

Folketinget — Europaudvalget

Christiansborg, den 15. oktober 2004

Europaudvalgets sekretariat

Til

udvalgets medlemmer og stedfortrædere

Europa-Parlamentets høringer og indstillinger af Kommissionen

Onsdag den 13. oktober blev den anden etape¹ af Europa-Parlamentets godkendelse af den nye Europa-Kommissionen afsluttet, idet Europa-Parlamentets udvalg offentliggjorde deres evaluering af de indstillede kommissærer. Europa-Parlamentets formandskonference besluttede, at de såkaldte "evalueringsbreve" fra de enkelte udvalg nu skal sendes til den udpegede formand for Europa-Kommissionen, José Barroso.

Evalueringen er, historisk set, enestående, da det er første gang, at udvalg i Europa-Parlamentet har valgt at afvise en udpeget kommissær. I Udvalget om Borgernes Rettigheder og Retlige og Indre Anliggender stemte 26 for og 27 imod godkendelse af Rocco Buttiglione som kommissær for Retfærdighed, frihed og sikkerhed. Samtidig stemte 25 for og 28 medlemmer imod hans udnævnelse til en af Kommissionens næstformandsposter. Det er endnu ikke afgjort hvilken konsekvens udtalelsen vil få, da det ikke er muligt for Europa-Parlamentet at afvise enkelte kommissærer. Herudover har Rocco Buttiglione fået en positiv udtalelse fra Europa-Parlamentets Retsudvalg, som var det andet udvalg, der skulle høre den italienske kommissær. Det er imidlertid blevet besluttet, at der skal afholdes et nyt møde i Europa-Parlamentets formandskonference den 21. oktober, hvor José Barroso vil have mulighed for at redegøre for sin holdning til Europa-Parlamentets anbefalinger. Her skal han også meddele, om han har tænkt sig at foretage justeringer i kommissærernes porteføljer. Derefter vil den endelige afstemning om Barroso-Kommissionen finde sted den 27. oktober 2004 i Strasbourg.

¹ Den første etape var udnævnelsen af José Barroso som Kommissionens formand. Barroso blev godkendt af Europa-Parlamentet den 22. juli med 413 stemmer for og 251 imod.

Nedenfor findes en kort gennemgang af resultaterne af den anden runde af høringer² inklusiv udvalgenes indstilling til de enkelte kommissærer. I bilaget til notatet er udvalgenes evalueringsbreve for samtlige kommissærer optrykt.

Mandag, den 4. oktober 2004



Navn: Peter Mandelson

Land: Storbritannien

Portefølje: Handel

Ansvarlige udvalg i EP: Udvalget om International Handel

Peter Mandelson, tidligere medierådgiver ("spin doctor") for Tony Blair, var veloplagt under høringen og var afslappet i sine besvarelser af udvalgets spørgsmål. Selvom han adskillige gange skulle besvare spørgsmål om hans politiske karriere i UK, blev der ikke stillet spørgsmål til, hvorfor han to gange har måttet forlade Blair-regeringer i utide.

Mandelson forsikrede udvalget om, at han er en ægte "*britisk-europæer*", og dermed ikke en brite, der "*kigger over skulderen til USA*". Han beskæftigede sig også med spørgsmålet om den britiske budget-rabatordning, hvor han fremhævede, at en løsning skal findes, som alle kan leve med. I den forbindelse kaldte han Kommissionens forslag på området for "*interessant*", men han bemærkede samtidig, at det vil gøre UK til en af de største bidragsydere til EU's budget.

I forbindelse med udvikling og handel redegjorde Mandelson for, hvordan han mener, at handelspolitik er anvendeligt som et udviklingspolitisk instrument. Han fremhævede, at en 1 % stigning i landbrugseksporter fra Afrika er mere værd end gældssanering og udviklingsbistand tilsammen. Han tilføjede, at handelspolitik skal afspejle behovet i de enkelte udviklingslande, og derfor skal handelsliberalisering for de enkelte lande ikke forgå i samme tempo.

² Et notat om høringerne med de første tolv kandidater blev udsendt den 4. oktober, som info-note I 187.

I forbindelse med afviklingen af landbrugssubsidier sagde Mandelson, at hans hovedprioritet er at implementere den nuværende reform. Han advarede imod, at EU afskaffer subsidier unilateralt, da deres eventuelle afskaffelse kan bruges til at opnå kompromiser i internationale handelspolitiske forhandlinger.

Under høringen skitserede Mandelson seks øvrige prioriteter, som han ønsker at få gennemført under hans embedsperiode:

1. Afslutningen af Doha-runden
2. Afslutningen af de økonomiske partnerskabsaftaler med AVS-landene
3. Afslutningen af Mercosur-aftalen
4. Afslutningen af forhandlinger med Rusland om WTO-medlemskab
5. Forbedring af forholdet mellem EU og USA
6. Gennemførelsen af en partnerskabsaftale mellem EU og Kina

Udvalgets indstilling: Positiv indstilling fra et flertal af udvalgets medlemmer, som har fremhævet, at den kommende kommissærs "europæiske indstilling", samt evne til at sætte sig ind i nye stofområder, vil give ham de nødvendige kvalifikationer til at betræde stillingen.



Navn: Olli Rehn

Land: Finland

Portefølje: Udvidelse

Ansvarlige udvalg i EP: Udenrigsudvalget

Hovedtemaet under høringen af den udpegede udvidelseskommisær, Olli Rehn, var spørgsmålet om, hvorvidt EU skal påbegynde optagelsesforhandlinger med Tyrkiet.

Olli Rehn mindede om, at selvom rapporten fra Kommissionen bliver offentliggjort den 6. oktober, vil debatten ikke af den grund blive afsluttet. Rådet skal tage stilling til spørgsmålet i december 2004, og det vil ikke være en nem beslutning, da den europæiske offentlighed er meget splittet på området. Han tilføjede dog, at EU er nødt til at fastholde "*Tyrkiets europæiske perspektiv*" for at få reformer gennemført i landet. Men han fastholdt, at Københavnskriterierne naturligvis skal opfyldes.

I den forbindelse sagde han: *"Tyrkiet skal på lige fod med andre kandidatlande opfylde Københavnskriterierne for optagelse... men det er også vigtigt at fastholde en anden væsentlig konklusion fra København: EU's evne til at optage og assimilere nye medlemslande"*.

Ud over spørgsmålet om Tyrkiets optagelse blev Bulgariens og Rumæniens fremskridt, og spørgsmålet om stabiliteten på Balkan, behandlet. Der blev også stillet spørgsmål angående Kommissionens rolle i genforeningen af Cypern og Kommissionens relation til Europa-Parlamentet.

I forbindelse med optagelsen af Bulgarien og Rumænien er kampen mod korruption, ifølge Olli Rehn, den væsentligste udfordring. Olli Rehn bemærkede her, at EU selvfølgelig skal være behjælpelig med dette, men at landene også skal være bevidste om den indsats, de selv kan gøre. Herudover sagde han, at Rumænien og Bulgarien bør vurderes hver for sig. Endvidere sagde han, at Kommissionen fortsat vil overvåge udviklingen i disse lande, og at den ikke vil tøve med at afbryde optagelsesprocessen, såfremt at det er påkrævet.

Om EU's forbindelser til det vestlige Balkan sagde Olli Rehn, at sikkerhed og genopbygning i regionen naturligvis er områder, der skal arbejdes for. Han tilføjede, at EU er nødt til at rationalisere unionsarbejdet på områderne, og hertil sagde han også, at associerings- og stabilitetsprocessen skal accelereres. Han bemærkede, at der *"på et givet tidspunkt"* kan være tale om en optagelse af landene i EU, men at store reformer selvfølgelig først er nødvendige.

Udvalgets indstilling: Enstemmig positiv indstilling fra udvalget. Udvalget har fremhævet, at han, selv om han ikke besidder en større "politisk profil", har tilstrækkelige kvalifikationer.

Tirsdag, den 5. oktober 2004



Navn: Benita Ferrero-Waldner

Land: Østrig

Portefølje: Eksterne forbindelser og europæisk nabo-skabspolitik

Ansvarlige udvalg i EP: Udenrigsudvalget

Benita Ferrero-Waldner indledte høringen med at fremhæve EU som den største handelsblok i verden, den største donor af humanitær bistand og samtidig som *"et referencepunkt for stabilitet, demokrati og menneskerettigheder"*.

Hun fortalte udvalget, at hun har et brændende ønske om at se EU som en dynamisk global aktør, men hun indrømmede, at EU's kompetence på dette område *"halter"*. For at dette ønske kan realiseres, skal vi, ifølge Ferrero-Waldner, være *"stærke indadtil"* og *"tale med én stemme udadtil"*.

Ferrero-Waldner tror på, at EU kan gøre en forskel på en række områder, blandt andet indenfor konfliktforebyggelse, krisestyring og ved at fremme menneskerettigheder, menneskelig sikkerhed og en effektiv multilateralisme. I øjeblikket anser hun sikkerhed, og dermed bekæmpelsen af den globale terrorisme, som den største udfordring. I den forbindelse foreslog hun, at der bør arbejdes for en fuld udnyttelse af Den Europæiske Sikkerhedsstrategi.

Forfatningstraktaten er, ifølge Ferrero-Waldner, EU's store chance for at blive mere synlig udadtil, og når denne er underskrevet næste måned, vil hun gå meget aktivt ind i opbygningen af Den Europæiske Udenrigstjeneste. Hun ser et stort potentiale for fremtidige EU repræsentationer rundt omkring i verden og for deres mulighed for at fremme stabilitet, velstand og EU-værdier udenfor EU's grænser.

