

Methodology

Dates the meeting numbers cover

Preliminary analysis of meetings of all 27 Commissioners (and their cabinets) in the von Der Leyen Commission (plus former Trade Commissioner Hogan), since they entered office on 01/12/19, was conducted based on meeting lists downloaded from the Commission's website, as of 10/03/22. [NB. see spreadsheets for hyperlinks to each Commissioner and their cabinet's list of meetings]

Based on that preliminary analysis, all the Commissioners and/or their cabinets who had, until that point, had 5 or more fossil fuel company meetings were updated using meeting lists downloaded from the Commission's website on 04/05/22. In addition, in light of the war in Ukraine, the meeting lists were also updated for Commission President von der Leyen and Crisis Management Commissioner Lenarčič (to assess whether their fossil fuel meeting numbers had increased). The meetings of Commission High Representative Borrell Fontelles were also updated, given his former appointment of an Eni board member as a special adviser (see Box C),

Categories of entity

Meetings had by a Commissioner and/or their cabinet with the following three categories of entity were recorded, as follows:

Meetings with fossil fuel companies, on any topic

The **Fossil Free Politics campaign's definition** of fossil fuel companies was used, as follows:

- Companies involved in the **extraction of fossil fuels** (coal, oil and gas);
- Companies involved in **building and operating infrastructure used to transport and/or store** fossil fuels;
- Companies involved primarily (**more than 51%** of their turnover) in **trading and selling** fossil fuels;
- Energy utilities who primarily (**more than 51%** of their turnover) consume **fossil fuels to generate electricity**.

[NB. Thousands of meeting entries involving hundreds of energy companies were analysed; however, without the scope for lengthy and exhaustive research into each company's profile, the classification of companies is subject to reasonable human error.]

Meetings with organisations with one or more fossil fuel company member, on topics categorised as climate and energy issues

This includes trade associations, think tanks and other organisations¹ with one or more fossil fuel company member or partner.

[NB. As above, the categorisation of fossil fuel companies is subject to reasonable human error, in the context of the often extensive membership lists of hundreds of organisations analysed].

Topics categorised as climate and energy issues include meetings with subjects relating to the European Green Deal (EGD, or green economy/ green transition); Fit for 55; the decarbonisation of particular sectors (e.g. ReFuelEU Aviation); 'net zero'; sustainable finance/taxonomy; just transition; Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM); Emissions Trading System (ETS); renovation wave; TEN-E; Renewable Energy Directive (and its revision), Industrial Emission Directive Revision, etc.

A number of policy areas that are more indirectly connected to climate/energy were not including, such as sustainable corporate governance/ due diligence (or 'sustainable supply chains');

1 But not renewable energy associations.

CAP/Farm to Fork; recovery plan/RFF (unless explicitly described as ‘green recovery’); circular economy, etc.

Meetings on climate and energy issues with renewable energy associations with one or more fossil fuel company member

These were counted separately to the above category of organisations with one or more fossil fuel company member, and are not included in the total number of meetings by all Commissioners/cabinets (see below). The same categorisation of climate and energy issues as above was used.

Other notes on methodology

- Where meetings included a fossil fuel company AND an organisation with one or more fossil fuel company member, it was only counted as a fossil fuel company meeting (to avoid double counting). This means that the total number of meetings with organisations with one or more fossil fuel member may be higher than the numbers given, if they were also present at meetings attended by fossil fuel companies. The same is true for renewable energy associations with one or more fossil fuel company member, as these were counted only if they had not previously been counted in one of the other categories.
- The ranking of Commissioners was done by the number of fossil fuel company meetings (not including the additional meetings on climate/energy issues with organisations with one or more fossil fuel company member).
- For the breakdown of meetings with fossil fuel companies by subject (for the Top 4 ranked Commissioners) the main subject(s) were simplified into categories; it should also be noted that some meetings were on more than one subject.

Workings for calculations

Calculation of total 495 meetings held by all Commissioners/cabinets with fossil fuel companies or organisations with one or more fossil fuel company member²

Commissioner (and/or their Cabinet)	All meetings with fossil fuel companies	Meetings re. climate/energy with organisations with 1 or more fossil fuel company member	Meetings re. climate/energy with renewable energy associations with 1 or more fossil fuel company member
European Green Deal Commissioner/ EVP Timmermans	65	114	18
Energy Commissioner Simson	56	52	12
Transport Commissioner Valean	14	9	1
Internal Market Commissioner Breton	13	13	1
Trade Commissioner/ EVP Dombrovskis	9	16	2
International Partnerships Commissioner Urpilainen	9	3	0
Cohesion Commissioner Ferreira	6	0	2
Economy Commissioner Gentiloni	6	9	1
Financial Services Commissioner McGuinness	5	19	1
Environment Commissioner Sinkevicius	5	5	2
Competition-Digital Commissioner/ EVP Vestager	3	6	5
Jobs & Social Rights Commissioner Schmit	3	6	0
Agriculture Commissioner Wojciechowski	3	4	1
Justice Commissioner Reynders	2	1	0

² Not including renewable energy associations with fossil fuel company members.

Interinstitutional Relations Commissioner Sefcovic	2	0	0
Commission President von der Leyen	1	15	1
Research & Innovation Commissioner Gabriel	1	3	0
Budget Commissioner Hahn	1	3	0
Home Affairs Commissioner Johansson	1	2	0
Promoting our European Way of Life Commissioner Schinas	1	2	0
Neighbourhood and Enlargement Commissioner Varhelyi	1	1	0
Values and Transparency Commissioner Jourova	1	0	0
Commission High Representative for External Action Borrell Fontelles	1	0	0
Crisis Management Commissioner Lenarcic	0	2	0
Former Trade Commissioner Hogan	0	1	2
Equality Commissioner Dalli	0	0	0
Health & Food Safety Commissioner Kyriakides	0	0	0
Democracy Commissioner Suica	0	0	0
Total meetings:	209	286	49
Total meetings with companies & organisations (not including renewable associations):	495		

Colour code key:

01/12/19 up till 04/05/22	01/12/19 up till 10/03/22
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Calculation of number of total meetings, per working day:

Time period 1 Dec 2019 to 4 May 2022 = 126.5 weeks (126 Weeks, 3 days)

126.5 weeks x 5 working days per week = 632.5

minus approx. 43 public holidays³ for EU institutions in that period = 589.5 days

495 meetings in 589.5 days = one meeting every 1.2 working days

Calculation of increased frequency of Simson and cabinet's meetings with fossil fuel companies since Ukraine invasion:

Time period 1 Dec 2019 to 4 May 2022 = 126.5 weeks (126 weeks, 3 days).

56 meetings with fossil fuel companies in that period.

56 meetings divided by 126.5 weeks = average 0.44 meetings a week.

Time period 24 Feb to 4 May 2022 = 10 weeks (9 weeks, 6 days).

9 meetings with fossil fuel companies in that period

9 meetings divided by 10 weeks = average 0.9 meetings per week

0.9 is double the average frequency of 0.44 meetings per week.

³ Approx 17 public holidays per year for the EU institutions, based on [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32021D0122\(01\)&from=EN](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32021D0122(01)&from=EN), which would include: 6 days in Dec 2019; 17 days in 2020; 17 days in 2021; 3 days up to 4 May 2022 = 43 public holidays in the period 1 Dec 2019 to 4 May 2022.