



Statement from President von der Leyen on the resignation of Commissioner Gabriel

Brussels, 15 May 2023

Commissioner Mariya Gabriel has informed me that today she will be presented to the President of the Republic of Bulgaria to receive the institutional mandate to form a government.

She has therefore submitted her resignation as a member of the College of Commissioners.

I have accepted her resignation.

I would like to thank Mariya Gabriel for her service as Commissioner for innovation, research, culture, education and youth. In her three and a half years in this role, she has made a great contribution to advancing the Commission priorities in this area.

I am grateful in particular to Commissioner Gabriel for the excellent implementation of our flagship innovation programme Horizon Europe, for the strong push for innovation and start-ups through the European Innovation Council and for her personal engagement in making the European year of youth a success.

And I would also like to thank Commissioner Gabriel for her constructive and friendly contribution to the work of the College of commissioners, in general.

I wish Mariya Gabriel all the best and I am confident that her European experience, in this and the previous College of Commissioners, will be put to good use for the country.

In the meantime, Executive Vice-President Margrethe Vestager and Vice-President Margaritis Schinas will be in charge of overseeing Commissioner Gabriel's portfolio, with immediate effect. Executive Vice-President Vestager will be responsible for innovation and research, while Vice-President Schinas will be in charge of education, culture and youth.

STATEMENT/23/2769

Press contacts:

[Eric MAMER](#) (+32 2 299 40 73)

[Dana SPINANT](#) (+32 2 299 01 50)

General public inquiries: [Europe Direct](#) by phone [00 800 67 89 10 11](#) or by [email](#)