Henning Klaus, born in Cologne (Germany) in 1965, studied Political Sciences and Romance languages in Cologne (Germany), Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium) and Pisa (Italy). From 1994 to 1998 he worked as an assistant to German Members of the European Parliament, Peter Michael Mombaur and Jürgen Schröder. After two years experience in the private sector, with a Brussels-based consultancy firm, he was recruited in June 2000 by the European Commission following an open competition, to work on enlargement-related questions within the Directorate General for the Internal Market. From early 2003 until summer 2004 Mr Klaus was in charge of coordinating the DG Internal Market's relations with the European Parliament. As a next step, he was appointed assistant to Alexander Schaub, Director General of DG Internal Market, whom he was advising on various policy areas including services, public procurement and intellectual property rights. In December 2005, Mr Klaus joined the cabinet of Commission President José Manuel Barroso where he is responsible in particular for internal market matters.