

**Question for written answer E-002508/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Vera Tax (S&D), **Mohammed Chahim** (S&D), **Lara Wolters** (S&D), **Thijs Reuten** (S&D), **Paul Tang** (S&D), **Kim Van Sparrentak** (Verts/ALE), **Bas Eickhout** (Verts/ALE), **Tineke Strik** (Verts/ALE), **Samira Rafaela** (Renew)

Subject: Procedure for appointment of the new EU Commissioner from the Netherlands and gender equality

Following the departure of Frans Timmermans, Vice-President, the Netherlands Government has nominated a new Commissioner: Wopke Hoekstra. That is striking. One of the Commission's priorities is to foster and improve gender equality. Accordingly, in the run-up to the Commission's term of office and when Commissioners have had to be replaced, it has been consistently requested that both a male and a female candidate be nominated. That has not happened in this instance.

1. Why, as part of the process of appointing a new EU Commissioner from the Netherlands, has the Commission opted not to ask the Netherlands to nominate both a woman and a man?
2. How are the principles of transparency, democratic oversight and gender equality being safeguarded in this process?
3. Should it not be precisely the Commission that sets a good example regarding gender equality in the institutions by giving men and women equal opportunities?

We would welcome your reply at the latest before Mr Hoekstra's hearing in Parliament.

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