

## European & External Affairs Committee

**Date:** 14 October 2004  
**Time:** 09:00 am  
**Venue:** Committee Rooms 3 and 4, National Assembly for Wales,  
Cardiff Bay  
**Title:** The new European Commission

### Purpose

1. To inform Members of the new European Commission that comes into effect on the 1 November 2004.

### Summary

- EU Member States appointed José Manuel Barroso as President-designate of the European Commission on 18 June and he will take office 1 November 2004. Until then, Romano Prodi remains President of the Commission.
- On 27 September the new Commissioners start a two-week long hearing session before Parliamentary committees. The European Parliament can only vote on the whole body and not on individual Commissioners. After a vote of approval in the European Parliament, the President and other Members of the Commission are appointed by the Council.
- Commissioner-designate from the UK is Peter Mandelson. He will be responsible for trade policy and the international dimension of competitiveness.

### Background

2. The policy portfolios were announced on the 12 August by José Manuel Barroso, President-designate of the European Commission (see **Annex A**).
3. The decisions follow detailed consultations with each nominee Commissioner. The new Commission brings together people from across the political spectrum and contains more women than ever before. All Commissioners will have strictly equal powers as Members of the College.
4. The role of each Commissioner is not limited to managing portfolio business. The Commission acts as a College and decides collectively on all issues. Each Commissioner will be strictly equal in the process of collective decision-making. There will be no delegation of powers to Commissioners' groups.

5. To further enhance collegiality it is intended that the Commission will hold more informal sessions and will improve cooperation between departments and Commissioners' private offices. To react quickly to events and set the agenda, it is recognised that the Commission needs a flexible organisation. Where appropriate, it is proposed that Commission work will be prepared in advance by thematic groups and task forces. These will draw together Commissioners whose portfolios relate to a particular policy challenge.

### **Next steps**

6. The team met for the first time for an informal session on Friday 20 August in Brussels. New Commission President Jose Manuel Durao Barroso used the meeting to set out his vision of how the new team should work together. Mr Barroso has emphasised the importance of fighting harder for economic reform and of promoting the idea of Europe more effectively to the general public.
7. The main changes to the current situation introduced by José Manuel Barroso are:
  - The President personally chairing the group of Commissioners on external relations and on the Lisbon Strategy.
  - A new post of Vice-President for institutional relations and communication strategy.
  - A Vice-President ensuring a coherent Commission approach in the Competitiveness Council.
  - The highest ever proportion of women Commissioners (8 out of the 25).
  - Split of current portfolios: transport and energy; agriculture and fisheries; internal market and taxation.
  - A greater use of task forces to anticipate policy issues.
  - Grouping Commissioners in the same building (Berlaymont).
  - Separating financial control from budgetary affairs and appointment of a Vice-President to oversee sound management.
8. The new Commission will take office on 1 November, subject to a vote of approval by the European Parliament. The European Parliament can only vote on the whole body and not on individual Commissioners.
9. According to the Treaty establishing a European Constitution, the EU Minister for Foreign Affairs will enter into the Commission as Vice-President upon ratification of the Constitution.
10. The Treaty gives the President of the Commission the powers to allocate and reshuffle policy responsibilities. The following is the text of article 217 currently in place:
  - The Commission shall work under the political guidance of its President, who shall decide on its internal organisation in order to ensure that it acts consistently, efficiently and on the basis of collegiality.

- The responsibilities incumbent upon the Commission shall be structured and allocated among its Members by its President. The President may reshuffle the allocation of those responsibilities during the Commission's term of office. The Members of the Commission shall carry out the duties devolved upon them by the President under his authority.
- After obtaining the approval of the College, the President shall appoint Vice-Presidents from among its Members.
- A member of the Commission shall resign if the President so requests, after obtaining the approval of the College.

