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COVER NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Nomination of Mr Virginijus SINKEVIČIUS as Member of the European Commission

Delegations will find attached a letter from Mr Damyras ASANAVIČIUS, Minister Counsellor, Acting Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the European Union, forwarding the letter from Mr Gitanas NAUSĖDA, President of the Republic of Lithuania, nominating Mr Virginijus SINKEVIČIUS as Member of the European Commission.

IM 009124 2019
02.09.2019

E-MAIL *AK*



**LIETUVOS NUOLATINĖ ATSTOVYBĖ EUROPOS SĄJUNGOJE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF LITHUANIA TO THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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Ms Ursula von der Leyen
President-elect of the Commission

28 August 2019 No. (76.2.3)576-730

Ms Tytti Tuppurainen
President-in-office of the Council,
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Copy to:
Mr Jeppe Tranholm-Mikkelsen
Secretary-General of the Council

CONCERNING LITHUANIA'S CANDIDATE FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER

The Permanent Representation of Lithuania to the European Union has the honour to transmit herewith the letter of the President of the Republic of Lithuania H.E. Mr Gitanas Nausėda to the President-elect of the European Commission H.E. Ms Ursula von der Leyen presenting Lithuania's candidate for the position of the Member of the European Commission Mr Virginijus Sinkevičius.

Encl. 3 pages

Minister Counsellor,
Acting Permanent Representative of Lithuania
to the European Union

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EMALYON

IM 009124 2019
02.09.2019



LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS PREZIDENTAS
GITANAS NAUSĖDA

Vilnius, 28 August 2019

Dear Ursula,

I have the pleasure of presenting to you Lithuania's candidate for the position of Member of the European Commission, Mr. Virginijus Sinkevičius. Until recently Mr. Sinkevičius held the post of Minister of Economy and Innovation of the Republic of Lithuania. Considering his personal and professional background, this nomination more than resonates with your wish to make the most of Europe's potential. As you have rightly pointed out in your letter, we can only make the most of our potential if we use all the talent at our disposal, and this potential can only be fully employed with the inclusion of young European leaders, their talent and their ideas.

Mr. Sinkevičius' vigor and enthusiasm represent all the right qualities to bring you success and his results speak for themselves. He has established a robust foundation for his political career in leading European universities. His field of expertise includes innovation, blockchain, startup ecosystem and artificial intelligence, areas which will be the future drivers for our common goal – to ensure sustainable development in Europe and become the first climate-neutral continent in the world.

Mr. Sinkevičius knowledge, passion and determination have granted him the opportunity to hold various top level positions in state-run companies. His work in the foreign investment promotion agency Invest Lithuania showed impeccable results by attracting record numbers of foreign investment to Lithuania.

Ms. Ursula von der Leyen
President-elect of the European Commission
Brussels

At a relatively young age Mr. Sinkevičius has already held significant political positions in Lithuania, including being member of the Lithuanian parliament, deputy leader of the Lithuanian Farmers and Greens Union political group. Due to his high professionalism and work results, he was soon promoted to the Minister of Economy and Innovation. His knowledge and proactive approach delivered many breakthroughs in the innovation field. He headed the very first innovation reform in Lithuania, introduced a package to improve the start-up business environment and put Lithuania among the first EU's countries to develop a national Artificial Intelligence Strategy.

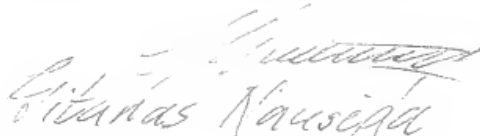
The social dimension of Mr. Sinkevičius' achievements must also be emphasized. During his lead, the Law on the Social Business Development and the Women Go Tech initiative were implemented, which contributed to our common European effort to integrate more women into the digital economy.

With uncertainty and challenges ahead, some linked to trade tensions and others to slower global growth, it is essential the EU keeps up the momentum. We need to continue to boost our investment, creating quality jobs and opportunities. Innovation is vital for European competitiveness in the global economy. As highlighted by the EU Industrial Policy, industry is crucial for EU competitiveness and innovation is a key factor in this regard. The main achievements of Mr. Sinkevičius as Minister of Economy and Innovation deeply resonate with the strategic goals of the EU.

Europe is a continent full of opportunity and potential and I strongly believe in the need for more young and robust innovators with breakthrough technologies. Many of this generation's tech giants were only conceived a decade ago. I am convinced that Mr. Sinkevičius will bring energy and commitment to the team, working on building a competitive and united European Union. His energy and drive, work ethics and his results in last year's projects have clearly demonstrated his knowledge and professionalism in leading an innovation portfolio.

I have no doubt that as Member of the European Commission Mr. Sinkevičius will have your trust and will contribute greatly to the Commission's successful work.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.



Gitanas Nausėda



Virginijus Sinkevičius

Minister of Economy and Innovation of the Republic of Lithuania

Professional experience

Since November 2017	Minister of Economy of the Republic of Lithuania
2016 – 2017	Chair of the Committee on Economics of the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania
Since 2016	Deputy Leader of the Lithuanian Farmers and Greens Union
Since 2016	Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania
2016	Team Leader of the Group for Regulatory Affairs at <i>Invest Lithuania</i>
2015 – 2016	Project Coordinator at <i>Lithuanian Airports</i>
2014	International Group Project Manager at <i>AB Lietuvos Paštas</i>
2013 – 2014	Assistant Project Manager at <i>the Centre for European Policy Analysis (CEPA)</i> , Washington, USA
2011 – 2015	Author and Editor of news portal <i>The Lithuanian Tribune</i>

Achievements & awards

2019	Partnership Leader 2018 award for Innovation reform and development of startup ecosystem (Lithuanian Business Confederation, largest business association in Lithuania)
2018	The Best Solution for Better Business Environment of the Year (Investors' forum)
2018	Award for Leadership in Blockchain (#SWITCH! Tech Awards 2018)
2018	Included in the list of 100 World's Most Influential Young People in Government (apolitical.co)

Education

2017	Digital policy course at University of Oxford
2012–2013	Master of Arts in European Studies at Maastricht University (the Netherlands)
2009–2012	Bachelor of Economic and Social Studies at Aberystwyth University (the United Kingdom)

Languages: Lithuanian, English, Russian, Polish

Marital status: Married wife Kateryna, son Vincentas