

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND TOURISM
THE CHAIRWOMAN

TRAN/D/2019/35034

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CONFIDENTIAL

Antonio TAJANI
Chair
Conference of Committee Chairs
PHS 08B043

Dear Mr TAJANI,

The Committee on Transport and Tourism, in accordance with Rule 125 of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament, held a public hearing on Thursday 14 November 2019 with Ms Adina-Ioana V lean, Commissioner-designate, who, subject to the positive outcome of the nomination procedure, will be responsible for transport.

On 13 November 2019, the Committee on Transport and Tourism, pursuant to Rule 125 of the Rules of Procedure and Article 2 of Annex VII thereto, received the letter by the JURI Committee regarding the scrutiny of the declaration of financial interests of Ms Adina-Ioana V lean.

Prior to the hearing, Parliament had sent the Commissioner-designate a list of written questions. My committee noted that Ms Adina-Ioana V lean answered those questions satisfactorily.

Ms Adina-Ioana V lean was invited to appear before the Committee on Transport and Tourism on 14 November 2019.

In her opening statement, Ms Adina-Ioana V lean referred to the fact that mobility and transport are the backbone of the Internal Market and that it should be at the core of the European Green Deal. She asked the Members for their support in making transport smart, affordable and fit for a Europe that is sustainable, fair and prosperous. She added that hard efforts to reduce the environmental footprint of mobility and transport activities must serve the citizens and economy. Among her top priorities, she mentioned and briefly described safe and secure transport, clean and sustainable mobility and investment in infrastructure.

The opening statement of Ms Adina-Ioana Vlean was followed by a first round of seven questions from representatives of each political group and a second round of eighteen questions by Members, including also a representative from the non-attached Members.

In her replies, Ms Adina-Ioana Vlean made commitments regarding her future action as Commissioner. In particular, she will:

- J make all modes of transport real contributors to the decarbonisation of Europe to make European economy carbon-neutral by 2050;
- J work to reduce the emissions from aviation, namely by proposing a “basket of measures”, including improving the efficiency of the ATM system, uptake of alternative fuels, investment in multimodality and/or introducing aviation taxation;
- J work towards extending the Emission Trading System to maritime transport and to pursue the EU objectives on emissions reductions within ICAO and IMO;
- J focus on accelerating the uptake of sustainable and alternative fuels infrastructure, including in ports and in aviation;
- J work closely with the Parliament on improving fair labour conditions and gender equality, combat illegal working practices, including in aviation, and work towards up-skilling and training of workers with the use of existing and new EU financial instruments;
- J contribute to the development of an adequate level of protection of passengers against any potential disruptions with a particular focus on the multimodality;
- J defend Parliament’s position on Connecting Europe Facility confirming the TRAN Committee report, and work on completing and modernising infrastructure network towards greater connectivity within Europe, including regional ports and airports in remote areas, while supporting the Eastern European Member States to complete their core and comprehensive networks;
- J focus on the implementation of the 4th railway package and work on the development of the “true European railway area” by improving quality of service, reliability, synergies between other modes and bringing down the costs;
- J propose by the end of 2020 a comprehensive strategy for sustainable and smart mobility and to promote mobility as a service;
- J push to make a fully-developed Single European Sky finally happen, while supporting the Parliament’s position on SES2+ already adopted;

- J help to promote open transport markets, especially with strategic partners and in fast-growing emerging economies, with free, fair and undistorted competition based on regulatory convergence, a level playing field and sustainability;
- J promote progress in negotiations on the so-called Eurovignette Directive with a view to achieve an ambitious outcome that is in line with the “polluter pays” principle and which would also help meeting the EU emission reduction targets for the transport sector ;
- J support the rollout of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) and work to facilitate the development of connected and automated transport solutions respecting the principle of technological neutrality that can increase safety, capacity and sustainability of EU transport;
- J pursue the goal of zero deaths on EU roads by 2050 - “Vision Zero”, namely through the development of infrastructure and modernisation;
- J ensure that the uptake of drones takes place in an adequate framework to bring opportunities for the markets and that EU sets the standards for the rest of the world.

Before the end of the hearing, the Commissioner-designate made a brief closing statement in which she reaffirmed that the rail sector would be a key commitment of her mandate along with the social protection of workers. She further underlined the importance of connectivity of the people from remote areas.

The opinion of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety associated with the hearing is that:

ENVI welcomes that the mission letter to Ms V lean clarifies the lead responsibility of the Executive Vice President for the European Green Deal and the supporting role of the Transport Commissioner with respect to the work on the extension of EU ETS to the maritime sector and the reduction of free allowances for airlines.

ENVI Coordinators representing a majority of Members were of the opinion that additional written questions to the Commissioner-designate were needed and that the answers to the questions in the remit of ENVI provided during the hearing were not satisfactory, precise or conclusive and were also of the opinion that the Commissioner-designate did not convince on the delivery of the European Green Deal.

The EPP and ECR groups considered that the hearing of the Commissioner-designate was satisfactory.

The ID group stated that it was against the appointment of the Commissioner-designate.

The TRAN coordinators representing a majority of two-thirds of the committee membership recognised the general competence, the European commitment and personal independence of the Commissioner-designate, Ms Adina-Ioana Vlean. The general outcome of this hearing is that the Commissioner-designate gave a convincing impression of her aptitude to be a member of the College of Commissioners and of her possession of the necessary personal and professional skills, as well as political determination, to carry out the specific tasks assigned to her.

However, the Committee on Transport and Tourism regrets that there were no specific commitments on proposals on social conditions in transport yet. TRAN Committee is looking forward to a concrete proposal on social security certificate and expects the revision of the Regulation 1008/2008 to include concrete proposals addressing issues such as fictive home bases and other unacceptable practices.

Furthermore, it is of key importance that the Commissioner for Internal Market closely cooperates on tourism with the TRAN Committee.

During the evaluation meeting, the coordinator of the group Greens/EFA requested to include the following aspects, which constitute a minority view:

Greens/EFA supports the ENVI opinion and highlights in particular that the Commissioner-designate has not convincingly demonstrated how she intends to work towards reducing aviation emissions in a comprehensive manner.

In accordance with Rule 125 of the Rules of Procedure and Article 4 of Annex VII thereto, the TRAN coordinators representing a majority of two-thirds of the committee membership approved that the Commissioner-designate, Ms Adina-Ioana Vlean, is qualified both to be a member of the College of Commissioners and to carry out the specific tasks assigned.

Yours sincerely,



Karima Delli
Chairwoman of the Committee on Transport and Tourism