### **Action for Subject Committee**

11. This paper is for information only.

**Rhodri Morgan**  
**First Minister**

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**ANNEX A**

**PORTFOLIO RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BARROSO COMMISSION**

<b>RESPONSIBILITIES</b>	<b>DEPARTMENTS</b>
<p><b>JOSÉ MANUEL BARROSO</b>  <b>President</b>  Responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Political guidance of the Commission</li> <li>• Organisation of the Commission in order to ensure that it acts consistently, efficiently and on the basis of collegiality</li> <li>• Allocation of responsibilities</li> </ul> <p>Chair of Group of Commissioners on Lisbon Strategy  Chair of Group of Commissioners for External Relations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secretariat General</li> <li>• Legal Service</li> <li>• Spokesperson</li> <li>• Group of Policy Advisers (GOPA)</li> </ul>
<p><b>MARGOT WALLSTRÖM</b>  <b>Vice President</b>  <b>Commissioner for Institutional Relations and Communication Strategy</b>  Responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relations with the European Parliament</li> <li>• Relations with the Council and representation of the Commission, under the authority of the President, in the General Affairs Council</li> <li>• Contacts with National Parliaments</li> <li>• Relations with the Committee of the Regions, the Economic and Social Committee, and the Ombudsman</li> <li>• Replacing the President when absent</li> <li>• Coordination of press and communication strategy</li> </ul> <p>Chair of Group of Commissioners for Communications and Programming</p>	<p>Press and Communication DG including Representations in the Member States</p>
<p><b>GÜNTER VERHEUGEN</b>  <b>Vice President</b>  <b>Commissioner for Enterprise and Industry</b>  Responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enterprise and industry</li> <li>• Coordination of Commission's role in the Competitiveness Council</li> <li>• Chair of Group of Commissioners for the Competitiveness Council</li> </ul> <p>Vice Chair of Group of Commissioners on Lisbon Strategy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DG Enterprise and Industry (renamed), adding:</li> <li>• Space (from DG RTD)</li> <li>• Security-related research (from DG INFSO/RTD)</li> <li>• Application of treaty rules on free movement of goods (from DG MARKT)</li> <li>• Agencies:</li> <li>• EMEA (European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products)</li> <li>• ECA (European Chemicals Agency)</li> </ul>

