

THE PARLIAMENT

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ISSUE 433 • 2 MAY 2016



THE FUTURE IS COMING

5G ACTION PLAN FOR EUROPE

ALL WORK AND NO PLAY

THE DELICATE WORK-LIFE BALANCE

THE GREAT WHITE NORTH

EXPLORING THE EU'S NEW ARCTIC STRATEGY

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DECARBONISING TRANSPORT

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CIRCULAR ECONOMY

TOBACCO LOBBY COMPLAINTS

VIVIANE REDING

ON HER DATA PROTECTION DREAMS BECOMING REALITY, GENDER QUOTAS AND TERRIBLE GOVERNMENTS

5 QUESTIONS WITH...
FRANÇOISE GROSSETÊTE

INVESTING for a greener future



#EUGreenWeek - «Investing for a greener future»

SAVE THE DATE

Green Week 1 June
The Egg Brussels

EU Green Week, the biggest annual occasion to debate European environment policy, has a new look for 2016. From 30 May to 3 June, events and activities across Europe will focus on the many facets of **green investment**, with stops in Ljubljana, Brussels, Vienna and beyond.

The week will highlight financing that is good for the economy and good for the environment, because our future has to be built on sustainable investments.

The EU is at the forefront of efforts to build a financial system that supports sustainable development. But that job is only half done: we need to combine our efforts, and find ways of committing Europe to tangible investments that will safeguard a more sustainable future.

Hence the 2016 theme – **«Investing for a greener future»**

Twitter chats, a major focus on social media and more on-line content than ever before mean you will be able to follow Green Week 2016 from wherever you are.

Each day focuses on a different aspect of green investment.

Monday 30 May, on **investing for greener cities**, looks at how we can make cities better places to live.

Tuesday 31 May, on **investing in the countryside**, explores ways of making sure our countryside stays healthy and productive in the long run.

Wednesday 1 June, on **investments that make it happen**, focuses on finding the financing for our needs.

Thursday 2 June looks at **investing in our oceans**.

Friday 3 June, on **investing for future generations**, widens the scope to a more **global outlook**, putting a spotlight on long-term prosperity and how we can ensure the well-being of future generations.

Partner events take place throughout May and June.

#EUGreenWeek 2016
is an interactive forum for
policy makers, journalists,
stakeholders and
interested citizens.

Don't miss out – register
now for the events at
The Egg in Brussels at
<http://www.greenweek2016.eu>

See the website for full details of the week's events
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/greenweek/index_en.html

ON THE
WEBSITE



Theresa May criticised
for ECHR comments



Radicalisation must be
tackled at root, say MEPs



Panama Papers
highlight problem that is
immoral, unethical and
unacceptable, say MEPs



Angela Merkel: EU and US
need to speed up TTIP talks



Toys and clothing top the
list of dangerous products
detected in 2015

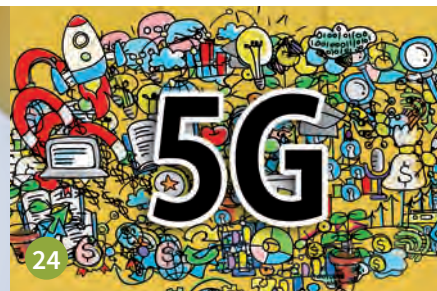
Cover photo by Natalie Hill

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Give Hope

When millions of Syrian refugees felt forgotten, the world responded. That glimmer of hope is keeping them going.

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THANK YOU.



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ONE FUTURE #ZEROHUNGER

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A DIGITAL CALL TO ACTION



5G mobile technology is set to transform the digital world. Well that's what I reported back in February after my hi-tech jaunt to the World Mobile Congress in Barcelona. However, the successful roll out of 5G or Fifth generation mobile technology to give it its Sunday name, relies to a large extent on the planets aligning across a range of EU policy areas. This includes the thorny issue of finding an agreement with EU member states on applying a harmonised approach to Spectrum allocation. Precedents are not encouraging; the 4G spectrum roll out was characterised more by national avarice than any attempt at building a cohesive European digital ecosystem. However, this time around there are signs of grim determination from the EU institutions, both from Digital Economy and Society commissioner Günther Oettinger and from MEPs, recognising that the EU must learn from its mistakes and come up with a coordinated policy on freeing up spectrum.

The debate around spectrum allocation – if you don't think it's that important an issue then skip ahead to pages 22-25 – will likely act as a litmus test on Oettinger's strategy to develop a 5G Action Plan by the end of the year. Success in bringing together 28 disparate EU capitals on spectrum will bode well for his plans for ensuring that the upcoming EU telecom framework review delivers the necessary next generation architecture for propelling Europe's digital industries to the fore. As the German commissioner said last month, "For Europe, the challenge is not about whether 5G, open platforms, cloud computing and the internet of things will happen, but rather whether we will embrace them and shape them so that they fit our societies and benefit our competitiveness, or whether we will leave it to others to take the lead while we try to defend outdated business models." Now if that isn't a digital call to action, I don't know what is... ★

Brian Johnson

Managing editor



NEWS IN BRIEF



NATURE ALERT

IT'S TIME FOR THE EU TO SAVE THE TURTLE DOVE, WRITES CATHERINE BEARDER

I've always been passionate about preserving our shared biodiversity, so I was delighted last year to be named the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds's turtle dove species champion, as part of a campaign to defend the EU's birds and habitats directives. Yet European laws that protect wildlife are no good if they are not properly enforced.

One glaring example of this is the annual spring hunting of turtle doves in Malta. Last year, the bird was placed on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) red list of species most at risk of becoming extinct. However, the Maltese government has proceeded with opening its spring hunting season, allowing



5000 turtle doves to be shot this month despite the EU's birds directive banning unsustainable hunting.

For some time now, my MEP colleagues and I have been piling on the pressure on environment Commissioner Karmenu Vella to take action. Now, in an unprecedented move, the IUCN has written to the Commission directly, asking it to step in before it is too late. The evidence is clear. The annual massacre of thousands of turtle doves in Malta is simply not sustainable. We don't need more investigations, we need action. The EU must step in immediately to safeguard the future of this vulnerable species. ★

Catherine Bearder (ALDE, UK) is a member of Parliament's environment, public health and food safety committee



LEGISLATION WATCH

SWEDISH MEP FREDRICK FEDERLEY HAS BEEN HEAVILY CRITICISED OVER HIS SO-CALLED 'TIERED APPROACH' TO CARBON LEAKAGE PROTECTION

In an opinion report, Federley says the EU ETS should adopt a tiered approach to free allocation after 2020 to better protect those firms exposed to carbon leakage. He believes this approach would divide industries into categories according to leakage risk and apportion shares of free EUAs accordingly. In theory, this would help prevent an across-the-board slashing of allocations to all via the cross sectoral correction factor (CSCF).



While the most efficient steelmaking and fertiliser installations would be likely to get all their required allowances for free under tiering, cement factories and paper manufacturers may get fewer depending on the production method used.

Federley says that if the committee on industry, research and energy favours using the European Commission's outline from its impact assessment, then oil refineries and chemicals plants would also see their shares reduced. However, his report has been condemned by some of Europe's leading energy-intensive industries, which have expressed concerns regarding the proposed tiered approach.

The end of May is the deadline for amendments to the ETS reform proposals, which will then be considered on 12 July. The committee votes on the whole ETS package on 13 October. ★

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

KEEP TRACK OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS WITH OUR MOVERS AND SHAKERS COLUMN

This week we bring you a special government edition of Movers & Shakers, with numerous shake-ups across the member states. First up, Belgian transport minister **Jacqueline Galant** stepped down following revelations she was aware of an EU report on security flaws in Brussels airport security before the 22 March bombings. **François Belot** succeeds her in the role.

Shocking results in Austria, after the far-right Freedom party's Norbert Hofer won the most votes in the first round of the presidential elections. Social Democrat and Conservative candidates, that have occupied the ceremonial role since 1951, garnered around 11 per cent of the vote each. Prior to this, **Johanna Mikl-Leitner** stepped down as interior minister to become Deputy Governor of her home state, Lower Austria province. She switched roles with **Wolfgang Sobotka**, who took on his new post on 21 April. Mikl-Leitner is also known for her hard line on migration and border controls.

Independent **Tomas Žilinskas** was appointed as Lithuania's new interior minister. His predecessor, **Saulius Skvernelis**, was removed from the post after announcing that he will be running for the upcoming parliamentary elections in October with the Peasant and Green Union.

Sweden's housing minister,

Mehmet Kaplan from the Green Party, resigned on 18 April after comparing Israel to the Nazis.

Romania's technocratic government saw two of its ministers stepping aside. First was the minister of labour, family, social protection and elderly **Claudia-Ana Costea**, who resigned over a legislative proposal on public sector salaries. The minister for the EU funds, **Aura Răducu**, also left his post, at the request of Prime Minister and ex-Commissioner **Dacian Cioloș**.

Southern Europe is also getting in on the action. Spanish minister for industry **Jose Manuel Soria**, a member of Prime Minister **Mariano Rajoy's** party, resigned over alleged links to off-shore deals revealed by the Panama Papers. **King Felipe VI** announced that the final bid to form a government since December's inconclusive elections after coalition talks had failed for a third time. Fresh election are likely in June.

