



**UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE**  
INSTITUTE FOR  
SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP

**CLG**  
**Europe**

# Deep dive session on EU priorities

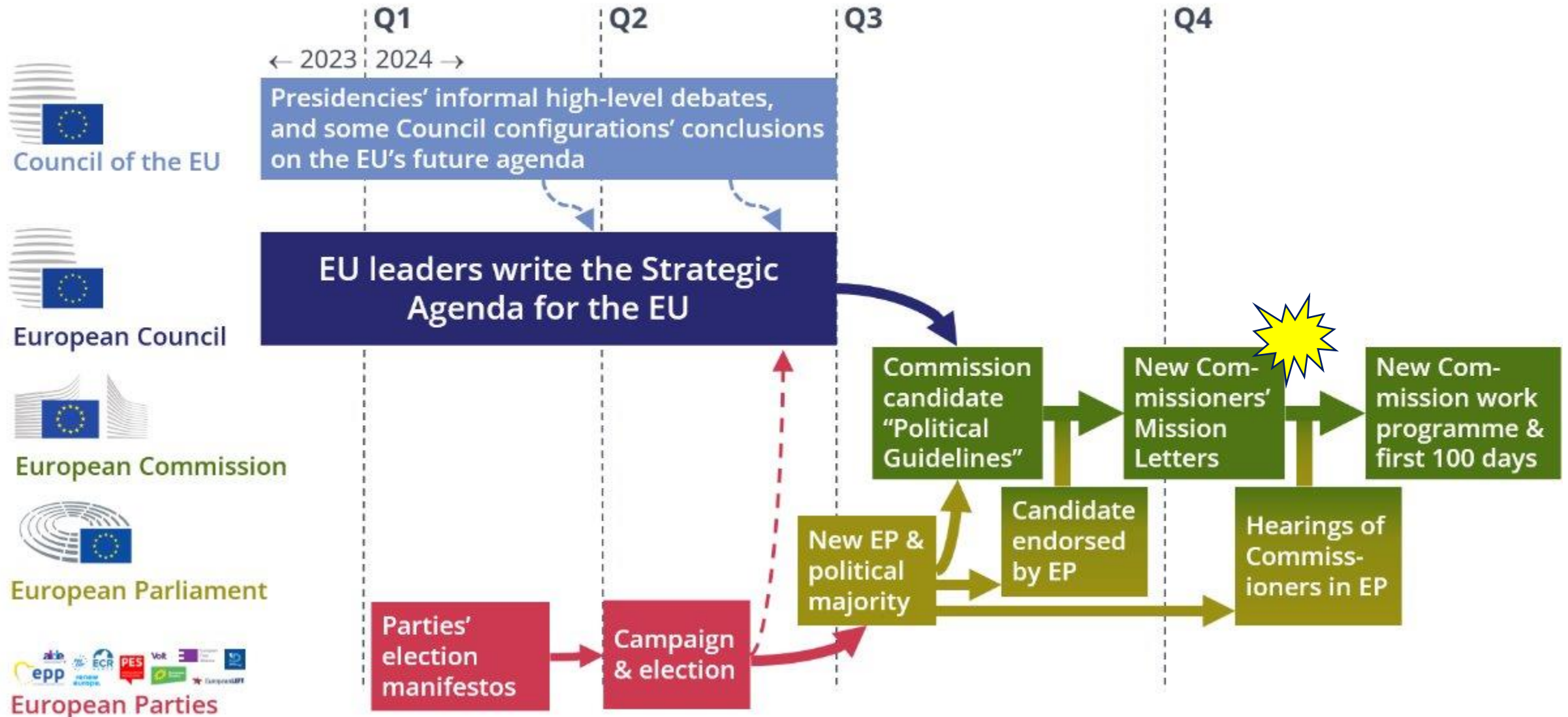
24 September 2024

## AGENDA

- **Welcome and introductory remarks**
- **State of play**
- **Upcoming milestones and business engagement opportunities**
- **Open discussion on activities, alignment and opportunities for cooperation**

