

ANSWERS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE
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Commissioner-designate for Crisis Management

1. General competence, European commitment and personal independence

What aspects of your personal qualifications and experience are particularly relevant for becoming Commissioner and promoting the European general interest, particularly in the area you would be responsible for? What motivates you? How will you contribute to putting forward the strategic agenda of the Commission? How will you implement gender mainstreaming and integrate a gender perspective into all policy areas of your portfolio?

What guarantees of independence are you able to give the European Parliament, and how would you make sure that any past, current or future activities you carry out could not cast doubt on the performance of your duties within the Commission?

I have been privileged to work for over a quarter of a century on promoting European values, stability, peace and democracy. Most of this time I worked very closely with the EU institutions. For the past three years, I have been Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia to the EU. Earlier, I served as State Secretary for European Affairs under four different governments. In that role, I also headed the Government Office for European Affairs and during the Slovenian presidency in 2008, I coordinated the work of all government departments. Through this experience, I had the privilege to represent the Council in the European Parliament and have fond memories of my exchanges with the Honourable Members during thematic debates and the question time. In doing so, I represented a general and not particular national interest and gained an understanding of the value of transparent and respectful relationship between the two institutions.

I also have strong track record in working on human rights and defence of democracy and democratic values. I was Slovenia's representative to the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and chaired its permanent council in 2005 helping to bridge the East-West differences on many issues. Later I served two full terms as Director of its Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights where I oversaw the work of over 150 dedicated women and men providing support to governments and civil society in their efforts to promote democracy, rule of law, human rights, tolerance and non-discrimination, from Vancouver to Vladivostok. In this capacity, I have regularly worked with the European Parliament, notably in the area of promoting democratic elections worldwide.

Last but not least, I had the privilege of taking part in the work of Convention on the Future of Europe in 2002 and 2003, where I worked together with many brilliant women and men to set a direction for the future of the EU. I am keen to bring to the work of this Commission the experience I gained from taking part in the work of Convention on the Future of Europe in 2002 and 2003. I am therefore looking forward to use this experience to contribute to the discussions concerning the upcoming Conference on the Future of Europe.

I believe that my qualifications and professional experience will help me to contribute to the European general interest and to deliver on the Union's priorities together with the President and the College as a whole.

What motivates you?

The fact that in our modern, connected and technologically advanced world, nearly 130 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance is an aberration. Throughout the world, including here in Europe, millions of people's lives and livelihoods are already at risk from natural disasters, and this situation will only be made much worse by climate crisis. The range of challenges we face calls more than ever for integrated approaches that pool the resources and expertise from a large number of different policy communities and stakeholders. I welcome the opportunity to be part of efforts to further develop the EU response to these challenges, working together closely with fellow Commissioners. When I look back in five years, I would want to see that we made the difference, that we left behind us less suffering and more resilient societies, communities and individuals; a healthier and more resilient natural environment; and Europeans that believe in the future.

How will you contribute to putting forward the strategic agenda of the Commission?

Humanitarian aid is central to Europe's response to crises and disasters, it helps victims, stabilises host societies, displays European leadership, and builds coalitions based on European values. I will work with the High Representative/ Vice-President and other Commissioners on developing an integrated approach, ensuring that humanitarian, development, security and other policies such as climate and environment all work together. This is needed in order to better link urgent relief and longer-term solutions to more and more protracted and severe crises and to make sure we are effective and efficient in delivering aid. We need to ensure that assistance is adapted to the needs of specific beneficiaries including women and children, who are particularly vulnerable in crisis situations.

I will oversee the coordinated action in crisis response and management. In particular, I will lead on strengthening the Emergency Response Coordination Centre's role as the single operational hub managing the EU's swift and effective response to a broad range of crises at home and around the world. I will look at how the Emergency Response Coordination Centre can be even better prepared to react swiftly and effectively to new and emerging threats, including high-impact, low-probability emergencies, drawing on the specialised capacities.

I will also look at how Europe can better prevent and prepare for emergency situations. I intend to work closely with my colleagues responsible for environment, oceans, climate and all portfolios including investments in Europe and abroad, on making sure we reverse the environmental and climate crisis and enhance the resilience of our natural environment and of

our societies. I will support Member States in developing national and local disaster risk strategies, if not already in place, and improving access to early warning systems.

