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Government spokespersons often have to choose between being liked and being respected. Bertaud, a favorite among Brussels' thousand or so accredited journalists, achieves both. Switching smoothly between French and English, she maneuvers in a competent and non-robotic way through the Commission's midday briefing, which has been known to send many journalists, and the few regulars who watch it online, to sleep. Bertaud started as a press officer to Commissioner Viviane Reding before making her big leap forward as spokesperson of the successful 2014 "Juncker for President" campaign. She is now the coordinating spokesperson for activities of Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and policies of First Vice President Frans Timmermans, a Social Democrat now gunning to replace Juncker. In between all that work she's a keen participant in the Brussels 20K running race each May.

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Illustration by Simon Bridgland for POLITICO.