



## Corporate content on communication for outreach networks

European Commission, Directorate General for Communication, unit C.4

### To keep you in the big picture

#### Next Commission: from President-designate to President-elect

We think it's useful to start today's edition with the [statement](#) and [political guidelines](#) of **Ursula von der Leyen** before the European Parliament during her election as next Commission President. The statement and the guidelines for the next Commission provide insight into the EU's priorities and strategic direction for the next five years. Let us focus on some of the main headings of the guidelines.

The Guidelines start with the **New plan for Europe's sustainable prosperity and competitiveness**. With this plan the President charts a course to make business easier, get a *Clean Industrial Deal* and boost productivity with digital tech diffusion.

In the second heading you will find out a wide array of proposals for a **New era for European Defence and Security** – pointing at the construction of a veritable *Defence Union* and a *Preparedness Union*. This part also gives a vision on *migration* and management of EU external borders.

The Political Guidelines then turn to **Supporting people, strengthening our societies and our social model**, with a clear direction on *social fairness*, support to *young people* and *equality*.

Next is **Sustaining our quality of life: food security, water and nature**, which spans from the fundamental role of *agriculture* and *farmers*, to *oceans* and *fisheries* and the pivotal concept of *climate adaptation*.

**Protecting our democracy, upholding our values** comes next and focuses on vital topics such as *rule of law* and fundamental values. Here, let us flag an interesting snippet of direct relevance to all of us on page 24: "*We will also work with local councillors on citizen engagement to get a better understanding of how Europe impacts everyday life. Together with the Committee of the Regions, we are already working with a network of more than 3,000 local councillors and we should strengthen this NETWORKS over the next five years*". This is no doubt a clear perspective that will call on all EU networks present on the ground to synergize even more with future EU councillors.

**A global Europe: Leveraging our power and partnerships:** this heading gives a clear sense of direction regarding EU *enlargement*, our *neighbourhood* policy and *foreign policy* at large, including *multilateralism* in the world of today.

Finally, **Delivering together and preparing our Union for the future** sketches the future as regards the *EU budget* to underpin the above, *EU reforms* including *Treaty* changes

### Have a nice journey – Part 1

When we talk about summer holidays, that sometimes conjures up images of air passengers desperately trying to get information about delays and cancellations. It is important to realise that the EU is the only area in the world where passengers are protected by a full set of rights - whether they travel by air, rail, ship or bus and coach. [Passenger rights](#) are based on three cornerstones: non-discrimination; accurate, timely and accessible information; immediate and proportionate assistance. This protection is unique in the world. Still, there's more to be done. And with this, the Commission has published [revised interpretative guidelines](#) on **air passenger rights** that will facilitate compliance with regulations and harmonise enforcement by national bodies. Since 2016, the Commission has been providing guidelines to address common concerns raised by national enforcement bodies, passengers and their associations, and industry representatives. A new section on massive travel disruptions has also been added. The guidelines can now be used by operators and national enforcement bodies. In addition, the results of the Eurobarometer survey, as well as the guidelines, are available to the co-legislators as they consider the two [Commission proposals](#) of November 2023 on [enforcing passenger rights](#) and on [passenger rights in the context of multimodal journeys](#), as well as the [Commission's 2013 legislative proposal](#) on air passenger rights.

### Have a nice journey – Part 2

Sticking with the theme of making people's lives easier when hitting the road, here is a piece that testifies to the Commission's move to make transport more efficient and attractive for passengers and freight. The Commission has selected **134 transport projects** to receive over €7 billion in EU grants from the [Connecting Europe Facility](#) (CEF), the EU's instrument for strategic investment in infrastructure. This represents the largest call under the current CEF Transport programme. Around 83% of the funding will support projects that deliver on the EU's climate objectives, improving and modernising the EU network of railways, inland waterways and maritime routes along the [trans-European transport \(TEN-T\) network](#). Rail projects will receive 80% of the €7 billion. Furthermore, the revised TEN-T Regulation will take effect starting tomorrow, July 18. Funding will go to major projects to improve cross-border rail connections along the [TEN-T](#) core network – in the Baltic Member States (Rail Baltica), between France and Italy (Lyon-Turin), and between Denmark and Germany (Fehmarnbelt tunnel). Some 20 maritime ports in Ireland, Spain, Finland, the Netherlands, Germany, Malta, Lithuania, Cyprus, Croatia, Greece, and Poland will receive support for upgrades, some of which will enable them to supply shore-side electricity to ships, or transport renewable energy.