I will work with the Member States to ensure we have the right number and the right type of assets in order to make use of the full potential of the newly enhanced EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

I therefore intend to contribute across the range of priorities set out by the President-elect, and feel I can make particular contributions to a Stronger Europe in the World and a European Green Deal.

How will you implement gender mainstreaming and integrate a gender perspective into all policy areas of your portfolio?

In accordance with the provisions of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, I am committed to aim to eliminate inequalities and to promote equality between men and women in all its activities under my responsibility. I will follow the example of President-elect von der Leyen who has put gender equality high on her agenda and committed to forming a fully gender-balanced team and I intend to apply the same principle when I form my cabinet.

In my work, I shall fully subscribe to the No-Women-No-Panel initiative launched in March 2018. I will build on efforts the European Union has already made to meet the needs of girls and women in both humanitarian and in emergency response and further enhance them.

What guarantees of independence are you able to give the European Parliament and how would you make sure that any past, current or future activities you carry out could not cast doubt on the performance of your duties within the commission?

I commit to fully comply, as soon as I am appointed, with the Treaty obligations on independence, transparency, impartiality and availability, as defined in Article 17(3) of the Treaty on European Union and in Article 245 of the Treaty on the Functioning of European Union.

If I am confirmed, I will scrupulously adhere in particular to the obligation to act in the European interest and not to take any instructions from any government or any other entity. I will also diligently honour the Code of Conduct of Members of the European Commission and its provisions on conflicts of interest. My Declaration of Interests is complete and accessible to the public, and I will update it rapidly should any change be required.

2. Management of the portfolio and cooperation with the European Parliament

How would you assess your role as a Member of the College of Commissioners?

First and foremost I intend to act as a committed member of the College. I firmly believe in the Commission acting as a collegiate body where all Members can and will contribute to delivering in a joined-up manner and where discussion and debate lead to good and transparent decisions in the interest of European citizens.

As Commissioner for Crisis Management, I see my role both as leading the humanitarian aid and civil protection work of the Commission and having a coordinating role when it comes to crisis management more broadly, while of course working closely with the President, the High Representative / Vice-President and other Commissioners.

There will be crises where we will need to mobilise different instruments, both internal and external, to respond swiftly and effectively. The Ebola outbreak, the crises in Syria or the Sahel are just a few examples that demonstrate how important this is. To address them effectively, we need to quickly deploy humanitarian aid to save lives. Alongside, we need to design and effectively manage development assistance to help with medium and long term challenges. Last, but not least, we also need to work with our international partners to address the root causes of crises. As the EU Emergency Response Coordinator, I see my role as coordinating and overseeing a quick and effective European response to an immediate crisis using all available instruments and working towards bringing together all relevant policies and actions for dealing with their medium and long term consequences and for preventing them in the first place. To this end, I intend to work closely with other Commissioners when we are responding to a crisis and will work with the entire College to come to a joined up view on how to ensure effective disaster preparedness in general, also in the context of our individual and collective efforts to ensure the delivery of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

I find it particularly important to work closely with colleagues responsible for prevention and adaptation to climate change and environment and oceans.

I will work closely with the High Representative/ Vice-President and other external relations Commissioners to ensure complementarity among our actions to ensure we work in a joined-up way, effectively and efficiently, and projecting a strong EU on the global stage. I also count on their support for my firm commitment to uphold the specific objectives and principles of humanitarian aid, notably its neutrality, impartiality and independence from political, economic, military or other objectives. My aim will also be to leverage, wherever needed and possible, EU diplomatic weight to advocate for the respect of International Humanitarian Law, especially the safety of humanitarian workers and unimpeded humanitarian access.

In what respect would you consider yourself responsible and accountable to the Parliament for your actions and for those of your departments?

Engagement with the European Parliament is very important to me. I see my work as a continuous dialogue with you and, if confirmed, I will be at your disposal to regularly report on my activities and those of my department. I intend to base myself on the guiding principles of openness, mutual trust, efficiency and regular exchange of information. I will seek to have regular dialogue meetings with the Parliament's Committees and in line with President-elect Von der Leyen's Political Guidelines. I will make myself available to take part in all other relevant meetings of committees and trilogue discussions. I will ensure that relevant committees are involved in any major developments under my responsibility.

What specific commitments are you prepared to make in terms of enhanced transparency, increased cooperation and effective follow-up to Parliament's positions and requests for legislative initiatives? In relation to planned initiatives or ongoing

procedures, are you ready to provide the Parliament with information and documents on an equal footing with the Council?

