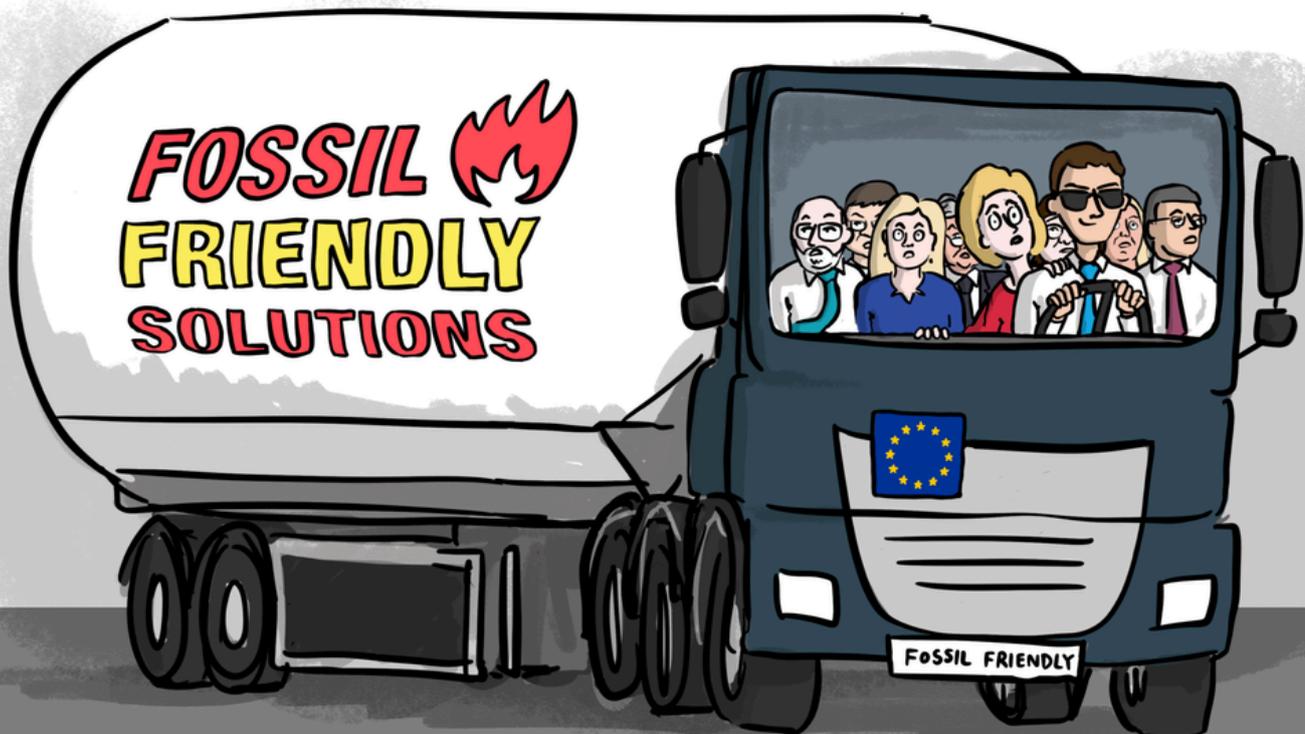




# VON DER LEYEN'S 2019-2024 COMMISSION FULL-TIME REPORT

# METHODOLOGY



# WHAT THE MEETING NUMBERS COVER

The full time analysis of meetings held by Commissioners (and their cabinets) during the 2019-2024 Von Der Leyen Commission (including Commissioners that left office during the mandate, and their replacements), builds on and uses the same methodology as the [half time analysis](#) published by Friends of the Earth Europe in June 2022.

The half time analysis covered the period since the Commissioners entered office on 01/12/19, based on meeting lists downloaded from the Commission's website, as of 10/03/22. Based on that preliminary analysis, all the Commissioners and/or their cabinets who had, until that point, 5 or more fossil fuel company meetings, were updated using meeting lists downloaded from the Commission's website on 04/05/22. In addition, the meeting lists were also updated to this date for Commission President Von der Leyen and Crisis Management Commissioner Lenarčič (in light of the war in Ukraine) and Commission High Representative Borrell Fontelles (given his former appointment of an Eni board member as a special adviser).

