

# CEPLIS TELEGRAM

European Council of the Liberal Professions



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## News from Our Members:

- CEPLIS Vice-President Jean-Yves Pirlot Elected First President of the Regulatory Body of Surveyors in Belgium
- CLGE Elects New President and Executive Board



## CEPLIS General Assembly Meeting Announced

We are glad to announce that the second statutory meeting of our General Assembly and the meeting of our Permanent Committee are going to be held in **Brussels**, in the **premises of the European Parliament**, on **Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2024, from 09h00 to 13h00**.

This event will be the perfect occasion for all members to reflect on a very busy year ahead for CEPLIS and for the European Union.

## Confirmation Hearing of Commissioner-designate Šefčovič (International Trade)



*Maroš Šefčovič*

The designated candidates of the von der Leyen Commission will be heard by the EP committees dealing with their respective portfolios from 04/11/2024 until 12/11/2024. During each confirmation hearing, the Commissioner-designate will give an opening speech and then answer questions by committee members. More detailed information, including the candidates'

portfolios, the procedure, the schedule, the latest news and a live webstreaming during and record after the hearing, can be found on the dedicated webpage.

INTA will be jointly responsible with the Constitutional Affairs Committee (AFCO) for the confirmation hearing of Maroš Šefčovič (Slovakia), Commissioner-designate for Trade and Economic Security and for Interinstitutional Relations and Transparency.

Maroš Šefčovič's confirmation hearing will take place on Monday 4 November between 14:30 and 17:30.

# Questions and Answers of Commissioner-designate Olivér Várhelyi (Health & Animal Welfare)

In the lead-up to Commissioner-designate Olivér Várhelyi's confirmation hearing by the European Parliament (EP), the questionnaire submitted to him was published along with his responses.



The Commissioner-designate highlighted that, if elected, as Commissioner for Health and Animal Welfare, his tenure would highlight the importance of **strengthening the healthcare sector within the European Union.**

If confirmed, Mr Várhelyi (Hungary) has stated that he would ‘diversify’ and ‘strengthen resilience of supply chains’ by **reducing ‘dependencies on non-EU countries for critical medicines and their ingredients, while helping keep medicines affordable.’** This, according to Mr Várhelyi, would be done through ‘shorter and simplified procedures for authorisation, regulating support for companies developing new medicines – especially SMEs and start-ups.’



*Commissioner-designate Olivér Várhelyi*

Mr Várhelyi highlighted the **importance of SMEs in the European medical device sector**, numbering more than 37,000 companies - 95% of which are SMEs – employing more than 695,000 people. With this in mind, Mr Várhelyi ‘would focus on improving predictability and look at the need to reduce costs and administrative burdens.’ The focus on strengthening SMEs to build up the European domestic sector and the focus on improving access, distribution, and lowering costs is going to directly impact most liberal professionals of the healthcare sector should Olivér Várhelyi be confirmed.



## Trade Committee MEPs travel to London amid talk of ‘strengthened cooperation’

A delegation of six MEPs from the Trade Committee, along with the Chair of the Delegation to the EU-UK Parliamentary Partnership Assembly, will travel to London from 28 to 30 October.

The delegation’s aim is to meet with representatives of the UK government, UK parliamentarians, EU businesses and civil society to gain insight into the implementation of the trade provisions of the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA), which is scheduled for review in 2026. MEPs are also keen to hear from businesses, civil society, and political parties regarding the implementation of the Windsor Framework, designed to address challenges faced by citizens and businesses in Northern Ireland.

This visit takes place against the backdrop of efforts by the new UK government and the European Commission to “strengthen cooperation” in EU-UK relations. Additionally, the Northern Ireland Assembly is set to vote later this year on key provisions of the Windsor Framework, adding urgency to the discussions.

**The UK remains a key trading partner for the EU, and the Trade Committee is responsible for overseeing the implementation and monitoring of the EU's common commercial policy and its external economic relations. Since Brexit, MEPs have been following closely the evolving EU-UK trade relationship. This will be the first official visit to the United Kingdom by Parliament’s Committee on International Trade in this new parliamentary term.**

The delegation will be led by the Chair of the International Trade Committee (INTA), **Bernd Lange** (S&D, DE), and will include Nina Carberry (EPP, IE), standing rapporteur for the UK,

Jörgen Warborn (EPP, SE), Brando Benifei (S&D, IT), Pierre Pimpie (Pfe, FR), Barry Cowen (Renew, IE), and Sandro Gozi (Renew, FR), Chair of the Delegation to the EU-UK Parliamentary Partnership Assembly.

