

Miriam Hartlapp
Yann Lorenz

User's manual for the PEU database

Freie Universität Berlin
Research Center for Comparative Politics and
Policy of Germany and France

December 2025
Freie Universität Berlin
Otto-Suhr-Institut
Innestr. 22 14159 Berlin
Germany
www.fu-berlin.de

Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Persons Data	4
2.1 Name.....	4
2.2 Number of Positions (Spells).....	5
2.3 Party.....	5
2.4 Party Family	6
2.5 Nationality	6
2.6 Donor/Receiving State.....	7
2.7 Geographical State Group.....	8
2.8 Accession Group.....	8
2.9 Former positions detailed	9
2.10 Former positions tenure	10
2.11 Former positions hierarchical	11
2.12 Power Index.....	12
2.13 Technocratic/ Democratic Credentials Index.....	14
2.14 Date of birth.....	15
2.15 Gender	15
2.16 Further career.....	15
2.17 Notes.....	16
2.18 Further information.....	17
3. Persons Positions	18
3.1 Spell.....	18
3.2 Position	18
3.3 DG	19
3.4 Commission	20
3.5 Date in	20
3.6 Date out	21
3.7 Months in office.....	21
4. DG Data.....	22
4.1 DG	22
4.2 Commission	22
4.3 Personnel	23
4.4 Name at the time.....	23
4.5 Names of Directorates	23
4.6 Number of Directorates	24
4.7 Number of Units	24
5. DG Organizational Evolution.....	25
5.1 Current abbreviations.....	25
5.2 Historical portfolios	25
6. Appendix	26
6.1 List of abbreviations	26
6.2 Commission Presidents 1958-2020	27
6.3 Legal Disclaimer.....	28
6.4 Further Information	28
7. References	29

1. Introduction

The PEU database on the European Commission provides an overview of the European Commission's historical development from the start of the first *Hallstein* Commission in 1958 to the beginning of the *von der Leyen II* Commission in 2024 (cut of date is 1 December 2025). It was part of the multi-annual project 'Position formation in the EU Commission' (PEU) at the Social Science Research Center Berlin (WZB) and has been updated at the Freie Universität Berlin (FUB) since.¹

With the rise in scale and scope of the European Commission, research and literature on the nature of the institution has increased considerably. What is frequently missing is structured information how the European Commission developed in its organizational and staff composition over a longer period of time. This newly established and comprehensive database on the European Commission (1958-2025) attempts to close this gap.

The database provides three different perspectives on the historical Commission: an insight to the Commission staff ('Persons Data'/'Persons Positions'), the administrative structure and size of the Directorates-General ('DG Data') and a localization of policies in the administrative structure of the EU Commission ('DG Organizational Evolution'). We use current DG and Service abbreviations (using the DGs during the *von der Leyen* Commission as default) throughout their history, in order to enable timelines. The name of a Directorate-General (DG) or Service at a specific time is listed in the field 'Name at the time' of 'DG Data'. All abbreviations can be found in the appendix. Please note that missings are coded with 'n/a'.

In the manual at hand, we give additional explanations on the different sections and fields of the database to facilitate its use for further research and analysis.

¹ We thank our collaborators Julia Metz and Christian Rauh, as well as Jacob Düringer, Antonia Fidler, Tobias Hübler, Charly Uster and Yannis Grabbe for excellent research assistance. Special thanks go to Fabio Franchino whose data on Commission Portfolios since 1958 (Franchino, 2009) constitutes an important building block for this data base and to Holger Döring. Funding from the Volkswagen-Foundation in form of a Schumpeter Fellowship is gratefully acknowledged. For more information on the database see <https://www.polsoz.fu-berlin.de/polwiss/forschung/international/de-fr/Forschung/Datenbanken/PEU-Datenbank/index.html>.

2. Persons Data

‘Persons Data’ lists available information about all 428 persons who have been active as Commissioners or Directors-General from 1958 to 2025. This information includes details about:

- Name, First name
- Number of positions
- Party affiliation, Corresponding political family in the European Parliament (EP)
- Nationality
- Information regarding a person’s professional background and further career.
- Date of birth
- Gender

‘Persons Data’ and ‘Persons Positions’ (see next section) provide not only an historical overview but allow comparisons primarily on the staff composition of Commission DGs.

2.1 Name

‘Name’ lists the family name and first name of all Commissioners and Directors-General from 1958 to 2025.

Family name prepositions like *de*, *di*, *van de*, *van den*, *van der*, *van*, *von der*, *von*, are treated in the following manner: ‘*Last name*’, ‘*First name*’ ‘*preposition*’ (for example: *Miert, Karel van*). Prepositions directly attached to the family name like *Mc* and *O*’ are kept in front (for example: *McCreavy, Charlie*).

Information provided under ‘Name’ is based on the following sources:

- *Dumoulin, Jean (ed.) [European Commission] (2007): The European Commission, 1958-72. History and Memories. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.*
- *European Commission: Historical Archives of the European Commission in Brussels. (Accessed in March 2010).*
- *European Commission: Website of the European Commission. (<http://ec.europa.eu/staffdir/index.htm>, as of 16.01.2013; http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/index_en.htm, as of 16.01.2013).*
- *European Commission: The Commissioners (https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024_en, as of 26.11.2025).*
- *European Commission: Departments and Executive Agencies. (https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments_en, as of 26.11.2025)*
- *Franchino, Fabio (2009): Data on Commission Portfolios since 1958.*

2.2 Number of Positions (Spells)

‘Number of Positions (Spells)’ lists the sum of high-ranking positions a person held in the European Commission, defined as either Commission President, Vice-President, Commissioner, Secretary-General or Director-General. For a differentiated listing of the respective positions, see the next section on ‘Persons Positions’.