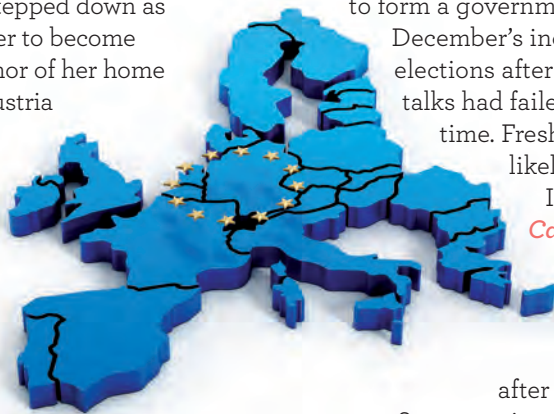
In Portugal, **Castro Mendes** became the new minister for culture,

after João

Soares resigned after he suggested two journalists needed a good slap. Prime Minister **Antonio Costa** apologised publicly on behalf of his cabinet. ★



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IN BRIEF

PARLIAMENT APPROVES NEW RAIL RULES

The fourth railway package aims to make rail travel in Europe more attractive. MEPs have approved new rules to boost the interoperability of national networks and increase the role of the European railway agency. The new package paves the way for further changes, including the possible liberalisation of rail services – something of a controversial topic – and tighter restrictions on subsidies.



MORE POWER FOR EUROPOL

Members of Parliament's civil liberties, justice and home affairs committee have endorsed new rules granting more power to Europol. The EU police agency will, as of 1 April 2017, be allowed to exchange information directly with private firms, including social network companies such as Facebook.

This will enable them to prevent the online spread of terrorist propaganda. MEPs were quick to note that the new rules come with strict data protection provisions; Europol will be supervised in these activities by the European data protection authority.



MEPS WANT OFFICIAL STATUS FOR DOMESTIC WORKERS

Recognising their work as 'real' jobs will discourage exploitation and human trafficking, they argued. The text suggests including domestic workers in all national labour and social care laws and they should also be able to join trade unions, said deputies. ★





TWEETFEED

**@COMODINICACHIA**

T. Comodini Cachia

Jobs & SMEs in the #EU at stake due to infringements of #IPR. Will work to facilitate protection of innovation.

**@KGEORGIEVAEU**

Kristalina Georgieva

Thanks to #EPenary 4 approving 2014 #EUBudget implementation. A vote of confidence & support for #EUBudget4results

**@TERRYREINTKE**

Terry Reintke

We did it! Trolls and Haters: Brace yourself! Strong signal of #EPenary: Stop #hatespeech & end #violenceagainstwomen on- & offline

**@BERLAYMONSTER**

Berlaymonster

"In & Out campaigners appoint spiritual medium to settle dispute over #Brexit views of Thatcher, Churchill" #fantasyheadlines

**@SEBDANCE**

Seb Dance MEP

Fmr Commissioner Verheugen *declines* to appear @ep_emissions. Apparently we are unable to seek explanation of past decisions. Unacceptable.



TOBACCO LOBBY DEALINGS

THE EUROPEAN OMBUDSMAN EMILY O'REILLY CONDEMNS THE COMMISSION'S POLICY TOWARDS TOBACCO INDUSTRY LOBBYING AS 'PUZZLING'

The Irish official said the executive had "failed to make a convincing case" for refusing to crack down on the industry's influence on EU decision making. She said, "The biggest number of complaints I receive are about who has what influence on decision-making at EU level. It is all about transparency."

O'Reilly argued that the Commission's refusal to take specific measures to tackle tobacco industry lobbying influence reflects a worrying complacency and lack of vigilance regarding the large-



scale lobbying efforts of this sector.

Last October, the official upheld a complaint by the Brussels-based Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO) against the Commission over its failure to implement UN tobacco lobby rules.

An investigation by O'Reilly involved an inspection of official files and staff agendas at the Commission's HQ, the Berlaymont, to identify possible meetings with tobacco lobbyists.

The Ombudsman's investigation found that a top official from the Commission's legal service had declared no meetings with tobacco industry representatives despite having meetings with a lawyer working for tobacco giant Philip Morris. ★



PM+: CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND PLASTIC

THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY NEEDS TO TACKLE BOTH TECHNICAL AND CARBON LOOPS. BIO-BASED PLASTICS CAN PROVIDE THE MEANS, ARGUES HENRI COLENS

The use of plastic has engendered a series of environmental and societal challenges. Efforts are underway to fix this. By resolving the issue of leakage (material exiting the value chain) we can begin to solve the problems associated with littering. This is being addressed by the draft legislation within the EU's circular economy package. We need to ensure that plastic that is recyclable does not find its way into landfill. We must create a single market for plastic waste to ensure that those member states without adequate recycling



infrastructure can get help. This is often referred to as the "technical loop". A second is the so-called carbon loop. Plastic is made from base chemicals derived from oil, following a process called 'cracking'. This process is highly efficient, however, like fossil fuels it depends on a finite resource. Unlike biofuels, there are no European-wide targets for the use of bio-based products. The production or use of bio-based products is not subsidised. The EU and its member states should think long and hard about how to incentivise every sector to do their bit towards reducing their environmental impact. ★

Henri Colens is Public Affairs Manager at Braskem Europe

The EU can serve as a forum on work-life balance

The common perception that MEPs do very little work is far from the truth and striking a balance between work and life can be challenging, writes **Julie Girling**



Julie Girling (ECR, UK) is a substitute member of Parliament's women's rights and gender equality committee

The ability to strike a good work-life balance is essential for a healthy lifestyle. Finding this balance is not easy; we all have different priorities and different lives. We know that in Europe alone, more than one in five workers, is dissatisfied with their work-life balance.

So what does work life balance mean to an MEP? A common public perception is that MEPs do not do a great deal. Once a month, we travel to Strasbourg to vote and then with the remainder of our time, we network or jet off on other, all-expenses paid trips. The balance seemingly favours 'life' over 'work'.

But of course this is a fantasy. Significant hours are put into research, consultations and negotiations. During the working week, 12 hour days quickly become the norm, only to be extended further if you are appointed to a position of responsibility, such as committee Chair or lead on a major legislative file. Hosting events, and attending debates and roundtables are other important aspects of an MEP's job, as is keeping stakeholders informed through giving interviews, writing press releases or actively engaging

with social media.

We all deal with our own particular geographical challenges. For some, the time spent traveling to and within their constituency means weekends are easily lost and the weeks often roll into one. As an MEP for the south west of England and Gibraltar, it would be

those covering the French overseas territories.

When serving constituents, time and distance are not the only challenges. Deciding where to live also has an important impact. For those MEPs with children, commuting to Brussels reduces family time and increases dependency on others for childcare. During the time spent in Brussels, the lack of a true home environment provides little incentive to rein in the working hours and simply adds further to the work-life imbalance.

For those who do relocate to Brussels, while family time is more



“Significant work-life imbalances can be found across all sectors and at all stages of life”

quicker for me to get to the Scottish borders than the most southerly point of my constituency, let alone Gibraltar. I can only imagine how much harder this is for MEPs with even further to travel, like

consistent, how does this distance affect an MEP's relationship with their constituents? Even if this is not the intention, these MEPs become less accessible and perceived as less committed. You risk being viewed as a faceless bureaucrat, seen as increasingly out of touch with your constituents. You may possibly undermine the opportunity to advance your political career in your home country, simply by not being present. →

This is why, for an MEP, work-life balance is not the only problem. Making tough decisions affecting the whole family and maintaining a strong relationship with constituents must be factored into the equation.

Of course, this situation is not unique to the job of an MEP. Significant work-life imbalances can be found across all sectors and at all stages of life. However, while being an increasingly common experience, it is sadly the case that women suffer disproportionately more than men. In addition to the demands brought about by a more demanding work culture, women are faced with additional stress due to traditional stereotypes and societal expectations that pressure women to be more present at home. The challenge to balance work and life intensifies

and for some, due to restrictions to certain career paths, sees 'life' or 'family' – albeit it not necessarily by choice – take priority.

