

Members of the Committee on the Internal Market and
Consumer Protection (IMCO)
European Parliament
60 rue Wiertz
Brussels 1047

Brussels, 10 October 2024

Dear Member of the IMCO Committee,

The upcoming hearings of the Commissioners-designate provide an opportunity for Members of the European Parliament to put boosting the EU economy and its attractiveness for investment at the top of the political agenda. As the voice for more than 160 American companies committed to Europe on trade, investment and competitiveness issues, the American Chamber of Commerce to the EU (AmCham EU) has a vital interest in ensuring that the EU's competitiveness ambitions are translated into actionable policies.

AmCham EU's internal committees and taskforces, composed of American company representatives invested in Europe and staunchly supportive of the Single Market, have identified several key questions for the European Parliament's upcoming confirmation hearings of the Commissioners-designate. The following questions are designed to elicit concrete strategies to embed competitiveness in their respective portfolios and guide the evaluation of candidates at the hearings for which the IMCO Committee is jointly responsible:

Executive Vice-President Henna Virkkunen (Finland)

- **Unified artificial intelligence (AI) ecosystem and the role of non-EU companies:** How would you ensure that AI factories, along with programmes like the AI Testing and Experimentation Facilities (TEFs), harness Europe's supercomputing capabilities to develop advanced generative AI models using European-curated data, while also ensuring these remain inclusive and open environments that attract investment and talent from non-EU companies?
- **European Defence Union:** How would you strengthen the European Defence and Technological Industrial Base and achieve greater strategic autonomy while also avoiding protectionist measures that could make the EU an unfavourable environment for critical foreign investments and undermine both European security and the competitiveness of industry?
- **Clarity of enforcement:** What resources would you allocate to effectively implement the digital legislation passed in the last mandate? How would you ensure that new regulatory proposals, such as the Digital Fairness Act (mentioned in the Mission Letter for the Commissioner for Democracy, Justice and the Rule of Law) do not overlap or conflict with the implementation of legislation such as the Digital Services Act?
- **Data Union strategy:** How would you harmonise regulations across Member States and avoid conflicting rules while fostering innovation in highly regulated sectors?

Executive Vice-President Stéphane Séjourné (France)

- **Clean Industrial Deal:** How can Europe move towards decarbonisation without altering the competitive situation of key EU industries, which could potentially result in further deindustrialisation?

- **European preference:** Is it strategic to implement public procurement reforms that include a European preference principle, when Europe can depend on strategic products and technologies supplied by American companies that are committed to Europe and the Single Market?
- **Enhancing the Single Market and reducing barriers:** How specifically would you enhance the internal market, stimulate innovation and remove onerous administrative requirements to facilitate the deployment of sustainable technologies enabling the energy transition?
- **The digital single market and innovation:** How would you balance implementing the complex digital legislation introduced in the last mandate with fostering innovation to ensure Europe remains competitive in the global artificial intelligence race?

Michael McGrath (Ireland)

- **Fairness and certainty in enforcement:** How would you ensure that all existing EU consumer protection regulations are clear, enforceable and consistently applied across Member States? How would you enforce legislation uniformly and without discrimination against non-EU companies operating in Europe, while ensuring that the Commission has sufficient resources for implementation and enforcement?
- **Digital Fairness Act:** How would you ensure that the proposed Digital Fairness Act would not overlap with areas already regulated by a future Digital Services Act?
- **Bringing transparency to litigation funding:** Would you follow [the European Parliament's 2022 recommendation](#) to regulate the third-party litigation funding industry, bring transparency and oversight to the litigation funding sector and protect business and consumers from the development of a toxic class action litigation culture in the EU?

We hope these questions will contribute to a robust and constructive dialogue during the hearings. AmCham EU remains at your disposal for any further information.



Roger Coelho
Senior Policy Director
AmCham EU