2.3 Party

‘Party’ lists available information about party membership of all Commissioners and Directors-General from 1958 to 2025. It contains only actual party membership/affiliation for the point in time when being nominated (not, for instance, being appointed by a certain government). We name a party analogous to the abbreviations used in the ParlGov database. Possible name changes of the parties can be traced back over time, as we use the ParlGov abbreviations, which refer to a party at the time the Commissioner/ Director-General was appointed.

Whereas party-affiliation of Commissioners is typically public, little is known about the Directors-Generals’ party-political membership. Thus, data about party membership of Directors-General is highly fragmented and incomplete. In order to distinguish the unavailability of data on party-political membership of Director-Generals from the party-political independence of some Commissioners (e.g. diplomats who were appointed as Commissioners), the former is coded as ‘n/a’ and the latter as ‘Independent’.

Information provided under ‘Party’ are based on the following sources:

- *Franchino, Fabio (2009): Data on Commission Portfolios since 1958.*
- *MacMullen, Andrew (1997): European Commissioners. National Routes to a European Elite. In: Nugent, Neill (ed.): At the heart of the Union: studies of the European Commission. Houndsmills, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 28-50.*
- *Original research: Personal and official CVs.*
- *Döring, Holger/ Manow, Philip (2019): Parliaments and governments database (<http://www.parlgov.org/>, as of 25.05.2020)*

2.4 Party Family

‘Party Family’ lists available information on the European Parliament’s group to which the Commission member belonged. The EP’s group names have changed over time. Therefore, we use ideology-based terms referring to the EP’s groups instead of actual abbreviations of EP groups as listed below.

EP group	Ideology-based term
the current European People's Party group (EPP) and its predecessors	Conservatives/ Christian Democrats
the current Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D) and its predecessors	Social Democrats
the current Renew Europe (Renew) and its predecessors	Liberals
the current Greens/European Free Alliance (Greens/EFA) and its predecessors	Greens
the current European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR)	Conservatives/ Reformists
the former Communist and Allies group, succeeded by today’s European United Left/Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL)	Communists and Allies
<i>to date no member of a party belonging to the EP groups Patriots for Europe (PFE), Europe of Sovereign Nations (ESN) or its predecessors has held a position as Commissioner or Director General</i>	
<i>If ‘Party’ information is ‘n/a’ or ‘Independent’, this appears as “independent” or “n/a” respectively.</i>	

Information provided under ‘Party Family’ result from the data used under ‘Party’ and the following sources:

- *Hix, Simon/Lord, Christopher (1997): Political Parties in the European Union. Houndsmills: Macmillan.*

2.5 Nationality

‘Nationality’ lists available information about the citizenship of all Commissioners and Directors-General from 1958 to 2025.

If Commission members held more than one official nationality, we listed the delegating member state.

Information provided under ‘Nationality’ is based on the following sources:

- *Dumoulin, Jean (ed.) [European Commission] (2007): The European Commission, 1958-72. History and Memories. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.*
- *European Commission: Historical Archives in Brussels. (Accessed in March 2010).*
- *European Commission: Website of the European Commission (http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/index_en.htm, as of 16.01.2013).*

- *European Commission: The Commissioners*
(https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024_en, as of 25.05.2020).
- *European University Institute (2007): Oral History Project. The European Commission 1958-1972.* Florence.
(https://archives.eui.eu/en/oral_history#ECM as of 16.01.2013).
- *Franchino, Fabio (2009): Data on Commission Portfolios since 1958.*
- *Original research: Personal and official CVs.*

2.6 Donor/Receiving State

‘Donor/Receiving State’ categorizes a person’s nationality according to the state’s status as financial donor or receiving country in the 2021-2027 EU budget as outlined by the EU’s spending and revenue 2021-2027 interactive chart.

States or nationalities have been assigned a group as follows:

State	Group (Donor = 1; Receiving = 0)
Belgium	0
Bulgaria	0
Croatia	0
Cyprus	0
Czech Republic	0
Estonia	0
Greece	0
Hungary	0
Latvia	0
Lithuania	0
Luxembourg	0
Malta	0
Poland	0
Portugal	0
Romania	0
Slovakia	0
Slovenia	0
Spain	0
Austria	1
Denmark	1
Finland	1
France	1
Germany	1
Ireland	1
Italy	1
Netherlands	1
Sweden	1
UK	1

Information provided under ‘Donor/Receiving State’ is based on the following sources:

- *European Commission (2024): EU spending and revenue 2021-2027.* Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union,

https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/long-term-eu-budget/2021-2027/spending-and-revenue_en (30.10.2024)

2.7 Geographical State Group

‘Geographical State Group’ categorizes a person’s nationality according to the state’s geography. We distinguish four different state groups: North European (1), South European (2), East European (3), West European (4). This categorization allows for investigating potential research questions on regional recruitment patterns of Commission personnel.

