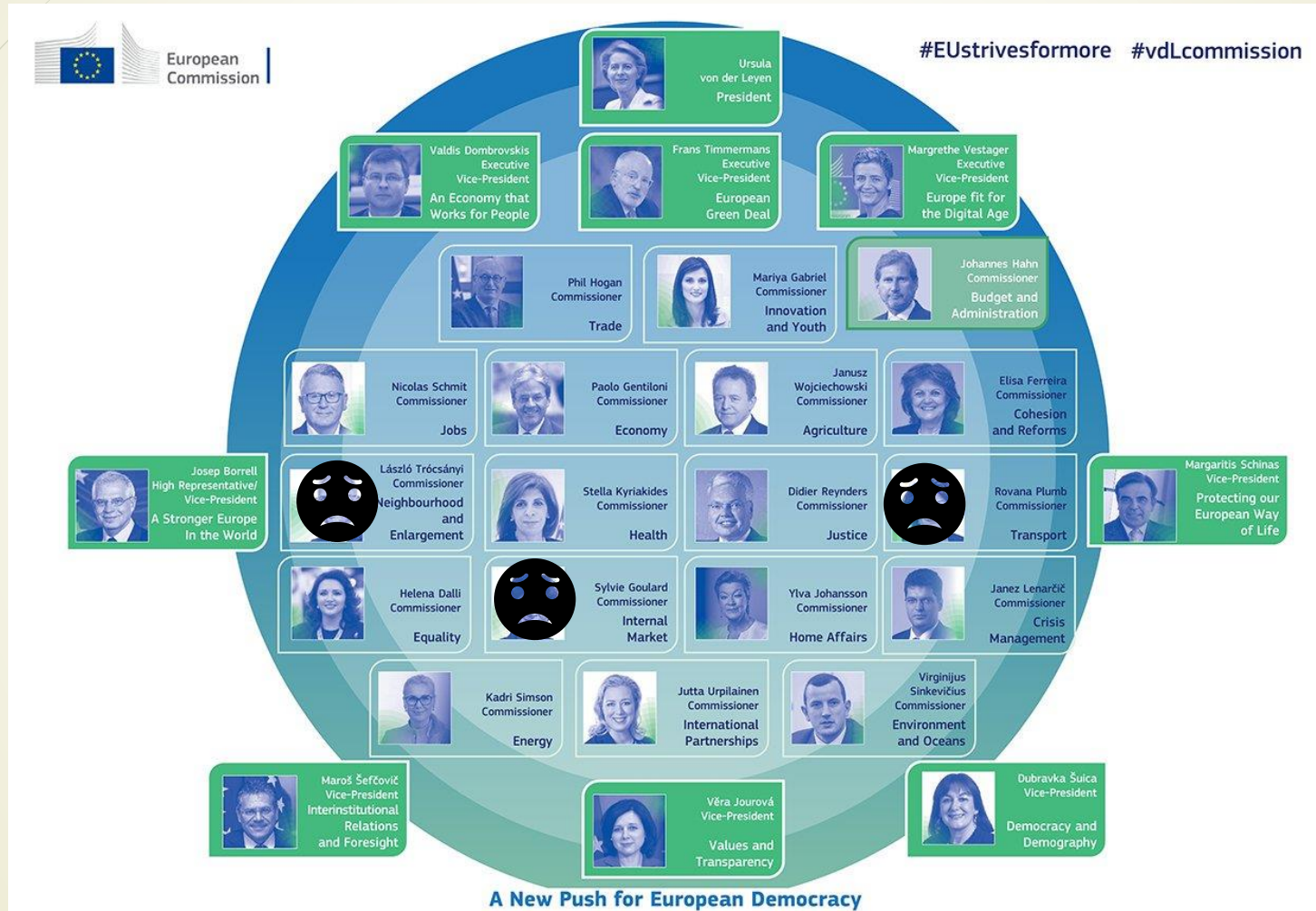
Ursula von der Leyen's narrowly won homecoming

Commission president-elect has big plans for this summer.