The update of the half time analysis was therefore undertaken from the respective date that the half-time analysis had been conducted up until (ie either 10/03/22 or 04/05/22, depending on the Commissioner/cabinet, as detailed above), using meeting lists downloaded from the Commission's website, as of 15/05/24. This means the 'full time' analysis covers the period 01/12/19 to 15/05/24.

NB. When the data was downloaded on 15/05/24, only the meetings since the previous cut-off date used in the half-time analysis for each Commissioner/cabinet were considered (ie either 10/03/22 or 04/05/22). There is, however, often a lag time between a meeting taking place and it being added to the published list of meetings. We therefore noticed that a number of additional meetings, including some with fossil fuel companies [1], had subsequently (ie after the cut-off date) been added to the meetings data despite taking place in the approx. six months before the cut-off date. However, to preserve the previous half time analysis and retain the ability to compare the first half of the Von der Leyen Commission with the second (and without the time/scope to completely update the half time analysis), we have not attempted to incorporate these meetings, but have started the new analysis of the second half from the previous cut-off date only.

# WHAT THE MEETING NUMBERS COVER

It should therefore be noted that the total fossil fuel company and lobby group meeting numbers are likely an under-estimate. This is due to a) the cut off point for the analysis being the 15 May 2024 (while meetings continued in the following few months). And, b) due to the lag time that it takes for meetings with lobbyists to be added to the Commission's online meetings transparency data (which will have had an impact on the dataset both at the point the data was downloaded to conduct the half time analysis, and at the point the data was downloaded to conduct the analysis of the second half of the Commission mandate).

# CATEGORIES OF ENTITY

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

## **1. 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.

For the analysis of the second half of the Commission's mandate, companies that were categorised as meeting one of these criteria during the half time analysis were, where there was any reasonable doubt as to whether they still met the criteria, re-checked against it. Where it was no longer clear that the definition was, most likely, still being met, that company was no longer counted as a fossil fuel company in the analysis of meetings during the second half the von der Leyen Commission, ie from May 2022 to May 2024 (for example, Enel S.p.A. [2]). However, the categorisations of companies classed as fossil fuel companies as of May 2022 (and counted in the first half of the Commission, Dec 2019 to May 2022) were not retrospectively changed.

Companies that had not previously come up in the meetings lists during the half-time analysis were also checked against these criteria, and included if they appeared to meet them.

# CATEGORIES OF ENTITY

## **2. Meetings with organisations with one or more fossil fuel company members, on topics categorised as climate and energy issues**

This includes trade associations, think tanks and other organisations [3] with one or more fossil fuel company members or partners. 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.

Organisations that were categorised as meeting this criteria during the half time analysis were, where there was any reasonable doubt, re-checked. Where it was no longer clear that they had one or more fossil fuel members/partners, they were no longer counted in the second half analysis (though the categorisations used for the first half were not retrospectively changed).

Organisations that had not previously come up in the meetings lists during the half time analysis were also checked against this criteria, and included if they were found to have one or more fossil fuel company member or partner.

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 Emissions Directive revision, RePower EU, Industrial Carbon Management Strategy (ICMS), Electricity Market Design (EMD) reform, impact of US Inflation Reduction Act (and its climate/energy funding), Critical Raw Materials (CRM) (as it relates to energy production), Global Gateway (which includes energy infrastructure), sustainability reporting, EU Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability (which includes limiting emissions from the chemicals sector), IPCEIs (which include energy and CCUS projects), etc.

# CATEGORIES OF ENTITY

## **3. Meetings on climate and energy issues with renewable energy associations with one or more fossil fuel company members**

These were counted separately to the above category of organisations with one or more fossil fuel company members, 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.

Organisations that were categorised as meeting this criteria during the half time analysis were, where there was any reasonable doubt as to whether they still met this criteria, re-checked against it. Where it was no longer clear that they still had one or more fossil fuel members, they were no longer counted in the second half analysis (though the categorisations used for the first half were not retrospectively changed).