States or nationalities have been assigned a group as follows:

State	Group
Denmark	1
Finland	1
Sweden	1
Cyprus	2
Greece	2
Italy	2
Malta	2
Portugal	2
Spain	2
Bulgaria	3
Croatia	3
Czech Republic	3
Estonia	3
Hungary	3
Latvia	3
Lithuania	3
Poland	3
Romania	3
Slovakia	3
Slovenia	3
Austria	4
Belgium	4
France	4
Germany	4
Ireland	4
Luxembourg	4
Netherlands	4
UK	4

2.8 Accession Group

‘Accession Group’ categorizes a person’s nationality according to the state’s date of accession to the EU. Hence, we distinguish seven different state groups: the founding

states (1), states having joined the Community in 1973 (2), in 1981 (3), in 1986 (4), in 1995 (5), in 2004 (6), in 2007 (7) and in 2013 (8).

States or nationalities have been assigned a group as follows:

State	Group
Belgium	1
France	1
Germany	1
Italy	1
Luxembourg	1
Netherlands	1
Denmark	2
Ireland	2
UK	2
Greece	3
Portugal	4
Spain	4
Austria	5
Finland	5
Sweden	5
Cyprus	6
Czech Republic	6
Estonia	6
Hungary	6
Latvia	6
Lithuania	6
Malta	6
Poland	6
Slovakia	6
Slovenia	6
Bulgaria	7
Romania	7
Croatia	8

2.9 Former positions detailed

‘Former positions detailed’ lists the available information about professional positions before first reaching the office of Commission President, Vice President, Commissioner, Secretary-General or Director-General of all Commissioners and Directors-General from 1958 to 2025. It gives descriptive details on a person’s former career.

Information provided under ‘Former positions detailed’ are based on the following sources:

- Dove, John C. (1985): *Who’s who in European Institutions and Enterprises. 1985. Zurich: Who’s who the International red series Verlag AG Group.*
- Dove, John C. (1993): *Who’s who in European Institutions and Enterprises. 1993. Zurich: Who’s who the International red series Verlag AG Group.*
- Franchino, Fabio (2009): *Data on Commission Portfolios since 1958.*

- Maeyer, Edward A. (1967): *Who's who in Europe: Dictionnaire biographique des personnalités européennes contemporaines. Edition 2. 1966-1967. Brussels: Editions de Feniks.*
- *Original research: Personal and official CVs.*
- Strute, Karl/Doelken, Theodor (1982): *Who's who in European Institutions and Enterprises. 1982. Zurich: Who's who the International red series Verlag AG Group.*

2.10 Former positions tenure

'Former positions tenure' lists the available information about the type/grade of the professional position a Commission member held longest before first reaching the office of Commission President, Vice President, Commissioner, Secretary-General or Director-General.

'Former positions tenure' codes the position group the person has longest served in. In order to make former professional positions of Commission members comparable and to reduce complexity, we decided to assign each Commission member to one of the following groups according to his/her prior profession:

Former position (alphabetically)
Academic
Activist
Bureaucrat
Business
Diplomat
Junior minister
Minister for Agriculture, Fishery, Forestry
Minister for Culture
Minister for Defense
Minister for Economy, Budget
Minister for Education, Science and Technology
Minister for European Integration
Minister for Finance
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Minister for Health
Minister for Industry and Trade
Minister for Justice
Minister for Labour and Social Affairs
Minister for Regional Development, Construction and Housing
Minister for the Environment
Minister for the Interior
Minister for Transport and Communication
Other*
Parliamentarian
Party Leader
Prime Minister
Regional Government
Secretary of State
Union Leader

** The category 'other' comprises lawyers, journalists and other professions that could not be assigned to the range of positions listed here*

Information provided under 'Former positions tenure' result from the data used under 'Former positions detailed'.

2.11 Former positions hierarchical

'Former positions hierarchical' lists the available information about the most high-ranking type/grade of the professional positions a Commission member held before first reaching the office of Commission President, Vice President, Commissioner, Secretary-General or Director-General.

In order to make former professional positions of Commission members comparable and to downsize complexity, we used the same selection of former positions as in 'Former positions tenure', ranking them according to the following scheme:

Former position (hierarchically)
Prime Minister
Minister for Finance
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Minister for the Interior
Minister for Economy, Budget
Minister for Justice
Minister for Labour and Social Affairs
Minister for Industry and Trade
Minister for Education, Science and Technology
Minister for Defense
Minister for Health
Minister for Agriculture, Fishery, Forestry
Minister for Transport and Communication
Minister for European Integration
Minister for Regional Development, Construction and Housing
Minister for the Environment
Minister for Culture
Junior minister
Secretary of State
Regional Government
Party Leader
Parliamentarian
Diplomat
Bureaucrat
Union Leader
Business
Academic
Activist
Other

To retrace on what basis we ranked the positions, see the next section on ‘Power Index’. Information provided under ‘Former positions hierarchical’ result from the data used under ‘Former positions detailed’ and ranking by:

- Druckman, James N./Roberts, Andrew (2008): *Measuring portfolio salience in Eastern European parliamentary democracies*. In: *European Journal of Political Research*, 47(1), 101-134.
- Druckman, James N./Warwick, Paul V. (2005): *The missing piece: Measuring portfolio salience in Western European parliamentary democracies*. In: *European Journal of Political Research*, 44(1), 17-42.

2.12 Power Index

‘Power Index’ assigns a numerical value to each position used in ‘Former positions hierarchical’ as defined by Druckman/Warwick (2005) and Druckman/Roberts (2008). Based on expert surveys in 28 European countries, Druckman/Warwick (2005) and Druckman/Roberts (2008) developed a ranking of portfolio salience in European parliamentary democracies. Their findings rank the relative value of all ministerial positions in the countries under investigation.