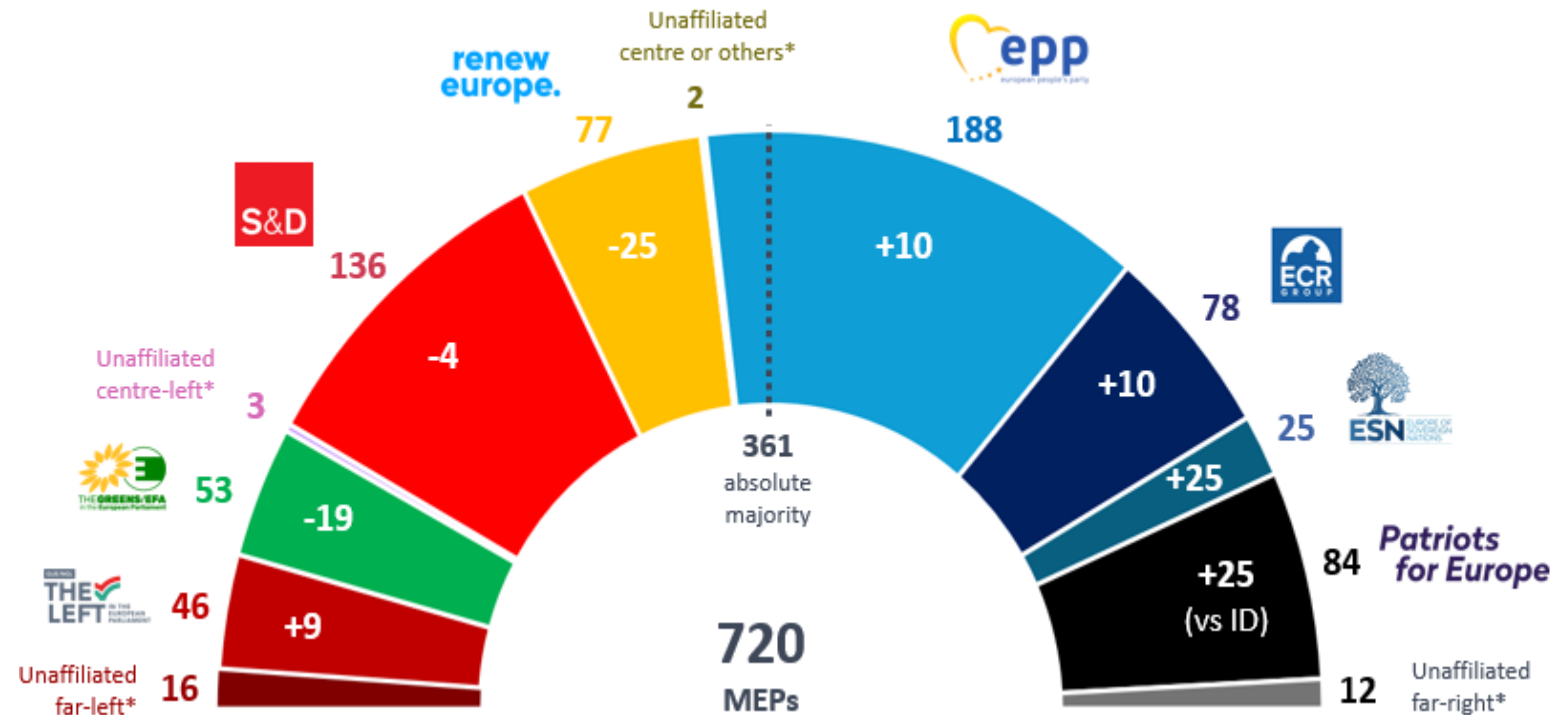
# State of play

# Big picture: Where are we?



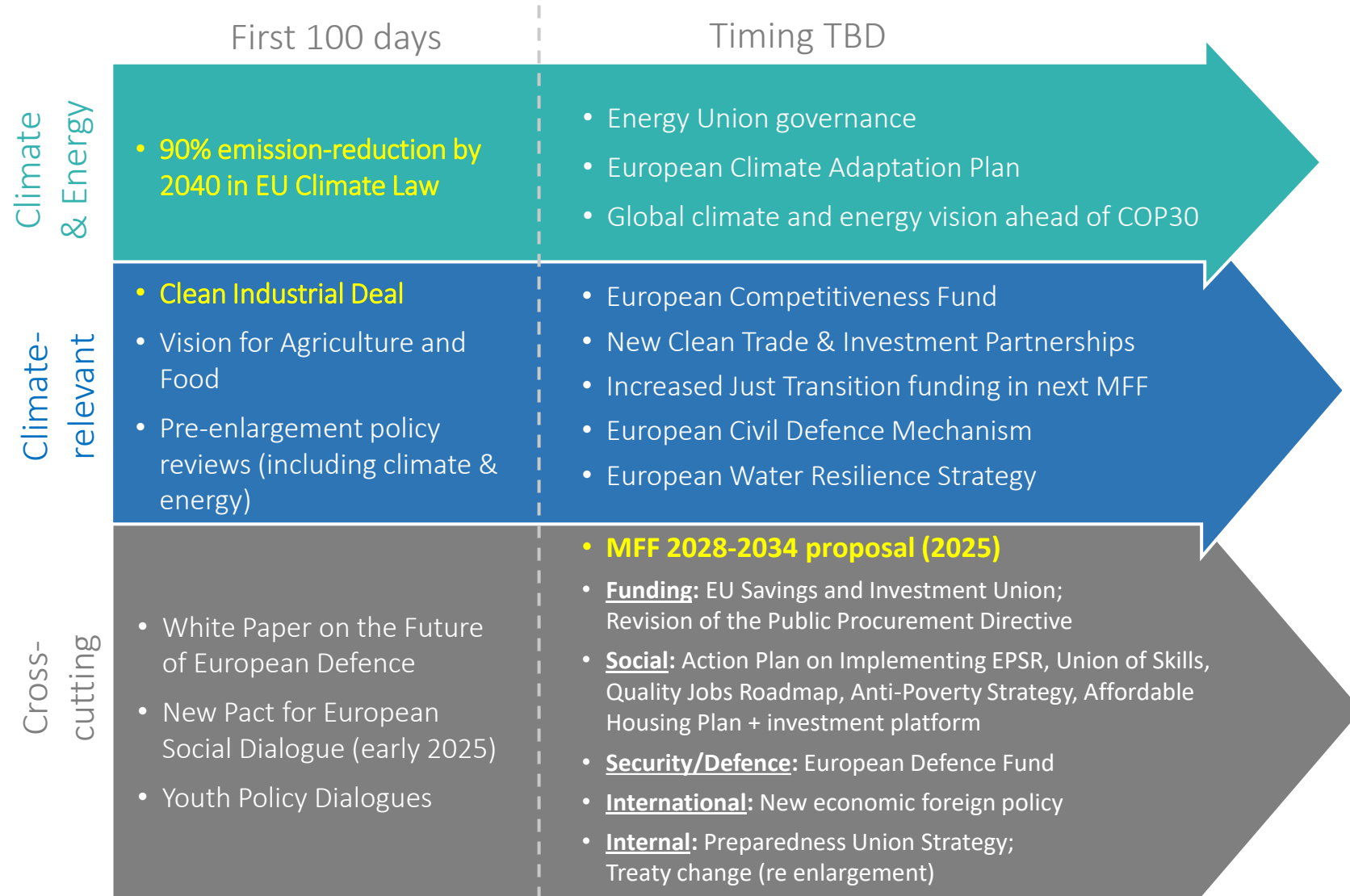
# EU elections left the pro-climate coalition intact, but by a shakier margin

- These were not climate elections, unlike 2019. Cost-of-living crisis, competitiveness, security & geopolitical tensions were key issues
- The ‘Grand Coalition’ held, but has gotten narrower while the far-right continues a pattern of steady gains, now making up over a quarter of parliamentary seats
- Liberals and greens lost (-25 & -19 seats respectively) while the EPP came out the strongest
- What does it all mean? A more fragmented parliament likely to take a more transactional approach