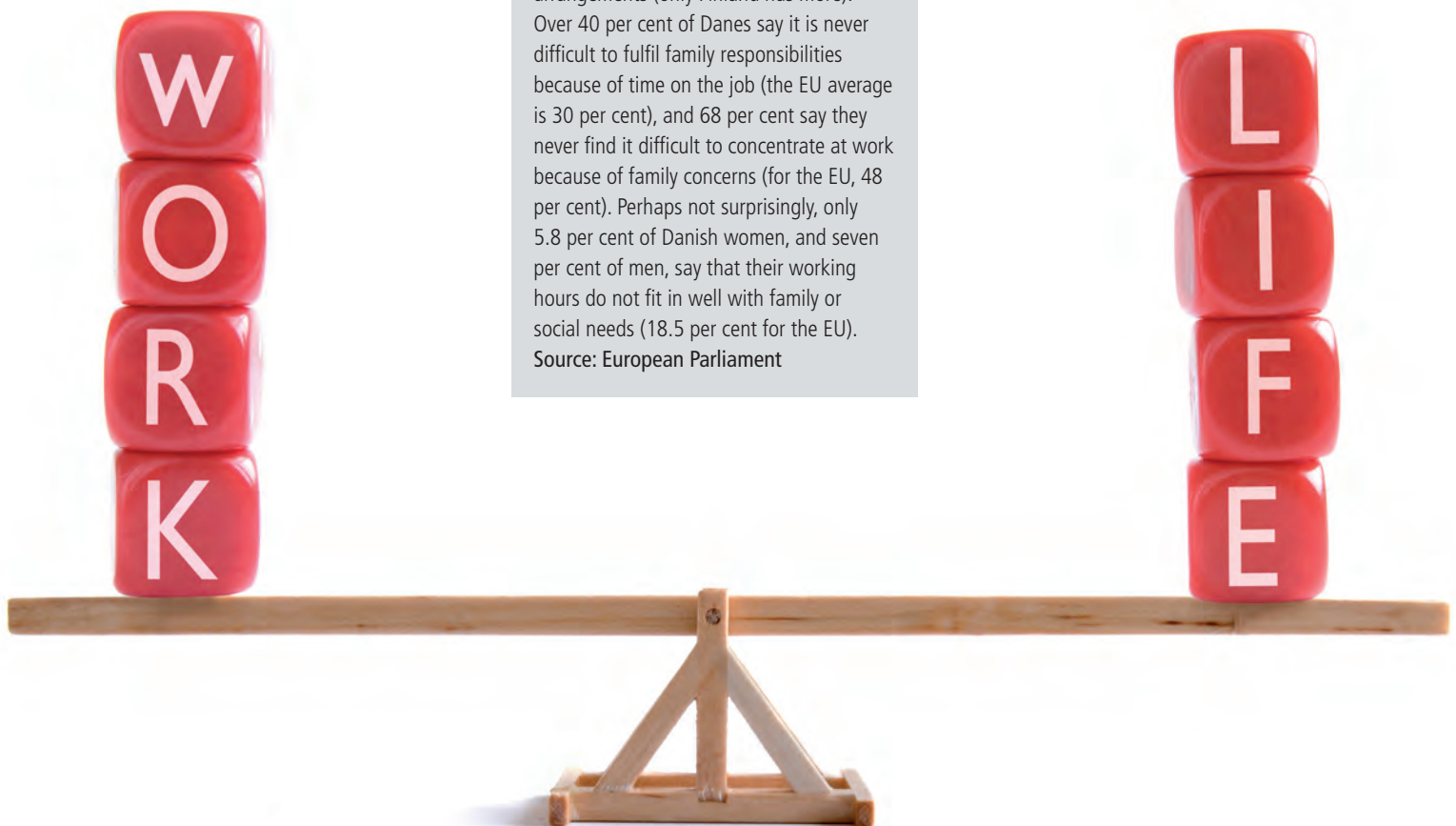
BEST IN CLASS

As part of its 2011 'better life' index, the OECD singled out Denmark as being its best member state for work-life balance. Only two per cent of employees work over 50 hours per week (less than the nine per cent OECD average and fewer than in any country other than the Netherlands and Sweden). Danish men and women both spend about 16 hours a day on leisure and personal care (including eating and sleeping), the highest level in the OECD, while Denmark's employment rate for women with young children was the third highest of 24 countries. Denmark has generous family services and cash benefits (3.9 per cent of GDP, second highest in the OECD). Childcare enrolment for children less than two years old (66 per cent) is the highest among member countries. Almost 70 per cent of firms offer flexible working time arrangements (only Finland has more). Over 40 per cent of Danes say it is never difficult to fulfil family responsibilities because of time on the job (the EU average is 30 per cent), and 68 per cent say they never find it difficult to concentrate at work because of family concerns (for the EU, 48 per cent). Perhaps not surprisingly, only 5.8 per cent of Danish women, and seven per cent of men, say that their working hours do not fit in well with family or social needs (18.5 per cent for the EU).

Source: European Parliament

Striking a work-life balance is clearly a challenge that requires much skill. This should not however discourage action. In addition to the economic benefits of a less stressed and therefore more productive workforce, a better work-life balance can also bring notable progress in areas such as youth development and gender equality. Indeed, more flexible, family-orientated policies open up employment opportunities to women that were previously unattainable due to family obligations.

While I am cautious about greater EU interference, the EU can provide a forum, allowing member states to exchange best practice on raising awareness and encouraging change at the national level. This will address, or at least reduce, the current work-life imbalance. ★



Work-life balance key to a better, more equal Europe

Gender stereotypes are affecting work-life balance, warns **Monika Vana**



Monika Vana (Greens/EFA, AT) is a substitute member of Parliament's employment and social affairs committee

In this day and age, work-life balance is a key issue. Not only does it enable and foster gender equality, it also influences European citizens' quality of life. Therefore, it should be at the forefront of our political demands to balance private and professional life in a fair and empowering way. We face increasing liberalisation of our European policies and therefore also of our labour markets. Many workers, both female and male, are forced to withstand the pressure of the current labour market, all too often finding themselves in precarious working situations. They are compelled to be ever more flexible and productive in order to keep up with the pace.

The economic crisis, which has particularly hit and negatively affected women, has put people in unstable and uncertain situations. The number of 'working poor' has risen. Many people have two jobs, working times have increased and employers demand flexibility and constant availability. Work is distributed unequally.

On the one hand, the number of part-time jobs is increasing, but on the other, 'all-in' contracts have become the norm. Reduced working time could therefore be beneficial in two ways; creating jobs in times of rising unemployment and contributing to a healthy work-life balance for all

employees and workers.

Another issue that positively influences the reconciliation of work and private life is the provision and expansion of public services. We need to make sure that people have a lifecycle leave perspective. We must also ensure that childcare, care of the elderly and educational leave are inclusive, affordable and accessible to all.

Gender equality and work-life balance are inextricably linked, as is demonstrated by the take-up rate and duration of parental leave. To name just a few, the lack of free and accessible childcare, gender stereotypes – not to mention the gender pay gap – positions women as the carers and men as the breadwinners. It means that the take-up rate of parental leave

by women is significantly higher than that of men. As regards the duration of parental leave, it has been proven that women unfortunately face increasing difficulties in returning to the job market the longer they stay at home. Therefore, in order to encourage men to participate equally in family life, we need to aim for non-transferable parental leave rights and to ensure that a certain amount of parental leave is available exclusively for men.

In this context, we must always keep in mind that gender equality can only be reached through a fair and balanced redistribution of paid and unpaid work, as well as of family and care responsibilities. This is why we need a holistic approach to maternity, paternity and parental leave. ★

WORK-LIFE BALANCE FOR WOMEN

In its 2015 roadmap 'New start to address the challenges of work-life balance faced by working families', the European Commission highlights that the EU employment rate for women is just 63.5 per cent – far below the target set by the Europe 2020 strategy. Given this poor female labour market participation and the gender pay gap, is it any surprise that women are more likely to experience poverty than men?

While labour market participation and access to services may seem like separate issues, they are intertwined; for example, the gender pay gap means women earn less than men, which could mean they struggle to afford formal care services, meaning they are pressured into taking up part-time or low-skilled work to provide informal care.

This is negatively impacting their pension and preventing them from enjoying work-life balance throughout the whole life cycle.



Work-life balance isn't the only victim – failure to capitalise on the role that women play in the labour market has a detrimental impact on the economy, too.

To address the gender pay gap, the EU could encourage member states to raise the level of minimum wage progressively towards 60 per cent of national median wage and to implement the principle of 'equal pay for equal work'. Ensuring sufficient investment in high-quality services within European economic policies would result in less women being forced to choose between caring for dependent family members and pursuing a career.

The European structural and investment funds and the upcoming European pillar of social rights are just two EU instruments that could be used towards this end.

Pierre Baussand is Director of Social Platform



Sunday work is a danger to our health and safety

Sundays are traditionally a day of rest and leisure and should remain as such, argues **Thomas Mann**



Thomas Mann (EPP, DE)
is a member of Parliament's
employment and social affairs
committee

Six years ago, 72 organisations initiated the first European conference on a work-free Sunday. Together with more than 400 conference participants, we launched an official appeal to the European Council, the Parliament and the Commission.

Our message to the institutions was this: We stand for a work-free Sunday for all European citizens, establishing Sunday as a work-free day within the working time directive. The conference was the cornerstone of the creation of the European Sunday Alliance in 2011. We subsequently decided to establish an interest group in the European Parliament, which I have the honour of co-chairing.

My Danish colleague Ole Christensen has launched a draft report on

the EU strategic framework on health and safety at work 2014-2020.

To my mind, the most eye-catching figure he extracted is that every year, more than 4000 workers die due to accidents at work, and 150,000 fatal work-related diseases are contracted annually. This is a tragedy for Europe. This is why the EPP and the S&D groups are working together to ensure the highest level of health and safety. The Commission is our close ally, sharing our aim to better protect workers from accidents and diseases. In the strategic framework on health and safety at work 2014-2020, the Commission identifies three important challenges facing employers and employees.

First, improving implementation of existing health and safety rules, in particular by enhancing the capacity of micro and small enterprises to put in place effective and efficient risk prevention strategies. Second, improving the prevention of work-related diseases by tackling new and emerging risks without neglecting existing risks. Third, taking account of the ageing of the EU's workforce.

By using data from EU surveys on living and working conditions and interviewing more than 43,000 workers across 35 countries it can be shown

that Sunday working is associated with an increased risk of accidents, illnesses, health problems, and negative effects on social participation and interaction. This is most likely due to the fact that Sunday is traditionally a day of rest, leisure activities and social participation. There is a decisive difference between a Sunday and any other work-free day. On Sundays, we have the unique possibility to relax and spend time together with our families and friends. Therefore, Sunday and the work-life-balance are both crucial factors in the debate on health and safety at work.

We must defend workers against the philosophy of the always-available employee. MEPs and the EU should stand side-by-side with us to safeguard Sunday as the day of rest, recreation and for religious service.

I am convinced that our interest group – the European Sunday Alliance – offers an excellent platform to connect MEPs, institutions and civil society on our common demand, namely that work-life-balance and Sundays should be included in the working time directive.

