



*PRESS CONFERENCE with Gianni Pittella*  
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## Presentation and Election of the new European Commission

+ 33 3 88 17 5159

[gianni.pittella@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:gianni.pittella@europarl.europa.eu)

Wednesday 22 October 2014



**Gianni  
Pittella**

The two most challenging political priorities for the next Commission are to change the direction of Europe and to finally take action to boost growth, encourage development and create new jobs.

We can proudly say we have contributed to shaping a new and different Commission which is much closer to our values. We want to bring an innovative vision of the economic and social development of Europe and also to get co-operation on all policies linked to sustainable development and the planned investment programmes.

The capacity of public investments for leveraging private funds must be a priority.

We need to bring the European Union closer to citizens, reduce bureaucracy and give a new dynamism to the institutions.

The new European Commission must work in close co-operation with the European Parliament and in the spirit of the community method, in order to give to the EU greater political impact and more visibility on EU foreign policy.

We need a new European Commission who are on the front line in all humanitarian crises, and who can guide an EU-led international response to situations like the Ebola epidemic or the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

We must ensure that European immigration and asylum policy will be based on true European solidarity in terms of real action and strength to manage the reception of refugees and immigrants. We expect the new Commission to uphold asylum-seekers' rights and promote safe and lawful access to the EU's asylum systems.

We expect the new Commission to work hard on the European neighbourhood policy and enlargement, promoting the values of the EU. The enlargement process reinforces the EU's efforts towards achieving prosperity, stability, peace and democracy. In particular, we emphasise the social dimension of both enlargement and neighbourhood policy, and we expect the new Commission to take that seriously.

Data protection and safeguarding EU laws from arbitrary dispute settlement mechanisms in trade agreements with third parties are at the heart of our concerns.

We call for more European action and co-operation in the field of research, science and innovation. It will be crucial to mobilise innovative financial instruments to fund projects which could create long-term sustainable growth and thousands of jobs in Europe.

We ask the European Commission to make sure that health and food safety will both protect and enhance equal access to healthcare, and safeguard food safety.

We need stronger guarantees with regard to net neutrality and we need more clarity about the Commission's position and plans for action.



Gianni Pittella

### Preparation of the European Council (23-24 October 2014)

+ 33 3 88 17 51 59

gianni.pittella@europarl.europa.eu

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The S&D Group underlines the need to move to a more ambitious and long-term investment plan in line with the investment needs outlined in the Europe 2020 strategy, and to combine a broad range of financing sources. The multi-annual financial framework (MFF) for 2014-2020 should be reviewed as soon as possible in order to increase funding from the EU budget for infrastructure projects. The European Investment Bank (EIB) should be given a greater role and its capital increased by an additional €10 billion to raise its annual investments. In addition, existing fiscal rules should be revised to make them investment-friendly.



Eider Gardiazabal Rubial

### General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2015

+ 33 3 88 17 53 33

eider.gardiazabalrubial@europarl.europa.eu

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The S&Ds propose to increase payments in the EU budget for 2015 above the level proposed by the Commission. We want a budget which allows the EU to pay all its bills and that respects Europe's commitments on growth and job policies and for its missions on the world stage.

The EU's current budgetary situation is catastrophic. For several years, we have faced a critical shortage for payments. By the end of 2014, the EU may once again face a pile of unpaid bills – worth more than €26 billion. This is unacceptable. This time, we want to use all the means at our disposal to prevent payment delays next year.



Victor Bostinaru

### Situation in Kobane and the threat of IS

+ 33 3 88 17 58 32

victor.bostinaru@europarl.europa.eu

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The fighters of the Syrian Kurdish Democratic Union Party have heroically defended Kobane. Nevertheless, the S&D Group strongly deplores Turkey's inaction in the face of this jihadist assault and its refusal to join the anti-ISIS coalition. As a future candidate to join the European Union and as member of NATO, it is important for Turkey to have a more responsible attitude.

I believe that the military operation should have the exclusive aim of destroying ISIS and Al-Qaida-linked groups and should include all relevant regional players.

## MEDIA CONTACT

Head of Press & Communication Unit - Utta Tuttlies + 32 473 85 34 07

Paolo Alberti

+ 32 476 955 144

Solange Hélin-Villes

+ 32 476 510 172

Jan Bernas

President spokesperson

+ 39 329 0233023

S&D

Dimitris Komodromos

+ 32 474 622 884

Victoria Martin De La Torre

+ 32 473 234 173

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