The Work Programme of an Executive Vice President for Future Generations

This working paper is one in a series outlining the portfolio of an Executive Vice President for Future Generations.

This role would be building on the role and competencies of the Executive Vice President for Foresight and interinstitutional relations to bring long-term thinking and care for the future more deeply into policymaking, planning, investment and decisions.

The role could have the following three core competencies:

- Integrate and embed intergenerational, long-view thinking in the policy cycle to build towards a positive future in line with EU values and goals
- Safeguard future generations' wellbeing, and act as a conduit for their concerns, through scrutiny of policies, reforms, and investments
- Review and monitor progress towards the EU's vision of the future of Europe in collaboration with citizens

In this working paper, these competencies are operationalized to demonstrate what this would look like in a day-to-day context in the first 100 days, the first year, and over the lifespan of the next Commission.

The first 100 days…

The first 100 days of the new Executive Vice President would focus on establishing their team and setting priorities in addition to building some of the foundational aspects of the role that will serve the coming 5 years. This includes:

- Establishing a cabinet of experts on: strategic foresight & futures thinking, citizen participation, demography, European Green Deal, economy, digitalisation, Better Regulation, employment education and skills, geopolitics and health, including a young person (under 30). Each of them would have strong future modelling foresight capacities in their own field of expertise.
- Develop and deliver a pan-European "future we want" participatory visioning process that builds on the outcomes of the Conference of the Future of Europe and lays the foundation for the coming mandate.
- The goals identified from this "future we want" process are being discussed across the DGs who are responsible for embedding these, including ECFIN EU Semester Country desks, as well as others. Each DGs establishes a strategy on how best to embed this process in their work for the coming mandate in collaboration with the cabinet of experts and justify their position otherwise.
- The structure for an internal network of foresight champions is established and Units begin to appoint representatives. This includes also identifying what capacities need to be developed by these individuals to be able to take up this role and defining exactly what should be the role and power of this representative in the unit.
- Revamp the Ministers of the Future network, and establish regular peer-support and learning, and strategic leadership for the national level implementation of long-term thinking at the MS level.
- Exhibit global leadership by engaging with the UN process that follows up on the Summit of the Future, including building a collaborative relationship with the (anticipated) newly appointed UN Special Envoy for Future Generations.
- Quarterly meetings are organised between the EVP, the cabinet of experts, youth movements and specific NGOs to reflect on the work ahead and hear inputs from the civil society. This could

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complement the EU Youth conference by being a smaller more regular event focused on specific topics to address in the coming months. This could be interesting for several reasons: first, get regular intel on the current struggles and priorities of the youth in the EU; second, hear the (diverse) opinions and ideas of youth representatives about work done in the Commission; third, increase support of civil society for the EC work and help disseminate news about the actions of the commission to their networks and young Europeans in general.

The first year…

In the first year of the Executive Vice President for Future Generations, the following changes are visible and present in policy processes:

- Revised and clear guidance has been developed for how impact assessments should incorporate the long term—how long and how to do it—including how to incorporate different kinds of modelling and assessments, and how to incorporate foresight.
- A Foresight Network internal to the Commission's various DGs has been established and gives guidance on the policy process and supporting internal capacity building across the Commission.
- The first Country Specific Reports include assessment of future-fitness of economic strategies and use foresight tools in national reflections. This has happened with the support of the EVP's team to develop a process and guidance for implementing this together with DG EFCIN.
- The EVP has worked with the Regulatory Scrutiny Board to set in place a way of scrunitising policies and investments for their future-fitness.
- The EVP has worked with DG COMM to institutionalise Standing Citizen Panels to create a platform for citizen input into policies throughout the policy cycle.
- A new coordination mechanism has been established with the European Ombudsperson to establish and channel and process to receive citizen inputs and complains about EU policies that they believe are harming the interests of future generations. In this process complaints can come in to both offices, and the EVP has the mandate to take up the complaint with the relevant DG or DGs.

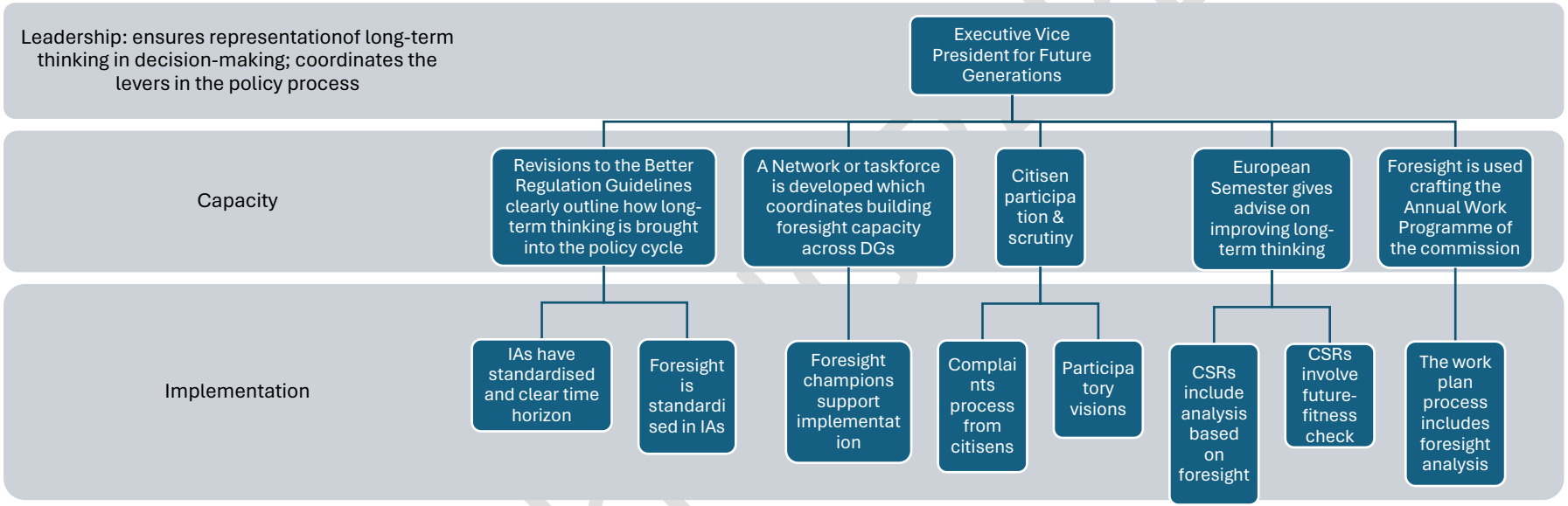
At the end of the mandate…

After five years of this role:

- Foresight and long-term thinking are being used in every policy process to ensure all policies are aligned with the long-term goals and "future we want".
- The EVP has supported all EU MS to develop and strengthen national capacities to think and work in the long term through soft instruments like peer-support and reporting processes like the Country Reports in the EU Semester.
- A citizen-led future vision has helped to set goals and targets that allow for prosperity and progress to be measured and valued by a range of indicators which reflect those goals.
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The below diagram outlines some key aspects of the role of the Executive Vice President for Future Generations.



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