Working on Sundays should be reduced to the minimum amount possible. ★



Clear Air Turbulence: Decarbonisation of transport

The EU has set itself ambitious goals to meet its climate change obligations; dealing with the contribution from the transport sector will be one of the most challenging

In signing the COP21 agreement, the EU sent a clear signal of its commitment to becoming a low carbon economy. Given transport's major contribution to current emission levels, decarbonisation of the sector will be a priority.

Irish EPP member Deirdre Clune, a member of the transport and tour-

ism committee, agrees. "The time for action is now," she says. "Reducing carbon emissions in our transport sector will increase efficiency, improve air quality and benefit public health." She points out that, "The transport sector is the second-largest source of emissions after energy; it is vital that it plays its part in decar-

bonising the European economy." However, Clune recognises the scale of the challenge; emissions from transport have risen from 15 per cent in 1990 to 22 per cent.

The Irish deputy believes that the key is using existing resources, such as transport links, as efficiently as possible. "One of the goals of the recently agreed fourth Railway Package is to encourage greater use of the rail network by improving the performance of our



rail services, creating investment opportunities and encouraging job creating in the sector.”

Clune believes that EU standards are delivering more emissions-efficient cars through support for technological innovation and research. The worldwide harmonised light vehicles test procedure (WLTP) for measuring pollutant and CO₂ and other lightweight vehicles specifically



“The transport sector is the second-largest source of emissions sector after energy; it is vital that it plays its part”

Deirdre Clune

focuses on improving CO₂ emissions and incentivising fuel-efficient vehicles. In addition, with heavy-duty vehicles the second-largest source of transport emissions, she points out that improving purchaser information with a view to implementing mandatory CO₂ targets is a potential action under the EU’s energy union roadmap.

She also points out that other circular economy elements can also assist decarbonising efforts including biofuel innovation through the rendering of waste products.

The ALDE group’s Dominique Riquet agrees; “There is no way the EU can expect to reach its objectives, nor member states meet their commitments without taking transport into account. While other sectors have seen emissions decrease, transport now accounts for a quarter of the EU’s

total greenhouse gas emissions.”

The French deputy, also a member of the transport and tourism committee, believes there are two main ways to decarbonise road transport.

“Firstly, by reducing the level of vehicle emissions, for example by setting legally binding limits – based on real driving conditions – and by improving engine performance and optimising the use of vehicles. This can be via intelligent transport systems (ITS)

or through collaborative business models.” However, he notes that such models, considered ‘disruptive’, have had a lukewarm reception from most national governments. He also points that, “there are a lot of disparities within European cities in terms of public transport efficiency.”

The other way he suggests is to resort to technologies or modes generating less or no emissions. Although there have been European initiatives to promote electric, hybrid and fuel cell technologies as well as alternative fuels such as biofuels and liquefied natural gas (LNG) there has been no major uptake so far. He adds that, “There is more that has to be done to encourage a modal shift towards less emitting modes, such as rail and inland waterways.”



Riquet is clear that driving such change means, “setting an unambiguous decarbonisation target at political level and having the regulatory and financial incentives in place, ranging from research and development programmes to international agreements, through selective funding policies.” However, he also recognises the emotional appeal of road transport; “We should not forget the essential dream component that a Tesla car or an event like Formula E can stir in people’s mind.”

He urges the legal certainty offered by setting a predictable and clear framework to attract investment while ensuring a level playing field. Otherwise, he says, “following any other course of action means that we will never bring the urgency required to deal with the threat of global warming.”

Belgian deputy Ivo Belet believes that emission reductions have to be economy-wide, in all sectors. If not, he says; “We risk missing the target

“Those sectors that have not already contributed to decarbonisation will need to step up”

Ivo Belet

to limit temperature increase to 2°C let alone 1.5°C. Those sectors that have not already contributed to decarbonisation will need to step up.” He believes it is important for all sectors to contribute, safeguarding the competitiveness of EU, rather than having other sectors make additional reductions to compensate.



He says; “Among these sectors, transport comes top of mind; it is the second-biggest emitting sector after energy. It is also the only major sector where emissions today are well above their 1990 levels, up 33 per cent by 2007. More than two thirds of these come from road transport.”

Like his EPP colleague, he singles out heavy-duty vehicles as an area for action. “Road freight traffic is still on the rise in Europe. Tackling heavy transport emissions is essential in reducing the carbon footprint, particularly with Europe

“While other sectors have seen emissions decrease, transport now accounts for one quarter of the total EU’s greenhouse gas emissions”

Dominique Riquet

lagging behind China and the US. He proposes introducing mandatory monitoring of emissions, “as quickly as possible; rapidly followed by CO₂ standards that drive innovation towards lower emitting trucks.”

Despite this, Belet notes that; “The reduction target set for the transport sector is relatively low

(a shared target with the building sector of a reduction of 30 per cent by 2030 compared to 2005 levels), compared to the target set for industry (which has to cut emissions with 43 per cent).”

He is intrigued to see the content of Commissioner Cañete’s coming communication, which will address the decarbonisation of all forms of transport; fuels, traffic management, taxation, revision of emission testing cycles and car and lorry emissions.

A number of sectors are following developments closely.

For some, it is a boost. The focus on ‘lightweighting’ as a method of reducing emissions in transport has given aluminium a starring role. Gerd Götz, Director General of European Aluminium, points out that, “aluminium in cars is as safe as steel yet 40 per cent lighter, adding that it has, “the beauty of delivering a posi-

tive impact for any vehicle, regardless of whether it is driven by a combustion engine or an electric motor. Aluminium is increasingly important for transport applications.”

Philippe Citroën, Director General of the European Rail Industry Association, UNIFE, explains that the rail industry has long been a vocal advocate of decarbonisation of transport and modal shift. It is “already the most environmentally-friendly major mode of transportation and is committed to further improving its environmental performance.” He points to the recently concluded European R&D project, REFRESCO and the ongoing Roll2Rail and Shift2Rail projects as paving the way for lighter rolling stock, consuming less energy and further reducing CO₂ emissions.

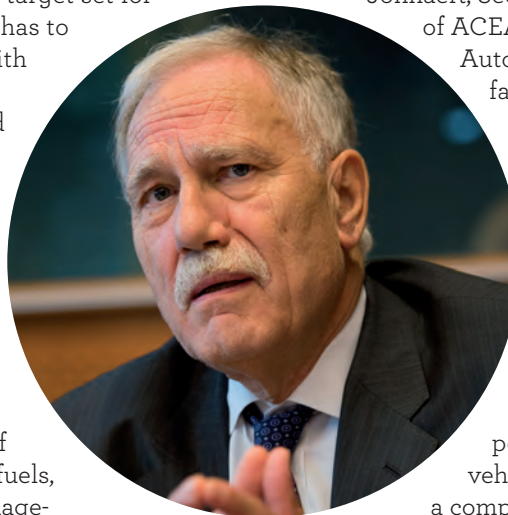
The vehicle manufacturing sector is also making significant efforts. Erik

Jonnaert, Secretary General of ACEA, the European

Automobile Manufacturers’ Association, points out that new cars are now much more fuel efficient. However, he points out that, “new cars account for only five per cent of all vehicles.” He urges

a comprehensive approach to speed the transition, “drawing on the full spectrum of solutions available, whether relating to the vehicle itself, more rapid fleet renewal, the potential of car connectivity and automation, properly maintaining infrastructure, decarbonising fuels or improving driver behaviour.”

There is a universal agreement that acting swiftly to decarbonise transport will be core to meeting the EU’s climate change obligations. Industry also needs to continue to travel in its current direction. ★





Queen EUROPA

Viviane Reding talks to **Julie Levy-Abegnoli**
about transitioning from the Commission to the
Parliament, seeing her data protection dreams come
to life, and why economics trump feminism

PHOTOS BY NATALIE HILL

When it comes to EU policymaking, Viviane Reding is a genuine veteran. Before joining Romano Prodi's team of Commissioners in 1999 for culture and education, she had spent a decade as a member of the European Parliament. Five years later, when José Manuel Barroso became President of the European Commission, Reding remained, this time as information society and media Commissioner. In 2010, when Barroso embarked on his second term, she was promoted to Commission Vice-President, in charge of justice, fundamental rights and citizenship. In 2014, she left the college to return to being an MEP. European Commission sources tell the Parliament Magazine she was one of the most popular Commissioners; pre-signed photographs of Reding were regularly printed out and sent out to those who requested them. The only other member of the college with a similar approach was President Barroso.

Reding has spearheaded many important legislative endeavours during her career, a number of which

continue to keep the current team of Commissioners busy. These include the capping of roaming charges within the EU, the introduction of the 'eu' domain name and the telecoms package. Last month, following years of discussions, one of Reding's landmark proposals was finally adopted by Parliament; the general data protection regulation (GDPR).

Tabled by the Luxembourgish deputy in 2012, the GDPR sets out to establish a single set of data protection rules across the 28 member states, to the benefit of both citizens and businesses. The previous rules, Reding points out, had been in place since 1995, before the internet became such an integral part of our daily lives. In addition, the rules were a directive, not a regulation, allowing each member state to tailor the guidelines to their national needs. As a result, she says; "Small companies had huge difficulties realising the benefits of an internal market, because the different laws often threw up contradictions." At that time, she already had plans in mind for a digital single market, now one of Team Juncker's flagship initia- →

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tives. “For this, you need to do away with barriers and open the market.”

Like any legislative proposal, the GDPR was met with some opposition. According to Reding, this mostly came from large tech companies outside Europe, “who thought it was much better not to have any rules that could be applied. They saw the environment in Europe as a free-for-all.” This system overly penalised European companies; while non-EU firms did not have to observe or abide by any rules, French companies had to follow French laws, German companies had to apply German laws and so on, making it difficult for them to compete.