### Quote

*"I am very pleased that our committee's first mission of this new term will be to the UK. Although the UK is no longer part of the EU, we will always maintain a special relationship. I welcome that the new government is seeking a reset in EU-UK relations and look forward to meeting government members to explore how such a reset might look like in practice. Regarding the Windsor Framework and the TCA, we are keen to see how these arrangements work in practice and welcome the chance to speak with various actors on the ground. As we prepare to review the TCA, these insights will be valuable for our parliamentary work,"* Bernd Lange said ahead of the visit.

### Background

The EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) entered into force May 2021, and together with the Withdrawal Agreement, sets the framework for the EU-UK relationship. The Windsor Framework, reached in 2023, came up with joint solutions on for instance customs, agri-food products, VAT, state aid, and medicines to deal with the effects of Brexit in Northern Ireland. In October 2024, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen met and agreed to identify areas where "strengthened cooperation" would be mutually beneficial. The EU remains the UK's largest trading partner, accounting for 40% of the UK's foreign trade in goods in 2022, while the UK is the EU's third-largest trading partner, representing 9.8% of its trade according to the Commission.



*Sir Keir Starmer, Prime Minister of  
HM Government of the United  
Kingdom of Great Britain and  
Northern Ireland*

## News From Our Members

### CEPLIS Vice-President Jean-Yves Pirlot Elected First President of the Regulatory Body of Surveyors in Belgium

Following the elections of the newly established Regulatory Body for the Profession of Surveyors (Ordre des Géomètres-Experts en Belgique), Jean-Yves Pirlot, Vice-President of CEPLIS and Director-General of the CLGE has been voted to become President of the OGE.be



*Jean-Yves Pirlot, President of OGE.be*

With years of professional experience in the geodetic profession, Mr. Pirlot's expertise shall strengthen enormously the position of surveyors, geometric experts, and related professions in Belgium and indeed within Europe, through ever closer collaboration with CEPLIS and beyond.

### CLGE Elects New President and Executive Board



**THE COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN GEODETIC SURVEYORS**  
**COMITÉ DE LIAISON DES GÉOMÈTRES EUROPÉENS**

**On Saturday 12th October 2024 the CLGE General Assembly in Stavanger (NO) elected a new President and Executive Board.**

The new team are drawn from nine different European countries from across the continent. The new President, Secretary General and Treasurer bring valuable, long CLGE experience to the Bureau. Two continuing and three new Vice Presidents offer a great mix of experience and new ideas. The Chair IG-PARLS steps up from the position of Vice Chair IG-PARLS.

The following persons were duly elected as officers of the CLGE Executive Board:

## BUREAU

- CLGE President – **Nicolas Smith** (FR)
- CLGE Secretary General – Duncan Moss (UK)
- CLGE Treasurer – Julian Ismaili (AL)



*From left to right: Paco Darder, Peter Repán, Julian Ismaili, Nicolas Smith, Duncan Moss, Sarah Sherlock, Eric Hagemans and Thomas Jacubeit, (Frederic Mortier not present).*

## FIVE VICE-PRESIDENTS

- CLGE Vice President – Francisco José Darder García (ES)
- CLGE Vice President – Sarah Sherlock (IE)
- CLGE Vice President – Eric Hagemans (NL)
- CLGE Vice President – Frederic Mortier (BE)
- CLGE Vice President – Peter Repán (SK)

During the closing remarks of the meeting the newly elected CLGE President Nicolas Smith thanked the entire General Assembly for taking part in the democratic process to elect the new leadership team. In particular he thanked the immediate past President Vladimir Krupa for his leadership of CLGE and his achievements over the past four years which of course commenced at the height of the extremely challenging COVID-19 pandemic. Nicolas looks forward to working with his new team and all CLGE Members and Partners to drive forward our profession to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future.

The whole CEPLIS family sends its sincere thanks to them for their long service and dedication to their profession. We look forward to future collaboration with them.