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# Migration Platforms of the New European Commission

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November 2019

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Konsorcium nevládních organizací  
pracujících s migranty

# Ursula von der Leyen, President of the EU Commission

Newly elected President of the EU Commission, Ursula von der Leyen calls for a more comprehensive approach to migration. Her plan includes measures to increase partnership and cooperation between countries of origin, transit, and destination, in order to create a clear and legal system for labor migration in Europe.

President von der Leyen claims that she will propose a "New Pact on Migration and Asylum." This plan will readdress and reform the Dublin system, creating new ways of burden sharing. Along with increasing the funding for Frontex boarder guards, von der Leyen hopes to increase development measures in home countries to reduce push factors that send refugees and asylum seekers to Europe.

Read, "[A Union that strives for more: My agenda for Europe](#)" by Ursula von der leyen [here](#).

*„We need to allay the legitimate concerns of many and look at how we can overcome our differences. We need a new way of burden sharing, we need a fresh start.“*

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## Ylva Johansson, Home Affairs

Commissioner Ylva Johansson is tasked with leading the Directorate General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME) and will thus exercise the most control over the migration space in the European Commission. Johansson is responsible for developing the proposal for President von der Leyen's "New Pact on Migration and Asylum." Other responsibilities include reforming the asylum system, fighting human trafficking and smuggling rings, and supporting Frontex operations. In her mission letter, President von der Leyen emphasized that Johansson's focus should be on ensuring legal pathways to resident status in the European Union for refugees and labor migrants, as well as developing cooperative relationships between countries of origin and transit.

Read Commissioner Ylva Johansson's mission letter [here](#).

### Johansson's main tasks include:

- Relaunching the reform of asylum rules
- Closing loopholes between asylum and return rules
- Working on a new search and rescue approach
- Ensuring genuine legal pathways to the European Union
- Developing stronger cooperation within EU-member and non-EU-member states
- Fighting against human trafficking and smuggling

- Reinforcing European border and coast guard security
- Restoring the functionality of the Schengen Area of free movement

### **Johansson: „No New Proposals in First 100 Days“:**

In a meeting with MEPs in the civil liberties committee, Ylva Johansson, former Swedish minister, explained her plans for her time as Commissioner. Johansson made it clear that her priority would be to create a new pact on migration and asylum, as outlined in her mission letter. However, Johansson was unable to note any specific changes she hoped to see codified. Johansson explained that she would not be making any new proposals at the beginning of her time in office, and would instead focus on dialogue and communication with states' representatives. Johansson did, however, note that stalled EU asylum pact discussions were related to internal border controls that have come in conflict with the freedom of movement in the Schengen area.

Read the full article [here](#) (Nielson, 2019).

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## **Margaritis Schinas, Promotion of Our European Way of Life**

After much debate and backlash regarding the naming of the Commissioner for "the Protection of Our European Way of Life", Parliamentary groups including the social democrats, ecologists, and liberals of RENEW called for a change in the name. The European Parliament announced on Wednesday (11.13.19) that the name would be changed from "Protection" to "Promotion".

Read news coverage of the announcement [here](#) (Sneider, 2019).

The new portfolio for Promoting our European Way of Life, will be supported by Greece's new commissioner, Margaritis Schinas. The portfolio includes issues of policy relating to migration, security, education, and employment.

According to analysts Benedicte Goderiaux and Lucia Montanaro, Vice President designate Margaritis Schinas has the opportunity to use his position in "Promoting Our European Way of Life" to reintroduce EU values of peace, sustainable development, and human rights to prevailing migration policy. Rather than focusing on security and allowing individual states to combat irregular migration in the long-term, Schinas can introduce policies that are inclusive and welcoming (Goderiaux & Montanaro, 2019).

Read Commissioner Margaritis Schinas' mission letter [here](#).

### **Schinas' main tasks include:**

- Finding common ground on migration
- Working on the "New Pact on Migration"
- Creating pathways to legal migration

- Ensuring the coherence of the external and internal dimensions of migration
- Working to better link the EU's work on internal and external security
- Focusing on education, labour mobility and integration, as well as on fairness and equality
- Building a Union of equality and diversity
- Making education more accessible and inclusive
- Sustainable Migration Policy Main Priority for New Commission

**„Sustainable Migration Policy Main Priority for New Commission“:**

In a message to the 2019 Thessaloniki Summit, Margaritis Schinas noted that sustainable, coherent, and integrated refugee and migratio policy is a central aim of the new European Commission. Noting that Europe will always be a desirable destination region, Schinas explained that the EU will continue to protect the oppressed, while ensuring that those not entitled to the benefits of EU residency will be returned. Particular areas of policy development cited by Schinas include border management, completion of the common European asylum policy, and improved measures for integration.

Read the full article [here](#) (Ekathimerini, 2019).

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## **Jutta Urpilainen, International Partnerships**

Finnish Commssioner-designate for International Partnerships, Jutta Urpilainen is tasked with building sustainable relationships with non-EU member states. Commissioner Upilainen's mission is to maintain the EU's leadership role in international development, a well as ensuring that the vision of partnership and cooperation is changing commensurate with the signs of the times.

Read Jutta Urpilainen's mission letter [here](#).

**Urpilainen's main tasks include:**

- Supporting efforts to reach partnerships with countries of migration origin and transit
  - Adapting bilateral funding to achieve objectives on migration management
  - Supporting civil society around the world
  - Ensuring that the full potential of the External Investment Plan is utilized
  - Building a new comprehensive strategy for Africa based on the current EU-Africa Sustainable Alliance
  - Concluding negotiations for a post-Cotonou agreement
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# Analysis: “Roadmap for the New European Leadership“

In an [analysis of the new leadership in the European Commission](#), the Center for Global Development outlined four ways for managing migration in the medium to long term. The organization emphasizes that in order for reforms to be meaningful, they must expand opportunities for workers, include comprehensive partnership agreements, and plans for readmission and returns. The Global Skill Partnership is promoted as a part of this agenda, as it seeks to improve the relationship between home and destination countries through sharing the burden of training workers. Finally, the organization calls for a reevaluation of rhetoric and policy, ensuring that Europe is a "positive voice" for issues of migration.

**The Center for Global Development's four ways to create new partnerships and manage migration beneficially include:**

1. Create and promote new kinds of legal labour migration pathways
2. Pilot and scale Global Skill Partnership projects between Europe and sub-Saharan Africa
3. Pilot Global Skill Partnership projects within Africa
4. Be a positive voice for migration within Europe

Read the full article [here](#) (Center for Global Development, 2019).

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