<p><b>JACQUES BARROT</b>  <b>Vice President</b>  <b>Commissioner for Transport</b>  Responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport activities in the Transport and Energy DG</li> <li>• Agencies:</li> <li>• EMSA (European Maritime Safety Agency)</li> <li>• EASA (European Aviation Safety Agency)</li> <li>• ERA (European Railway Agency)</li> </ul>
<p><b>SIIM KALLAS</b>  <b>Vice President</b>  <b>Commissioner for Administrative Affairs, Audit and Anti-Fraud</b>  Responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consolidation of Administrative Reform</li> <li>• Personnel and Administration</li> <li>• Budgetary discharge</li> <li>• Internal Audit</li> <li>• Fight against Fraud</li> <li>• Security</li> </ul> <p>Chair of the Audit Progress Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personnel and Administration DG</li> <li>• Internal Audit Service</li> <li>• European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF)</li> <li>• Informatics DG</li> <li>• Office for Administration and Payment of individual entitlements</li> <li>• Offices for Infrastructures and Logistics</li> <li>• Relations with the Inter-institutional European Personnel Selection Office</li> </ul>
<p><b>ROCCO BUTTIGLIONE</b>  <b>Vice President</b>  <b>Commissioner for Justice, Freedom and Security</b>  Responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Justice and Home Affairs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Justice, Freedom and Security DG (renamed)</li> <li>• Agencies:</li> <li>• EMCDDA (European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction)</li> <li>• EUMC (European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia) – will be combined with Fundamental Rights</li> <li>• Border Control (European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders)</li> </ul>
<p><b>VIVIANE REDING</b>  <b>Commissioner for Information Society and Media</b>  Responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information Society</li> <li>• Audiovisual Policy</li> <li>• Coordination of Media Affairs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information Society DG adding:</li> <li>• Audiovisual policy and Media programme Units from DG EAC</li> <li>• Agencies:</li> <li>• ENISA (European Network and Information Security Agency)</li> </ul>
<p><b>STAVROS DIMAS</b>  <b>Commissioner for Environment</b>  Responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment DG</li> </ul> <p>Agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EEA (European Environment Agency)</li> </ul>
<p><b>JOAQUIN ALMUNIA</b>  <b>Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs</b>  Responsible for:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic and Financial Affairs DG</li> <li>• Statistical Office</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic and Financial Affairs</li> <li>• Monetary matters</li> <li>• Statistical Office</li> </ul>	
<p><b>DANUTA HÜBNER</b>  <b>Commissioner for Regional Policy</b>  Responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Policy</li> <li>• Cohesion Fund</li> <li>• Solidarity Fund</li> </ul>	Regional Policy DG
<p><b>JOE BORG</b>  <b>Commissioner for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs</b>  Responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fisheries</li> <li>• Coordination of maritime affairs</li> </ul> <p>Chair of Commission Taskforce to develop a Green Paper on maritime Policy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fisheries and Maritime Affairs DG (renamed) adding:</li> <li>• Transfer of responsibility for law of the sea from RELEX</li> <li>• Agencies:</li> <li>• CFCA (Community Fisheries Control Agency)</li> </ul>
<p><b>DALIA GRYBAUSKAITE</b>  <b>Commissioner for Financial Programming and Budget</b>  Responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial Programming</li> <li>• Budget</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget DG</li> </ul>
<p><b>JANEZ POTOČNIK</b>  <b>Commissioner for Science and Research</b>  Responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Science, Research and Development</li> <li>• Joint Research Centre</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research DG</li> <li>• JRC</li> </ul>
<p><b>JÁN FIGEL</b>  <b>Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture, and Multilingualism</b>  Responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and Training</li> <li>• Youth, Sport, Civil Society</li> <li>• Culture</li> <li>• Translation and Interpretation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and Culture DG</li> <li>• Interpretation DG(SCIC)</li> <li>• Translation DG</li> <li>• Relations with Inter-institutional Publications Office (OPOCE)</li> <li>• Agencies:</li> <li>• CEDEFOP (European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training)</li> <li>• ETF (European Training Foundation)</li> <li>• CdT (Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union)</li> </ul>
<p><b>MARKOS KYPRIANOU</b>  <b>Commissioner for Health and Consumers Protection</b>  Responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Health</li> <li>• Consumers Affairs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and Consumer Protection DG</li> <li>• Agencies:</li> <li>• CPVO (Community Plant Variety Office)</li> <li>• ECDC (European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EFSA (European Food Safety Authority)</li> </ul>
<b>OLLI REHN</b> <b>Commissioner for Enlargement</b> Responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candidate countries (Rumania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Turkey)</li> <li>• Western Balkans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enlargement DG adding Western Balkans Directorate from RELEX DG</li> <li>• Agencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EAR (European Agency for Reconstruction)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>LOUIS MICHEL</b> <b>Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid</b> Responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development Aid and Cooperation</li> <li>• Humanitarian Aid</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development DG</li> <li>• Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO)</li> </ul>
<b>LÁSZLÓ KOVÁCS</b> <b>Commissioner for Energy</b> Responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy policy</li> <li>• Nuclear Safety and Security</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy activities in the Transport and Energy DG</li> </ul>
<b>NEELIE KROES</b> <b>Commissioner for Competition</b> Responsible for: Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competition DG</li> </ul>
<b>MARIANN FISCHER BOEL</b> <b>Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development</b> Responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture</li> <li>• Rural Development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture and Rural Development DG (renamed)</li> </ul>
<b>BENITA FERRERO-WALDNER</b> <b>Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy</b> Responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• External Relations</li> <li>• Common Foreign and Security Policy</li> <li>• European Neighbourhood Policy</li> <li>• Delegations in non-member countries</li> </ul> Vice-Chair of Group of Commissioners for External Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• External Relations DG</li> <li>• EuropeAid – Cooperation Office</li> </ul>
<b>CHARLIE McCREEVY</b> <b>Commissioner for Internal Market and Services</b> Responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal Market</li> <li>• Financial Services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal Market and services DG (renamed)adding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free movement of capital from ECFIN DG</li> <li>• Responsibility for business related services and management of notifications by MS of draft rules on services from ENTR DG</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Agencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OHIM (Office for the Harmonisation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	of the Internal Market – Trade Marks and designs)
<p><b>VLADIMIR SPIDLA</b>  <b>Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities</b>  Responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment</li> <li>• Social Affairs</li> <li>• Equal Opportunities</li> </ul> <p>Chair of Group of Commissioners for Equal Opportunities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG (renamed)</li> <li>• Agencies:</li> <li>• EUROFOUND (European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions)</li> <li>• EU-OSHA (European Agency for Safety and Health at Work)</li> </ul>
<p><b>PETER MANDELSON</b>  <b>Commissioner for Trade</b>  Responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trade Policy</li> <li>• International dimension of competitiveness</li> </ul> <p>Member of the Group of Commissioners for the Competitiveness Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trade DG</li> </ul>
<p><b>INGRIDA UDRE</b>  <b>Commissioner for Taxation and Customs Union</b>  Responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Customs</li> <li>• Taxation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taxation and Customs Union DG</li> </ul>