En væsentlig del af høringen omhandlede EU's Naboskabspolitik, der også udgør en væsentlig del af porteføljen. Ferrero-Waldner anser den som et nøgleområde, der vil gøre det nemmere at styre relationerne mellem EU og dets nabolande. Samtidig vil den sikre, at fordelene i forbindelse med udvidelsen bliver overført til ikke-EU-lande. Naboskabspolitikken er blevet et selvstændigt instrument og skal, ifølge Ferrero-Waldner, fremover have tilført flere ressourcer. Der er tale om en rammeaftale, indenfor hvilken, der er plads til at indgå bilaterale aftaler med de enkelte lande.

Angående forbindelser til Rusland påpegede Ferrero-Waldner, at det var Ruslands eget ønske ikke at deltage i Naboskabspolitikken, men derimod at være en særlig strategisk partner for EU. Ifølge Ferrero-Waldner er det i høj grad i EU's egeninteresse, at Rusland *"kommer på fode igen"*, og der skal indledes en åben dialog, på ligeværdigt grundlag, med Rusland. Dialogen er meget afgørende for at fremme demokratiseringen i landet, men det er dog kun muligt, hvis Rusland er indstillet på dette. Det væsentlige er i den forbindelse, at EU taler med én stemme.

Et andet hovedområde er en effektiv multilateralisme. Ferrero-Waldner betonedede i den forbindelse især det transatlantiske partnerskab, og omtalte det som et meget værdifuldt partnerskab, som hun vil arbejde hårdt for at gøre til en succes. Hun fremhævede ligeledes et tæt samarbejde med FN som en hovedprioritet. Flere udvalgsmedlemmer, herunder Poul Nyrup Rasmussen (PSE), spurgte til den udpegede kommissærs visioner for EU's rolle i FN, og hertil svarede Ferrero-Waldner, at hun vil arbejde for en fast plads til EU i FN's Sikkerhedsråd. Opbygningen af Sikkerhedsrådet er, ifølge Ferrero-Waldner, ikke længere tidssvarende. Det afgørende er i den forbindelse naturligvis også, at EU fremover taler med én stemme.

Udvalgets indstilling: Positiv indstilling fra udvalget, der er blevet truffet på baggrund af konsensus. Udvalget har fremhævet hendes kvalifikationer og hendes erfaring indenfor diplomatiet.



Navn: Rocco Buttiglione

Land: Italien

Portefølje: (næstformand) Retfærdighed, frihed og sikkerhed

Ansvarlige udvalg i EP: Udvalget om Borgernes Rettigheder og Retlige og Indre Anliggender & Retsudvalget

Som den eneste indstillede kommissær skulle Rocco Buttiglione gennemgå to høringer, da Europa-Parlamentets Udvalg om Borgernes Rettigheder og Retlige og Indre Anliggender & Retsudvalget ikke kunne enes om at afholde et fælles møde. Mens Udvalget om Borgernes Rettigheder afviste at godkende udnævnelsen af Rocco Buttiglione, blev han godkendt af Europa-Parlamentets Retsudvalg.

Udvalget om Borgernes Rettigheder og Retlige og Indre Anliggender

Ifølge Rocco Buttiglione har han aldrig foreslået, "at oprette koncentrationslejre i Nordafrika, hvis formål skulle være at muliggøre en udvisning af illegale indvandrere fra medlemslandene". Men han fastslog, at "ulovlig indvandring" skal erstattes af "lovlig indvandring", og at de nødvendige vilkår herfor skal skabes. Han foreslog, at der skal vedtages en Middelhavskonvention, som kan støtte en demokratisk udvikling på området og samtidig indføre kvoter for lovlig indvandring.

Rocco Buttiglione indrømmede, at han har foreslået oprettelsen af humanitære lejre i Nordafrika. Det er en idé, som, ifølge Rocco Buttiglione, har fået del støtte i Rådet. Han forklarede, at disse lejre bedre kan håndtere migrationsstrømmen og dermed afværge mulige problemer i regionen. Han tilføjede dog, at de lejre, som hans forslag omhandler, ikke er at ligestille med koncentrationslejre.

Et andet emne som optog udvalgets medlemmer, var Rocco Buttiglione's syn på homoseksualitet og kvinder. Mens han forsikrede medlemmerne, at overholdelsen af borgernes grundlæggende rettigheder vil være en hovedprioritet for ham som justitskommissær, fremførte han også, at han mener, at homoseksualitet er *"en synd"*. I denne forbindelse sagde han: *"Mange ting, som betragtes som umoralske, skal ikke forbydes... Mens jeg synes, at homoseksualitet er en synd, har det ingen konsekvenser for politikken, med mindre jeg siger, at den er kriminel"*. I forbindelse med kvinder, sagde Buttiglione, at *"kvinder har ret til at få børn og blive beskyttet af deres mand"*.

Rocco Buttiglione, som er en stærk troende katolik, blev også spurgt til, hvorvidt hans tilknytning til Vatikanstaten vil påvirke ham i hans virke som kommissær. Dette afviste han og sagde, at mange tidligere politikere, såsom Robert Schuman og Helmut Kohl, både havde været gode katolikker og gode europæere.

Høringen fokuserede også på følgende emner: en styrkelse af respekten for demokrati og grundlæggende rettigheder, Kommissionens aktive rolle i bekæmpelsen af terrorisme og organiseret kriminalitet, samt indvandrings- og asylpolitik.

Udvalgets indstilling: Negativ indstilling fra udvalget, der har truffet afgørelsen ved en afstemning. 26 medlemmer stemte for Buttiglione, mens 27 stemte imod ham som den kommende justitskommissær. Samtidig stemte 25 for og 28 imod hans udnævnelse til en af Kommissionens næstformandsposter.

Retsudvalget

Selvom Rocco Buttiglione indledte hans anden høring med at sige: *"Europa kan ikke bygges uden gensidig tillid"*, var der stadig mange medlemmer af Europa-Parlamentet, der stillede ham spørgsmål om hans holdning til især homoseksualitet og kvinder. Han forsøgte at udrede trådene fra den første høring ved at sige: *"Jeg siger ikke, at kvinder bør blive hjemme, men de har for meget at lave – og vi er der"*.

for nødt til at finde frem til en politik, hvor kvinder kan være mødre og samtidig også have en karriere og andre interesser ”.

I forbindelse med sine bemærkninger om homoseksualitet sagde han, at han støtter princippet om ikke-diskrimination, og at de homoseksuelle ”skal have de samme rettigheder som alle andre – hverken mere eller mindre”.

Angående sit syn på EU's civilretspolitik sagde han, at han går ind for en politik, som vil hjælpe borgere og individer. Dermed vil han ikke støtte udviklede regler eller harmonisering af nationale regler. Han tilføjede, at gensidig anerkendelse af afgørelser i civilretssager bør være hovedprincippet på området, men at en mindre grad af harmonisering på området ikke kan undgås.

Udvalgets indstilling: Positiv indstilling fra udvalget, hvor det er blevet fremhævet at Buttiglione's uafhængighed og integritet, samt hans professionelle og politiske erfaring, er tilstrækkelig for at han kan betrede sin kommende portefølje. Socialisterne (PSE) og De Grønne (Verts/ALE) har dog udtrykt skepsis overfor Buttiglione's mulighed for at bekæmpe diskrimination.



Navn: Joe Borg

Land: Malta

Portefølje: Fiskeri og maritime anliggender

Ansvarlige udvalg i EP: Fiskeriudvalget

I sine indledende bemærkninger fremhævede den indstillede fiskerikommissær, Joe Borg, at det er positivt for fiskeriet, at der nu er en kommissær, som kun har ansvar for fiskeri og maritime anliggender (tidligere har porteføljen ligget hos landbrugs-kommissæren). Joe Borg talte også om nødvendigheden af en forsoning mellem dem, som ”lever af havet”, og dem, som ønsker at bevare dets ressourcer. Hertil lovede Joe Borg, i et svar til Henrik Dam Kristensen (PSE) og andre medlemmer, at den videnskabelige rådgivning skal forbedres igennem bl.a. forbedring af videnskabelige data.

Joe Borg fortalte Europa-Parlamentets fiskeriudvalg, at han ønsker at fremme og sikre et bæredygtigt fiskeri. I denne forbindelse skitserede han tre prioriteter for hans kommende embedsperiode:

1. Begrænsning af fiskeri indenfor nogle fiskebestande samt en styrket kontrol af de vedtagne regler
2. At fremme den økonomiske og sociale samhørighed i regioner, der er afhængige af fiskeri
3. Forbedring af fiskeindustriens konkurrenceevne – herunder igangsættelse af aktiviteter, der sigter på at opnå målsætninger fra Lissabon-strategien

Udvalgets indstilling: Enstemmig positiv indstilling fra udvalget, som har erklæret at Borg er en god kandidat.

Onsdag, den 6. oktober 2004



Navn: Louis Michel

Land: Belgien

Portefølje: Udvikling og humanitær bistand

Ansvarlige udvalg i EP: Udviklingsudvalget

Louis Michel har, som tidligere udenrigsminister for Belgien, beskæftiget sig en del med problemstillinger indenfor udviklingsarbejdet, og han indledte høringen med ordene: *"Posten som kommissær for udvikling er en ønskepost for mig – og ikke et sekundært valg"*. Der syntes i udvalget også bred konsensus om, at Louis Michels hidtidige politiske arbejde harmonerer godt med den post, som han i givet fald skal påtage sig under Barosso-Kommissionen.

Louis Michel var dog meget forsigtig i sine udmeldinger og ønskede ikke at give for mange løfter. Der kom derfor ikke mange konkrete udmeldinger om, hvordan Louis Michel forestiller sig det fremtidige arbejde indenfor udviklingsområdet.

