

Surely, you can do better than this!



In a time of growing inequalities, there seems to be confusion as to what the primary objective of the EU's development policy is: the reduction and eradication of poverty - as outlined in Art. 208 TFEU - not the sourcing of critical raw materials and resources from developing countries.

Furthermore, four years after the biggest pandemic of the last century, it is puzzling that the word "health" doesn't appear at all - especially, considering that there is no better investment than health.

MISSION LETTER

Brussels, 17 September 2024

Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission

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Jozef Síkela

Commissioner-designate for International Partnerships

Your mission

I would like to entrust you with the role of **Commissioner for International Partnerships**.

Focus on interests, but what about EU values?

Surely, eradicating poverty across the world remains the ultimate goal?

Europe's international partnerships are crucial for our prosperity, resilience and security. In recent years, the EU has maintained its unwavering commitments on development and on the eradication of poverty, while taking a more assertive approach in aligning its interests with its partnerships in a more contested and unstable world. It is essential that we continue this work as part of our economic foreign policy to ensure we create long-term, mutually beneficial partnerships, investing in a common future with our partners and committing for the long-term. You will work closely with the High Representative/Vice-President on these matters.

Must take precedence over any commercial and trade interests in a more contested and unstable world.

Don't you mean our "international development policy"?

- You will strengthen Global Gateway to ensure it puts forward the most attractive integrated offer to our partners including on infrastructure investment, trade and macro-economic support. Your task will be **to take Global Gateway from start-up to scale-up** and ensure the programme's role in supporting global connectivity and investment until 2027 and beyond. You will refine and accelerate the offer the EU makes to its partners and ensure faster disbursement of funds where possible.

"our partners" is too vague.. what about LDCs' specific needs for instance?

You're missing a key aspect here: addressing global challenges - delivering access to healthcare, fighting climate change, improving health systems worldwide...

Has a role to play when it contributes to the achievement of objectives in the public interest.

- You will continue building on the **Team Europe approach**, by aligning approaches and mobilising resources from Member States, public development banks and development finance institutions, the European Investment Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, export credit agencies, and the private sector.

✓ Good start!
But there cannot be any accountability without publicly available reporting!

- I would also like you to invest in **making Global Gateway a trusted and quality brand** throughout the world. I would like you to put in place an effective and visible tracking and reporting of Global Gateway, including on the mobilisation of private funding, and measuring impact and results of investments, notably when it comes to human rights and political freedoms.

Remember: the private sector is not a substitute for public bodies and institutions.

Great! But what about accountability?

- I would like you to strengthen transparency and communication, both to inform EU stakeholders and taxpayers but also to raise the profile and interest of the program among partners, taking into account a global context of rising disinformation. You will strengthen stakeholder dialogue in the EU and partner countries.

Especially with civil society?

- You should work to ensure that partnerships and Global Gateway investments are developed in synergy with ~~new Clean Trade and Investment Partnerships~~ to help secure ~~supply of raw materials, clean energy and clean tech from across the world.~~
- You will lead the EU's engagement in all **Just Transition Partnerships** to contribute to partner countries' commitments in decarbonising the power sector.

To rephrase? "in synergy with the Global Health Strategy & EU commitments to advance human rights and health equity."

- You will work on building **comprehensive partnerships** with an integrated approach so that economic, humanitarian, development, peace and security policies all contribute to strengthening these partnerships. These will notably address the root causes and key drivers of irregular migration in partner countries and fight the networks of smugglers.

A little vague. Be more specific! Hint: poverty.

Promoting is good, delivering is better!

- You will continue to ensure that the EU promotes the **United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and the Sustainable Development Goals.

And delivering is only possible with concrete policies and goals.

- You will play a leading role in strengthening our mutual partnership with Africa, ensuring support to bridge the investment gap through Global Gateway, and working together to mutually address the concerns of our partners across the continent.

? Who benefits?

Happy to see this finally mentioned so clearly!

- I want you to build on the growing partnership between **EU and Central Asia** and explore, in particular the potential of deepening the relationship on connectivity and critical raw materials.

Surely, we have other shared interests, such as pandemic preparedness for instance?

- I want you to contribute to deepening our engagement with our partners in **Asia** and the **Indo-Pacific**, including by contributing to the new Strategic EU-India Agenda.
- You should also deepen the cooperation between the EU and **Latin America and the Caribbean** on our shared interests, from security to energy, through Global Gateway investments.



- You will support a differentiated approach with regard to Least Developed Countries by focusing more effectively on their specific vulnerabilities and to conflict areas, fragile countries, and other complex settings. You will work on the basic needs and human development in countries that face challenges and also consider the specific needs and interests of **Middle Income Countries**.
- As women and girls play a key role in development, you should ensure that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls continue to be a top priority in our international cooperation and development policies, in line with the Gender Action Plan III.

As long as you commit to defend an international system that works better to reduce global inequalities...

- I want you to support the High Representative/Vice-President in ensuring that the EU continues playing a leading role in reforming the international system, including the United Nations and the Multilateral development Banks, making it more inclusive and more effective and promoting effective multilateralism.

yes!

As a rule, you will work under the guidance of the High Representative/Vice-President. The Directorate General for International Partnerships will support you in your work.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission

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Prerequisites: grants made available and an ambitious MFF.

Great news!