For ministry positions, we used the average score of all EU member states examined by Druckman/Warwick (2005) and Druckman/Roberts (2008). We adopted the position-rankings added by Döring (2011) on Junior Ministers/Secretaries of State and Parliamentarians and added scores for the positions ‘Regional Government’, ‘Party Leader’, ‘Diplomat’, ‘Bureaucrat’, ‘Union Leader’, ‘Business’, ‘Academic’, ‘Activist’ and ‘Other’. We used the scores assigned in the mentioned data as reference point. The additional former professions were positioned between 0.45 and 0.2., with ‘Regional Government’ scoring close to the values on ‘Secretaries of State’ and ‘Party Leaders’ being assigned a value slightly higher than ‘Parliamentarians’. The other categories we added rank below Parliamentarians with a gradually decreasing score.

Position	Ø Score
Prime Minister*	2,27*
Minister for Finance*	1,62*
Minister for Foreign Affairs*	1,41*
Minister for the Interior*	1,29*
Minister for Economy, Budget*	1,22*
Minister for Justice*	1,1*
Minister for Labour and Social Affairs*	1,1*
Minister for Industry and Trade*	1,01*
Minister for Education, Science and Technology*	0,99*
Minister for Defense*	0,98*
Minister for Health*	0,96*
Minister for Agriculture, Fishery, Forestry*	0,92*
Minister for Transport and Communication*	0,91*
Minister for European Integration*	0,87*
Minister for Regional Development, Construction and Housing*	0,77*
Minister for the Environment*	0,73*
Minister for Culture*	0,72*
Junior Minister**	0,5**
Secretary of State**	0,5**
Regional Government***	0,45***
Party Leader***	0,4***
Parliamentarian**	0,33**
Diplomat***	0,3***
Bureaucrat***	0,28***
Union Leader***	0,27***
Business***	0,26***
Academic***	0,24***
Activist***	0,22***
Other***	0,2***

* Position and average score resulting from surveys by Druckman/Warwick (2005) and Druckman/Roberts (2008). (Positions considered by Druckman/Warwick (2005) and Druckman/Roberts (2008) that did not appear in the empirical backtracking of former positions have not been included.)

** Position and score added by Döring (2011).

*** Position and score added by us.

Information provided under ‘Power Index’ result from the data used under ‘Former positions detailed’ and the following sources:

- Döring, Holger (2011): *Codebook European Commissioners*.
- Druckman, James N./Roberts, Andrew (2008): *Measuring portfolio salience in Eastern European parliamentary democracies*. In: *European Journal of Political Research*, 47(1), 101-134.
- Druckman, James N./Warwick, Paul V. (2005): *The missing piece: Measuring portfolio salience in Western European parliamentary democracies*. In: *European Journal of Political Research*, 44(1), 17-42.

2.13 Technocratic/ Democratic Credentials Index

The ‘Technocratic/Democratic Credentials Index’ assigns a numerical value to each position used in ‘Former positions hierarchical’ as defined by Druckman/Warwick (2005) and Druckman/Roberts (2008). The aim of the index is to differentiate between ‘political’ and ‘technocratic’ professional backgrounds of persons having served in the Commission. Referring to Schnapp (2004), we define ‘political’ positions as those offices which are filled and legitimized by democratic elections, whereas ‘technocratic’ are all those which do not fulfil this criterion.

Positions have been assigned a group as follows:

Position	Group (Political = 1; Technocratic = 0)
Prime Minister	1
Minister for Finance	1
Minister for Foreign Affairs	1
Minister for the Interior	1
Minister for Economy, Budget	1
Minister for Justice	1
Minister for Labour and Social Affairs	1
Minister for Industry and Trade	1
Minister for Education, Science and Technology	1
Minister for Defense	1
Minister for Health	1
Minister for Agriculture, Fishery, Forestry	1
Minister for Transport and Communication	1
Minister for European Integration	1
Minister for Regional Development, Construction and Housing	1
Minister for the Environment	1
Minister for Culture	1
Junior Minister	1
Regional Government	1
Parliamentarian	1
Party Leader	1
Secretary of State	0
Diplomat	0
Bureaucrat	0
Union Leader	0
Business	0
Academic	0
Activist	0
Other	0

Information provided under ‘Technocratic/Democratic Credentials Index’ results from the data used under ‘Former positions detailed’ and the following sources:

- *Schnapp, Kai-Uwe (2004): Ministerialbürokratien in westlichen Demokratien. Eine vergleichende Analyse. Opladen: Leske+Budrich, 23.*

2.14 Date of birth

‘Date of birth’ lists the available information about the date of birth of all Commissioners and Directors-General from 1958 to 2024.

To facilitate data analysis, dates of birth are split into three columns according to the year, month, and day of birth.

Information provided under ‘Date of birth’ is based on the following sources:

- *Dove, John C. (1985): Who’s who in European Institutions and Enterprises. 1985. Zurich: Who’s who the International red series Verlag AG Group.*
- *Dove, John C. (1993): Who’s who in European Institutions and Enterprises. 1993. Zurich: Who’s who the International red series Verlag AG Group.*
- *European University Institute (2007): Oral History Project. The European Commission 1958-1972. Florence. (https://archives.eui.eu/en/oral_history#ECM, as of 16.01.2013).*
- *MacMullen, Andrew (1997): European Commissioners. National Routes to a European Elite. In: Nugent, Neill (ed.): At the Heart of the Union: Studies of the European Commission. Houndsmills, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 28-50.*
- *Maeyer, Edward A. (1967): Who’s who in Europe: Dictionnaire biographique des personnalités européennes contemporaines. Edition 2. 1966-1967. Brussels: Editions de Feniks.*
- *Original research: Personal and official CVs.*
- *Strute, Karl/Doelken, Theodor (1982): Who’s who in European Institutions and Enterprises. 1982. Zurich: Who’s who the International red series Verlag AG Group.*

2.15 Gender

‘Gender’ lists the sexes of all Commissioners and Directors-General from 1958 to 2024.

