

President Ursula von der Leyen
European Commission
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
1049 Brussels
Belgium

26 September 2024, Brussels

RE. Missing mention to institutional reforms and to Treaty change in the mission letters to Commissioners-designate.

Dear President,

We are writing to you concerning the political priorities of the designated Commission.

When asking for the support of the European Parliament for a second term, you argued in your statement of 18 July 2024:

“We need an ambitious reform agenda to ensure the functioning of a larger Union and to increase democratic legitimacy. While reforms were necessary before, with enlargement they become indispensable. We must use this as a catalyst for change in terms of our capacity to act, our policies and our budget. We will of course focus on what we can already do, of which there is a lot. But we should be more ambitious. I believe we need Treaty change where it can improve our Union. And I want to work on that with this House”.

The support of pro-European forces for your candidacy heavily relied on your engagement towards an ambitious and in-depth reform of the Union, of its institutions and of its policies, as requested by the European Parliament in its resolution of November 2023 with amendments to the Treaties.

As you know, the role of your institution is crucial in the preliminary phases of Treaty change procedures. Art 48 TEU establishes indeed that the European Council evaluates proposals for amendments to the Treaties after having consulted the European Commission.

Unfortunately, we regret to notice that, in your mission letters to Commissioners-designate, no mention is made to institutional reforms or to the preparation of the Treaty change process, nor to the reform of the European electoral law, including the establishment of transnational lists.

cc: Secretariat of the Union of European Federalists
Secretariat of the Spinelli Group

As transpartisan and pro-EU Integration network, we express our deepest concern regarding these missing elements, and we convey our intention to inquire Commissioners-designate during committee hearings to evaluate their full alignment with the political priorities that you circulated in July, and with the commitments you undertook before our institution.

As also clearly proposed in the Draghi report, the reform of the EU governance, including through Treaty reform, must allow the Union to survive, and to boost its competitiveness. This reform is essential also to prepare for enlargement and to live up to the challenges of the present and of the future.

Delaying the necessary reforms in a widening Union would represent an historical mistake.

We thank you in advance for your consideration.

Best regards,

The Members of the Board of the Spinelli Group:

Sandro Gozi (Renew Europe, France)
Raquel García Hermida-Van Der Walle (Renew Europe, Netherlands)
Markus Ferber (EPP, Germany)
Brando Benifei (S&D, Italy)
Vivien Costanzo (S&D, Germany)
Reinier Van Lanschot (Greens/EFA, Netherlands)
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Petras Austrevicius (Renew Europe, Lithuania)
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Daniel Freund (Greens/EFA, Germany)
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