



PRESS RELEASE No 15/25

Luxembourg, 10 February 2025

Sitting of the Court of Justice

Solemn undertaking of three Members of the European Commission

At a sitting of the Court of Justice on 10 February 2025, three members of the European Commission gave the solemn undertaking prescribed by the Treaties.

The solemn undertaking was given by Mr Maroš Šefčovič, Ms Hadja Lahbib and Mr Christophe Hansen.

Whilst the Treaties make no express provision for the manner in which the solemn undertaking is to be given, the Commission has always attached great importance to the undertaking being given before the Court of Justice of the European Union.

The solemn undertaking given by the Members of the European Commission is as follows:

'Having been appointed as a Member of the European Commission by the European Council, following the vote of consent by the European Parliament, I solemnly undertake:

to respect the Treaties and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union in the fulfilment of all my duties;

to be completely independent in carrying out my responsibilities, in the general interest of the Union;

in the performance of my tasks, neither to seek nor to take instructions from any Government or from any other institution, body, office or entity;

to refrain from any action incompatible with my duties or the performance of my tasks.

I formally note the obligation laid down under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, by virtue of which each Member State is to respect this principle and is not to seek to influence Members of the Commission in the performance of their tasks.

I further undertake to respect, both during and after my term of office, the obligations arising therefrom, and in particular the duty to behave with integrity and discretion as regards the acceptance, after I have ceased to hold office, of certain appointments or benefits.'

Unofficial document for media use, not binding on the Court.

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Images of the sitting are available on [the CVRIA internet site](#).

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Annex

Address by the President, Mr Koen Lenaerts

Members of the European Commission,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In declaring this sitting open, I warmly welcome you on behalf of the Court of Justice.

Today the Court will receive the solemn undertaking of three Members of the new European Commission, who were unable to attend at the time of the formal sitting of 27 January 2025 during which the President of the Commission and twenty Members thereof gave the same undertaking.

That solemn undertaking is provided for in Article 245 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and it is well-established practice that it is given before the Court. This practice has a dual symbolism. It expresses the commitment to respect for the law which characterises the European Union and the functioning of its institutions, including the Commission. It also underlines the importance of the tasks which the Commission is called upon to carry out, in the general interest of the Union, in accordance with the Treaties.

The decision of the European Council of 28 November 2024 appointing the European Commission, which was read at the formal hearing on 27 January, paved the way for this Commission to exercise its powers under the Treaties for the period from 1 December 2024 to 31 October 2029.

The new Commission's action programme, which its President set out a few months ago before the European Parliament, aims to prioritise a more competitive, more resilient and less externally dependent Europe in a challenging global context, marked by profound geopolitical, economic, environmental and technological change.

That programme also focuses on the need for a socially responsible Europe, characterised by solidarity, as well as on strengthening the protection of vulnerable sections of the population in an increasingly digitalised society.

In addition, the broad lines of that action programme include the collective defence of the values of the rule of law against undermining from within or outside Europe, which threatens the very foundations of our democratic systems and institutions.

These priorities for action highlight the importance of the competences that have been assigned to you: be it, in the case of Mr Šefčovič, Trade and economic security, Interinstitutional relations and transparency; in the case of Ms Lahbib, Equality and Preparedness and crisis management, or, in the case of Mr Hansen, Agriculture and Food.

Your personal attributes as well as your professional experience and the significant responsibilities you have been called upon to exercise throughout your earlier careers make it possible to foresee that you will be able to meet the great challenges which await you during this legislative term and to carry out your new responsibilities successfully.

On behalf of the Court and its members, I extend to you our warmest congratulations and I sincerely wish you every success in your efforts to reinvigorate Europe and to prove – in these times when peace no longer reigns, even on the European continent – the added value of the European project as an unassailable *acquis*.