

Brussels, 27 November 2009

In the political guidelines for the new Commission which I presented to the European Parliament in September, I set out why this is a time of great opportunity for Europe. Our ambition should be to use the next five years to put the enlarged Europe firmly on the path to a sustainable and successful future. I am delighted that you will be joining the Commission to work within these guidelines and to help deliver our agenda for 2020.

The Commission is the essential motor for the European Union's efforts to address tomorrow's challenges and to use the benefits of the Lisbon Treaty to best effect. Europe needs a strong, political and dynamic Commission to offer the leadership and direction to drive this work forward.

### **The portfolio for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy**

You will be the Commissioner with responsibility for Enlargement. In accordance with the Treaty, you will work the High Representative/Vice President in the field of Neighbourhood Policy. As in the past, changing circumstances may also mean that I will need to take a fresh look at the mix of portfolios in the course of the mandate, and may change responsibilities accordingly.

- The enlargement process has been a dynamic force for freedom, stability and prosperity in Europe. You will be responsible for continuing negotiations with the candidate countries. This means a particular focus on the EU's relations with Croatia and Turkey. You will also be responsible for helping the other countries of the Western Balkans and Iceland to prepare for future membership, and for the programming and management of pre-accession assistance.

Mr.Stefan FÜLE  
Commissioner Designate

- I would also ask you to develop credible and attractive alternatives to membership for those neighbouring countries that will not become members. That is why an effective European Neighbourhood Policy is so important, and why I believe that it deserves the extra attention which could be offered by close cooperation between you and the High Representative/Vice-President.

To help you to fulfil these responsibilities, DG Enlargement will be under your authority, as well as the services of the EuropeAid-Cooperation Office responsible for the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument. Once the European External Action Service is up and running, under the authority of the High Representative/Vice-President, I would like you to work closely with it to ensure coherence in our external policy.

### **Working together as a College**

As President, I am determined to ensure that the College of Commissioners is the political heart of the Commission. Being a College means that all can contribute to decisions, and all share collective responsibility once initiatives are adopted. The Commission must be a team, working together effectively to ensure the coherence and consistency of Commission policies. I will lead regular meetings and orientation debates to discuss important or cross-cutting proposals during their preparatory phase, to ensure relevant input from all Commissioners. My Cabinet, the Secretariat General and the Legal Service will work closely with your Cabinet and your services to make this approach a reality. As you know, according to the Treaty, the President is the guarantor of collegiality.

Our effectiveness and credibility rests upon the quality of our output, our professionalism, and our respect for the highest standards of public service ethics. This requires a rigorous smart regulation agenda, respecting subsidiarity and proportionality and devoting our attention to where we can bring clear added value; particular attention to sound financial management; and full respect for the Code of Conduct of the Members of the European Commission. It also, of course, means that we must stay focused on our overriding mission to promote and defend the common European interest. I will establish the guidelines within which the Commission is to work and we will discuss them in more detail at one of our forthcoming seminars.

An effective Commission must also form a successful partnership with the Member States and the other institutions, and in particular with the European Parliament. The Treaty of Lisbon sets out the roles of the institutions very clearly. As you know, according to the Treaty, the Commission "shall ensure the application of the Treaties and of measures adopted by the institutions pursuant to them". The Treaty will also bring an important new dimension to our relations with national parliaments.

I would like us to take our partnership with the European Parliament to a new level. That requires an investment, in terms of political attention and in terms of time, from every member of the Commission. Availability for plenary sessions and committee meetings of the Parliament is a central part of the responsibilities of Commissioners, and directly linked to the accountability and legitimacy of the Commission as a whole.

Our first opportunity to start this process will be when you take part in hearings with the parliamentary committee covering your portfolio area. This is one of the foundation stones of

the Commission's democratic accountability: it is not only an opportunity to set out your ambitions for your portfolio, but also to illustrate your understanding of the role of the Commission and the obligations of Commissioners.

**José Manuel BARROSO**