Begrebet "samarbejde" udgjorde i høj grad den røde tråd under høringen af Louis Michel, der også fremhævede dette begreb som en af sine hovedprioriteter under de kommende års arbejde. Louis Michel beskæftigede sig i første omgang med samarbejdet mellem EU og udviklingslandene. Han fremhævede her, at udviklingsarbej-

det skal organiseres som partnerskaber, hvor partnerlandene også har en væsentlig del af ansvaret.

Samarbejdet med NGO'erne er, ifølge Louis Michel, meget afgørende, og den professionalisme, der typisk kendetegner NGO'er, er meget værdifuld for arbejdet. Men der vil, ifølge Louis Michel, ikke blive udskrevet "*en blankocheck*" til organisationerne, og de er heller ikke de eneste aktører, der skal inddrages i arbejdet. Det er ligeledes nødvendigt at vende blikket mod andre relevante aktører, som eksempelvis fagforeninger, arbejdsgiverforeninger og lokale aktører.

Ligeledes blev samarbejdet med Benita Ferrero-Waldner, den udpegede kommissær for eksterne forbindelser og europæisk naboskabspolitik, fremhævet som et område med høj prioritet. Et velfungerende samarbejde er af afgørende betydning, da deres ansvarsområder til dels overlapper hinanden. Eksempelvis er Louis Michel ansvarlig for udformningen af programmet Europeaid, og Benita Ferrero-Waldner er ansvarlig for implementeringen heraf. Louis Michel erklærede sig overbevist om, at de vil få et godt samarbejde.

Samarbejdet med medlemslandene skal også fremmes for at sikre sammenhængen mellem EU's udviklingspolitikker og medlemslandenes politikker. I den forbindelse fremhævede Louis Michel væsentligheden af, at de enkelte landes landestrategier harmonerer med tiltag på EU plan.

Louis Michel er tilhænger af "good governance" som krav for udviklingshjælp, men manede dog til en vis forsigtighed i anvendelsen af dette princip. Det må, ifølge Louis Michel, ikke anvendes for "*firkantet*" – "*der er også behov for hjælp i lande, hvor den politiske udvikling går den gale vej*".

Endeligt erklærede Louis Michel sig som tilhænger af blok-tilskud frem for støtte til enkelte udviklingsprogrammer. Dermed får man mulighed for at overdrage et vist ansvar til modtagerlandene og gøre en ende på "*neo-kolonialismen*".

Udvalgets indstilling: Positiv indstilling fra udvalget, men udvalgets medlemmer har udbedt sig en redegørelse om de miljømæssige aspekter af udviklingspolitikken, rollen for NGO'er og spørgsmålet om "good governance".



Navn: Mariann Fischer Boel

Land: Danmark

Portefølje: Landbrug og udvikling af landdistrikter

Ansvarlige udvalg i EP: Landbrugsudvalget

Mariann Fischer Boel fik en god start på sin høring, da den franske formand for Europa-Parlamentets landbrugsudvalg, Joseph Daul (EPP), indledte med at erindre om udvalgets fremragende samarbejde med hende under det danske EU-formandskab. Under den tre timer lange "eksamen", besvarede den indstillede danske landbrugs-kommissær spørgsmål om alt, lige fra EU's sukkerregime til årets katastrofale bær-høst.

I sin indledende tale sagde Mariann Fischer Boel, at hun støtter den nye forfat-ningstraktat. Hun havde dog gerne set, at målene for EU's landbrugspolitik var ble-vet opdateret, og at anvendelsen af Den fælles beslutningsprocedure var blevet ud-videt til endnu flere politikområder.

Hun fastslog, at *"der er ikke findes noget alternativ til EU's landbrugspolitik - en re-nationalisering af landbrugspolitikken er ikke en valgmulighed!"*. En re-nationalisering ville føre til en konkurrence mellem medlemslandene, om, hvem der yder den største nationale landbrugsstøtte. Landbrugspolitikken skal kombineres med EU's generelle mål og værdier og med en bæredygtig udvikling. Endeligt skal den gennem vækst og beskæftigelse bidrage til Lissabon-processen.

Selvom der kun blev stillet to spørgsmål til Mariann Fischer Boel's habilitet, følte udvalgets formand et behov for at sige til udvalgets medlemmer, at *"danske pro-blemer bør løses i Danmark"*. Det skal dog hertil bemærkes, at over halvdelen af udvalgets medlemmer ejer landejendomme.

Angående spørgsmålet om sin habilitet, bemærkede Mariann Fischer Boel, at hen-des liv desværre ikke kan sammenlignes med et eventyr fra HC Andersen. Hun for-talte udvalget, at hun har været fuldstændig åben i sin redegørelse af sagen, og hun bekræftede, at hun er gift med en landmand, hvilket hun ikke betragter som en ulempe. Hun tilføjede, at hun har udarbejdet en erklæring om hendes finansielle in-teresser, som er blevet offentliggjort, og at hun intet har at skjule.

Udvalgets medlemmer stillede Mariann Fischer Boel en del spørgsmål om hendes holdning til sukkerreformer og til implementeringen af reformen af den fælles landbrugspolitik - herunder balancen mellem at styrke produktionen og tilgodese udviklingen af landdistrikter. Hun ville dog ikke lægge sig fast på sine synspunkter på disse områder, da hun mente, at det kan skade hendes udgangspunkt i de kommende forhandlinger.

Marianne Fischer Boel talte også om hendes ambition om at gøre landbrugsområdet mere relevant i forhold til Lissabon-strategien. Hun fremhævede, at EU's midler til landdistrikter ikke nødvendigvis skal udbetales til landbrugsproducenterne, men også kan anvendes til generelt at fremme udviklingen i tilbagestående regioner.

Udvalgets indstilling: Positiv indstilling fra udvalget, der er truffet af et flertal af udvalgets medlemmer. Udvalgets medlemmer er dog skuffede over, at Fischer Boel ikke besvarede, eller ikke ønskede at besvare, samtlige spørgsmål under høringen. Et flertal af udvalgets medlemmer har også udtrykt skepsis overfor, om Fischer Boel vil "forsvare" den fælles landbrugspolitik (CAP) i Kommissionen, Rådet og ved internationale forhandlinger (såsom WTO).

Et flertal af udvalgets medlemmer mener, at hun vil kæmpe for landmændenes interesser, og samarbejde med Landbrugsudvalget i Europa-Parlamentet, og de ønsker derfor hendes godkendelse. Et mindretal mener dog, at hendes politiske tilgang til landbrugspolitikken (især i forbindelse med familielandbrug samt de kritiske punkter nævnt ovenfor), ikke kvalificerer hende til posten som landbrugskommissær.

Torsdag, den 7. oktober 2004



Navn: Charlie McCreevy

Land: Irland

Portefølje: Det indre marked og tjenesteydelser

Ansvarlige udvalg i EP: Udvalget om Det Indre Marked og Forbrugerbeskyttelse & Økonomi- og Valutaudvalget

Den tidligere irske finansminister, Charlie McCreevy, besvarede en række spørgsmål fra udvalgenes medlemmer om alt, lige fra harmonisering af skattelove, Lissabon-processen og til sine fremtidige politiske ambitioner. Men hans forsvar af for-

slaget om et nyt tjenesteydelsesdirektiv³ var formodentlig det emne, som de fleste medlemmer vil huske bedst fra høringen. Han fortalte medlemmerne, at forslaget ikke vil skade EU's sociale standarder eller arbejdsmarkedsregler. Han sagde, at forslaget tværtimod er en forudsætning for økonomisk vækst og dermed nødvendigt for at kunne fortsætte udviklingen indenfor sociale- og miljømæssige områder.

McCreedy lagde i sin indledningstale stor vægt på, at medlemslandene skal være bedre til at forklare borgerne, hvad det europæiske samarbejde handler om. Han sagde: *"Der er en manglende følelse af ejerskab, og dette er særligt tydeligt i forhold til Lissabon-processen"*. Med hensyn til harmonisering af skatter var den udpegede irske kommissær meget klar i mælet og sagde, at *"beskatning er og bliver et statsligt anliggende. Det er kernen i det repræsentative demokrati, og medlemsstaterne er i deres gode ret til at insistere på retten til at udskrive skatter. Jeg er anti-skatteharmonisering"*.

"Vækst, sociale- og miljømæssige standarder er tre - lige vigtige - ben af den stol, der hedder Lissabon-processen", sagde McCreedy. Adspurg om han ønskede at vende tilbage til irsk politik, sagde McCreedy: *"Jeg fokuserer udelukkende på Europa"*. Den ivrige irer fortsatte med at udtrykke sin fulde støtte til Stabilitetspagten ved at understrege, at han også *"ville være fortaler for pagtens regler, selvom der ikke en gang eksisterede en pagt"*. Et af McCreedy's fremtidige politiske mål er en markant forenkling af reglerne for det indre marked.

Udvalgets indstilling: Positiv indstilling afgivet af et stort flertal af udvalgets medlemmer. Udvalget har fremhævet, at McCreedy er pragmatisk, og ikke dogmatisk, i forbindelse med spørgsmålet om Det indre marked. Nogle medlemmer har dog udtrykt bekymring om, at nogle af hans besvarelser afspejler en irsk finansministers holdning og ikke holdningen fra en kommende kommissær.



Navn: Joaquín Almunia

Land: Spanien

Portefølje: Økonomiske og monetære anliggender

Ansvarlige udvalg i EP: Økonomi- og Valutaudvalget

³ Forslag til Europa-Parlamentets og til direktiv om tjenesteydelser i det indre marked (KOM (2004) 0002).