Information about gender is given in the following notation: Male: ‘M’; Female: ‘F’.

2.16 Further career

‘Further career’ lists the available information on relevant professional positions the person has first served in after their positions as Commission President, Vice President, Commissioner, Secretary-General, or Director-General.

As with prior professional positions, we drew on a selection of assignable career posts in order to make positions comparable and to reduce complexity.

Further career (alphabetical)
Academic
Activist
Bureaucrat
Business
Continuing in Commission
Deceased
Diplomat
Head of State/Government
National Minister
Other
Parliamentarian
Party Leader
Regional Government
Retirement
Still in office
Tbd

Since the database lists data until von der Leyen II, people who currently (as of December 2025) serve as Commissioners or Director Generals are listed as ‘Still in office’. Former Commissioners or Director Generals who took up a different job within the Commission but who are no longer part of the College or Director Generals are attributed to ‘Continuing in Commission’ (e.g. Michel Barnier who became the Commission’s chief Brexit negotiator or several Director Generals who became special advisors to the Commission). ‘Tbd’ (= to be decided) is used to refer to former Commission members who have only recently ended their Commission career and (frequently due to the required cooling of period) have not decided on any further career post yet. We differentiated national minister posts regarding former positions, while ‘Further career’ pools them to ‘National Ministers’. Where Commissioners reintegrated into national administrations they are referred to as ‘bureaucrats’. The self-explanatory options ‘Retirement’ and ‘Deceased’ are added.

Information provided under ‘Further career’ is based on the following sources:

- *European Commission Press releases*
(http://europa.eu/newsroom/index_en.htm, as of 16.01.2013).
- *Original research: Personal and official CVs.*

2.17 Notes

In a number of cases, ‘Notes’ gives additional information about the person under consideration such as successors, dates of departure or a wider affiliation with a party (without being an actual member of the party).

2.18 Further information

In some cases, 'Further information' provides an Internet-link to additional sources of information such as interviews or CVs. Please note: We will not be held responsible for the availability or content of any external websites or material you access through our site. If you decide to visit any linked site, you do so at your own risk and it is your responsibility to take all protective measures to guard against viruses or other destructive elements. We do not endorse and are not responsible or liable for any content, advertising, products, services, or information on or available from third party websites or material.

3. Persons Positions

‘Persons Positions’ is closely tied to the ‘Persons Data’ table. Adding to the information provided by the latter, ‘Persons Positions’ lists details about the DGs, Commissions, Dates of entry and exit for all positions a person served in at the EU Commission.

3.1 Spell

‘Spell’ is an enumeration of the high-ranking Commission positions a person served in starting with the first position a person was appointed to. Persons that served in one position only are assigned the value ‘1’. If having served in more than one position (or during more than one Commission period), the person is listed in the corresponding number of rows. For example: Émile Noël has been assigned 8 different positions (Secretary General during 8 different Commission periods). He thus has been listed in 8 rows of the table while ‘Spell’ gives the chronological order of positions: Noël started his Commission career in the Hallstein I Commission (Noël *Spell*: ‘1’) and quit his eighth and final position in the EU Commission with the end of the Delors I Commission (Noël *Spell*: ‘8’).

3.2 Position

‘Position’ lists the different hierarchy levels (Commission President, Vice President, Commissioner, Secretary-General, Director-General) of all Commissioners and Directors-General from 1958 to 2025. Please note that persons having served in more than one position/Commission have been assigned the corresponding number of rows. As outlined in section ‘3.1 Spell’, the positions of a person can be put into chronological order by sorting ‘Spell’.

Information provided under ‘Position’ is based on the following sources:

- *European Commission: Historical Archives in Brussels. (Accessed in March 2010).*
- *European Commission: Website of the European Commission (http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/index_en.htm, as of 16.01.2013).*
- *European Commission: The Commissioners (https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024_en, as of 25.05.2020).*

- *Original research: Personal and official CVs.*
- *Franchino, Fabio (2009): Data on Commission Portfolios since 1958.*

3.3 DG

‘DG’ lists the Directorates-General and Services a person served in as Commissioner or Director-General. DG names are given for each position a person served in (see section ‘3.1 Spell’ on persons having served in more than one position/DG/Commission).

Please note that the nomenclature of the *von der Leyen* Commission has been used throughout Commission history. See the database section ‘DG nomenclature’ for details on shifts in the Commission's portfolios over the history of EU Integration. This section contains the portfolios of Commissioners and codes it in terms of today’s DG abbreviations. For each Commission, this table thus explains what it means, if for instance a person is labelled as being ‘COMP’-Commissioner. General Service Departments, such as EUROSTAT, and Internal Services, such as Interpretation (SCIC), Translation (DGT) and Audit (IAS), as well as Executive Agencies are excluded. Consequently, persons who served as Directors-General in these Services are not covered in the data base.