# President Von der Leyen's Political Guidelines embed climate into a competitiveness push

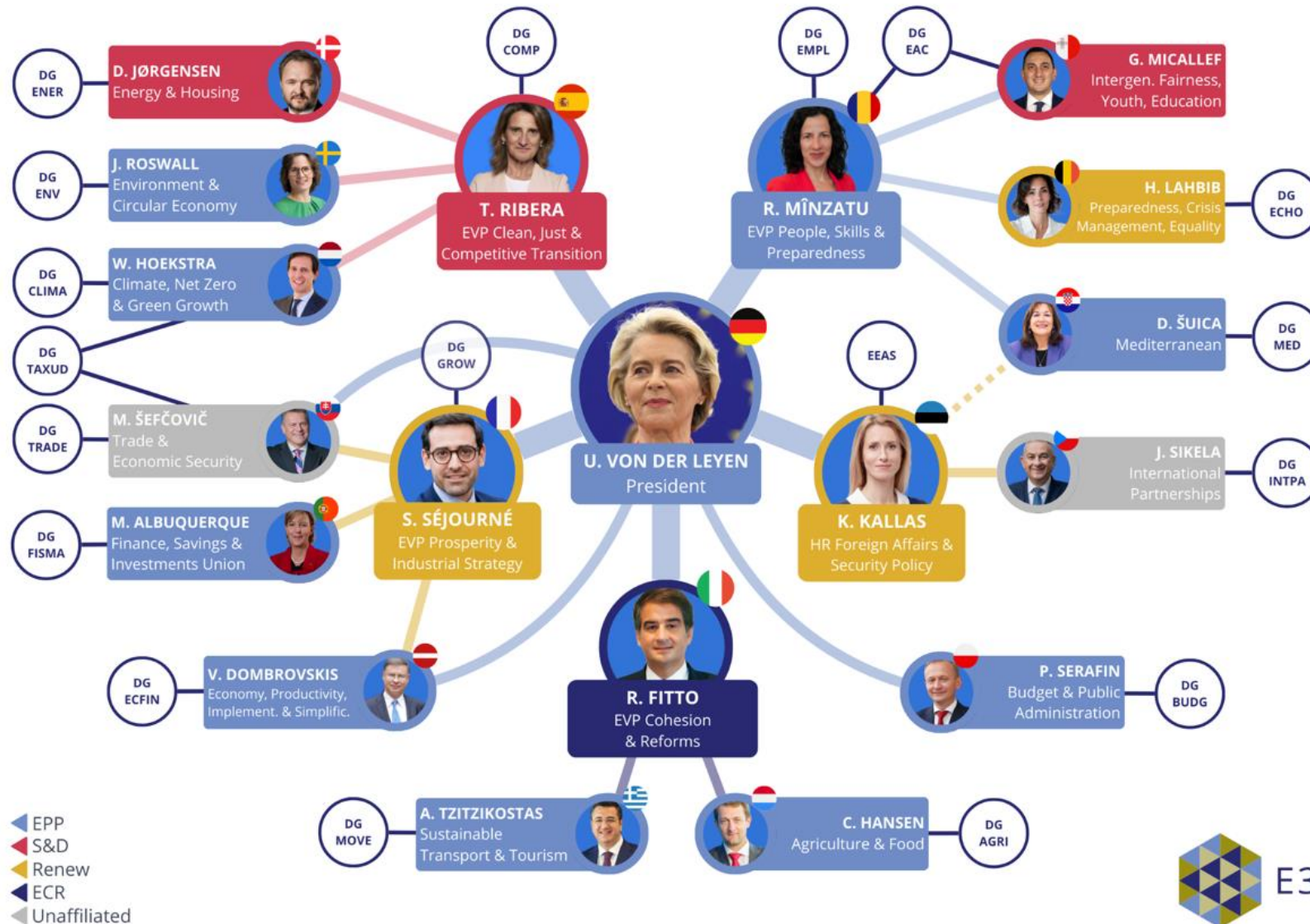
- **Competitiveness, security & defence** remain driving issues in the Commission President's Political Guidelines
- **But climate is firmly rooted too**, framed as one of "Era's greatest challenges" and recommitment to European Green Deal is emphasised
- **Future climate policy is positioned as part of the competitiveness push** under the flagship upcoming Clean Industrial Deal



# Summing it all up: good direction of travel with some key questions remaining

- Continued climate action takes a front row seat  The European Green Deal features as a horizontal objective across all Commissioner mission letters. A 90% 2040 target to be enshrined in the Climate Law. Decarbonisation, electrification and the clean transition is emphasised in the upcoming Clean Industrial Deal.
  - **Possible concerns**  Strong focus on the costs of regulation rather than the benefits of continuity and clarity for investment. Amendments to ICE ban undermine predictability.
- There is an effort to respond to social pressures  The energy transition is coupled with addressing the housing crisis, while competitiveness and a just transition are also paired under one portfolio.
  - **Possible concerns**  A broader strategy for ensuring a just transition is missing, relying on existing and underfunded tools such as the Social Climate Fund. Much focus is placed on skills rather than addressing social inequality and insecurity
- Restated emphasis on this being the ‘Investment Commission’  with the Budget Commissioner mandated to propose new own resources, and an EVP in charge of a new Competitiveness Fund.
  - **Possible concerns**  Little clarity on the scale and direction of public investment – mission letters lack the urgency needed to confront Member States with the required levels of public investment, while private finance guardrails might be at risk from the deregulation push