Da Almunia, som det eneste medlem af den nuværende Prodi-Kommission, er udpeget til at beholde sin nuværende portefølje, kunne hans optræden foran Europa-Parlamentets Økonomi- og Valutaudvalg betragtes som "rutine". Dog brugte Almunia en del af tiden på at forsvare Kommissionens nuværende forslag til det finansielle overslag for 2007-2013.

I sin besvarelse af udvalgets mange spørgsmål om implementering af Stabilitets- og Vækstpagten sagde Almunia, at der skal lægges mere vægt på de forbyggende foranstaltninger i pagten. Herigennem skal man undgå at medlemsstater ender i en situation, hvor de ikke kan overholde pagtens bestemmelser om offentlig gæld. I forbindelse med Stabilitets- og Vækstpagten sagde han at "*reglerne er de samme for alle, og alle lande skal behandles ens - men det betyder ikke, at de skal behandles på den samme måde*". Han tilføjede, at "*reglerne skal være klare, men der skal tages hensyn til økonomiske realiteter - ellers er der en risiko for at forenkede regler kan ende med at være urimelige*".

Stabilitets- og Vækstpagten forblev det centrale emne under hele høringen, men Joaquín Almunia beskæftigede sig også med andre emner, såsom Lissabonprocessen. Her fremhævede han, at det er vigtigt, at EU ikke har for mange prioriteter. Det har hidtil været tilfældet og det er, ifølge Joaquín Almunia, forklaringen på, at EU ikke er nået så langt i processen som ønsket. Han lagde vægt på, at væksten skal være den højeste prioritet – og han tilføjede, at økonomisk vækst er en forudsætning for opnåelsen af de øvrige sociale og miljømæssige målsætninger.

Udvalgets indstilling: Positiv indstilling fra udvalget, som dog gerne vil se, at Almunia, med hensyn til Stabilitets- og vækstpagten, får en skarpere profil over Rådet.



Navn: Ingrida Udre

Land: Letland

Portefølje: Beskatning og toldunion

Ansvarlige udvalg i EP: Økonomi- og Valutaudvalget & Udvalget om Det Indre Marked og Forbrugerbeskyttelse

Høringen af Ingrida Udre var kendetegnet ved en kølig atmosfære, der i høj grad omhandlede Ingrida Udre's person – og ikke beskatning og toldunion. Flere medlemmer, herunder formanden for Økonomi- og Valutaudvalget, Pervenche Berès (PSE), ønskede i første omgang at få afklaring på de beskyldninger, der har omgivet Ingrida Udre siden udpegningen af hende til kommissærposten.

Ifølge beskyldningerne skulle Ingrida Udre, under det seneste nationale parlamentsvalg i Letland, have givet udtryk for en anti-europæisk og anti-NGO holdning. Derudover er hun blevet beskyldt for, at hendes nominering til kommissærposten foregik på urigtig vis, og endeligt er hun beskyldt for at have været involveret i uregelmæssigheder i forbindelse med finansieringen af hendes parti.

Ingrida Udre afviste beskyldningerne med henvisning til, at hun altid har været fortalende for både Letlands integration i EU og for NGO'er, og hun forsikrede udvalget om, at hendes udnævnelse til kommissærposten foregik på demokratisk og korrekt vis. Med hensyn til uregelmæssigheder i finansieringen af hendes parti, påpegede Ingrida Udre, at sagen kan føres tilbage til en juridisk uholdbar lov, som også andre partier har haft problemer med. Derudover påpegede hun, at hendes parti har vundet den første retssag, ved domstolene i Letland, herom.

Angående beskatning indledte Ingrida Udre med at påpege det faktum, at beføjelsen til at udskrive skat ligger hos medlemslandene, og at hendes handlemuligheder på dette område derfor er begrænsede. Hun erklærede sig efterfølgende som varm fortaler for skattekonkurrence, men blot hvis der er tale om en "*fair form for konkurrence*". I den forbindelse hilste hun Mario Monti's og Fritz Bolkestein's arbejde med bekæmpelsen af den skadelige skattekonkurrence meget velkommen.

Ingrida Udre ønsker at fortsætte sine forgængeres "*globale tilgang til skattepolitik*", og heri ligger både ønsket om at kæde skattepolitikken sammen med andre politikområder, men også et ønske om at bekæmpe grænseoverskridende forhindringer for erhvervslivet.

Indenfor toldområdet, fremhævede Ingrida Udre især forfalskning (piratkopiering) som et problem af stigende betydning – både i kvantitativt omfang, men også på grund af den stigende tendens til forfalskning indenfor lægemidler, madvarer og legetøj til børn. Hun sagde: "*Der er ikke blot tale om forfalskning af designer tasker!*"

Og dette er virkelig et problem!”, og hun foreslog efterfølgende, at problemet skal bekæmpes med indførelse af fælles regler på området.

Udvalgenes indstilling: Efter en længere diskussion har begge udvalg besluttet at give hende en positiv indstilling. Udvalgene synes, at Ingrida Udre har udvist kendskab til sin kommende portefølje, men at mange af hendes besvarelser var vage. Udvalgene er også betænkelige ved de alvorlige beskyldninger, der er blevet rejst mod hende, om uregelmæssigheder i den finansielle støtte til hendes parti. Udvalgene ønsker derfor, at Kommissionens formand (Barroso) skal foretage en undersøgelse af hendes integritet, inden hun den 1. november bliver udnævnt til kommissær.

Fredag, den 8. oktober 2004



Navn: Markos Kyprianou

Land: Cypern

Portefølje: Sundhed og forbrugerbeskyttelse

Ansvarlige udvalg i EP: Udvalget og Miljø,

Folkesundhed og Fødevarer sikkerhed & Udvalget om Det Indre Marked og Forbrugerbeskyttelse

Markos Kyprianou indledte hans tale med at proklamere: *”Jeg taler til jer, som en parlamentariker til parlamentarikere”,* og herefter fortalte han udvalget om hans tolv års erfaring fra parlamentet på Cypern. Markos Kyprianou skitserede sine prioriteter for de kommende år, hvor han sagde, at hovedprioriteten skal være at *”fremme tilliden til Det indre marked”*.

Andre emner, der blev berørt, var fedme, rygning og alkoholmisbrug. I forbindelse med rygning sagde han, at den magtfulde tobaksindustri skal bekæmpes, og at alle opfordringer til at ryge skal modarbejdes. Hertil bemærkede han, at *”der ikke er en værre svøbe end tobakken”*. I forbindelse med unges syn på rygning langede han ud efter film- og tv-industrien og mindede om deres ansvar på området.

Dan Jørgensen (PSE) spurgte om den kommende kommissærs holdning til berigede fødevarer, hvorpå Markos Kyprianou svarede, at der i oplysningsarbejdet bør læg-

ges vægt på samarbejde med frivillige organisationer. Han understregede samtidig, at han ikke er imod fødevarer beriget med vitaminer.

I forbindelse med fuldførelse af Det indre marked, sagde Kyprianou, at *"vi må (nu) harmonisere de nationale systemer på en sådan måde, at både virksomheder og forbrugere vinder"*.

Hvad angår REACH forordningen⁴ (om nye regler for kemikalier) henviste Markos Kyprianous til hans skriftlige besvarelse, hvor han gav udtryk for, at REACH er et rimeligt, afbalanceret og gennemførligt forslag. Det vil ikke blot sikre et højt niveau i beskyttelsen af miljøet og forbrugernes sundhed, men vil også fremme den europæiske kemikalieindustri konkurrencedygtighed. Han tilføjede, at han fuldt ud deler kommissær Wallström's syn på sagen.

Udvalgenes indstilling: Positiv indstilling fra begge udvalg, som har fremhævet hans politiske erfaring og hans optræden under høringen.

Mandag, den 11. oktober 2004



Navn: Siim Kallas

Land: Estland

Portefølje: (næstformand) Administrative anliggender, revision og bekæmpelse af svig

Ansvarlige udvalg i EP: Budgetkontroludvalget &

Budgetudvalget

Siim Kallas indledte høringen med at beskrive sig selv som *"Triple A-kommissæren"* for *"administration, audit & anti-fraud"* – det vil sige kommissæren for administrative anliggender, revision og bekæmpelse af svig.

Siim Kallas opremsede et ambitiøst arbejdsprogram indenfor området *"administrative anliggender"*. Han fremhævede sin fulde anerkendelse og opbakning til Neil Kinnock's reformarbejde, men påpegede samtidig, at der fortsat er meget at arbejde

⁴ Forslag til Europa-Parlamentets og Rådets forordning om registrering, vurdering og godkendelse af samt begrænsning for kemikalier (REACH) KOM (2004) 644

videre med. Siim Kallas fremhævede blandt andet nødvendigheden af at forbedre EU-administrationens image og at udbrede den opfattelse, at penge overladt til EU bliver forvaltet på en forsvarlig og effektiv måde. Han nævnte ligeledes implementeringen af det nye meritsystem som en væsentlig prioritet – *”ansættelser og forfremmelser skal ske udelukkende på baggrund af meritter og under hensyntagen til den geografiske balance indenfor systemet!”*.

Afviklingen af parallelorganisation blev af Siim Kallas ligeledes pointeret som en væsentlig prioritet, og afslutningsvis påpegede han også ønsket om, at skabe et miljø, hvor kritik bliver modtaget med åbent sind og behandlet på en konstruktiv måde. Han erklærede sig i den forbindelse åben overfor et forslag fra Hans-Peter Martin (løsgænger) om, at udarbejde regler til beskyttelse af medarbejdere, der giver udtryk for kritik.

