

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
THE CHAIR

Bernd Lange
Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs
12G301
Brussels

CONFIDENTIAL

IPOL-COM-AGRI D(2024) 32738

Dear Mr Lange,

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI), in accordance with Rule 129 of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament, held a public confirmation hearing on 4 November 2024 with Christophe Hansen, Commissioner-designate, who, subject to the positive outcome of the nomination procedure, will be responsible for Agriculture and Food.

On 16 October 2024 the AGRI Committee, pursuant to Rule 129 of the Rules of Procedure and Article 2 of Annex VII thereto, received the letter from the Chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs regarding the scrutiny of the declaration of financial interests of Mr Hansen.

Prior to the confirmation hearing, Parliament had sent the Commissioner-designate a list of written questions. My committee noted that Mr Hansen answered those questions in a satisfactory manner.

The course of the confirmation hearing is described in the verbatim transcript of the proceedings.

On the basis of the responses of the Members present at the confirmation hearing, as well as the comments made by my committee's coordinators, who met in camera after the confirmation hearing under my chairmanship and reached the following assessment:

The candidate demonstrated a deep understanding of the issues of relevance to the farming community. As a former Member of the European Parliament, the candidate showed knowledge of the topics of his future portfolio and has worked on them previously both in the Committee on International Trade and as a substitute member of the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety. He is familiar with Parliament's procedures. His long tenure as an MEP testifies to his commitment to the European agenda and his understanding of the role of the Parliament as an interinstitutional player. He confirmed his commitment to the European values, democracy, the rule of law as well as a just and lasting peace in Ukraine.

At the hearing, he presented his messages and ideas clearly and answered questions from the Members.

His statements at the hearing, as well as his personal background, attested that the candidate is capable of handling his future portfolio.

The candidate clearly emphasised his willingness to work closely with the European Parliament.

During the course of the hearing, Mr Hansen made specific commitments regarding his future action as Commissioner, notably:

- to prepare a Vision for Agriculture and Food within the first 100 days of his mandate as a roadmap for future initiatives covering the entire agri-food value chain;
- to explore new business models and opportunities for additional means of income for farmers and foresters, such as bioeconomy, carbon farming, production of renewable energy, and unspent revenues from the Just Transition Fund;
- to develop a strategy for generational renewal;
- to continue working towards external convergence;
- to simplify and modernise the CAP and make it more targeted, especially through redistribution and capping of direct payments;
- to strengthen farmers' trading power through, among other things, targeted review of the Common Organisation of the Markets Regulation whereby strengthening market organisations and proposing new rules on the cross-border enforcement of Unfair Trading Practices Directive;
- to ensure an efficient and effective policy approach to risk management;
- to establish a European land observatory to promote transparency in the land market;
- to see how to ensure the application of our standards by any imports in compliance with WTO rules, to fight for more reciprocity in free trade agreements, notably by inserting mirror clauses;
- to scale up bioeconomy for the benefit of rural communities and promote the use of new technologies;
- to further strengthen the social conditionality;
- to defend the CAP budget and to maximise public investment sources;
- to pursue the EU promotion programme for agriculture and further promote and protect GIs, notably for wine;
- to foster the development of precision farming and biocontrols;
- to acknowledge the need for a more stable and structured arrangement with Ukraine on mutual trade in agri-food products and its gradual penetration into internal market, notably in the context of enlargement;
- to help farmers achieve a water-smart agriculture by feeding in in an overarching water resilience strategy;
- to strive for continued simplification, streamlining and reduction of administrative burden for the agricultural sector;
- to support organic agriculture;
- to enhance the dialogue with the forestry sector;
- to promote the development of rural areas notably in outermost regions;
- to give further attention to emissions in the future CAP, especially in the livestock sector.

Opinions of the committees invited to participate in the hearing are in the annex.

The general outcome of this confirmation hearing is that the Commissioner-designate gave a convincing impression of his aptitude to be a member of the College of Commissioners and to carry out the specific tasks assigned to him.

In accordance with Rule 129 of the Rules of Procedure and Article 5 of Annex VII thereto, the AGRI coordinators representing a large majority of at least two thirds of committee members belonging to a political group approved that the Commissioner-designate Hansen, is qualified both to be a member of the College of Commission and to carry out the specific tasks assigned to him.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Veronika Vrecionová', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Veronika Vrecionová

Annexes: Opinion of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety
 Opinion of the Committee on Fisheries

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety
The Chair

OE/EM/ic
D(2024)32622

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Ms Veronika Vrecionová
Chair of the Committee on Agriculture and
Rural Development

Dear Chair,

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, invited to the confirmation hearing of Commissioner-designate Christophe Hansen, which took place on 4 November 2024, considers that the Commissioner-designate is qualified to be member of the College and is qualified to carry out the particular duties he has been assigned in the field of agriculture and food.

This opinion has been adopted by Coordinators representing at least a simple majority of committee members belonging to a political group.



Antonio Decaro

Cc: Bernd Lange, Chair of CCC

Committee on Fisheries
The Chair

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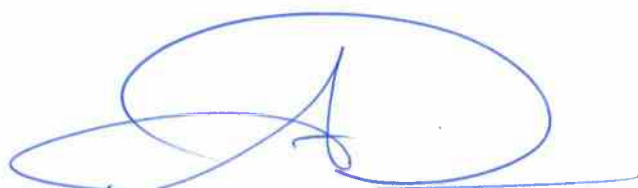
IPOL-COM-PECH D (2024) 32779

Mrs Veronika VRECIONOVÁ
Chair
Committee on Agriculture and Rural
Development
SCHOLL 04U012

Dear Chair,

The Committee on Fisheries, invited to the confirmation hearing of Commissioner-designate Christophe HANSEN, which took place on 4 November 2024, considers that the Commissioner-designate is qualified to be member of the College of Commissioners and is qualified to carry out the particular duties he has been assigned with regard to agriculture and food, in relation to fisheries and aquaculture policies.

This opinion has been adopted by PECH Coordinators by 20 votes in favour, 2 against and 4 abstentions, representing a simple majority (14/26) of committee members belonging to a political group.



Carmen CRESPO DÍAZ

Chair of the Committee on Fisheries