# Who will lead the climate transition in the EU's new College of Commissioners?





## Mapping of EP Committees

### **ENVI (Environment, Public Health and Food Safety)**

Chair: Antonio Decaro (S&D, Italy)

1st Vice-Chair: Esther Herranz García (EPP, Spain)

2nd Vice-Chair: Pietro Fiocchi (ECR, Italy)

3rd Vice-Chair: Anja Hazekamp (The Left, Netherlands)

4th Vice-Chair: András Tivadar Kulja (EPP, Hungary)

### **ITRE (Industry, Research and Energy)**

Chair: Borys Budka (EPP, Poland)

1st Vice-Chair: Tsvetelina Penkova (S&D, Bulgaria)

2nd Vice-Chair: Elena Donazzan (ECR, Italy)

3rd Vice-Chair: Giorgio Gori (S&D, Italy)

4th Vice-Chair: Yvan Verougstraete (Renew, Belgium)

### **AGRI (Agriculture and Rural Development)**

Chair: Veronika Vrecionová (ECR, Czechia)

1st Vice-Chair: Daniel Buda (EPP, Romania)

2nd Vice-Chair: Norbert Lins (EPP, Germany)

3rd Vice-Chair: Eric Sargiacomo (S&D, France)

4th Vice-Chair: *will be elected at a forthcoming meeting\**

### **TRAN (Transport and Tourism)**

Chair: Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi (EPP, Greece)

1st Vice-Chair: Virginijus Sinkevičius (Greens/EFA, Lithuania)

2nd Vice-Chair: Sophia Kircher (EPP, Austria)

3rd Vice-Chair: Elena Kountoura (The Left, Greece)

4th Vice-Chair: Matteo Ricci (S&D, Italy)

# Mapping of EP Committees

## **ECON (Economic and Monetary Affairs)**

Chair: Aurore Lalucq (S&D, France)

1st Vice-Chair: Damian Boeselager (Greens/EFA, Germany)

2nd Vice-Chair: Ludovit Odor (Renew, Slovakia)

3rd Vice-Chair: Ludek Niedermayer (EPP, Czechia)

4th Vice-Chair: *will be elected at a forthcoming meeting\**

## **BUDG (Budgets)**

Chair: Johan Van Overtveldt (ECR, Belgium)

1st Vice-Chair: Monika Hohlmeier (EPP, Germany)

2nd Vice-Chair: Giuseppe Lupo (S&D, Italy)

3rd Vice-Chair: Janusz Lewandowski (EPP, Poland)

4th Vice-Chair: Lucia Yar (Renew, Slovakia)

## **INTA (International Trade)**

Chair: Bernd Lange (S&D, Germany)

1st Vice-Chair: Manon Aubry (The Left, France)

2nd Vice-Chair: Iuliu Winkler (EPP, Romania)

3rd Vice-Chair: Karin Karlsbro (Renew, Sweden)

4th Vice-Chair: Kathleen Van Brempt (S&D, Belgium)

## Mapping of coordinators

	EPP	S&D	<u>PfE</u>	ECR	Renew	Greens	Left	ESN
<b>AGRI</b>	Herbert DORFMANN (IT) / Carmen CRESPO DÍAZ (ES)	Dario NARDELLA (IT)			<u>Elsi KATAINEN</u> (FI)	Thomas WAITZ (AU)		
<b>BUDG</b>	<u>Karlo RESSLER</u> (HR) / Isabel BENJUMEA BENJUMEA (ES)	Jean-Marc GERMAIN (FR)		Bogdan <u>Rzońca</u> (PL)	Lucia YAR (SK)			
<b>ECON</b>	Markus FERBER (DE) / Fernando NAVARRETE ROJAS (ES)	Jonás <u>FERNÁNDEZ</u> (ES)	Enikő Győri (HU)	Johan Van <u>Overtveldt</u> (BE)	Stéphanie YON-COURTIN (FR) / Anouk VAN BRUG (NL)	Kira Marie Peter-Hansen (DK)	Jussi <u>Saramo</u> (FI)	Rada <u>Laykova</u> (BG)
<b>ENVI</b>	Peter LIESE (DE) / Jessica POLFJÄRD (SE)	Tiemo WÖLKEN (DE)			Pascal CANFIN (FR) / Emma WIESNER (SE)	Sara Matthieu (BE)		

