

Christine Lagarde among those to take top EU jobs after marathon summit



Christine Lagarde has been proposed for the presidency of the European Central Bank (AFP/Getty Images)

European Union leaders have agreed on who should next fill the bloc's top positions following a marathon summit.

European Council President Donald Tusk announced the news Tuesday after hours of talks that exposed deepening divisions among member states.

"The European Council has agreed on the future leadership of the EU institutions," he said on Twitter.

France's Christine Lagarde has been proposed for the presidency of the European

Central Bank, Germany's Ursula von der Leyen for European Commission president, Belgium's Charles Michel for European Council president and Spain's Josep Borrell for EU foreign policy chief.

German defense minister Ms von der Leyen, an ally of Chancellor Angela Merkel, would become the first female Commission president under the deal reached in Brussels, but must still be endorsed by the European Parliament.

Ms. Lagarde, currently head of the International Monetary Fund, would also be the first woman in her role, and she would serve for up to eight years if her nomination is endorsed.

Mr. Michel, Belgium's liberal caretaker prime minister, would replace Mr. Tusk as the next chairman of EU leaders' summits and be tasked with building compromises between the often fractious 28 member states.

He is the only one who can take up his post in November without other formalities.

Spain's acting foreign minister, the socialist Josep Borrell, would be the EU's new top diplomat in Brussels.

The four would help lead the EU's policies in the next five years on everything from climate to migration to trade.

The nominations came after one of the longest summits in recent years, outstripping even all-night negotiations during the Greek debt crisis.

The fifth prominent EU role up for grabs is the president of the European Parliament, who will be announced in Strasbourg on Wednesday.

Source:

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/world/christine-lagarde-among-those-to-take-top-eu-jobs-after-marathon-summit-a4180811.html>

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