På ”revisions-området” ønsker Siim Kallas at arbejde for en endelig godkendelse fra Den Europæiske Revisionsret, af den måde, hvorpå betalinger fra EU budgettet er blevet foretaget. I forbindelse med den eksterne EU revision, påpegede han, at 80 % af EU’s budget bliver forvaltet af medlemslandene. Han erkendte, at forvaltningen, som den er nu, er utilfredsstillende. Omfanget af uregelmæssigheder i forvaltningen af midlerne er stor, og han vil arbejde for en forbedring af denne situation. Siim Kallas ønsker i første omgang at udvikle et samarbejde med Den Europæiske Revisionsret for at få et bedre overblik over omfanget og karakteren af problemet.

Spørgsmålet om medlemslandenes forvaltning af EU midler, blev også behandlet under diskussionen af Siim Kallas’ visioner på området for ”bekæmpelse af svig”. Som løsning på problemet fremhævede Siim Kallas her behovet for *”virkelig god lovgivning og et stærkt og effektivt samarbejde med og mellem medlemslandene”*. Han nævnte samtidig, at EU’s kontrolressourcer primært skal anvendes til at kontrollere områderne: told, landbrug og strukturfonde – da det er her de fleste EU midler bliver anvendt. Endeligt pointerede han sit ønske om at gøre OLAF til en *”pillar of confidence”*, hvilket enheden, ifølge Siim Kallas, endnu ikke har formået at blive.

Udvalgets indstilling: Positiv indstilling fra udvalget, som også forventer, at den indstillede kommissær vil samarbejde med udvalget - især i forbindelse med information om kontrol af EU's budget og bekæmpelse af svig.

Med venlig hilsen

Mongin Forrest og Merete Jeppesen

Hvis du vil vide mere

- **Procedure for udnævnelse af den nye Kommission**
Info-note I 166 af den 23. juli 2004
- **Europa-Parlamentets høring af de indstillede kommissærer – den første uge**
Info-note I 187 af den 4. oktober 2004
- **Europa-Parlamentets web-sted om høringer**
http://www.europarl.eu.int/hearings/commission/2004_comm/default_en.htm
- **Europa-Kommissionens web-sted om de designerede kommissær**
http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/commissioners/newcomm_en.htm
- **Finansielle interesser**
Den indstillede formand og de indstillede kommissærer har hver især afgivet en erklæring om deres finansielle interesser. Erklæringerne kan læses her:
http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/commissioners/newcomm_en.htm

BILAG 1: UDVALGENES INDSTILLINGER FRA UGE 1

jf. Info-note I 187 af den 4. oktober 2004

Navn: Vladimir Špidla

Land: Tjekkiet

Portefølje: Beskæftigelse og sociale anliggender

Ansvarlige udvalg i EP: Udvalget om Beskæftigelse og Sociale Anliggender samt Udvalget om Kvinders Rettigheder og Ligestilling

Udvalgenes indstilling: Positiv indstilling fra udvalgene, der i deres evaluering har fremhævet, at den indstillede kommissær har den påkrævede integritet og den nødvendige viden til at betrede stillingen. Udvalget om Kvinders Rettigheder har dog bemærket, at nogle af Špidla's besvarelser til udvalget, især i forbindelse med kvinders rettigheder i Tyrkiet, har været mangelfulde. De vil derfor bede Špidla om, skriftligt at uddybe sine synspunkter på dette område.

Navn: Ján Figel

Land: Slovakiet

Portefølje: Uddannelse, erhvervsuddannelse, kultur og flersprogethed

Ansvarlige udvalg i EP: Kultur- og Uddannelsesudvalget samt Udvalget om Beskæftigelse og Sociale Anliggender

Udvalgenes indstilling: En klar positiv indstilling fra udvalgene, som har truffet denne beslutning på baggrund af konsensus. Udvalgene har i deres evaluering fremhævet hans professionelle, såvel som hans personlige, kvalifikationer.

Navn: Danuta Hübner

Land: Polen

Portefølje: Regionalpolitik

Ansvarlige udvalg i EP: Regionaludviklingsudvalget

Udvalgets indstilling: Enstemmig positiv indstilling fra udvalget. Selvom nogle medlemmer synes, at ikke alle spørgsmål er blevet besvaret tilstrækkeligt, har medlemmerne udtrykt tillid til Hübner's faglige kvalifikationer og uafhængighed.

Navn: Neelie Kroes

Land: Nederlandene

Portefølje: Konkurrencepolitik

Ansvarlige udvalg i EP: Økonomi- og Valutaudvalget

Udvalgets indstilling: Positiv indstilling fra udvalget, men et flertal af udvalgets medlemmer mener ikke, at Neelie Kroes' viden om sin kommende portefølje er tilstrækkelig. Udvalgets medlemmer har tillid til, at Neelie Kroes' løfter om indførelsen af begrænsninger (adfærdskodeks) af hendes deltagelse i sager, hvor der kunne opstå interessekonflikter, vil være en garanti for hendes uafhængighed. Udvalget har dog bedt Kommissionens formand, Barroso, udtale sig om, hvordan adfærdskodeksen skal implementeres.

Navn: Dalia Grybauskaitė

Land: Litauen

Portefølje: Finansiell programmering og budget

Ansvarlige udvalg i EP: Budgetudvalget samt Budgetkontroludvalget

Udvalgets indstilling: Positiv indstilling fra udvalget, som i evalueringen har fremhævet hendes personlige og professionelle kvalifikationer. Udvalget bemærkede dog, at hendes besvarelse af spørgsmålet om samarbejde med Europa-Parlamentet, herunder Parlamentets adgang til information, ikke var tilstrækkelig.

Navn: Stavros Dimas

Land: Grækenland

Portefølje: Miljø

Ansvarlige udvalg i EP: Udvalget om Miljø, Folkesundhed og Fødevarer

Udvalgets indstilling: Positiv indstilling fra udvalget, hvor et mindretal dog ikke kan støtte hans godkendelse. Andre partier har støttet hans udnævnelse med forbehold. Især den indstillede kommissærs besvarelse af spørgsmål om specifikke forpligtelser på miljøområdet, blev fremhævet som utilstrækkelig.

Navn: Viviane Reding

Land: Luxembourg

Portefølje: Informationssamfundet og medier

Ansvarlige udvalg i EP: Udvalget om Industri, Forskning og Energi samt Kultur- og Uddannelsesudvalget

Udvalgenes indstilling: Positiv indstilling fra udvalgene, men nogle medlemmer er betænkelige ved hendes manglende viden på det tekniske område, og andre medlemmer er ikke tilfredse med hendes besvarelser omkring software-patenter.

Navn: Jacques Barrot

Land: Frankrig

Portefølje: (næstformand) Transportpolitik

Ansvarlige udvalg i EP: Transport- og Turismeudvalget

Udvalgets indstilling: Enstemmig positiv indstilling fra udvalget. Udvalget har fremhævet Barrot's kvalifikationer og udtalelser om det kommende samarbejde med Europa-Parlamentet på transportområdet.

Navn: Günter Verheugen

Land: Tyskland

Portefølje: (næstformand) Erhvervs- og industripolitik

Ansvarlige udvalg i EP: Udvalget om Industri, Forskning og Energi

Udvalgets indstilling: Enstemmig positiv indstilling fra udvalget. Udvalget har fremhævet Verheugen's viden på området og hans professionelle fremtoning under høringen. Nogle medlemmer har dog udtrykt bekymring om hans forslag om at udarbejde "impact assessments" for samtlige forslag (for at kunne vurdere hvordan de vil påvirke EU's konkurrenceevne).

Navn: Margot Wallström

Land: Sverige

Portefølje: (næstformand) Institutionelle forbindelser og kommunikationsstrategi

Ansvarlige udvalg i EP: Forfatningsudvalget samt Kultur- og Uddannelsesudvalget

Udvalgets indstilling: Positiv indstilling fra udvalget, der er truffet på baggrund af bred konsensus. Udvalget har fremhævet, at det er utvivlsomt, at Wallström vil kunne udføre sit arbejde som Kommissionens næstformand med ansvar for institutionelle spørgsmål. Udvalgene har dog samtidig udtrykt et ønske om, at Kommissionen udviser et større engagement i forbindelse med oplysningen til borgerne om Forfatningstraktaten.

Navn: László Kovács

Land: Ungarn

Portefølje: Energi

Ansvarlige udvalg i EP: Udvalget om Industri, Forskning og Energi

Udvalgets indstilling: Hovedsagligt en negativ indstilling fra udvalget, der har fremhævet, at Kovács ikke besidder de nødvendige kvalifikationer til at betrede stillingen som energikommissær. En stor gruppe i udvalget mener dog, at det vil være muligt for ham at få indsigt i hans portefølje "on the job".

Navn: Janez Potocnik

Land: Slovenien

Portefølje: Videnskab og forskning

Ansvarlige udvalg i EP: Udvalget om Industri, Forskning og Energi

Udvalgets indstilling: Enstemmig positiv indstilling fra udvalget. Udvalget har fremhævet, at Potocnik under høringen var velforberedt og havde en tilstrækkelig viden på området.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE THE CHAIRMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

Formateret

Mr Josep BORRELL FONTELLES
President of the European Parliament

Dear Mr President,

Pursuant to Rule 99 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, the Committee on Agriculture held a public hearing on 6 October 2004 with Mrs Mariann Fischer Boel, Commissioner-designate for agriculture and rural development, with a view to the debate on approving the prospective Commission.

Prior to the hearing, the Commissioner-designate had received a general questionnaire (to be replied to by all prospective Commissioners) and a specific questionnaire drawn up by the Committee on Agriculture. Mrs Fischer Boel replied to the questionnaires.