This resulted in a fierce battle with US tech lobbies, “one of the fiercest Europe had ever seen. It was really the first time that American lobbyists came to Europe. They tried to stop the

“US lobbyists tried to stop the Commission from putting legislation on the table and there was fierce debate in the college”

Commission from putting legislation on the table and there was fierce debate in the college. Later, they tried to heavily intervene in Parliament, placing MEPs under enormous pressure.”

Reding is in a virtually unique position, having worked closely with European deputies as a member of the Commission on the data protection package, then joining their ranks before it was adopted. What was that experience like? The former Commissioner insists it was a smooth transition, because, “Parliament understands its responsibility towards citizens, something that national governments sometimes do not.” By the time she re-joined Parliament, the trilogues were about to start – or were they? She recalls that; “Governments were much more open to being lobbied than MEPs, and

industry was trying block the legislation. Therefore, behind the scenes I had to work to maintain a sense of urgency. Fortunately, the rapporteur appointed in 2012 – Jan Albrecht – was re-elected to the Parliament in 2014 and continued as rapporteur. This was a real asset, since he knew the text and all the lobbyists; he had seen all of them at least 100 times already. If we had needed a new rapporteur, I am not sure the regulation would have yet been finalised.”

These new rules will undoubtedly better protect our privacy online; companies that breach them face steep fines, up to four per cent of their global turnover. However, do

we really know and understand what information we share online and how it is used and re-used? “The general population feels very insecure about what is done with their private data,” says Reding. “More than 70 per cent of people do not trust the way their data is used. But do they behave accordingly? Not so much.”

Member states have two years to implement the new regulation. Reding underlines that data protection authorities are acutely aware that they will need to use this time to undertake information campaigns. There will be one data protection authority in each member state, rather than a central European one, allowing people to file →





“More than 70 per cent of people do not trust the way their data is used. But do they behave accordingly? Not so much”

complaints in their own country and in their own language. The data protection authorities will also be in charge of informing companies of the new rules, “so that they know what is at stake.”

You could say that, in a way, the general data protection regulation is Reding’s baby. So, after four years of hard work and dedication, what is her next personal project? One thing at a time, she says; “The legislation may have been passed, but now it needs to be implemented. It will be very important to follow up on this over the coming two years. In addition, this legislation provides the basis for something I have wanted to see for years; the digital single market.”

Thanks to these new rules, she explains, companies large and small will enjoy a level playing field. “This legislation eliminates barriers. Now, a start-up in Brussels can reach the entire European market, under a single law. Once this is implemented, it could give a real push to the digital single market.” However, rules are not enough, warns

Reding. Europe also needs stringent reforms, including when it comes to its infrastructure and telecoms. It should also look to export its ‘gold-standard’ rules worldwide, she says.

Indeed, Europe may have just adopted ground-breaking data protection standards, but are these really compatible with the new ‘privacy shield’? This EU-US data sharing agreement was introduced earlier this year by the European Commission, with the intention of replacing ‘safe harbour’, which the European Court of Justice (ECJ) deemed invalid. Reding scoffs at the notion that the privacy shield is superior to its predecessor. “I think the same as I thought when I was Commissioner. I did not sign the new safe harbour adequacy rule in 2014 because the whole question of national security was not proportionate. It is a horizontal exception that trumps everything else.”

She concedes that it has brought about some improvements, such as better behaviour on the part of companies and allowing regulators more control over that behaviour. Ultimately, however, the ECJ’s main issue with safe harbour – the pre-eminence of national security concerns over

everything else – still applies to the privacy shield. “You can call it by another name and give it fresh colours, but the problem has not been solved.”

Clearly, by serving as Commissioner for over a decade, Reding worked on more than just data protection. Another legislative initiative she will be remembered for was the introduction of gender quotas for women on company boards. She underlines that 60 per cent of university of graduates are female, but only a fraction of them end up in high-ranking positions. “It makes no sense to lose out on female talent.” Parliament, she notes, was quickly on board with the idea of gender quotas, adopting it with an overwhelming majority. “Yet as always, who is blocking the legislation? The Council.” The package has been on standby since 2012.

Nevertheless, there has been lively public debate on the topic, with some member states having chosen to implement their own national laws. This has meant that even without EU-wide rules, quotas have been introduced in certain countries. In France, Reding is proud of the fact that since her proposal, women now make up 36 per cent of company boards – a 24 per cent increase. Italy, too, witnessed a 24 per cent increase, with women now making up 29 per cent of board members. Although these numbers are certainly not ideal, they are better than nothing.

Importantly, highlights Reding, she never used the dreaded ‘F’ word – feminism – to demonstrate the validity of her proposal. “That would have been unfair to women. I always argued this from an economic point of view. The main thing is that we are losing out on talent that society has educated. In addition, companies with women on their board have much better financial results than those with all male boards.”

Unfortunately, “governments can be awful sometimes. It also has to do with a mentality change. Nevertheless, Parliament has always been, and will continue to be a helping hand.” ★



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An Action Plan for Europe

Are the planets aligning on Europe's approach to rolling out 5G? **Brian Johnson** reports

For those with an interest in the EU's digital competitiveness, it didn't come as any surprise that digital economy and society Commissioner Günther Oettinger used last month's speech at the Net Futures conference in Brussels to reiterate the importance of his 5G Action Plan for Europe. The Action Plan, announced in February at the Mobile World Congress (WMC) in Barcelona, is at the heart of the German Commissioner's plans to ensure that Europe doesn't fall behind on 5G deployment. "The reflection with the telecommunications sector has already started", said Oettinger, adding, "Vertical sectors have been invited to contribute to the Action Plan between now and the summer so that the plan can be built upon the concrete needs of businesses and citizens." Italian Socialist deputy, Brando Benifei was at the WMC when Oettinger unveiled his plan and believes that the Commissioner has launched a, "timely proposal, which will constitute a fundamental

building block of the digital single market strategy and the Internet of Things." 5G, he says, will increase job opportunities and make a significant contribution both to society and economically. "We will ensure, however, that such technology is inclusive and accessible for everyone, particularly those who need it the most. Europe must be in the lead of this impressive economic and social transformation, creating the best conditions for investment, incentives and deployment of 5G throughout the continent."

Fellow Socialist deputy Catherine Stihler says she welcomes Oettinger's Action Plan proposals and - in a view held by many MEPs - says the final proposals must include action to develop the essential network infrastructure required to complete Europe's digital transformation. "Radio frequency spectrum is an essential resource for telecommunication services, freeing up spectrum could be a way to enhance growth in an exceedingly profitable digital market

and bring broadband to isolated areas that may not have terrestrial networks," says Stihler, a Vice Chair of Parliament's internal market committee. Almost two years on from the first real policy discussions around 5G, the Scots MEP says the coordinated development of 5G is a vital building block for Europe to regain its lead globally in digital technology. "At the WMC this year, the motto was 'mobile is everything' and I couldn't agree more. Commissioner Oettinger announced his hope for deployment of 5G by 2020. As it is a priority area, an action plan by the end of the year would be beneficial to ensure we can meet this target. The time has come for Europe to stop playing second fiddle when it comes to digital advancement." Polish EPP deputy Michał Boni says that although they are separate issues, the Radio Frequency Spectrum debate - particularly on whether to allocate the 700 MHz band - and the upcoming telecom package review are helping policymakers focus on a common

digital goal. "Preparing the European road map for achieving 5G is the key digital game changer in Europe."

He wonders whether EU policy-makers recognise the advantages of 5G for the Internet of Things, autonomous cars or eHealth. "Do we want to establish the new background for those opportunities in Europe? We need to have possibilities to transfer the information and data in milliseconds, so here is a need to have the High Performance Computing Centres network in Europe. Of course, this requires interoperability, standardisation and investment efforts, as well as an understanding of the new technical challenges," including, he says, "Considering stronger harmonisation of rules for spectrum allocation." Harmonisation - not by going against the wishes of EU member states, he adds, "but achievable by stronger cooperation with them."

British ECR deputy Vicky Ford agrees, arguing that policymakers need to make sure that Europe gets the regulatory framework right. "New services and products are being offered in all sectors, from connected cars to smart energy systems to new media. 5G is expected to deliver the connectivity that will make the Internet of Things possible." Therefore, to deliver high quality infrastructure, she argues, "a stable, long-term regulatory environment is required for investors." For Ford, the technological uncertainties surrounding 5G development mean it's, "vitally important that we invest in R&D to try to lead the way. Like her colleagues, Ford advocates an approach to Radio Frequency Spectrum that "maximises the use of spectrum while allowing member states to cooperate and coordinate their approaches." Oettinger has said the European Commission cannot ensure 5G deployment alone and has called for industry to take a leading role in developing the 5G Action Plan. Will he also make full use of the wealth of expertise within the European Parliament? ★

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5G'S SUCCESS WILL DEPEND ON RETHINKING BUSINESS MODELS, POLICIES, REGULATION AND ECONOMICS, ESPECIALLY ON SPECTRUM, SAYS **AFKE SCHAART**



THE PARLIAMENT MAGAZINE'S

THOUGHT LEADER

In a growing and diversifying Europe, the telecommunications sector is increasingly becoming a key enabler for technological development and innovation across all sectors of the economy. One of the main contributing factors will be the development of 5G and the potential of this technology for the digitalisation of industries within Europe. While the continent is making good strides in terms of research and development of 5G, deployment remains some years away. The intervening period, while the technology matures, will determine the success of the service and its impact on the numerous sectors of the economy that increasingly depend on mobile infrastructure.