I am committed to greater transparency in the EU's legislative work and intend to fully implement the provisions of the Framework Agreement on relations between the European Parliament and the Commission and the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-making.

I also commit to basing the relations with services under my responsibility on the principles of loyalty, trust, transparency, a two-way flow of information, and mutual assistance. Specifically, I will ensure a regular flow of information with the Chair of relevant parliamentary committees, directly communicate with committee members, and ensure that I am available for bilateral meetings. I will also ensure that the European Parliament is regularly briefed, notably before major events and at key stages of international negotiations in areas under my responsibility.

President-elect von der Leyen supports a right of initiative for the European Parliament. She committed that her Commission will follow-up on Parliamentary resolutions adopted by a majority of its members with a legislative act, in full respect of proportionality, subsidiarity and better law-making principles. I fully subscribe to this objective. As part of the next College's commitment to a deepened partnership with the European Parliament, I will work hand in hand with Parliament at every stage in debating resolutions under Article 225 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). I commit to working closely with the relevant parliamentary committees, and be active and present during the preparation of Article 225 TFEU resolutions. I strongly believe that this will improve dialogue, foster confidence and a sense of working together towards a common goal.

I am fully aware that the provision of information and documents is an essential aspect of deepening the partnership between the European Parliament and the Commission. I therefore commit to fully implement the relevant provisions of the Framework Agreement between the two institutions, and of the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making. The Lisbon Treaty sets out the equality of Parliament and Council as co-legislators, and I will ensure that this is respected in terms of how information is shared in areas under my responsibility, i.e. at the same time as and on an equal footing with the Council, whenever these institutions' competences are equal.

Questions from the Committee on Development

1. Humanitarian aid and crisis management

The global context has seen rapidly growing humanitarian needs, largely because of conflicts but also due to the impact of natural disasters, and as “crises become more severe, more complex and more protracted”. In parallel, developments in the EU's external action have advocated for stronger complementarity, coherence and consistency among external policies. Your mission letter requests you to “work with other Commissioners on developing an integrated approach, ensuring that humanitarian, development, security and other policies all work together to better link urgent relief and longer-term solutions”.

What do you consider to be the main challenges for humanitarian aid in the next five years and how will you, as Commissioner, work to address these and to ensure that the EU's humanitarian aid remains a separate policy field, guided by needs and the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, and not driven by foreign policy objectives?

Three overarching challenges stand out when I look at the landscape in which humanitarian aid and crisis management will operate in the next five years.

First, man-made disasters are longer, more complex, and affect the EU more directly. Protracted crises have become the norm, with humanitarian crises now lasting nine years on average. Many conflicts have dramatic regional repercussions, with knock-on effects on access to humanitarian aid, protection of affected populations and security of humanitarian workers, in blatant disrespect of International Humanitarian Law. Humanitarian crises also occur more frequently in EU's neighbourhood, for example in Ukraine or Libya, which have direct impact on the EU, such as the forced displacement and irregular migration from Syria, Afghanistan or Iraq. Consequently, the number of people who need humanitarian assistance is increasing continuously. The funding required to cover these needs is estimated at nearly EUR 20 billion annually. Since the EU is one of the top humanitarian donors and emergency responders, the challenges will be to do more for more people, and to use the available resources more efficiently.

Second, natural disasters are increasing in intensity and scope due to climate change. Hurricane Dorian, droughts in the Horn of Africa, or floods in Iran are a few examples of such disasters. The human cost of natural disasters in the last decade is assessed at 67,000 deaths per year, with additionally nearly 70 million people injured, left homeless or in need of emergency assistance. Europe is not spared. Since 2010, natural disasters have caused on average each year over EUR 13 billion of damage in Europe alone. The fact that Northern European countries witnessed persistent dry conditions leading to raging forest fires for two consecutive years is a stark reminder that climate change is transforming risk patterns at an accelerated pace. This strengthens the case for the European Green Deal, helping mitigate climate change at home and abroad, but also making sure that societies are more resilient and better able to adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change.

Third, the number of people forced to flee their homes is the highest since World War II. Over 70 million people are today forcibly displaced. Thirty-one people are newly displaced every minute of the day. While conflicts are still the main source of displacement, climate change increasingly forces people to flee their homes because of decreasing natural resources, limited livelihood opportunities and exacerbated food insecurity.