In her introductory statement for the hearing, Mrs Fischer Boel stressed that she would act to defend Community interests and addressed the following issues in particular:

- the European Constitution, strongly supported by her, which would extend codecision to agriculture;
- the common agricultural policy (CAP), which she intended to champion, and her opposition to renationalisation;
- the CAP's contribution to the Lisbon process and to the Partnership for Europe launched by Mr Barroso;
- CAP reform, with decoupling and conditionality as vital components of the first pillar;
- rural development (second pillar), which had to be part of the Lisbon strategy;
- the 2007-2013 financial perspective, under which a sufficient funding allocation would have to be ensured for the second pillar;
- the World Trade Organisation (WTO), where, together with Mr Mandelson, she would make sure that the European Union's agricultural interests were defended;
- the dialogue which would have to be established with citizens in general and farmers in particular.

During the hearing itself, many questions were put to Mrs Fischer Boel on, inter alia, the reform and future of the CAP, including the role of small family farms, rural development, multifunctionality, the outermost regions and less-favoured areas, forestry, the transport of animals, reform of the common market organisations (CMO) for sugar and for fruit and

vegetables, milk quotas, non-GM seed, biodiversity, beekeeping, energy crops, the role of women within the CAP, young farmers, Turkey, the WTO, Mercosur, geographical designations, the CAP subsidies received by Danish farmers, application of the CAP in the new Member States, the prospective financial perspective, her declaration of financial interests, and her independence.

After the hearing this committee's coordinators held two meetings - on 7 and 12 October 2004 - to assess the Commissioner-designate's performance.

The overall impression gained by my committee was that, very often, the Commissioner-designate failed to answer, or did not want to answer, the questions put. She also avoided giving any undertakings to the Committee on Agriculture and Parliament. That was particularly conspicuous with regard to reform of the sugar CMO. Nor was Mrs Fischer Boel forthcoming as to the approach or positions she would be championing, within the College of Commissioners, on the future of the CAP in terms of either its internal or external aspects. All in all, the obvious unwillingness of the prospective Commissioner for agriculture to enter into a dialogue with Parliament is a worrying sign for the future, since, to date, there has been sustained dialogue between the two Institutions with regard to agriculture, rural development and international negotiations.

Furthermore, most members took the view that the answers given by Mrs Fischer Boel were lacking in resoluteness; and they cast doubt on her ability to defend the CAP vigorously and effectively either within the Commission or at the Council or within international bodies such as the WTO.

In spite of this mixed assessment, the majority position of this committee's members is that Mrs Fischer Boel, provided that she exhibited more of a fighting spirit in defending European farmers' interests and worked more closely and in a more sustained fashion with Parliament and its portfolio committee, could discharge the duties to be conferred on her. The minority position, however, is that her political approach to agricultural issues (which is not well disposed towards family farming), combined with the failings highlighted in this letter, does not qualify her for the office. Nonetheless, all things considered, my committee has decided to support the nomination of Mrs Fischer Boel as Commissioner for agriculture and rural development, but calls on her, and on Mr Barroso, to respond to the concerns voiced in this assessment.

Please notify the Conference of Presidents of this assessment.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Daul

Formateret

EUROPA-PARLAMENTET
EUROPAISCHES PARLAMENT
ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΒΟΥΛΙΟ
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
- THE CHAIRMAN -

Ref.:02-COM AFCD(2004)D/41922

310329 06.10.2004

Mr Josep BORRELL FONTELLES
President
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Dear President,

Pursuant to Rule 99 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, the Committee on Constitutional Affairs held on 30 September 2004 a public hearing with Mrs Margot Wallström, member of the Commission designate who, subject to the positive conclusion of the nomination procedure, will, as a Vice-President of the Commission, be in charge of institutional relations (including contacts with national parliaments) and communication strategy.

Delegations of Members from the Committee on Culture and Education and from the Committee on Citizen's Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs participated in the hearing. Prior to the hearing, the committee submitted a written questionnaire to which Mrs Wallström replied in writing.

In her introductory statement Mrs Wallström developed five principal objectives for her mandate:

- "stop the blame-game" and create a new culture of cooperation between the institutions;
- develop a "common European narrative" aiming at a more largely shared ownership of the European project;
- help the Constitutional Treaty to come into force;
- "reconnect people" through a new communication strategy building communication at an early stage into the drafting process of Commission proposals and
- build a "democratic infrastructure", transeuropean networks for a bottom to top debate as part of a "truly participatory democracy" in Europe.

Members repeatedly argued the necessity for the Commission to clearly commit itself in favour of the ratification of the Constitutional Treaty pointing out that the Commission participated in the Convention and in the Intergovernmental Conference. It therefore cannot consider itself and act as being "neutral". Mrs Wallström argued that there is no legal base for a

PE 349.302/BUR/11

Commission action in this field. This was contested by various Members. She assured the Committee, somewhat departing from the rather defensive position taken in her written submissions - which was welcomed by the Members - that the Commission presided over by Mr Barroso wants the Constitution and that the Commissioners individually in cooperation with the Member States' governments will actively support it. Mrs. Wallström conceded that the Commission and its services would in any case, as they already do, explain the Constitution to the citizens and rectify misleading or false information about it.

Referring to her written answer, Mrs Wallström preferred to be prudent with respect to any anticipated application of the Constitution's provisions. However this would not prevent the Commission from acting already now in conformity with provisions of the future Constitution whenever they codify existing practice or general principles of Community law.

In the course of the question and answer session Mrs Wallström underlined her commitment to be at the disposal of Parliament whenever requested and she confirmed that according to a letter she had received from the President designate of the Commission, within the college she will be in charge of constitutional questions although her portfolio does not mention this expressly. With regard to the question how Parliament could be better involved in delegations negotiating international agreements, she admitted that more could be done to keep Parliament fully informed without changing its basic role as defined in the framework agreement with the Commission. She declared herself willing to try to convince the Council along these lines.

Upon questions about details of the new communication strategy, Mrs Wallström emphasised the role of the Commission's information offices in the Member States which alongside with Parliament's offices would be charged to work as unbureaucratically as possible in order to explain the Union's relevance to citizens in plain language. As an example she quoted schools as one of the focus points of the future communication endeavours. Several Members considered that the Commissioner must give further consideration to the issue of communicating with citizens in European languages that are not official languages of the European Union.

On basis of the reactions of the Members present at the hearing and the results of the evaluation meeting of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs which took place after the hearing I am able to provide you with the following assessment of the hearing:

The Commissioner's designate personal and professional qualification to carry out the duties of a Vice-President of the Commission in charge of institutional relations and communication strategy is beyond any doubt. As serving Commissioner Mrs Wallström has already proven to be highly engaged in the co-operation with the European Parliament and its parliamentary committees. The Commissioner designate's declarations with regard to openness and transparency satisfied the Committee fully.

Mrs Wallström is open to new ideas to promote the Union's communication policy. Concerning Mrs Wallström's responsibility for constitutional affairs, the Committee would very much welcome an official confirmation to be given by the new President of the Commission by modifying the official description of her portfolio and making an appropriate declaration in the plenary sitting of Parliament.

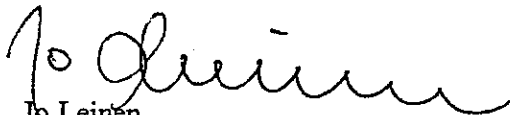
Once the Treaty is signed by all twenty-five governments and endorsed by the European Parliament, the Commission is strongly requested to express a clear commitment in

favour of the Constitution. The college of Commissioners as a whole should reconsider its position and decide to fully inform citizens about the achievements and advantages of the Constitution, making available the necessary financial resources. The Committee requests the President of the Commission designate to clarify his position in the plenary sitting of Parliament. The Committee feels that the provisions of the Constitutional Treaty should be applied already now wherever legally compatible with the existing treaties.

In general terms, the Commissioner designate has given a convincing impression of her personal and professional capacities and her aptitude to assume the office she has been proposed for. Members appreciated Mrs Wallström's deep and honest personal involvement in the European project

The elements contained in the present letter reflect a large consensus amongst the Members of my committee.

Yours sincerely,



Jö Leinen

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND ENERGY

The Chairman

310117 02.10.2004

Mr Josep BORRELL FONTELLES
President of the European Parliament

Brussels,
Ref.: ITRE/2004/D/41967

Dear President,

On 30 September 2004, the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy held a public hearing, in accordance with Rule 99 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, with Mr Günter Verheugen, Commissioner designated, who, subject to the positive conclusion of the nomination procedure, will be Commissioner in charge of Enterprise and Industry.

Prior to the hearing, the committees submitted a written questionnaire to which the Commissioner nominee replied in writing in a generally satisfactory way.

In his introductory statement Mr Verheugen stressed the need to consolidate and strengthen the European economic base by giving a new impetus to the Lisbon process. An important element would be the better co-ordination of community policies, where Mr Verheugen saw a clear role for himself within the college. The nominee committed himself to have reached tangible progress in key areas of the Lisbon process within his five-year mandate. He also undertook to apply a "competitiveness test" for all legislative proposals, as well as to make legislation more user friendly.

On the REACH proposal, Mr Verheugen underlined the environmental need for such a regulation and expressed that he would be open to proposals to improve its practicability and cost efficiency and to reduce the burden on SMEs as well as to proposals to strengthen the level of environmental protection in REACH. On the Lisbon process, Mr Verheugen emphasized that there was no hierarchy between the economic, social and environmental pillars and that he considered the three to be fundamentally interlinked. Mr Verheugen also stressed that he will present a new integrated policy package for improving the competitiveness and innovative strength of SMEs following his investiture.