By DAVID M. HERSZENHORN AND MAÏA DE LA BAUME | 7/16/19, 11:57 PM CET | Updated 7/17/19, 3:50 PM CET



Building a team is not easy





RO, S&D, transport portfolio



HU, EPP, enlargement portfolio

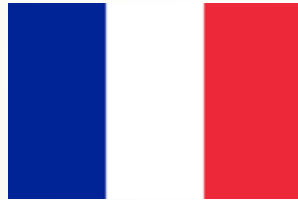


**Sylvie Goulard, FR
internal market portfolio,
(industrial policy, defense
and technology)**

- **Revenge!**
- **Macron's not happy:**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r3qy3krScfY>
- **Delayed Commission**



**HU, EPP, enlargement portfolio
Olivér Várhelyi**



**Thierry Breton, FR
internal market portfolio,
(industrial policy, defense and technology)**

Romanian drama

Government falls!

New EPP govt comes to power



Meet the team:



**Ursula von der Leyen (Germany)
President**



**Frans Timmermans (the Netherlands),
Executive vice president for European Green Deal**



**Margrethe Vestager (Denmark),
Executive vice president for the Digital Age**



**Valdis Dombrovskis (Latvia),
Executive vice-president for An Economy that Works for People**



**Josep Borrell (Spain),
Vice-president for A Stronger Europe in the World
Foreign policy chief**



**Věra Jourová (Czech Republic)
Vice-president for Values and Transparency**



**Maroš Šefčovič (Slovakia)
Vice-president for Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight**



Dubravka Šuica (Croatia)
Vice-president for Democracy and Demography



Margaritis Schinas (Greece)
Vice-president for ~~Protecting~~ Promoting our European way of life



Manfred Weber, the German leader of the center-right EPP | Mathieu Cugnot/European Union

Manfred Weber asks: Who wants to live the Chinese way of life?

Defending Commission President-elect Ursula von der Leyen, EPP leader spurns Chinese, African and American lifestyles.