For Vice Presidents specific coding rules apply. Historically, the Vice-President of the Commission was a role bestowed on a Commissioner in addition to her/his portfolio. With the *von der Leyen* Commission this changed. The overall number of Vice Presidents grew, and a distinction was introduced between Executive Vice President and Vice-President. All Vice-Presidents steer and coordinate Commissioner’s Groups on thematic priorities of the Commission. They are supported in this role by the SG. Executive Vice-Presidents in addition also manage a policy area and have a DG under their authority. Therefore, we code Executive Vice-Presidents as political lead of their respective DGs. Similarly, we code the High Representative as political lead of the EEAS. The remaining Vice-Presidents are coded as SG.

Information provided under ‘DG’ is based on the following sources:

- *European Commission: Historical Archives in Brussels. (Accessed in March 2010).*
- *European Commission: Website of the European Commission (http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/index_en.htm as of 16.01.2013).*
- *European Commission: The Commissioners (https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024_en, as of 25.05.2020).*

- *Original research: Personal and official CVs.*
- *Franchino, Fabio (2009): Data on Commission Portfolios since 1958.*
- *Dumoulin, Jean (ed.) [European Commission] (2007): The European Commission, 1958-72. History and Memories. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.*

3.4 Commission

‘Commission’ lists the Commissions’ names for each period a person served in as Commissioner or Director-General.

The Commission’s name is based on the family name of the respective Commission President. In case a person presided during more than one Commission period (as was the case for *Hallstein*, *Delors* and *Barroso*), the name is accompanied by the number of the respective office period. A person who served as Director-General in the year 2009 would thus be assigned to the ‘*Barroso I*’ Commission. You will find a list of the Commission Presidents from 1958 to 2025 in the appendix.

Commission names are given for each position a person served in (see section ‘3.1 Spell’ on persons having served in more than one position/DG/Commission).

Information provided under ‘Commission’ is based on the following sources:

- *European Commission: Historical Archives in Brussels. (Accessed in March 2010).*
- *European Commission: Website of the European Commission (http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/index_en.htm, as of 16.01.2013).*
- *European Commission: The Commissioners (https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024_en, as of 25.05.2020).*
- *Original research: Personal and official CVs.*

3.5 Date in

‘Date in’ lists the available information about dates of entry into the respective position of all Commissioners and Directors-General from 1958 to 2025. Dates are given for each position a person served in (see section ‘3.1 Spell’ on persons having served in more than one position/DG/Commission).

Information provided under ‘Date in’ is based on the following sources:

- *European Commission Press releases (http://europa.eu/newsroom/index_en.htm, as of 16.01.2013).*

- *European Commission: Historical Archives in Brussels. (Accessed in March 2010).*
- *Franchino, Fabio (2009): Data on Commission Portfolios since 1958.*
- *MacMullen, Andrew (1997): European Commissioners. National Routes to a European Elite. In: Nugent, Neill (ed.): At the Heart of the Union: Studies of the European Commission. Houndsmills, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 28-50.*
- *Original research: Personal and official CVs.*

3.6 Date out

‘Date out’ lists the available information about dates of exit from the respective position of all Commissioners and Directors-General from 1958 to 2025. Dates are given for each position a person served in (see section ‘3.1 Spell’ on persons having served in more than one position/DG/Commission).

Information provided under ‘Date out’ is based on the following sources:

- *European Commission Press releases*
(http://europa.eu/newsroom/index_en.htm, as of 16.01.2013).
- *European Commission: Historical Archives in Brussels. (Accessed in March 2010).*
- *Franchino, Fabio (2009): Data on Commission Portfolios since 1958.*
- *MacMullen, Andrew (1997): European Commissioners. National Routes to a European Elite. In: Nugent, Neill (ed.): At the Heart of the Union: Studies of the European Commission. Houndsmills, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 28-50.*
- *Original research: Personal and official CVs.*

3.7 Months in office

‘Months in office’ lists the available information about the number of months spent in office by each Commissioner and Director-General from 1958 to 2025.

Every month touched is equally valued. Thus, a person having served from January 1st, 2009 to February 28th, 2009, is assigned two months just as a person having served from January 31st, 2009 to February 1st, 2009. Dates are given for each position a person served in (see section ‘3.1 Spell’ on persons having served in more than one position/DG/Commission).

Information given under ‘Months in office’ results from the dates used under ‘Date in’ and ‘Date out’.

4. DG Data

The database section ‘DG Data’ provides an overview to the administrative structure of the different Commission DGs. It gives details about all Directorates-General of the *von der Leyen* Commission, including official name, personnel numbers, names and number of units (Units) and the name and number of directorates they each comprised in previous Commissions. ‘DG Data’ allows comparing changes in portfolio salience during the integration process.

All DGs are listed throughout Commission history, even when they were not a DG at the time. In this case, the field ‘Name at the time’ in the table ‘DG Data’ lists either which DG or Service the policy field belonged to or if it did exist at all in the European Commission. All data on the Directorates-General are based on the last full year of their terms (except for the data for the current *von der Leyen* Commission). For example, the data for the *Santer* Commission are recorded for 1998.

4.1 DG

‘DG’ lists the abbreviations of Directorates-General and Services during the *von der Leyen* Commission. All abbreviations can be found in the appendix of the manual. Some Directorates-General have changed their name over time but remain listed under their original abbreviation (e.g. DEVCO, which was renamed INTPA during the *von der Leyen* commission, but is still listed as DEVCO in the database).

