

Committee on Culture and Education
The Chair

ACCES RESERVE

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CONFIDENTIAL

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Jerzy BUZEK
Chair
Conference of Committee Chairs

Dear Mr Buzek,

In accordance with Rule 118 of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament, the Committee on Culture and Education (CULT)¹ held a public hearing on Wednesday, 1 October 2014 with Mr Tibor Navracsics, Commissioner-designate, who, subject to the positive outcome of the nomination procedure, should be responsible for Education, Culture, Youth and Citizenship.

Prior to the hearing, Parliament had sent the Commissioner-designate a list of written questions, to which he replied on 26 September 2014.

On the day following the hearing, the CULT Coordinators received **the opinion of the ITRE Committee, associated committee**, which is attached.

On the same day **the CULT Coordinators met in camera** in order to proceed with the evaluation of the Commissioner-designate. During the meeting, it became clear that no consensus could be reached at this stage. It was therefore decided to **require further information** and to **convene a full committee meeting** in order to complete the evaluation process.

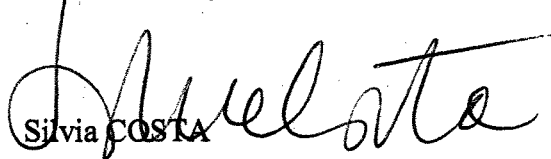
The answers to the additional written questions were circulated prior to this meeting, which took place on Monday, 6 October in camera. During the meeting, it proved again impossible to reach a consensus on the nomination of the Commissioner-designate and **a vote had to be organised**.

The **general outcome** of this hearing, as is shown by the results of the vote, is that the Commissioner-designate is qualified to be a member of the College of Commissioners (15 votes for, 10 against, 2 abstentions) but not qualified to carry out the particular duties assigned to him (12 votes for, 14 against, 1 abstention).

¹ Two other committees participated in the hearing: the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) as an 'associated committee' and the Committee on Petitions (PETI) as an 'invited committee'.

I would be grateful if you could bring this assessment to the attention of the Conference of Presidents.

Yours sincerely,


Silvia COSTA

Annex: Opinion of the ITRE Committee, associated committee

Opinion of the ITRE Committee, associated committee

The ITRE Committee acknowledges the engagement of Commissioner-designate Navracsics in relation to the Joint Research Centre (JRC), the European Institute for Innovation and Technology (EIT) and the Marie-Curie actions under the Horizon 2020 programme. The Commissioner-designate expressed his intention to retain the JRC at the heart of EU policy with a view to ensuring that all new Commission proposals are based on coherent and objective evidence.

The Commissioner-designate committed to continue to invest in the EIT and to spread its activities across the whole EU. In this respect it trusts that the Commissioner-designate will implement the Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS) of the EIT. Furthermore, he recognised the value of Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) for bringing together universities, research organisation and businesses.

The Committee emphasises that close cooperation with the rest of the College, in particular the Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, will be necessary to ensure that the JRC and EIT are run in line with the priorities established under the Horizon 2020 programme.