# OTHER NOTES ON METHODOLOGY

- Where meetings included a fossil fuel company AND an organisation with one or more fossil fuel company members, 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 members 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 members, 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 members).
- For the breakdown of meetings with fossil fuel companies by subject (for the Top 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 887 meetings held by all Commissioners/cabinets with fossil fuel companies or organisations with one or more fossil fuel company member [4], for the period 01/12/19 up till 15/05/24** (or the period within this timeframe that a Commissioner was in office, if they resigned or were appointed part-way through the VdL Commission mandate).

**See table on the next page.**

Commissioner (and/or their cabinet)	Meetings with fossil fuel companies	Additional meetings with organisations with 1 or more fossil fuel company members, if meeting re. climate/ energy issue	Additional meetings with renewable energy associations with 1 or more fossil fuel company members, if meeting re. climate/ energy issue
Energy Commissioner Simson	116	78	27
Former European Green Deal Commissioner/ EVP Timmermans	105	147	24
Interinstitutional Relations Commissioner Sefcovic	40	18	2
Transport Commissioner Valean	25	15	1
Internal Market Commissioner Breton	16	43	3
Trade Commissioner/ EVP Dombrovskis	11	29	4
International Partnerships Commissioner Urpilainen	10	11	0
Financial Services Commissioner McGuinness	9	30	3
Economy Commissioner Gentiloni	9	9	1
Commission President von der Leyen	8	25	3
Jobs & Social Rights Commissioner Schmit	7	12	3
Environment Commissioner Sinkevicius	7	8	2
Agriculture Commissioner Wojciechowski	7	7	2
Cohesion Commissioner Ferreira	7	0	2
Competition/Digital Commissioner/ EVP Vestager	6	23	11
Promoting our European Way of Life Commissioner Schinas	4	2	0
Neighbourhood and Enlargement Commissioner Varhelyi	4	1	0
Budget Commissioner Hahn	3	3	0
Climate Action Commissioner Wopke Hoekstra	2	10	2
Justice Commissioner Reynders	2	2	0
Values and Transparency Commissioner Jourova	2	2	0
Commission High Representative for External Action Borrell Fontelles	2	0	0
Former Research & Innovation Commissioner Gabriel	1	3	0
Home Affairs Commissioner Johansson	1	2	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
Research & Innovation Commissioner Ivanova	0	0	0
Democracy Commissioner Suica	0	0	0
<b>Total meetings:</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>Total meetings with companies &amp; organisations (not including renewable associations):</b>		<b>887</b>	

***Calculation of total fossil fuel meetings (for all Commissioners/cabinets) per working day:***

Time period 1 Dec 2019 to 15 May 2024 = 232.5 weeks (232 Weeks, 3 days [5])

232.5 weeks x 5 working days per week = 1162.5

minus approx. 83 public holidays [6] for EU institutions in that period = 1079.5 days

- **887 meetings in 1079.5 days = one meeting every 1.2 working days**

***Calculation of increased frequency of Simson and cabinet's meetings with fossil fuel companies in the second half of the von der Leyen Commission compared to the first half.***

Time period 1 Dec 2019 to 4 May 2022 = 126.5 weeks (126 weeks, 3 days), or 2.5 years.

56 meetings with fossil fuel companies in that period.

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

Time period 5 May 2022 to 15 May 2024 = 106 weeks (105 weeks, 6 days), or 2 years (approx).

60 meetings with fossil fuel companies in that period.

*60 meetings divided by 106 weeks = average 0.57 meetings per week*

- **0.57 is a higher average frequency than 0.44 meetings per week.**

***Calculation of increased frequency of Simson' and cabinet's meetings since since Russia's invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022:***

Time period 1 Dec 2019 to 23 February 2022 = 116.5 weeks (116 weeks, 3 days), or approx 2.25 years.

47 meetings with fossil fuel companies in that period. [56 (between 1 Dec 2019 and 4 May 2022) minus 9 (between 24 Feb and 4 May 2022) = 47.]