If no action is taken, by 2050, there will be more than 140 million internally displaced people in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Latin America. While 85% of all displaced people are hosted in developing countries, some of the refugees and migrants make their way to the EU escaping persecution, difficult conditions in countries of asylum, or in search of economic opportunities and a better life.

Against this backdrop, in my work as Commissioner for Crisis Management, responsible inter alia for humanitarian aid, I will pursue three key objectives:

First, since humanitarian aid cannot and should not be a substitute for a political solution to a conflict, I will work closely with my counterparts in the foreign policy, development, neighbourhood and security portfolios to ensure that all aspects of a crisis are addressed in a coherent and joined-up way. As indicated in the President-elect's mission letter, I will promote an integrated approach, ensuring that humanitarian, development, security and other policies work together to better link urgent relief and longer-term solutions, while simultaneously upholding the principles of humanitarian aid.

At the same time, I will proactively – and in close cooperation with the High Representative / Vice President and external relations Commissioners – accelerate our work on making the nexus between humanitarian aid, development and security deliver on the ground in an effective and efficient manner, involving all relevant stakeholders. In this, I will give particular attention to the need for climate change adaptation, strengthening the resilience and preparedness of vulnerable communities and enhancing our early warning capabilities.

Second, I will firmly advocate for EU humanitarian aid to be delivered in accordance with International Humanitarian Law and the humanitarian principles. The Commission's experience clearly shows that respecting International Humanitarian Law and humanitarian principles is an operational necessity helping to provide access to assistance, to protect the most vulnerable and to ensure the security of humanitarian workers. This is non-negotiable: we owe it to the humanitarian workers who are risking their lives on a daily basis to deliver assistance to people in need. Linked to that, I will speak up when serious violations of International Humanitarian Law occur. I will support organisations that promote International Humanitarian Law among belligerents on the ground and help disseminate its principles within both national militaries and non-State armed groups. I will also work with my colleagues in the College to mainstream International Humanitarian Law as much as possible into our external funding instruments beyond humanitarian aid – such as the capacity building for security and development performed under our development policy, or the proposed European Peace Facility. I will also facilitate work on lessons learnt and best practices so that we can improve, based on what works best in the field. I will champion the protection as well as the safety and security of humanitarian workers through continued advocacy at the global level – in multilateral fora and in bilateral contacts.

Third, I will strive to ensure that our emergency response and humanitarian aid efforts are further strengthened. This is indispensable if Europe is to continue to play a major role in helping people in need. I wish to work closely with the European Parliament on this, not only because of its competencies in the EU budgetary matters, but also because the citizens of Europe – whom you represent – have the right to see the tangible impact that humanitarian aid has on the ground – something that nearly 90% of EU citizens strongly support. We owe it to our citizens, as well as to the people we support in humanitarian crises, to demonstrate that every Euro that comes from the EU budget for that purpose is spent as efficiently and effectively as possible.

2. Protection of civilians / International Humanitarian Law

Your mission letter clearly stresses that “Europe must be a strong global advocate in support of international humanitarian law” (IHL). It is clear that access to vulnerable

populations and security for aid workers are both essential for the effective delivery of humanitarian aid. IHL violations and deliberate targeting of civilians and civilian assets are strong features of conflicts and crises today, and are becoming more common.

In this context of complex crises, what concrete steps will you as Commissioner take to ensure that states and armed non-state actors comply with IHL and to ensure the protection of civilians - notably vulnerable groups such as girls and women - as well as continuing to insist on the importance of securing safe access for humanitarian workers to crisis-affected people?

Promoting respect for International Humanitarian Law, protecting vulnerable groups –notably girls and women – and securing humanitarian access is more crucial than ever in the context of conflicts we are witnessing today. This is an area in which I will work closely with the High Representative / Vice-President.

In particular, as Commissioner for Crisis Management I intend to focus on the following:

First, I will speak up consistently and forcefully whenever International Humanitarian Law is violated. While defending International Humanitarian Law, I will engage with all parties that may have direct leverage on the conflict. I will also champion the protection, safety and security of humanitarian and health care workers through continued advocacy at the global level promoting International Humanitarian Law at the United Nations and other international fora, as well as in bilateral dialogues with key third countries and Member States.

Second, through our humanitarian aid funding, I will continue to support those organisations that are able to work directly with armed actors on the ground to spread awareness of and promote adherence to International Humanitarian Law, and to support their work in preventing sexual and gender-based violence - whether such actors are national armed forces or non-state armed groups.