By **MAÏA DE LA BAUME** | 9/17/19, 6:43 PM CET | Updated 9/18/19, 3:32 PM CET

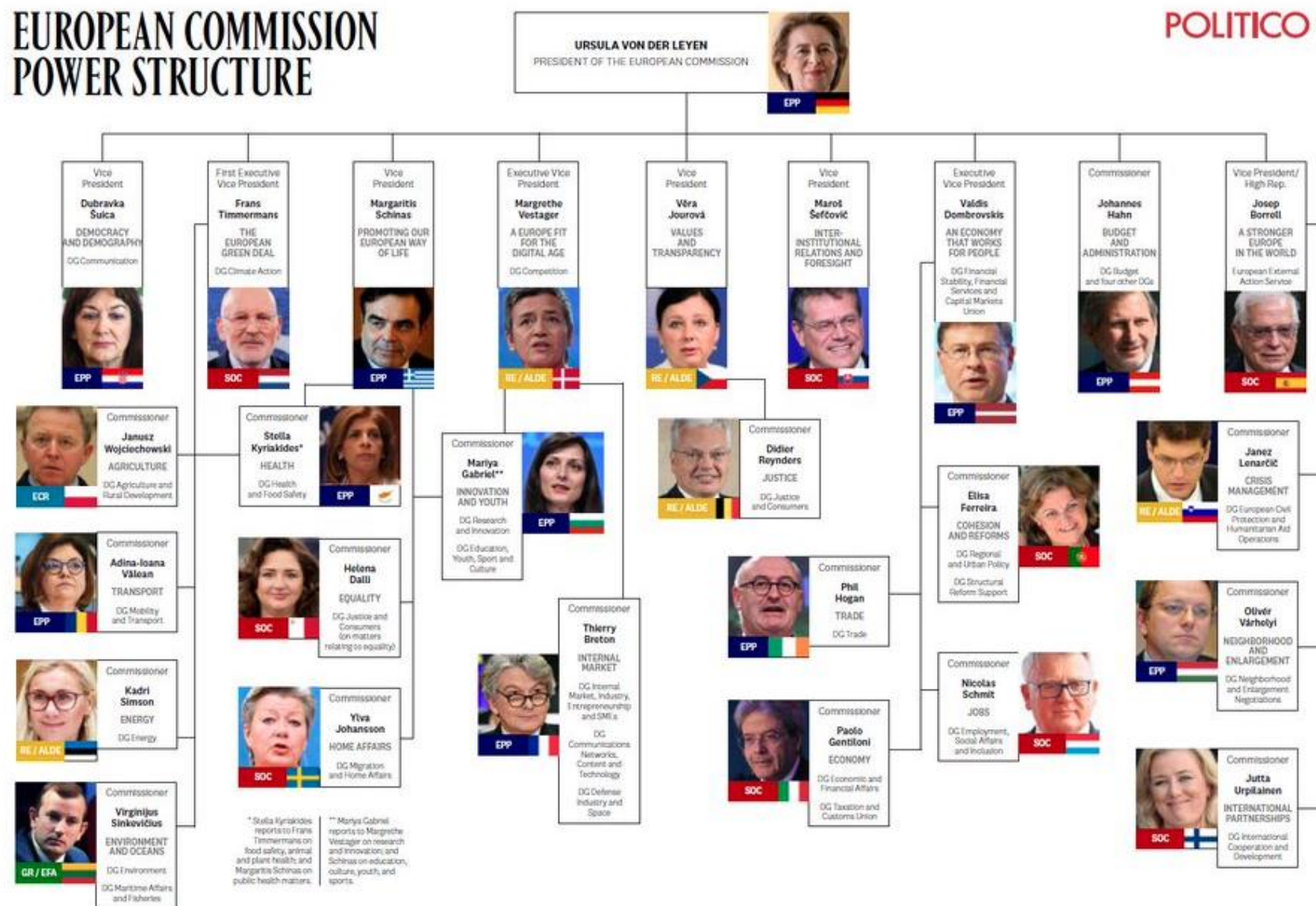


What about the U.K.?

- ▶ Extensions, extensions
- ▶ UK doesn't want to nominate a commissioner
- ▶ Infringement procedure

EUROPEAN COMMISSION POWER STRUCTURE

POLITICO






PRIORITIES

- ▶ European Green Deal
- ▶ Trade
 - U.S. relationship
 - China threat
 - green rules
- ▶ Industrial Strategy
- ▶ Digitalization
- ▶ Brexit



PRIORITIES (cont'd)