## Mapping of coordinators

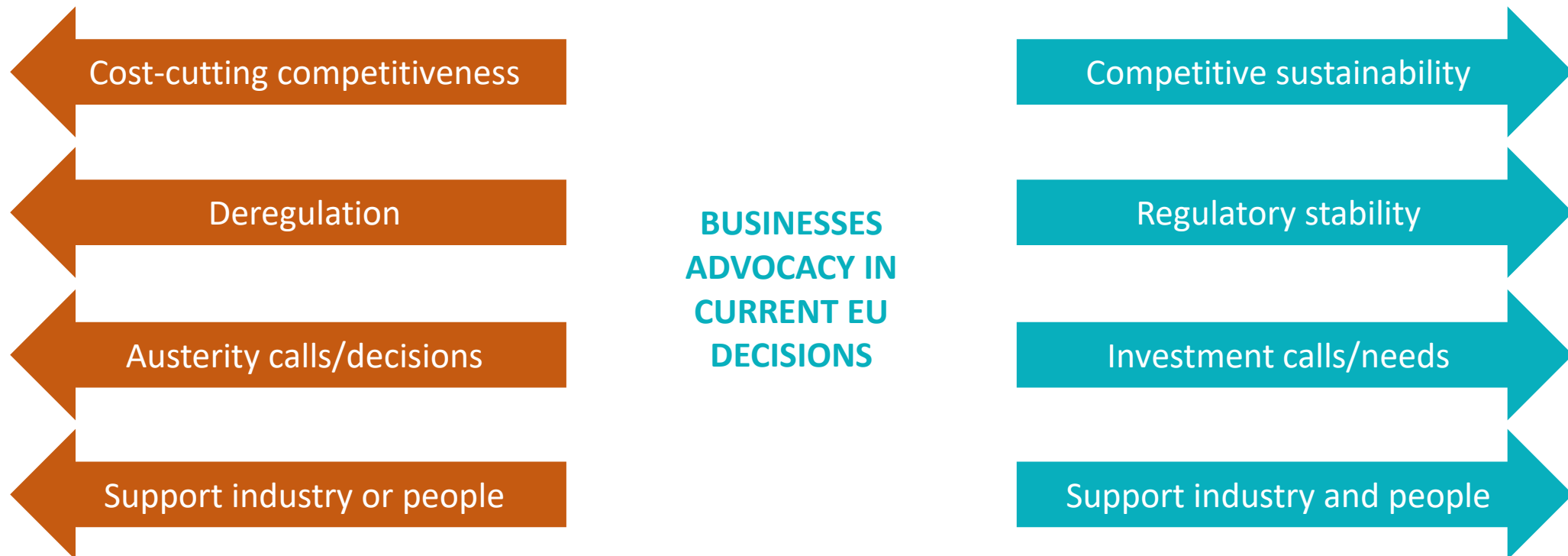
	EPP	S&D	<u>PfE</u>	ECR	Renew	Greens	Left	ESN
<b>INTA</b>	Jörgen WARBORN (SE) / Juan Ignacio ZOIDO ÁLVAREZ (ES)	Brando BENIFEI (IT)	Thierr y MARI ANI (FR)	Daniel e <u>Polato</u> (IT)	Marie- Pierre VEDRENN E (FR)	<u>Maidouli</u> <u>ne SBAI</u> (FR)	Lynn BOY LAN (IE)	Mark us BUC HHEI T (DE)
<b>ITRE</b>	Christian EHLER (DE) / Eva MAYDELL (BG)	Dan NICA (RO)			Christoph e GRUDLER (FR) / Sigrid FRIIS (DK)	Ville NIINISTO O (FI) / Michael BLOSS (DE)		
<b>TRAN</b>	Jens GIESEKE (DE) / Dariusz JOŃSKI (PL)	Johan DANIELSSO N (SE)	Rom ain HAID ER (AU)	Robert s ZĪLE (LV) / Kosma ZŁOTO WSKI (PL)	Jan- Christoph OETJEN (DE)	Kai TEGETH OFF (DE)	Merj a KYL LÖNE N (FI)	Siegb ert Frank DRO ESE (DE)



# Opportunities for businesses in upcoming milestones

## Business' role in the new EU legislature kick-off

- **EU agenda, including climate agenda, strongly driven by businesses demands, concerns, and narratives.**
  - EPP = central position in all EU institutions. Businesses = one of their core constituents.
  - A lot of attention to business concerns, especially competitiveness.
  - Climate-ambitious businesses usually less loud in EU bubble.
- **Current tensions** can be eased with different business perspectives.



