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## **BORISOV 3 CABINET TO DISCUSS THE NOMINATION FOR A BULGARIAN EU COMMISSIONER TODAY**

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On the first government meeting of the Borisov 3 cabinet today, they will consider the nomination for a Bulgarian EU Commissioner, according to BGNES.

During a phone call with the Bulgarian Prime Minister, the President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker urged the Bulgarian Government to nominate Bulgarian EU Commissioner as soon as possible.

According to unconfirmed information, Bulgaria is poised to nominate MEP Mariya Gabriel to replace Kristalina Georgieva on the European Commission.

Gabriel, a member of Bulgarias ruling GERB party, is Commission President Jean-Claude Junckers favored candidate for the post, writes Politico. The European Peoples Party MEP would be the long-awaited replacement for former digital commissioner Günther Oettinger. She accompanied Parliaments EEP Chairman Manfred Weber on a trip to Bulgaria in March that included a trip to see Borisov and party meetings in several cities.

Gabriel would work for Digital Vice President Andrus Ansip, who has been handling the digital portfolio since Oettinger left the post in January. A source familiar with the thinking behind Gabriels candidacy suggested she would be expected to oversee relations with Parliament.

She is not a household name in Bulgaria. Gabriel has been elected twice in the EP as a member of GERB, and since the elections in 2014 has been a deputy-chairman of the EPP group.

Gabriel is vice chair of the center-right European Peoples Party and member of the Civil Liberties Committee, where she has focused her attention on issues involving visa regimes.

She has also done work on gender equality and foreign affairs. Her husband François Gabriel was a former staffer for EPP group leader Joseph Daul and now works for EP President Antonio Tajani.

Other discussed for the post include former Commissioner Meglena Kuneva and ex-foreign minister and MEP Ivailo Kalfin.

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