Third, I will work closely with the High Representative / Vice President, encouraging and supporting the consistent inclusion of International Humanitarian Law and gender training in the work of all relevant Common Security and Defence Policy missions and operations. Likewise, I will promote International Humanitarian Law and the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence through the broader support the EU provides in the security sectors of a number of conflict-affected or conflict-prone countries, notably through the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace, the African Peace Facility, and the future European Peace Facility.

I want to make the promotion of International Humanitarian Law, including highlighting serious violations when they occur, a regular and central issue in contacts with Member States and third countries. I intend to regularly report to European Parliament on this engagement.

3. Implementation of Grand Bargain and World Humanitarian Summit commitments

In 2016, as part of the first-ever World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), the EU and its Member States made important commitments to work to reduce needs and reshape the

humanitarian aid system. Furthermore, the European Commission – alongside some of the most important donor countries, aid organisations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) – was also signatory to a ‘Grand Bargain’ outlining 51 separate commitments to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of international humanitarian aid.

As Commissioner, how will you ensure that the EU and its Member States implement the commitments made at the WHS, and ensure that the Commission delivers on its Grand Bargain commitments (including, inter alia, supporting more multi-year planning and funding of humanitarian aid, simplifying humanitarian funding, or supporting local and national respondents)?

As Commissioner for Crisis Management, I will ensure that the WHS and the Grand Bargain commitments continue to be implemented, focusing in particular on the following key areas:

Firstly, I will build on the progress already made towards greater aid efficiency and effectiveness. This means ensuring systematic application of innovative approaches in humanitarian aid delivery, including through further increases of cash transfers, improved logistics strategies and greater use of digital solutions. It also means a much more extensive implementation of the humanitarian-development nexus as well as the rollout of the tools that are available for effective and coordinated needs assessments and analyses, which the EU played a major role in developing under the Grand Bargain.

Secondly, I will set an example for efficient donorship by moving towards more strategic multi-annual support to humanitarian aid organisations. In this respect, I will promote additional pilot partnerships with a number of humanitarian partners to operationalise the main Grand Bargain commitments, whilst ensuring high standards of control and assurance on the use of EU funds. Moreover, I will ensure that the upcoming major periodic review of the Commission's Framework Partnership Agreement with humanitarian NGO partners has a stronger focus on operational performance, thereby positively impacting efficiency and effectiveness in line with Grand Bargain commitments.

Thirdly, I will help to support local and national responders by, for instance, advocating for national and local disaster risk reduction strategies, as well as local early action systems, promoting inclusion of local organisations in country coordination mechanisms and supporting local actors as implementing organisations of EU humanitarian partners.

Finally, whenever possible, I will increase the use of risk-informed programming and forecast-based financing in order to prioritise evidence-based preparedness and early action. In this respect, I will build on the strong progress made towards inclusion of disaster preparedness activities in EU-funded humanitarian projects.

To maximise the amount of funding directly reaching people in need, I will promote common positions together with EU Member States and other donors on major strategic and efficiency issues, such as reduction of administrative and support costs, streamlining of mandates, and enhanced synergies between aid organisations.

4. Resilience, climate change and Disaster Risk Reduction

Climate change is one of the major global challenges for humanity in the 21st century, as it threatens to overwhelm the current capacity of the humanitarian system to respond effectively by increasing hazards, vulnerabilities and response costs. Against

this background, it is of utmost importance to adapt and scale-up local disaster risk reduction (DRR) efforts to incorporate risks, including climate-related ones, into humanitarian, recovery and development actions in a better way.

As Commissioner, what measures do you intend to take to bridge the gap between the EU's humanitarian aid and development instruments and actors, in order to build local resilience – notably to climate change – and support community-based mechanisms that incorporate DRR and emergency preparedness, to promote risk-informed policies and ensure the effective use of EU assistance?

There is no denying that climate change has led to an increase in the intensity and complexity of natural disasters. Scientific evidence confirms that even if global warming can be limited to 1.5-2 degrees, significant impacts will be felt across the globe.

Natural hazards are often predictable and recurrent. Building on the EU's development, climate change and environmental policies, the EU should ensure that these hazards do not turn into disasters by putting more focus on prevention, preparedness and climate adaptation. Investing in these areas not only saves lives, but also pays off economically: one euro spent on prevention saves three to seven euro that would need to go towards response operations.

