



Brussels, 26 September 2019

Call to ITRE Committee ahead of the hearing of Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner-designate for Innovation and Youth

Dear Members of the ITRE Committee,

On behalf of AGE members' network, we would like to call on you to ask President-elect von der Leyen to expand the title of Commissioner-designate Gabriel's portfolio to "**Education, Research, Innovation and Youth**". This would ensure that the title of her portfolio will better reflect her Mission letter and send a strong message to citizens of all ages that the EU will tackle these crucial interrelated issues in a coordinated way.

The shorter title "Innovation and Youth" implies a much narrower approach which concentrates on innovation as an aim rather than as an outcome of education and research. Likewise, the exclusive focus on Youth excludes large groups of citizens who should continue to feel supported by the EU to have access to life-long learning in order to contribute actively to the labour market and the economy, as the mission letter rightly states.

For that reason, we feel that Innovation and Youth should remain in the title but Education and Research should be added to show to citizens the extend of the interconnected domains that this Commissioner's portfolio will cover. We therefore also support the petition sent by a large community of scientific researchers active in the EU.

As Members of the European Parliament, you can request such change during the hearing and ensure the change is accepted before the European Parliament confirms the College as a whole.

Hoping that you will support our call, we remain

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'AS Parent'.

Anne-Sophie Parent
Secretary General

AGE Platform Europe is a European network of non-profit organisations of and for people aged 50+, which aims to voice and promote the interests of the 200 million citizens aged 50+ in the European Union (Eurostat, 2018) and to raise awareness on the issues that concern them most. www.age-platform.eu



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