

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001907/26
to the Commission
Nela Riehl (Verts/ALE)
(8 May 2026)**

Subject: Governance and composition of the European Skills High-Level Board under the Union of Skills

The Union of Skills communication announced the establishment of the European Skills High-Level Board. Chaired by the Commission, the Board is tasked with providing cross-sectoral guidance on skills policy, feeding directly into the European Semester and country-specific recommendations. Given the Board's significant advisory influence over EU-wide education, employment and competitiveness policy, transparency regarding its composition and formation is essential to uphold democratic accountability and the principle of participatory democracy enshrined in Article 11 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU).

1. What criteria, selection procedures and transparency measures does the Commission apply or intend to apply when recruiting members to the Board, and how will it ensure a balanced representation of civil society, social partners, education institutions and the private sector?
2. How does the Commission intend to fulfil its obligations under Article 11 TEU — including open, transparent and regular dialogue with representative associations — regarding the Board's ongoing operations, and will the Board's meetings, agendas and outputs be made publicly accessible?
3. What accountability mechanisms will ensure that the Board's recommendations are scrutinised by Parliament's Committees on Culture and Education and on Employment and Social Affairs, and how will the Commission prevent sectoral or commercial interests from exerting undue influence over the shaping of EU skills and education policy?

Submitted: 8.5.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(8 July 2026)**

The Union of Skills Communication ⁽¹⁾ defines the European Skills High Level Board's composition, consisting of businesses, education and training providers and social partners.

This composition ensures a broad perspective on workforce needs and skills gaps in the EU. Board members were appointed based on selection criteria aligned with the Board's mandate (point 6 of the published terms of reference ⁽²⁾): first hand experience and track record in the implementation of impactful, innovative and targeted human capital development strategies at organisational level and in strategic sectors or in the provision of education, training and up- and reskilling in line with evolving trends and needs of the labour market. An overview of the Board objectives, nature and members is publicly available ⁽³⁾.

The Board's meetings, agendas, minutes and conclusions will be published, in line with the highest transparency standards applicable to Commission expert groups.

Board members are registered in the Transparency Register, clear rules apply as well as in relation to potential conflict of interests (point 12 of published rules of procedure).

The Board provides independent non-binding advice to the Commission. The Commission uses multiple sources to ensure balanced representation of interests and an evidence-based approach.

Within its competences, the Commission retains any ultimate decision when it comes to EU legislative proposals or policy-making in this area. The European Parliament retains its scrutiny powers as defined in the Treaties.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025DC0090>.

⁽²⁾ https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies-and-activities/skills-and-qualifications/union-skills/european-skills-high-level-board_en.

⁽³⁾ https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies-and-activities/skills-and-qualifications/union-skills/european-skills-high-level-board_en.