Information provided under ‘DG’ is based on the following sources:

- *European Commission: Historical Archives in Brussels. (Accessed in March 2010).*
- *European Commission: Website of the European Commission. (http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/index_en.htm, as of 16.01.2013).*
- *European Commission: Departments and Executive Agencies. (https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments_en, as of 26.11.2025)*

4.2 Commission

As in the ‘Persons Data’ section of the database, ‘Commission’ lists the Commissions’ names according to the family name of the respective Commission President. In the case a Commission President presided during more than one Commission period (as was the

case for *Hallstein, Delors* and *Barroso*), the name is accompanied by a numeration. You will find a list of the Commission Presidents from 1958 to 2025 in the appendix.

Information provided under ‘Commission’ is based on the following sources:

- *European Commission: Historical Archives in Brussels. (Accessed in March 2010).*

4.3 Personnel

When available, ‘Personnel’ gives the number of A-level bureaucrats in the Service. Data is highly fragmented and incomplete due to a lack of comparable data over time.

Information provided under ‘Personnel’ is based on the following sources:

- *European Commission: Historical Archives in Brussels. (Accessed in March 2010).*
- *European Commission: Website of the European Commission (<https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/060722e2-07b2-4cd2-a66a-19995cbb71c8/language-en/format-PDF/source-82643247>)*

4.4 Name at the time

‘Name at the time’ lists the official appellation of the DG in question during the selected Commission period. Until the *Prodi* Commission each DG had a specific number, given in roman numerals; when available, these numbers are put in front.

Information provided under ‘Name at the time’ is based on the following sources:

- *European Commission: Historical Archives in Brussels. (Accessed in March 2010).*
- *European Commission: Departments and Executive Agencies. (https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments_en, as of 26.11.2025)*

4.5 Names of Directorates

‘Names of Directorates’ lists the official appellation of the respective Directorates for the time in question.

The names are also based on current organization charts and the organization charts from the Historical Archives in Brussels and were translated from French to English by *Jacob Düringer* and *Yann Lorenz*.

Information provided under ‘Names of Directorates’ is based on the following sources:

- *European Commission: Historical Archives in Brussels. (Accessed in March 2010).*
- *European Commission: Departments and Executive Agencies. (https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments_en, as of 26.11.2025)*

4.6 Number of Directorates

‘Number of Directorates’ gives these figures based on current organization charts and organization charts from the historical archives. A directorate is only counted as a directorate if it is not an executive agency (A) or a regulative agency (R) – which frequently figure in organizational charts. Most often they are denoted according to their respective DG, for example “AGRI.A”, “AGRI.B”, etc.

Information provided under ‘Number of Directorates’ is based on the following sources:

- *European Commission: Historical Archives in Brussels. (Accessed in March 2010).*
- *European Commission: Departments and Executive Agencies. (https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments_en, as of 26.11.2025)*

4.7 Number of Units

‘Number of Units’ gives these figures based on current organization charts and organization charts from the historical archives. A unit, here, is only defined as any subsection of a directorate in a DG that is not an executive agency (A), a regulative agency (R) or a joint undertaking (J) – which frequently figure in organizational charts. Most often, they are denoted according to their respective DG, for example “AGRI.A.1”, “AGRI.A.2”, etc. The name of the directorate (e.g. “AGRI.A”) does not count as an additional unit.

Information provided under ‘Number of Units’ is based on the following sources:

- *European Commission: Historical Archives in Brussels. (Accessed in March 2010).*
- *European Commission: Departments and Executive Agencies. (https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments_en, as of 26.11.2025)*

5. DG Organizational Evolution

The database section ‘DG Organizational Evolution’ deals with shifts in the Commission's portfolios over the history of EU Integration. This section traces the history of all DGs of the *von der Leyen* Commission. For each Commission, this table thus explains, what it means, if, for instance, a Commissioner of the *Ortoli* Commission is labelled as being ‘COMP’-Commissioner.

Neither the names nor the responsibilities of individual portfolios in the Commission have been constant. This section thus enables to understand the administrative positioning of each portfolio over the course of history.

5.1 Current abbreviations

We use current DG and Service abbreviations (using the DGs during the *von der Leyen* Commission as default). All abbreviations can be found in the appendix of the manual.

Information provided under ‘Current abbreviations’ is based on the following sources:

- *European Commission: Departments and Executive Agencies.* (https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments_en, as of 26.11.2025)

5.2 Historical portfolios

‘Historical portfolios’ lists the administrative frame a portfolio, as defined by the *von der Leyen* Commission, was assigned to during the period in question. We observe for instance that the REGIO portfolio, that was a distinct DG in *Barroso I*, had been nonexistent during the *Hallstein* Commissions.

Information provided under ‘Historical portfolios’ is based on the following sources:

- *European Commission: Historical Archives in Brussels. (Accessed in March 2010).*

6. Appendix

6.1 List of abbreviations

AGRI	Agriculture and Rural Development
BUDG	Budget
CLIMA	Climate Action
COMM	Communication
COMP	Competition
CONNECT	Communications Networks, Content and Technology
DEVCO	International Cooperation and Development
DEFIS	Defence Industry and Space
DIGIT	Digital Economy and Society
EAC	Education and Culture
ECFIN	Economic and Financial Affairs
ECHO	European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
EEAS	External Action Service
EMPL	Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
ENER	Energy
ENEST	Enlargement and Eastern Neighbourhood
ENVI	Environment
FISMA	Financial Stability, Services and Capital Markets Union
GROW	Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs
HERA	Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority
HOME	Migration and Home Affairs
HR	Human Resources and Security
JRC	Joint Research Centre
JUST	Justice and Consumers
MARE	Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MOVE	Mobility and Transport
NEAR	European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations
REFORM	Structural Reform Support

