

2019 THE CHANGEOVER YEAR TIMELINE

January-June
Commission services prepare handover for incoming Commission President

January-February
Remaining Lead Candidates nominated by political parties, Manifestos are published.



March 29
Brexit

April 16
Last EP Plenary session

May 23-26
European elections
Based on the outcome of the elections, the European Council President consults with the EP on a possible candidate for Commission President and puts the candidate forward to the European Council.

June 20-21
European Council
EU leaders to nominate a Commission President for EP approval, acting by qualified majority. Leaders to agree on the nomination of the new President of the European Council. In reality, the appointment of the Presidents of the Commission, Parliament and European Council, as well as the new High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and to some extent the ECB Presidency, will be negotiated as a package deal between member states and political parties.

July-September
EP Committees formed

July 2-4
EP inaugural session
The new President of the Commission is elected by an absolute majority of the EP

Possible delays
If the President-candidate does not receive sufficient support to be elected by the EP, the following steps in the appointment of the new College of Commissioners would be delayed.

End September-October
Hearings of Commissioner candidates
Before the new College can be approved by the EP, individual Commissioner candidates go through hearings in the relevant Committees. In recent years the initial composition and distribution of portfolios in the College has changed through hearings as the EP has rejected some candidates. In 2014, Slovenian candidate Alenka Bratusek was turned down whereas the UK candidate, Lord Hill, had to be called back for a second confirmation hearing. Miguel Arias Cañete (Spain) only survived his vote after amending his financial disclosure forms and Tibor Navracscics (Hungary) was stripped of oversight for citizenship rights as education Commissioner because of his close ties to Prime Minister Viktor Orbán.

End October
Vote of investiture
The Commission President presents his/her priorities in Plenary and the EP votes on the College as a whole. The new Commission can then be appointed by the European Council.

November
New College of Commissioners takes office?