That said, it is essential that the mobile industry guides policy in this critical area. Otherwise, Europe risks falling victim to policy regimes that hold back the potential of new services, while also setting unrealistic expectations on what can be achieved and when. The GSMA has been working with operators and players across the ecosystem to better drive the debate around the 5G development – the right applications, the right technical characteristics and the right spectrum policy. This initiative will strengthen our policy engagement on a number of issues, including 5G spectrum, timely deployments and ways to foster infrastructure investments.

We have identified four key policy challenges that must be met to ensure a successful rollout of 5G.

Firstly, stimulating innovation. Policies and rules should support innovation and be future-oriented, so that all players in the digital value

chain are empowered to innovate.

Secondly, incentivising infrastructure investment. The climate for fixed and mobile network investment should be improved by significantly simplifying the current regulatory environment.

Thirdly, creating a clear and predictable policy framework, including spectrum. Additional harmonised and affordable spectrum is needed, with a view to allowing timely rollout and maximising network investment. This should be via a regulatory environment that provides clarity, certainty and predictability.

Finally, clear deployment timelines including standardisation and collaboration with verticals. Continued efforts in the 5G Public Private Partnership (5G-PPP) and the 5G Action Plan are crucial in en-

"It is essential that the mobile industry guides policy in this critical area. Otherwise, Europe risks falling victim to policy regimes that hold back the potential of new services"

sure that standardisation delivers both economies of scale and interoperability.

The success of 5G depends not only on underlying technologies but also in rethinking business models, policies and economics around radio spectrum regulation, supporting a variety of new mobile capabilities.

Ensuring that the mobile revolution continues and expands requires that policymakers adopt a future-oriented, pro-innovation and investment policy framework that empowers and provides all players in the digital value chain with the flexibility to develop and grow.

Afke Schaart is Vice President Europe at GSMA

The time to hesitate is through

It's time for Europe to 'walk the walk' on 5G roll out, before it's too late, argues **Gunnar Hökmark**



Gunnar Hökmark (EPP, SE) is a substitute member of Parliament's industry, research and energy committee

The time when 'telecoms' was simply about telecoms is long gone. It is no longer about people talking any more, it's about our societies and economies heading into the future with a strong, competitive edge. Mobile technology has developed into the creation of a truly intelligent society where information is not only about knowledge transmitted between people but about online information provided for our common knowledge. It's about health, traffic, industrial processes, smart grids, even the content of our fridges. It's also about the development of advanced agriculture and education and about bringing our rural areas into the centre of decision making.

If we had hesitated at the beginning of the telecoms revolution – which fortunately we did not – then we would not have had the recognisable global champions that we did. If we waver on the development of this crucial sector – as we are currently doing – then we will store up competitiveness and economic problems for the future. If we delay getting Europe connected then we will lag behind in everything; competitiveness, new industries, new business and new services as well as productivity.

This is why 5G mobile technology is so crucial for Europe. It is about the next step and the connectedness

of everything. We need to be in the lead. It is about our recovery, about social Europe, about a prosperous and competitive single market, about educated and involved people and about the new jobs.

We need to take the lead, as we once did with mobile telephones and what was then called 3G. That gave us global champions such as Siemens, Nokia, Vodafone and Ericsson, to name just a few. It gave us clusters of entrepreneurial development. But we never caught the next wave and missed out on the European Googles, Yahoos, Apples and all those rapid growing and transformative companies.

Now 5G is about our car industries,

our banks, our chemical industries, our energy efficiency, advances in transport and distribution systems, energy production, smart grids, the building sector, productivity in our steel industries as well as in paper, pulp or mining. 5G will define the competitiveness and the levels of innovation across our whole economy. This is why it is so important to get decisions on an early launch of the 700 MHz band in place as soon as possible, because this decision will be crucial for 5G development, connecting everything that is distant or needs to reach through buildings. Indecision at this point will set 5G

in Europe at a disadvantage from the beginning.

The European Commission needs to be clear about how the launch of 5G is to be facilitated and supported by European legislation and action. The US, South-Korea, Japan and China are all aiming for full scale

5G launches by 2020.

Europe must be there at the same time; better prepared and at the cutting edge. We must stop talking and start walking. ★

"It is so important to get decisions on an early launch of the 700 MHz band in place as soon as possible, because this decision will be crucial for 5G development"



A window of opportunity

Harmonisation of spectrum management is a prerequisite to seizing the potential of 5G, argues **Pilar del Castillo**



Pilar del Castillo Vera (EPP, ES) is a member of Parliament's industry, research and energy committee

We are at the beginning of an era where digital will be at the core of our society and economy.

Transport, energy, industry and even agriculture (just imagine crops where sensors can detect the need for watering or fertilizers and apply them) are some of the clearest examples. Approximately every 10 years there is a technological breakthrough, today 5G is emerging as the next big digital transformation factor. It is estimated that data traffic of wireless networks will have grown 30-fold by 2020 and that 5G networks will be capable of serving seven billion mobile users (equivalent to every person on the planet) at that time, compared with today's 1.2 billion. In parallel, thanks to the development of the Internet of Things, the number of connected devices will greatly increase, as many as 50 billion devices. These enormous numbers, as well as the diversity of uses from networks will create new needs. Many of these are as yet unknown, which can't be handled by current networks.

"Today 5G is emerging as the next big digital transformation factor"

5G will deliver machine-to-machine communications and enable the full development of the Internet of Things, where all our online-enabled objects will quietly pass on data to our tech overlord of choice. Facilitating the use of mobile networks by connected or autonomous cars, remotely controlled industrial robots, telehealth systems and smart city infrastructure are also all expected to figure large in 5G thinking. In this context, the EU can provide the necessary economies of scale to ensure that Europe is globally competitive, especially through technological developments where so-called 'first movers' gain an advantage. However, in order for

this to happen it is critical that we eliminate fragmentation, making the digital single market essential. The European institutions' first line of action must be on spectrum policy where strong coordination, if not full harmonisation of spectrum management is needed.

The absence of consistent EU-wide objectives and criteria for spectrum management at national level creates barriers to entry, hinders competition and reduces predictability for investors across Europe. 5G represents a new window of opportunity for the higher coordination of national spectrum management. It is, however, a window of opportunity that will not stay open indefinitely and a great deal of work remains to be done. We must eliminate the widely varying conditions regarding factors of relevance

to investment returns and decision-making, such as pricing, licence durations, territorial coverage, spectrum tradability and caps.

In addition, regarding the specific bands that 5G will need, we must consider the use and sharing models that could be applied. Unlike the traditional approach of long-term exclusive licensing in the mobile sector, spectrum management of 5G is likely to require a mix of approaches.

In order to seize the potential of 5G, we must achieve a spectrum management approach that is consistent with the digital single market. The imminent review of the framework for electronic communications will be the best instrument to do so. ★



EU – CHINA JOINT 5G PLANS FROM WORDS TO DEEDS

5G, the next generation of mobile communications technology, will offer dramatic improvements over its predecessors when it becomes standard in 2020. Dramatic means around 100 times faster with 1000 times greater data transfer capacity, connecting some 100 billion devices by 2025. The impact will be dramatic.

It will also provide the backbone of the digital society, enabling a trillion-euro EU market driven by the Internet of Things (IoT), connecting everything from cars to smart homes.

This is why the EU's recent landmark agreement with China to cooperate on 5G research, will prove pivotal in turning the vision for wireless mobile communications into reality. It will drive progress in areas crucial to 5G development – a global 5G vision, standardisation, spectrum use as well as joint R&D.

The research agreement will create vital synergies, since both blocs are investing heavily in 5G at both public and private sector levels. The EU is dedicating €700 million to a 5G Public Private Partnership through its Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme; EU industry is set to match this with a further €3 billion.

The joint EU-China projects under the 5G agreement will use a general co-funding mechanism (CFM) for research

and innovation set up by the two blocs, worth some €640 million from 2016 to 2020. In December 2015, the Chinese ministry of science and technology (MOST) made its first annual call under the CFM to provide €28 million support for Chinese organisations wishing to participate in Horizon 2020.

With 2020 just around the corner, it is vital that preparations for the new 5G markets begin now if we are going to capitalise fully on the technology. There are three key aspects; increasing connectivity, boosting vertical industries and redefining network capabilities.

By 2025, roughly 55 per cent of the 100 billion connections will stem from business applications such as smart

manufacturing and smart cities, with the remainder in consumer areas such as smart homes, the Internet of Vehicles and wearables. However, 99 per cent of all equipment is currently unconnected to the Internet; we must increase the number of connections supported.

International shipping is an example of how additional connections can increase efficiency of an entire industry. Adding a special connected lock to containers (and even small parcels) will enhance efficiency and security and improve logistics. By integrating GPRS, GPS and RFID technologies, the lock can provide information on location and progress and provide digital proof of integrity. 5G will allow make such tracking and communications entirely mainstream.



With the EU as China's biggest trade partner and China as the EU's second largest, both sides stand to gain. Strategic thematic areas for enhanced cooperation under the CFM will include transportation, advanced manufacturing, energy, health, new materials and sustainable urbanisation.

With the shift from supply-driven business models to customer demand driven, vertical industries need new business models to enable the digital transformation. ICT providers must strive to achieve a customer experience that caters to different industries' individual needs. 5G will pave the way for new business models and value propositions between vendors, operators and verticals through the integration of various access, transmission and network technologies.