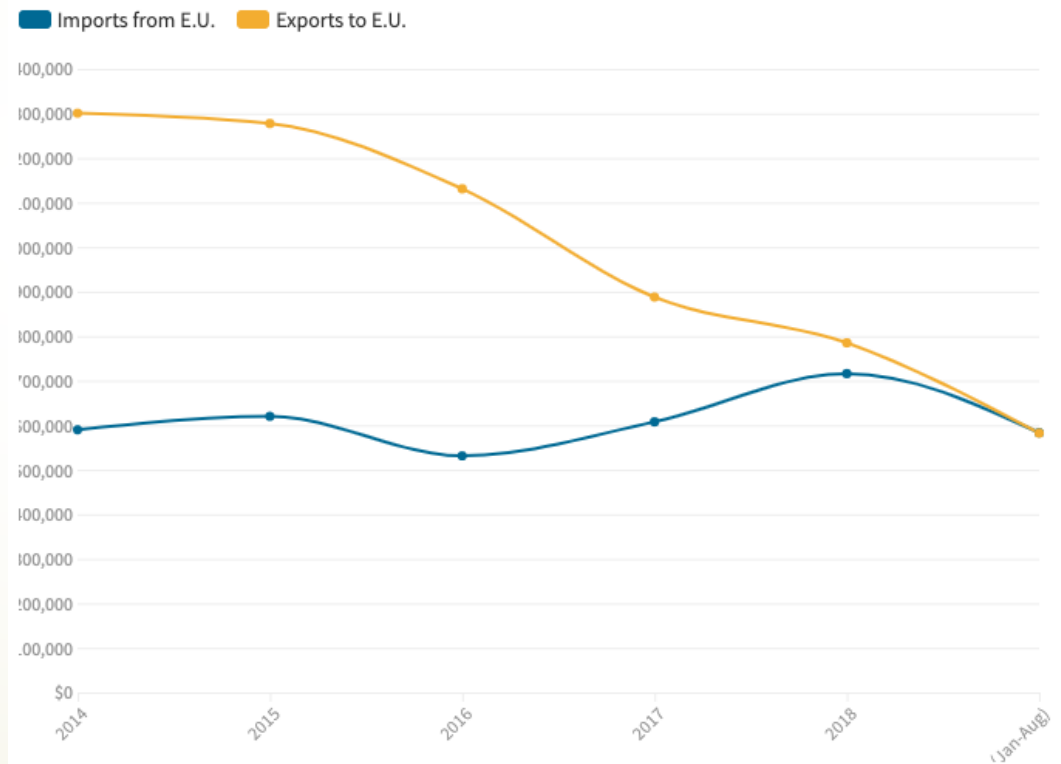
- Migration
 - new pact migration and asylum
 - Dublin reforms
 - reinforced European Border and Coast Guard Agency
 - Artificial Intelligence
 - Rule of law monitoring
 - Enlargement?
 - Right of initiative for the EP
 - Gender equality
- 

What does it mean for Canada?

- Close partners
- CETA
 - ratification issues
 - measuring benefits


Sask./European Union trade since 2014

All data from Government of Canada. For 2019, only data from January to August is available.