# Business engagement

- **Mission of the group:** increase climate ambition with the shared aim of achieving a climate neutral, nature-positive, and socially inclusive European green transition.
- **New political framing:** Competitiveness, economy, finance, climate, and sustainability are intertwined.
- **Narrative:** Success measured in terms of reaching Green Deal objectives but framing more towards how climate and sustainability can contribute towards increased competitiveness, economic opportunities, energy and resilience
- **Businesses at the forefront:** Key players for the implementation of the Green Deal and strategic objectives as economic actors and investors.
- **Creating a business friendly environment:** Simplification and reducing reporting obligations, reducing energy costs, providing public funds.
- **Continuation:** 2040 climate target, post 2030 climate framework, nature, circular economy
- **Evolution:** Narrative on increased competitiveness, industry and energy security
- **Strengthen:** Demonstrate economic and competitiveness benefits of increased climate action and sustainability and role of business in delivering EU priorities
- **Take stock:** How can businesses deliver?

## Key milestones ahead


- **Week of 4 or 11 November (TBC):** Hearings of Commissioners in the European Parliament.
- **5 November:** US elections.
- **11-22 November:** COP29 in Baku.
- **1 December – 11 March 2025:** New European Commission takes office and first 100 days.
- **1 December:** António Costa takes over the European Council Presidency.
- **1 January 2025:** Poland takes over the Presidency of the Council of the EU.



EU politicians looking closely at businesses reactions and narrative.



Opportunity for businesses to engage with EU and Member-State delegations, participation and visibility.



Opportunity for businesses' engagement with Polish Government officials.



## Commissioner hearings in Parliament (early November)

- **Now-30 September:** JURI Committee of the European Parliament to check for conflict of interests of Commissioner designates.
- **October (deadlines TBC):** Written questions by European Parliament committees and answers by Commissioners-designate in preparation for the hearings.
- **Week of 4 or 11 November (TBC):** **Hearings in the European Parliament** and evaluation by European Parliament group committee coordinators.
- **25-28 November (or extended):** European Parliament vote on the whole College of Commissioners.



**Opportunity for businesses engagement with MEPs.**

**Key roles:** Committee Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Coordinators + Heads of national delegations.

**Key groups:** EPP, S&D, Renew.

**Key Committees:** IMCO, ENVI, ITRE, ECON, INTA

## New Commission first 100 days (~1 Dec – ~11 March)

- **Clean Industrial Deal:** green lead markets, governance, electrification, funding instruments...
  - **2040 Target:** speed, ambition, potential reforms, post-2040 framework, potential vision for 2035 (NDC, vision for COP30).
  - **Industrial transition:** Industrial Decarbonisation Accelerator Act, governance for Energy Union, Circular Economy Act.
- **Some social initiatives:** Anti-Poverty Strategy, Affordable Housing Plan, EIB investment platform for housing; Youth Policy Dialogues.
- **Vision for Agriculture and Food.** Long-term competitiveness & sustainability of farming, fair income for farmers.
- **Pre-enlargement policy reviews** (including on climate and energy, social and economic governance).