Car connectivity offers a perfect example. As cars increasingly become smart devices, the ICT and automotive industries need to join forces to deliver products that meet customer expectations. Huawei aims to be a key player making the Internet of Vehicles a reality. The company is working with industry partners in Europe and China to drive 5G development as a key enabler of car-to-car connectivity.

To keep up with the demand required to offer such services, 5G networks will need to integrate high bandwidth requirements into public networks and use virtual private networks to provide services.

Therefore, the third thing we must do by 2020 is redefine **network capabilities**. Carriers need to establish software-defined architecture, achieve agile operations and develop Big Data operation capabilities.

Achieving 5G demands increases connectivity, new business models and new business value. Giving structure to strategic cooperation between Europe and China is a prerequisite to the successful implementation of this three-pronged approach.

Huawei is investing heavily in 5G R&D and is promoting dialogue between China and Europe. It is a key player in the joint EU-China cooperation initiative, investing \$600 million in 5G research worldwide and participating in several flagship Horizon 2020 projects. The company is a Board Member of the 5G Infrastructure Association, which brings together the companies on the private side of the EU's 5G Public Private Partnership (5G-PPP).

To speed progress on both sides, Huawei proposes going a step further and establishing a business-led organisation for EU-China cooperation in 5G. This would encourage collaboration between key companies with a focus on the strategic areas of IoT and car connectivity.

We look forward to taking our fruitful collaboration further, making 5G a reality and building a better-connected world



***Tony Graziano is Vice-President
at Huawei's European Public
Affairs and Communications
Office in Brussels.***

The EU's Arctic policy is here: What exactly is in it?

The EU Arctic policy makes for interesting reading, but perhaps what is most interesting is what has been left out, says **Jørn Dohrmann**



Jørn Dohrmann (ECR, DK) is Chair of Parliament's delegation for relations with Switzerland and Norway

The European Commission has, at last, published its first ever policy paper on the future of EU involvement in the Arctic. As Chair of Parliament's SINEEA delegation, which deals with Arctic issues, this is something I have been looking forward to with great anticipation. The Arctic is a political playing field that, in years to come, will only grow in importance; not simply for the EU and the Arctic states but also for the majority of the dominant figures in international politics.

The US currently chairs the Arctic Council and as such obviously holds an interest in the harsh and inaccessible area, not least because of Russia's own ambitions regarding the region. The same goes for other Arc-

some sort of European strategy for the Arctic. The policy paper highlights three main features on which the future of EU policy will rest: climate change and environment, sustainable development and international cooperation.

The paper's content certainly makes for interesting reading, but I believe that what has been left out is equally important. When I was asked to write this article, I decided to outline three key points that are either

missing or barely feature in the new strategy.

One thing that some will likely find remarkable is the fact that Russia is only briefly mentioned. This may seem odd, given that the Kremlin has been heavily re-arming its Arctic regions, with billions of euros being invested in military equipment and bases.

Some of the more pessimistic pundits and scholars think that Russia's mobilisation should be considered aggressive action. Therefore, they may wonder why this has not been mentioned in the paper.

However, an important interpretation that can be extracted from this is that Russia has deliberately not been

"There is no need to spark diplomatic tensions in one of the few diplomatic fora where Russian talks are still healthy"

tic nations such as Scandinavia and Canada, but also China, which has expressed great interest in investing in the extraction of mineral resources in Greenland. Other Asian economic powers are also showing interest in the region.

The EU has finally determined that geopolitical developments call for



mentioned as an opponent, but rather as a political partner in an Arctic context.

Russian activity in the Arctic is closely tied with its desire to intensify the production of oil and gas in the area. Such investments are not only expensive, but also technically challenging. The Russians will need the EU and the remaining Arctic nations for cooperation on scientific research, search and rescue missions and other daunting tasks. The Commission knows this. There is no need to spark diplomatic tensions in one of the few diplomatic fora where Russian talks are still healthy.

The policy paper also says the EU should support the Arctic's local and indigenous populations. The question of how to do this is another issue. Communication is tricky in many Arctic regions, where internet hotspots and connection are either poor, expensive or both.

Helping develop telecoms in the Arctic could potentially substantiate the framed ambition of helping out locals. For example, in terms of public health, the harsh Arctic environment and long distances make it hard for many inhabitants to efficiently seek out medical attention and advice. Better access to communications would make it easier for locals to seek medical attention online.

Increased vessel activity will only continue to grow in Arctic waters. Therefore, access to quick and modern communication options will be crucial. Access to a stable internet connection will be especially important if the Commission wants to intensify its scientific research in the Arctic.

This is why it is surprising, even disappointing, that no such considerations have been brought up by the relevant DGs.

The paper carefully sums up the different economic and political

frameworks under which the EU can work together with its partners. Yet no Arctic nations are being given any special attention.

Other than climate change, concrete challenges such as socioeconomic problems or Russian military activity have elegantly been left out of the text. All together this signals – to me at least – that the EU is eager to pursue its status as a fully fledged observer in the Arctic Council.

Taking sides and touching concrete issues that are delicate to individual members of the Council, will not ease this process, due to the veto right of each member. The EU has already experienced diplomatic difficulties in its Arctic relations in the past with Canada, over a seal skin ban.

The Commission wants to play an active role in the Arctic in the years to come. For this, it must make sure every Arctic player is happy – even Russia. ★



“Other than climate change, concrete challenges such as socioeconomic problems or Russian military activity have elegantly been left out of the text”



WITH ALL THE CHALLENGES AND CHANGES THE ARCTIC IS FACING THESE DAYS, IT'S CRUCIAL TO HAVE A RELIABLE SOURCE OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE REGION

Having the best available information and data on the Arctic is key to making the right decisions about the Arctic, whether you work in politics, business, research, or the non-profit sector.

ARCTIC PORTAL: CELEBRATING 10 YEARS AS A PROMINENT ARCTIC KNOWLEDGE BROKER

Based in the heart of the Arctic in Akureyri, Iceland, for the past 10 years Arctic Portal has served as a broker of Arctic information and data. An expert in Arctic data solutions and data-sharing, Arctic Portal supports co-operation and outreach in science, education, and policymaking. It also fosters dialogue and building connections between Arctic stakeholders in all parts of the world.

Arctic Portal operates in consultation and co-operation with members of the Arctic Council and its Working Groups, as well as Arctic indigenous peoples, Arctic Council Observer states, and other important Arctic stakeholders.

© Arctic Portal; Source: Arctic Council, NSIDC, NSR Information Office



Arctic Portal is also active in international consortia, including the European Polar Board (EPB), the EU-PolarNet initiative, the Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON), the Arctic Data Committee (ADC), the University of the Arctic, the International Permafrost Association (IPA), and the China-Nordic Arctic Research Centre (CNARC).



ARCTIC INFORMATION, INTERACTIVE MAPS AND DATA SERVICES

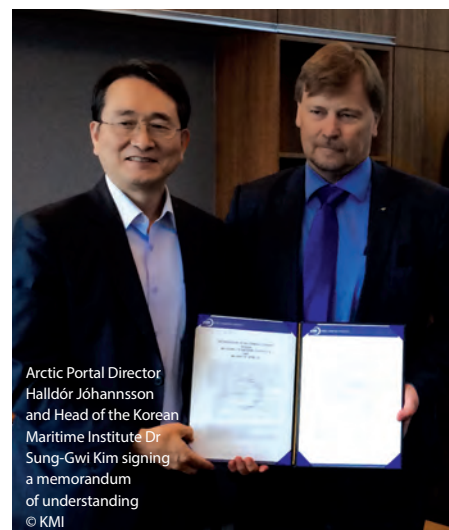
Arctic Portal has developed topic-specific information, maps and data services for the Arctic, including:

- **The Global Terrestrial Network for Permafrost database:** A product of the EU-funded PAGE21 project, this database provides data on permafrost thaw depths and temperatures from around the world through comprehensive and user-friendly visualization and interpretation tools, including an interactive map.
- **The Arctic Maritime & Aviation Transportation Initiative:** An interactive database of the Circumpolar Arctic displaying visual, geographical and descriptive information about maritime and aviation infrastructure based on data collected from all eight countries in the circumpolar Arctic.
- **A series of thematic Arctic information and maps** on the Arctic Portal website: These provide visual representation of data on ice conditions, shipping, climate change, social issues, governance and other topics of interest to Arctic stakeholders. These maps are supported by sector-specific information found in the Arctic Portal Library, allowing users to explore each topic further.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Arctic Portal plays an important role in fostering co-operation between international Arctic stakeholders. Some key activities include:

- Developing co-operation with Asian partners. In addition to signing an MOU with the Korean Maritime Institute, Arctic Portal has also been active in fostering Iceland-China relations, most notably by playing an instrumental role in the establishment of the Aurora Observatory being built in Iceland, and designing the observatory's visitor centre, which will communicate to the general public about the research taking place there on Sun-Earth interactions and space weather.
- Maintaining strong partnerships with the US, Canada, Russia and Arctic indigenous peoples' organizations, through involvement in projects such as the Northern Forum and the development of an Arctic Renewable Energy Atlas.



The Arctic's future is both bright and sustainable

Canada is fully committed to working with the Arctic Council to ensure a better future for all Arctic states, writes **Dan Castello**



Dan Castello is
Ambassador of Canada
to the European Union

The sustainable development of the north remains a priority for Canada's Arctic policy. Canada is working to develop and diversify the northern economy, investing in resource development, fisheries, community business development, tourism, and cultural industries. It is in this spirit that Canada's Minister of fisheries, oceans and the coastguard, Hunter Tootoo, visited Brussels last week, attending the annual Seafood Show and meeting with Commission and Council officials, as well as members of the European Parliament.