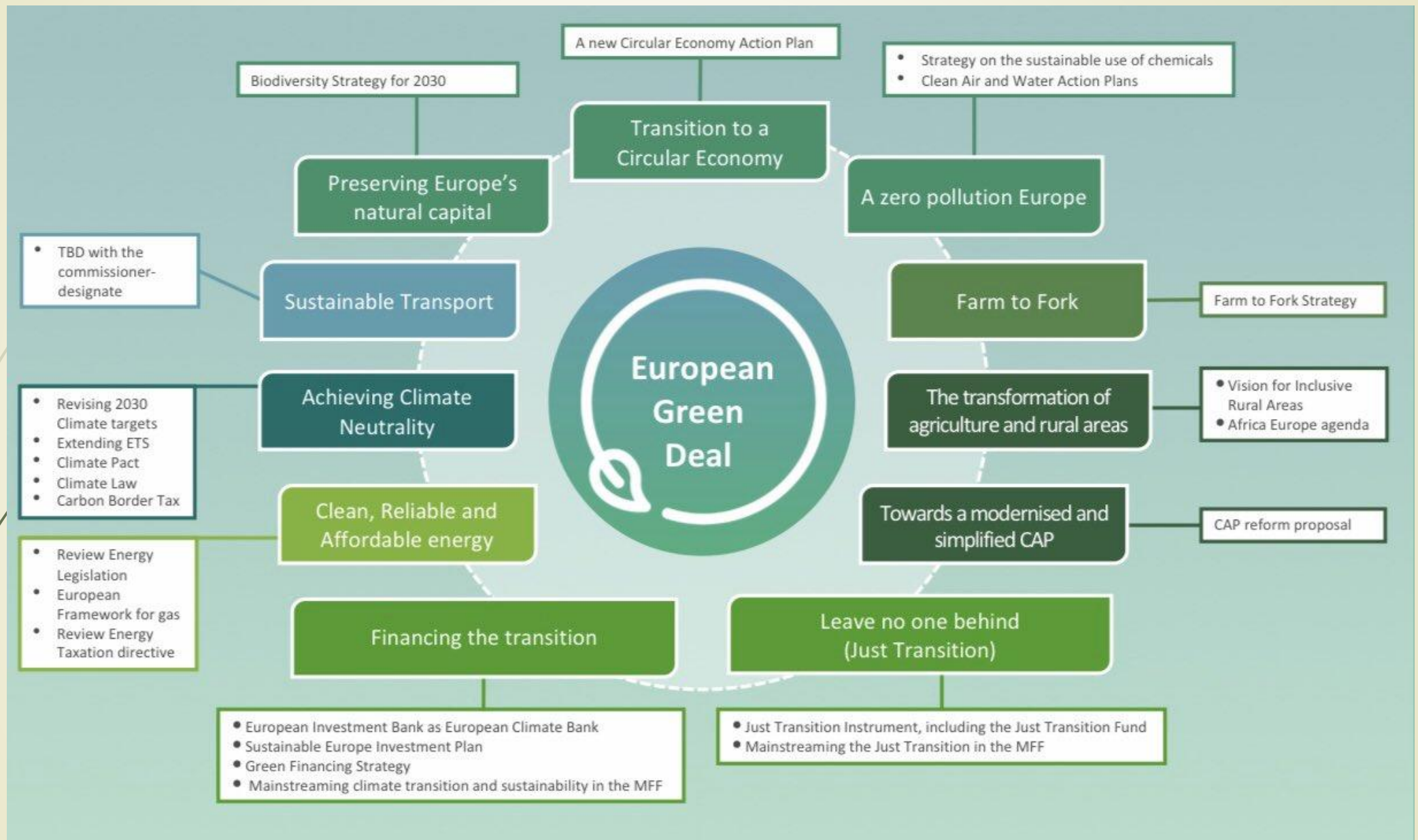
European Green Deal

- Goal: climate neutrality and sustainable economy by 2050
 - “a holistic vision for a just transition that will aim to cut carbon emissions and reverse the planet’s ecological breakdown, while ensuring social justice.”
 - First 100 days (sooner rather than later)
- 



European Green Deal (cont'd)

- ▶ Increased climate targets
-40% → 55% + climate neutral by 2050
- ▶ Carbon border tax
- ▶ European Investment Bank → climate bank
- ▶ Just Transition Fund
- ▶ Green Financing Strategy
- ▶ Zero pollution Europe
- ▶ Sustainable transport
- ▶ Greening agriculture



EU plans to spend more on private jets for top officials

Move comes despite pledges to do more to cut emissions.

By LILI BAYER | 9/23/19, 8:15 PM CET | Updated 9/24/19, 12:54 PM CET

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has set a climate-neutrality goal for the bloc | Frederick Florin/AFP via Getty Images

The European Union is planning to spend millions of euros more on private jet flights for its top officials — just as it is proclaiming its green credentials and pledging to step up the fight against climate change.

The bloc has raised the amount that can be spent under a five-year contract for “air taxi” flights by more than €3.5 million, according to a [document](#) published this month in the EU’s tenders database.

The new maximum amount of €10.71 million for the contract, which runs from 2016 to 2021, represents a 50 percent increase on the original value of €7.14 million.

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UNITED KINGDOM

December 12 general election

[Latest polls](#)

Time until the polls close:

18 8 11 22

DAYS

HOURS

MINUTES

SECONDS



Spain November 10 results



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How will it work?



The face of the European Green Deal



€€€



OPINION

Ursula von der Leyen's Green Deal is doomed

The Commission's political constraints will ensure it gets watered down.

By **DAVID ADLER AND PAWEL WARGAN** | 10/16/19, 4:00 AM CET | Updated 10/16/19, 10:50 AM CET



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- “von der Leyen’s last-minute move to promote Dombrovskis was an attempt to seize control of the Green Deal for the center right, **while ensuring that the responsibility for its success or failure remains with Timmermans**, the public face of the Commission’s environmental ambitions.”
 - Big project
 - Experiment
 - Only first step
 - <https://twitter.com/TimmermansEU/status/1197086110452789249?s=20>



THANK YOU