REGIO	Regional and Urban Policy
RTD	Research and Innovation
SANTE	Health and Food Safety
SecGen	Secretariat General
SJ	Legal Service
TAXUD	Taxation and Customs Union
TRADE	Trade

6.2 Commission Presidents 1958-2020

Walter Hallstein I	1958/01/07 – 1962/01/09
Walter Hallstein II	1962/01/10 – 1967/06/30
Jean Rey	1967/07/01 – 1970/06/30
Franco Maria Malfatti	1970/07/01 – 1972/03/21
Sicco Mansholt ²	1972/03/22 – 1973/01/05
François-Xavier Ortoli	1973/01/06 – 1977/01/05
Roy Jenkins	1977/01/06 – 1981/01/05
Gaston Thorn	1981/01/06 – 1985/01/05
Jacques Delors I	1986/01/06 – 1989/01/05
Jacques Delors II	1989/01/06 – 1993/01/05
Jacques Delors III	1993/01/06 – 1995/01/22
Jacques Santer ³	1995/01/23 – 1999/09/12
Romano Prodi	1999/09/13 – 2004/11/21
José Manuel Barroso I	2004/11/22 – 2010/02/09
José Manuel Barroso II	2010/02/10 – 2014/10/31
Jean-Claude Juncker	2014/11/01 – 2019/11/30
Ursula von der Leyen I	2019/12/01 – 2024/11/30
Ursula von der Leyen II	2024/12/01 – n/a

² After the demission of the Malfatti Commission, Sicco Mansholt held the Commission Presidency until the nomination of François-Xavier Ortoli. Since no substantial changes concerning the portfolios were made, the Malfatti and Mansholt Commissions are coded as one.

³ After the demission of the Santer Commission, Manuel Marin held the Commission Presidency on an interim basis from 1999/03/15 to 1999/09/12. However, even if falling into this period, we decided to code the Commission as ‘Santer’ Commission.

6.3 Legal Disclaimer

Please note: We will not be held responsible for the availability or content of any external websites or material you access through our site. If you decide to visit any linked site, you do so at your own risk and it is your responsibility to take all protective measures to guard against viruses or other destructive elements. We do not endorse and are not responsible or liable for any content, advertising, products, services or information on or available from third party websites or material.

6.4 Further Information

For further questions go to <https://www.polsoz.fu-berlin.de/polwiss/forschung/international/de-fr/Forschung/Datenbanken/PEU-Datenbank/index.html> or send an email to: miriam.hartlapp@fu-berlin.de.

7. References

- Döring, Holger (2011): Codebook European Commissioners.
- Döring, Holger/ Manow, Philip (2019): Parliaments and governments database (<http://www.parlgov.org/>, as of 25.05.2020)
- Dove, John C. (1985): Who's who in European Institutions and Enterprises. 1985. Zurich: Who's who the International red series Verlag AG Group.
- Dove, John C. (1993): Who's who in European Institutions and Enterprises. 1993. Zurich: Who's who the International red series Verlag AG Group.
- Druckman, James N./Roberts, Andrew (2008): Measuring portfolio salience in Eastern European parliamentary democracies. In: European Journal of Political Research, 47(1), 101-134.
- Druckman, James N./Warwick, Paul V. (2005): The missing piece: Measuring portfolio salience in Western European parliamentary democracies. In: European Journal of Political Research, 44(1), 17-42.
- Dumoulin, Jean (ed.) [European Commission] (2007): The European Commission, 1958-72. History and Memories. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.
- European Commission (2011): EU budget 2010 – Financial Report. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 75. (http://ec.europa.eu/budget/library/biblio/publications/2010/fin_report/fin_report_10_en.pdf, as of 16.01.2013).
- European Commission: Departments and Executive Agencies. (https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments_en, as of 25.05.2020)
- European Commission: The Commissioners (https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024_en, as of 25.05.2020).
- European Commission Press releases (http://europa.eu/newsroom/index_en.htm, as of 16.01.2013).
- European Commission: Historical Archives in Brussels. (Accessed in March 2010).
- European Commission: Website of the European Commission (http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/index_en.htm, as of 16.01.2013).
- European Commission: Website of the European Commission (<https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/060722e2-07b2-4cd2-a66a-19995cbb71c8/language-en/format-PDF/source-82643247>).
- European University Institute (2007): Oral History Project. The European Commission 1958-1972. Florence. (<http://www.eui.eu/HAEU/OralHistory/EN/ECM.asp>).

- Franchino, Fabio (2009): Data on Commission Portfolios since 1958. (<http://www.sociol.unimi.it/docenti/franchino/page>; as of 29.07.2009).
- Hix, Simon/Lord, Christopher (1997): Political Parties in the European Union. Houndsmills: Macmillan.
- MacMullen, Andrew (1997): European Commissioners. National Routes to a European Elite. In: Nugent, Neill (ed.): At the heart of the Union: studies of the European Commission. Houndsmills, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 28-50.
- Maeyer, Edward A. (1967): Who's who in Europe: Dictionnaire biographique des personnalités européennes contemporaines. Edition 2. 1966-1967. Brussels: Editions de Feniks.
- Original research: Personal and official CVs.
- Schnapp, Kai-Uwe (2004): Ministerialbürokratien in westlichen Demokratien. Eine vergleichende Analyse. Opladen: Leske+Budrich, 23.