*47 meetings divided by 116.5 weeks = average 0.4 meetings a week*

**Time period 24 Feb 2022 to 15 May 2024 = 116 weeks (115 weeks 6 days), or approx 2.25 years.**

69 meetings with fossil fuel companies in that period [60 (between 5 May 2022 and 15 May 2024) plus 9 (between 24 Feb and 4 May 2022) = 69]

*69 meetings divided by 116 weeks = average 0.6 meetings per week*

- **Average 0.4 times a week to average 0.6 times a week = a jump in frequency of 50%.**

**Calculation of increased frequency of von der Leyen and cabinet's meetings since Russia's invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022:**

**Time period 1 Dec 2019 to 23 February 2022 = 116.5 weeks (116 weeks, 3 days) or approx 2.25 years.**

1 meeting with fossil fuel companies in that period.

**Time period 24 Feb 2022 to 15 May 2024 = 116 weeks (115 weeks 6 days) or approx 2.25 years.**

**7 meetings with fossil fuel companies in that period.**

1 meeting in the two and quarter years before the invasion, 7 meetings in the two and quarter years after the invasion = a seven fold increase.

## TRANSPARENCY REGISTER DATA

Where data such as annual EU lobbying expenditure is included, it is based on the respective entity's [Transparency Register](#) entry as of June 2024.

# SOURCES

1. FOR EXAMPLE, COMMISSIONER ADINA-IOANA VĂLEAN WITH CEO OF ENI S.P.A ON 29/11/2021, AND COMMISSIONER ADINA-IOANA VĂLEAN'S CABINET WITH TOTALENERGIES SE ON 17/02/2022.

2. DURING THE HALF TIME ANALYSIS ENEL WAS CATEGORISED AS A FOSSIL FUEL COMPANY BASED ON ITS GAS E&P IN ALGERIA AND EYPT, BUT DOUBTS OVER HOW UP-TO-DATE THIS INFORMATION IS NOW, PLUS LACK OF EVIDENCE THAT THE ELECTRICITY IT PRODUCES FROM FOSSIL FUELS WOULD MEET THE 51% OF ITS TURNOVER THRESHOLD, MEANT THAT WHILST ENEL MAY STILL MEET OUR DEFINITION, WE WERE NOT CONFIDENT THAT IT MOST LIKELY DID, AND SO ENEL WAS NOT COUNTED AS A FOSSIL FUEL COMPANY IN THE ANALYSIS OF THE SECOND HALF OF THE VON DER LEYEN COMMISSION MANDATE (THOUGH IT IS STILL INCLUDED IN THE FIRST HALF ANALYSIS, WHICH HAS NOT BEEN ALTERED).

3. BUT NOT RENEWABLE ENERGY ASSOCIATIONS.

4. NOT INCLUDING RENEWABLE ENERGY ASSOCIATIONS WITH FOSSIL FUEL COMPANY MEMBERS.

5. TO CALCULATE THIS, AND OTHER WEEKS BETWEEN DATES, [HTTPS://WWW.INCHCALCULATOR.COM/WEEKS-BETWEEN-DATES-CALCULATOR/](https://www.inchcalculator.com/weeks-between-dates-calculator/) WAS USED.

6. APPROX 17 TO 18 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) (2022), [HTTPS://EUR-LEX.EUROPA.EU/LEGAL-CONTENT/EN/TXT/PDF/?URI=CELEX:32021D0528\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/txt/pdf/?uri=CELEX:32021D0528(01)) (2023) AND [HTTPS://EUR-LEX.EUROPA.EU/LEGAL-CONTENT/EN/TXT/PDF/?URI=CELEX:32022D1121\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/txt/pdf/?uri=CELEX:32022D1121(01)) (2024), WHICH WOULD INCLUDE: 6 DAYS IN DEC 2019; 17 DAYS IN 2020; 17 DAYS IN 2021; 17 DAYS IN 2022; 18 DAYS IN 2023; 8 DAYS UP TO 15 MAY 2024 = 83 PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN THE PERIOD 1 DEC 2019 TO 15 MAY 2024.