Canada's emphasis on the social and economic well-being of northerners is underpinned by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's commitment to a renewed nation-to-nation relationship between the government of Canada and indigenous peoples. This relationship must be built on a foundation of mutual recognition, rights, respect, cooperation and partnership and informed by a spirit of reconciliation. Indigenous and northern partnerships will be crucial for the sustainable development of the Canadian Arctic region.

Climate change poses significant challenges in

the Arctic. Canada's new government recognises this and is now redefining its Arctic policy priorities to address both these serious challenges and the new opportunities that climate change may present. This is made clear in Canada's most recent policy statement on the Arctic; Prime Minister Trudeau and President Obama's March 2016 joint statement on climate, energy and Arctic leadership. In this statement, Canada and the United States commit to advancing climate action globally and to working to implement the Paris agreement. The two leaders call on Arctic nations and those with Arctic interests to embrace a new future for Arctic leadership, focused on four objectives; conserving Arctic biodiversity through science-based

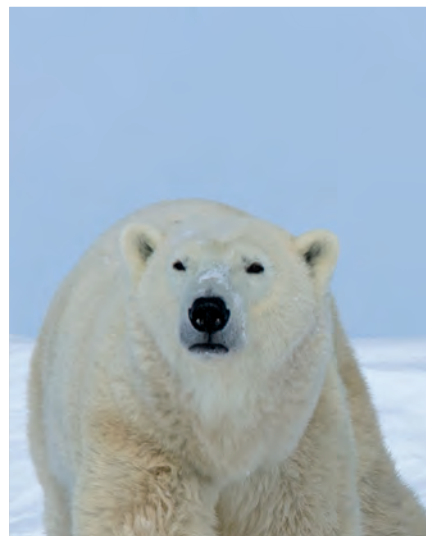
decision-making, building a sustainable Arctic economy, supporting strong Arctic communities and incorporating indigenous science and traditional knowledge into decision-making.

Canada is deeply committed to the Arctic Council, the primary forum for international cooperation on Arctic issues. This body stands apart from other regional cooperation organisations because the six permanent participants, representing Arctic indigenous groups, are at the table alongside the eight Arctic states. With science at the core of its work, the Arctic Council complements Canada's commitment to science-based decision making. Canada will continue to work with Arctic Council states, permanent participants and observers to shape a better future for the Arctic through sound, science-based decision-making informed by traditional knowledge.

Canada is also investing in partnerships that will enhance Arctic scientific knowledge. Polar Knowledge Canada is building bridges between Canadian and international researchers, including many in Europe. The unique facilities of the Canadian high Arctic research station (CHARS) that will open in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, in 2017 will allow international researchers to conduct Arctic research year-round. This work will supplement our increased cooperation and collaboration in Arctic science, technology and innovation with the EU

and the United States in the framework of the transatlantic ocean research alliance.

As the EU releases its joint communication this week, Canada looks forward to new opportunities for cooperation in the Arctic with the European Union and its member states. ★



"Canada will continue to work with Arctic Council states, permanent participants and observers to shape a better future for the Arctic through sound, science-based decision-making informed by traditional knowledge"

The Arctic: A paragon of peace and stability

The Arctic is a region of stability and peaceful cooperation. Norway and the EU share a strong common interest in ensuring it remains so, argues **Børge Brende**



Børge Brende is the Norwegian minister of foreign affairs

In a volatile world, the Arctic stands out as an example of a remarkably stable and peaceful region. However, this stability should not be taken for granted. Some analysts have suggested that contemporary geopolitical tensions could spill over and pose a challenge to security in the Arctic. The overall goal for Norway's Arctic policy is to ensure that this does not happen.

The peace and stability that characterise the Arctic is built on sound respect for international law, cooperation based on common interests, responsible resource management and smart institution building.

This year, the Arctic Council celebrates its 20th anniversary. The council brings together all the Arctic states, including Russia and the US, as well as representatives of indigenous peoples and a growing number of observer countries. It has proven instrumental in finding solutions to regional challenges.

In an increasingly unstable world, the Arctic Council leads the way as a

model of regional governance and for promoting knowledge, stability and predictability based on respect for international law. This is even more important in times of heightened geopolitical tensions and when relations between Russia and European countries are strained.

The accomplishments of the Arctic Council are manifold. Its initiatives have resulted in binding agreements between the eight Arctic states on search and rescue and on oil spill preparedness and response.

Moreover, the Council's comprehensive studies have highlighted the speed at which climate change is affecting the region. Snow is melting and glaciers are receding at record pace. The acidity of the oceans is rising. Entire ecosystems are affected.

The consequences of the dramatic changes taking place in the north are far-reaching. Climate change in the Arctic is amplifying the impact of the global warming, which is causing unprecedented damage to our planet. The melting ice cap is also making energy and mineral resources more accessible; in the future, the Arctic Ocean may become an attractive shipping route from Europe to east Asia.

Protecting the vulnerable Arctic environment is vital. If we are to



“The Arctic has already become an area for cooperation between Europe, North America and Asia”

lack of symmetry between ourselves and our larger neighbour, Russia. Our experience is that having a robust and predictable defence capability in the north does not prevent cooperation – it enables it. Nevertheless, Russia’s military build-up and intensification of military exercises in the Arctic is a sign that we must remain constantly vigilant.

In the future, the strategic importance of the Arctic for Europe’s economy and security will continue to grow. Even as the world’s geopolitical balance shifts eastwards and southwards, interest in the north will keep increasing.

Indeed, the Arctic has already become an area for cooperation between Europe, North America and Asia. The EU in particular is already making important contributions to Arctic research and to the work of the Arctic Council, the Barents Euro Arctic Council and the Northern Dimension.

Our vision is for the Arctic to become the best-managed region in the world, striking the balance between conservation and sustainable use. To achieve this we must increase our understanding of the Arctic while strengthening international cooperation to avoid geopolitical tension and an unsustainable race for resources.

Europe’s long-term economic and security interests in the Arctic are best served by a coherent approach, based on sustainable resource management and respect for international law. ★

meet future global demands for food, energy and raw materials, we need to enhance our capacity to sustainably harvest and manage a wider range of ocean resources.

To ensure balanced and sustainable use of natural resources, Norway is promoting an integrated, ecosystem-based management approach. In the Barents sea, science-based fisheries management, in cooperation with Russia, has made northeast Arctic cod one of the most productive fish stocks in the world.

The importance of international law for stability in the Arctic cannot be overestimated. The five coastal states

of the Arctic ocean agree that overlapping claims to the continental shelf will be settled within the legal framework established by the law of the sea.

This commitment to international law is effectively preventing an unsustainable race for resources. It enhances cooperation easier and makes conflict less likely and offers a good example of how adhering to agreed principles benefits small countries and great powers alike.

We need to bear in mind that stability in the Arctic is the result of a modern and comprehensive approach to security. For Norway’s part, our Nato membership compensates for the

5

Questions with...

Françoise Grossetête



During those years, I often worked on the ground, always carrying a pair of rubber boots in the trunk of my car.

4. WHAT IS THE MOST HUMBLING THING YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED IN YOUR CAREER?

Meeting with spiritual leaders, men of God, has always been for me a very humbling experience. I once met the Dalai-Lama, but also Pope John-Paul II and Benedict XVI. All have impressed me by their wisdom and depth of thoughts. When you work in politics and you have such a hectic agenda, you seldom have the chance to take a step back, and really reflect on spiritual matters. It is however helpful to remain grounded in strong values and beliefs.

1. WHICH PERSON YOU HAVE WORKED WITH HAS MOST INSPIRED YOU IN YOUR CAREER, AND HOW?

One name that immediately springs to my mind is Alain Madelin. He is a French politician, who served several times as minister. He has also been an MEP and ran in the French presidential elections. Perhaps most importantly, he presided the French liberal, centre-right movement where I started in politics. He is a true liberal, a man of conviction and ideas and an intellectual powerhouse, from whom I learned a lot. There are very few politicians like him left in French politics today, something I deeply regret.

2. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR POLITICAL STYLE IN THREE WORDS AND WHY?

I would say my style is frank, determined and dynamic. I have a reputation for being straightforward: when I have something to say, I say it without beating around the bush. Also, when I am defending a conviction, I hold on to it. In politics, it's important to have strong ideas that you can defend no matter what. However, you also have to be able to make compromises, and

that doesn't work without putting some strength and energy into it. You have to show that you believe in it yourself.

3. IS THERE ANYTHING YOU HAVE PERSONALLY ACHIEVED OR DONE THAT WOULD SURPRISE PEOPLE?

Here is something many of my colleagues in Brussels probably don't know about me: for many years, I was President of a natural regional park in my home region. I was actually the very first woman in France to hold such a post. perhaps because I am a woman, and because I am often perceived as more 'urban' in style, it came as a surprise to many that I could easily be elected in a very rural area, by rural mayors from small villages.



5. WHAT WAS THE MOST INSPIRATIONAL AND INFLUENTIAL BOOK YOU HAVE READ AND WHY?

I recently read a book by young French economist Nicolas Bouzou, which struck me through its accuracy and audacious style. In 'Le Grand Refoulement' (the Great Repression in English), Bouzou tries to culturally and historically explain the fear that many French people have of globalisation and technological progress and also proposes solutions. The book shows the way France has always been able, albeit belatedly, to transform itself and embrace modern changes to remain wealthy and competitive. Genuinely positive and liberal, this is a book I would warmly recommend to all candidates running for the French presidential elections next year. ★



Françoise Grossetête (FR) is a Vice-Chair of Parliament's EPP group



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