At the same time, we should expect more extreme weather events (e.g. tropical cyclones, floods and droughts) as well as an increase in vector-borne diseases, such as malaria or dengue fever. This, in turn, is likely to exacerbate the humanitarian challenges faced in a number of countries and regions across the globe: the Sahel, the Horn of Africa and Afghanistan, to name just a few. In particular, challenges are likely to stem from greater food insecurity, water scarcity and changing rainfall patterns, as well as disasters hitting in rapid succession and/or in areas not previously prone to such events (e.g. cyclones Idai and Kenneth in Mozambique). The humanitarian system alone cannot address the needs stemming from such challenges. It is clear that humanitarian aid cannot replace long-term political and development solutions that people in crises so desperately need. Therefore, building resilience means using all existing instruments in a more complementary way, in line with the integrated approach called for in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

At home, the European Union has already gained valuable experience in combining its policies on disaster prevention and risk management. Climate, environment, cohesion and regional development, agriculture and rural development, research and innovation policies need to work together to ensure prevention and preparedness are part of our broader strategy to adapt to climate change and mitigate it. I commit to work closely with my fellow Commissioners responsible for these policies to identify integrated approaches and coordinate instruments available to support them. This includes supporting cost-effective nature-based solutions to reduce disaster risk and build resilience, such as for flood and coastal protection, water management and food security as part of the European Green Deal. I will also deliver on building an emergency management knowledge network to improve the EU's activities during every phase of the disaster management cycle (prevention, preparedness and response), share knowledge, stimulate research, innovation and build a common disaster prevention and preparedness culture. Finally, through evidence-based policies, we can do even more to increase sustainable investment and provide practical support to partners in order to achieve an optimal level of prevention and preparedness.

In the humanitarian context, it is essential to increase the resilience of vulnerable communities and their preparedness in the face of shocks and stresses. In order to achieve the objectives mentioned by the European Parliament, the EU will need to systematically apply the humanitarian-development nexus approach launched in 2017 and strengthened in 2018.

I will promote actions that remain context specific, are based on informed analyses of risks, underlying causes and resilience factors, and are assessed jointly by the humanitarian and development actors.

Together with the Commissioner for International Partnerships, I will also seek to maximise complementarities and synergies of the existing humanitarian and development instruments, so that they can better contribute to ending crises by strengthening local resilience, supporting community-based mechanisms and promoting development. In this context, I will do my utmost to incorporate resilience in all our action, and I will enhance EU cooperation with multilateral and bilateral partners in this area. It goes without saying that a clear division of labour guarantees compliance with the mandate and sensitivities of both humanitarian aid and development cooperation.

5. European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid

The relevance of the 2007 European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid (agreed by Commission, Parliament and Council) was confirmed by your predecessor on the occasion of its 10th anniversary.

Could you reconfirm the validity of the Consensus as a guiding document for EU Humanitarian Aid, outline what concrete measures you intend to take to ensure its effective implementation by the EU and its Member States, and explain what role you foresee for Parliament in monitoring this implementation?

I confirm that the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid remains the guiding framework for the EU's Humanitarian Aid. Over the past decade, it consolidated the commitments of EU Institutions and Member States to provide a principled EU response to humanitarian crises. It has served as the reference document and has since been reflected in relevant legal and policy acts adopted at the EU level. The implementation of the Consensus has resulted in improved quality of EU humanitarian aid, greater coordination between the EU and its Member States, and increased coherence between humanitarian and development efforts. I will thus seek that the validity of the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid is reconfirmed at political level, and in the context of today's humanitarian challenges.

Beyond the political level endorsement, it is important that all parties to the Consensus remain committed to ensuring its translation into concrete actions on the ground, benefitting people in need. I will defend the implementation of the Consensus through concrete actions ensuring that: firstly, the **EU delivers better** by focussing on a number of policy priorities, such as forced displacement, International Humanitarian Law or the impact of climate change; secondly, the **EU delivers as one** through an integrated and nexus approaches, as well as by greater coordination with Member States; thirdly, the **EU delivers more** through the EU humanitarian aid budget, other EU tools (such as the resilience component of the Neighbourhood and Development Cooperation Instrument), and closer coordination of funding and division of labour with Member States. All these should maximise the EU's collective impact on the ground and benefit people in need.

The European Parliament has been playing a significant role in emphasizing the importance of the Consensus and advocating for its effective implementation. I will propose to the European Parliament to present yearly updates on the implementation of the Consensus during a dedicated Structured Dialogue.