PE 349.302/BUR/10

The nominee was asked a series of questions, both of a general and more specific nature. The questions concerned mainly the balance between economic, social and environmental targets within the Lisbon process, REACH, and how to turn research and innovation into practical application. He was also asked for his views on sectoral industrial policies, as well as a number of questions relating to corporate taxation, productivity and the relocation of industry.

A number of questions were also asked by a delegation of the Environment Committee, mainly on the REACH proposal and on pharmaceuticals.

Members appreciated the nominee's polished performance, his commitment to dialogue, his determination to improve legislation, and his ability to make a convincing case for Europe. Unanimously, recognition was expressed for his grasp of a large number of topics, as well as his capability to deal with both horizontal and specific issues.

However, some members raised concern about the appropriateness of having only impact assessments from the Commission's services when discussing legislative proposals as suggested by the nominee. There was also some disappointment concerning the lack of response on concrete examples of his co-ordinating role, i.e. for industry, energy and research policies. One smaller group showed disappointment for his statement that social dumping doesn't exist.

In conclusion, members unanimously consider the Commissioner designate to be in possession of the required personal and professional capacities, as well as the political experience, to assume the high office for which he has been proposed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Giles Chichester". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and a long, sweeping underline.

Giles Bryan CHICHESTER

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT THE CHAIRMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr Josep BORRELL FONTELLES
President of the European Parliament
PHS 11B011
B-1047 BRUSSELS

Brussels, 30 September 2004

Dear Mr President,

Pursuant to Rule 99 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, the Committee on Transport and Tourism held a public hearing on 29 September 2004 with Mr Jacques Barrot, Commissioner-designate, who, subject to a positive outcome to the nomination procedure, will be in charge of transport.

Prior to the hearing the committee had submitted a written questionnaire to the Commissioner-designate, to which he had replied in writing fairly satisfactorily.

In his introductory statement, Mr Barrot particularly underlined the importance of transport enterprise competitiveness, to be ensured (in particular) by completing the internal transport market and enhancing network interoperability.

He also stressed improvement in transport quality through technological innovation and increased levels of investment in transport infrastructure.

Lastly, he stressed the need for citizens to be protected by strengthening road safety and maritime safety policies, the protection of users' interests through rules on passengers' rights and on public service obligations, and the consolidation of transport employees' rights through social provisions within transport and through training.

During the ensuing debate, the Commissioner-designate answered questions on the following issues in particular:

- infrastructure pricing and the internalisation of external costs;
- development of networks establishing structures, in particular connections to new Member States and infrastructure funding needs;
- liberalisation of transport (ports and railways); free competition and state aids;
- promotion of public service obligations;

- environmental protection and pollutant emissions;
- the issues of transport security and safety, in particular road safety;
- defending European transport sectors in an international context.

With regard to the policy areas within his remit, the Commissioner-designate undertook in particular to use all the powers at the disposal of the Commission, as guardian of the Treaty, to ensure that existing Community transport rules are applied in full.

He indicated his willingness to conduct a mid-term review and direct all energies towards the goal of halving the number of deaths on the roads by 2010.

He also emphasised his willingness to ensure the successful completion of the major infrastructure projects and pointed out that the mobilisation of European funding is an essential lever for creating significant added value for firms and citizens.

He also gave an assurance that he would work for a stronger Europe internationally, with regard to transport, both within international bodies and in bilateral relations, in particular with the US and Russia.

Lastly, he again committed himself to cooperating closely and properly with the Committee on Transport and Tourism.

On the basis of the reactions of the members present at the hearing, and the outcome of this committee's subsequent assessment meeting, I can advise you that Mr Barrot demonstrated his personal qualities in terms of not only integrity and independence of action, but also abilities and professional experience.

He also gave undertakings to cooperate properly with Parliament. He demonstrated an ability to master the specific common transport policy issues quickly.

Overall, the Commissioner-designate gave a convincing impression of his personal qualities and professional capabilities and of his ability to assume the high-level responsibilities for which he has been nominated.

The content of this letter reflects the unanimous appraisal of the members of my committee.

Yours sincerely,

Paolo COSTA

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PARLAMENT PARLAMENTAS
PARLAMENT PARLAMENT

313618 12.10.2004

Mr Josep BORRELL FONTELLES
President of the European Parliament

BRUSSELS

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear President

On 11 October 2004, the Committee on Budgetary Control held its public hearing with Commissioner-designate Siim KALLAS who, subject to the positive conclusion of the nomination procedure, will be in charge of audit, anti-fraud and administration.

Prior to the hearing, the committee submitted a written questionnaire to which Mr Kallas replied in a satisfactory manner.

Mr Kallas has a very strong background with a great deal of relevant experience.

During the hearing, all political groups were entitled to raise specific questions. Members of the Committee on Budgets as well as the Committee on Legal Affairs also had the opportunity to put specific questions to Mr Kallas.

After the hearing, the coordinators of the political groups together with the Bureau Members of the committee, mandated by the Committee on Budgetary Control, evaluated the hearing.

The committee considered that Mr Kallas demonstrated a positive attitude towards the European Parliament and his commitment to transparency and openness was strongly appreciated. He expressed his ambition to achieve a positive statement of assurance and his dream of making the Commission the best administration in the world dedicated to public service where money would be well used and no-one would have to ask twice for information.

However, the committee would have appreciated a clearer picture of his concrete intentions and strategy and Mr Kallas' answers to some specific questions remained rather vague, particularly concerning provision of information and the reform of the Financial Regulation. The committee expects from Mr Kallas a clear commitment to fulfil his support for the principle of transparency by providing the fullest information to the committee necessary to ensure its work, particularly during the course of the discharge process.

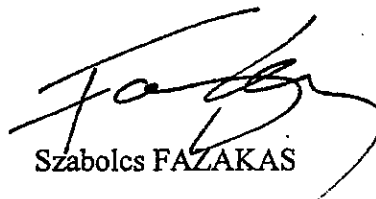
The committee appreciated his statement on the treatment he wished to give to whistleblowers, emphasising his desire to 'tackle the message, rather than the messenger' and his readiness to create the procedures necessary to allow whistleblowers to be treated fairly.

Mr Kallas showed a strong commitment to the new Staff Regulations and said he was willing to work towards its full implementation in the best interest of the Commission's staff. He emphasised that under his leadership this would also include a fully transparent recruitment procedure for high-level staff based strictly on merit that would preclude *parachutage*.

The committee welcomed his offer to cooperate with Members of the House on a large number of issues, such as on the reform of OLAF, the implementation and possible further improvement of the Financial Regulation, the information flow between Commissioners and their staff, shared management, specific open cases from the past legislature and on a number of other issues.

By way of conclusion, in the expectation that Mr Kallas is prepared to cooperate with this committee and provide the information necessary to control the budget and fight fraud, the Committee on Budgetary Control recommends a positive vote of confidence.

Yours sincerely



Szabolcs FAZAKAS

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



COMMITTEE ON CIVIL LIBERTIES, JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS
THE CHAIRMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr Josep BORRELL FONTELLES
President
European Parliament

Brussels, 11 October 2004

Dear Mr President,

Following the hearing with Mr Rocco Buttiglione, Mr Barroso's nominee as Vice-President and Commissioner in charge of the freedom, security and justice portfolio, the coordinators for the political groups represented on my committee were unable to agree on a joint text assessing Mr Buttiglione.

With the coordinators' agreement, I therefore referred the decision to the committee itself. Acting on my proposal, the coordinators agreed on a procedure to put two proposals to the vote, in camera, by secret ballot:

- (1) endorsement of Mr Buttiglione's nomination as Vice-President in charge of the freedom, security and justice portfolio;
- (2) endorsement of Mr Buttiglione's nomination as Vice-President on condition that he be given a different remit.

A note dated 6 October 2004 on the procedure, and agreed to by all the coordinators, stated that, should the first proposal be adopted, the second would fall and that rejection of proposals 1 and 2 would mean that Mr Buttiglione's nomination had been rejected.

As the first step in the procedure, I asked members whether they endorsed Mr Buttiglione's nomination as Commission Vice-President in charge of the freedom, security and justice portfolio. The result of the vote by secret ballot was: 26 for, 27 against.

I therefore then asked members whether they endorsed Mr Buttiglione's nomination as Vice-President on condition that he be given a different remit. The result of the second vote was: 25 for, 28 against.

Please take account, during your further deliberations, of the position adopted by the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs.

Yours sincerely,

Jean-Louis Bourlanges

EUROPA-PARLAMENTET
EUROPAISCHES PARLAMENT
ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΒΟΥΛΙΟ
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**COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AFFAIRS
THE CHAIRMAN**

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr Josep BORRELL FONTELLES
President of the European Parliament
PHS 11 B 011
B-1047 BRUSSELS

7 October 2004

Subject: Assessment of the hearing with Mr Rocco Buttiglione, Commissioner-designate

Dear Mr President,

Pursuant to Rule 99 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, the Committee on Legal Affairs held a public hearing on 6 October 2004 with Mr Rocco Buttiglione, Commissioner-designate, who, subject to a positive outcome to the nomination procedure, will be Vice-President of the European Commission and Commissioner for Justice, Freedom and Security.

Prior to the hearing the committee had submitted a written questionnaire to the Commissioner-designate, to which he had replied in writing satisfactorily.

During the hearing, the Commissioner-designate answered questions on the following issues in particular: cooperation with the European Parliament and its Committee on Legal Affairs; transparency and respect for the Framework Agreement on relations between the European Parliament and the Commission; the quest for practical forms of cooperation with the Committee on Legal Affairs, particularly in the context of the codecision procedure; the consistency and simplification of legislation; assessment of the impact of legislation; comitology; harmonisation of civil law, access to justice and mutual recognition of decisions regarding the implications of citizens' freedom of movement; ethical issues and law; civil justice; the European Arrest Warrant and money-laundering; provisions regarding the protection of intellectual property rights; criteria for measuring the efficiency of Europol and Eurojust with a view to the creation of a European Public Prosecutor's office; considerations regarding future developments in European integration, bearing in mind the existence of different legal systems in the Member States.