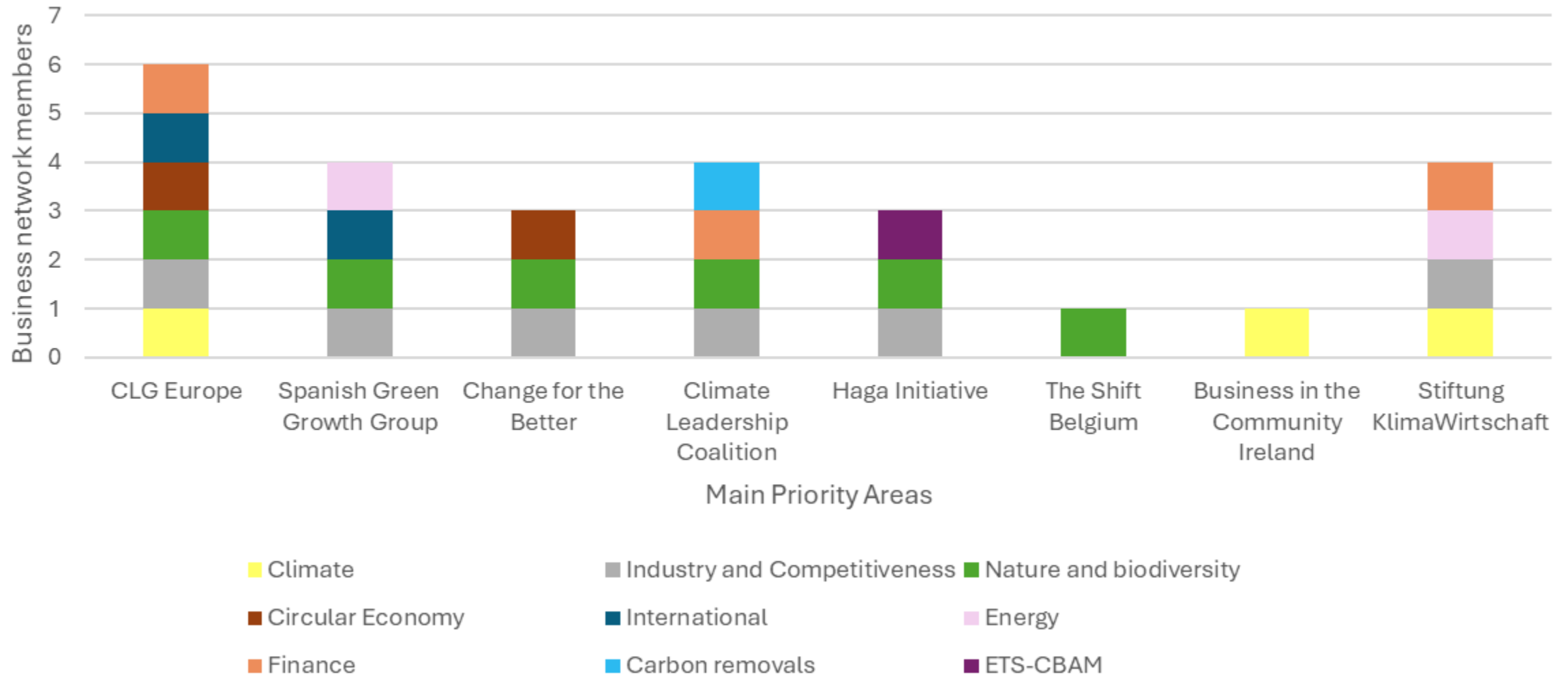
### Opportunities for businesses engagement with the Commission.

- Shape **narratives**.
- Write/meet with relevant **Commissioners' teams:** Ribera, Séjourné, Jorgensen, Hoekstra, Sefcovic, Síkela.
- Engage with relevant **DGs services:** GROW, COMP, ENER, CLIMA, ENV, TRADE, INTPA.
- Participate in process (e.g. **consultations**).

# Plans and cooperation opportunities

# Results of the survey

Results of the survey



EU milestones

- 14 Oct: Environment Council (COP29 position)
- 17-18 October: EU CO
- Nov: Hearings of the Commissioner Designates
- Nov-Dec: New Commission takes office
- Nov-Dec: Release of Commission Work Programme
- 16 December: Energy Council
- 17 December: Environment Council
- 19-20 Dec: EU CO

- 1 January to June: Polish Presidency
- Dec-March: Commission first 100 days
- Q1-2025: proposals within the first 100 days into new European Commission mandate: A new Clean Industrial Deal/Vision for Agriculture and Food
- 2040 climate target policy proposal
- July to December: Danish Presidency
- TBC: Commission proposals on post 2030 policy climate framework

Activities

- June: Business Agenda for the next institutions on priorities of the next institutions
- Since July: Outreach and relationship building with MEPs
- Sept onwards: Positioning and advocacy on strategic priorities of the Commission (climate, industry, energy, nature, finance)
- Sept: Relaunch of the advocacy toolkit
- Sept – Oct: Advocacy targeting Commissioner hearings
- Sept: Statement on Finance
- Nov: Outreach to new Commission
- Nov: Relaunch of the business and investor letter on the 2040 climate target
- 16 Dec: Green Growth Summit

- Jan: Continuation of advocacy on political files including the Clean Industrial Deal and 2040 climate target and Commission Workplan
- Week of 27 January: Event with business networks and representatives of the next institutions

**Thank you!**