



Council of the  
European Union

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**NOTE**

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From: Presidency  
To: Delegations

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Subject: The new Commission's energy policy priorities  
- Presidency background note

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Delegations will find attached the Presidency background note on the above subject, with a view to the lunch debate at the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council on 4 December 2019.

## Lunch with Commissioner Kadri Simson

Informal lunch discussion of EU Energy Ministers

Following the TTE (Energy) Council session on *the new Commission's energy policy priorities*, the Ministers are invited to continue discussions on **the energy policy agenda for the upcoming years** more informally during the Ministerial lunch. Ministers will also have an opportunity to hear how the new Commission under the leadership of President Ursula von der Leyen will conduct its work and reflect on the links between energy policy and other priorities in the agenda of the new Commission.

**The von der Leyen Commission** will bring a new structure to the College. The eight Vice-Presidents will be responsible for the top priorities as specified in the Political Guidelines and their mission statements. They will steer work on the most important overarching issues, such as the European Green Deal.

Three Executive Vice-Presidents will have a double function. They will be both Vice-Presidents responsible for one of the three core topics (digital age, economy that works for people, European Green Deal) of the President-elect's agenda and will oversee the work of other Commissioners. The Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans will coordinate the work on the Green Deal. President von der Leyen said: *"I want the European Green Deal to become Europe's hallmark. At the heart of it is our commitment to becoming the world's first climate-neutral continent. It is also a long-term economic imperative: those who act first and fastest will be the ones who grasp the opportunities from the ecological transition. I want Europe to be the front-runner. I want Europe to be the exporter of knowledge, technologies and best practice."*<sup>1</sup> In leading the work on the European Green Deal, EVP Timmermans will set the strategic direction and chair the Commissioners' Group on the European Green Deal.

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<sup>1</sup> Press release|10 September 2019|Brussels|The von der Leyen Commission: for a Union that strives for more [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_19\\_5542](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_19_5542)

Ms von der Leyen has also conveyed her views on the upcoming European Green Deal in various mission letters addressed not only to Executive Vice-President Timmermans and Commissioner Simson but also to various Commissioners, and notably Commissioner Paolo Gentiloni (Economy), Commissioner Elisa Ferreira (Cohesion and Reforms), Adina-Ioana Vălean (Transport), Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius (Environment, Oceans and Fisheries) and Commissioner Janusz Wojciechowski (Agriculture).

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