In view of the opinions expressed by the Members present at the hearing and the outcome of the assessment meeting held by the coordinators of the Committee on Legal Affairs on 6 October

2004, as well as the meeting of the Committee on Legal Affairs of 7 October 2004, I can give you the following assessment of the hearing.

The hearing showed that Mr Rocco Buttiglione has the integrity, independence and political and personal experience required to take up his duties as a Member of the European Commission and, likewise, professional capabilities in the specific sectors for which he will be responsible.

He also had the opportunity to express his pro-European convictions, his determination to co-operate and collaborate fully with the European Parliament and his willingness to respond appropriately to our committee's requests.

Overall, the Commissioner-designate satisfactorily demonstrated his personal and professional qualities and his aptitude for the high office for which he has been nominated. The Committee on Legal Affairs considered that it will be able to develop fruitful cooperation with the Commissioner-designate.

Nevertheless, the PSE and Verts/ALE groups expressed reservations regarding his ability to take positive political action in the area of citizens' rights, in particular as regards combating discrimination.

The views expressed in this letter reflect the opinion of the Members of the Committee on Legal Affairs present at the hearing.

Yours sincerely,

Giuseppe Gargani

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND ENERGY

The Chairman

310118 02.10.2004

Mr Josep BORRELL FONTELLES
President of the European Parliament

Brussels,
Ref.: ITRE/2004/D/41287

Dear President,

In accordance with Rule 99 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure the committee on Industry, Research and Energy, in association with the committee on Culture and Education, held on 29 September a public hearing with Mrs Viviane Reding, Commissioner designated, who, subject to the positive conclusion of the nomination procedure will be in charge of Information Society and Media.

Prior to the hearing, the committees submitted a written questionnaire to which the Commissioner nominee replied in writing in satisfactory way.

In her introductory statement Mrs Reding referred to the three different competencies of her future portfolio, Information Society, Media and Audio-visual Sector and stressed the implication of these three sectors in the fields of innovation, inclusion and creativity. The three of them are equally important for economic growth, employment and the quality of life.

She informed us she would work on the future eEurope 2010 action plan in order to promote the use of ICT and create a dynamic context for electronic commerce. As for electronic communications, she underlined the role she intends to play, namely to monitor the implementation of the regulatory framework and to come up with a review of it in 2006 in order that the legislation in force is consistent with technical changes in the economical world.

The Commissioner nominee also committed herself to provide the MEDIA Programme with adequate financing provisions and declared her intention to review the "Television without frontiers" directive.

Questions included the impact of ICT legislation on SMEs and the Lisbon strategy, the remedies to digital divide at the regional and social level, the need for simplification in the ICT regulatory environment, gender mainstreaming in Information Society, the security of networks and multilingualism on the Internet.

PE 349.302/BUR/08

She was also asked her views on the respect and promotion of cultural diversity, the problem of media concentration and pluralism in the EU, the economical implication of Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP), the way to eliminate the divide between ICT development amongst the member States of the EU.

More specific questions were asked concerning international roaming costs in the EU, interoperability and the need for standards in the telecom sector, the development of broadband, as well as a reference to public sector broadcasting future and the issue known as "software patents"(*).

Following the hearing an assessment meeting took place and the following conclusions were reached.

Appreciation was unanimously expressed by those present, both for her commitment to cooperate with the European Parliament in the fields of her competence and for her skills in the field of media policy. Nevertheless a deeper technical knowledge of electronic communications and Information Society related matters would have been expected and a stronger commitment in the field of media pluralism would also have been appreciated.

During the evaluation meeting, some political groups declared their intention to ask the Barroso Commission to take initiatives at the European level in the field of one highly sensitive political issue, Media concentration, as already requested by the European Parliament to the Prodi Commission.

Two of the smaller groups' representatives expressed disappointment about Mrs Reding's comments on the "software patents" issue.

The assessment as expressed in this letter reflects the opinion of the members of my committee as well as of Mr Nikolaos Sifunakis, Chairman of the committee on Culture and Education, on behalf of his members.

Yours sincerely,



Giles Bryan CHICHESTER

(*) Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the patentability of computer-implemented inventions (COM(2002)92 - 2002/0047 (COD))

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COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT,
PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

- THE CHAIRMAN -

Adonis D/41309

310170 05.10.2004

Mr Josep Borrell Fontelles
President of the European Parliament
PHS 11B011
Brussels

Dear President,

In accordance with Rule 99 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety held a public hearing on Wednesday 29 September 2004 with Mr Stavros Dimas, the Commissioner-designate for the Environment.

Prior to the hearing the Commissioner-designate replied in writing to a questionnaire containing both general questions submitted by the European Parliament to all nominees as well as to specific questions submitted by the Environment Committee. In his introductory statement at the hearing Mr Dimas then touched upon the issues of climate change, biodiversity, the relationship between environment and health, chemicals legislation (REACH), the need for proper implementation of existing environment law and to integrate environmental objectives into other EU policies, the Lisbon Strategy, the links between environment and competitiveness and finally the need for close cooperation with the European Parliament.

During the debate the Commissioner-designate answered questions relating to, in particular, the following policy issues:

- Climate change (the nominee put a high priority on this issue and on the need not only to ratify Kyoto as a small first step, but also to consider the post 2012 regime)
- REACH (the nominee indicated that the current proposal would remain the basis for further action but might require some adjustment in the light of the forthcoming impact assessments)
- Waste management and recycling
- Water policy
- Environment as an economic opportunity (job creation possibilities, stimulus to the development of new technologies, etc)
- Use of market instruments in environment policy (for which he was strongly supportive)
- Energy-related issues (renewable energies, nuclear energy)

PE 349.302/BUR/07

- Lisbon strategy and sustainable development (required balance between economic, social and environmental goals: in this context the nominee emphasised the need for the development of more environmental indicators)
- Integration of environment policy and other policy objectives, including transport and agriculture as well as the balance between environment and internal market goals
- Environment policy and the new member states
- Environment and Health issues (including the safety of electromagnetic fields)
- Impact assessments and their contribution to policy-making (the nominee not only emphasised the importance of the environment aspect of such assessments, but also the need to assess the costs of not taking action)
- GMOs (issues of coexistence and of thresholds)
- Issue of a carbon dioxide tax on air traffic
- Implementation of environment legislation (discretion in opening infringements, resources and structure in DG Environment, issue of sanctions, specific application to the situations of new member states, implications of the recent opinion of the Advocate-General at the European Court of Justice)
- International dimensions of environment policy (including the importance of relations with United States, with candidate countries such as Romania and with neighbouring countries in Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean)
- Biodiversity (the nominee spoke of the need to develop specific biodiversity indicators)
- Implementation of the thematic strategies and related components of the 6th Environmental Action Programme (the nominee again emphasised the need for measurable indicators, guidelines and targets)
- Environmental liability
- the issue of double legal bases
- the role of NGOs in environmental policy-making

The nominee was also asked a series of more general questions about his independence (including from his own home government), his vision of future environment policy, his medium and long-range goals for the environment and what he would do to communicate with European citizens about environmental challenges. Mr Dimas concluded his hearing with a final general statement, in which he said that he had taken good note of all the points that had been raised at the hearing, that he attached great importance to transparency and looked forward to close cooperation with the Parliament as a whole, and with the Environment Committee, in particular.

On the basis of the evaluation meeting of the Environment Committee which took place after the hearing, I am now able to provide you with the following assessment of the hearing:

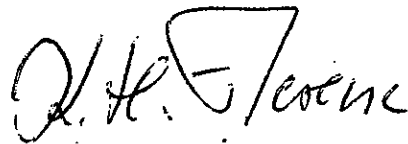
The coordinators noted the open and friendly personality of the nominee, and welcomed his evident commitment to working independently in the European interest and to cooperating closely with the Parliament, and with its Environment Committee. They further took note of his long political and other professional experience and abilities. Moreover, they recognized that while his background was not in the specific field of environment policy, in some areas he already demonstrated considerable knowledge. In other areas they believed that he had the ability to master the details of his prospective new portfolio.

In general terms the coordinators agreed with the main objectives expressed by the nominee, not least his evident priority on fighting climate change, on ensuring balance between environment and economic and social aspects of sustainable development, on the economic potential rather

than mere cost of environment policies, and on the need for full implementation of the environmental acquis in both old and new Member States. A number of the coordinators, however, felt that his statements might have been more specific, and that he might have made more precise commitments. They thus reported that some members had made it clear that their approval for the Commissioner-designate came with reservations. Nevertheless the same coordinators expressed the hope that he could become a strong advocate for the environment as one of the main policy areas of the European Union. A minority, however, felt that they could not support his nomination.

In conclusion, and taking into account the above considerations, I can now inform you that the Environment Committee can express its support for the nomination of Mr Dimas. We look forward to him demonstrating, by his deeds over the next five years, that the reservations expressed by some were groundless.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. H. Florenz', written in a cursive style.

Karl-Heinz Florenz

EUROPA-PARLAMENTET
EUROPÄISCHES PARLAMENT
ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΒΟΥΛΙΟ
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COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND MONETARY AFFAIRS
THE CHAIR

310472 11.10.2004

Mr. Josep BORRELL FONTELLES
President of the European Parliament

- **CONFIDENTIAL** -

Dear President,

In accordance with Rule 99 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs held on 7 October 2004 a public hearing with Mr. Joaquín ALMUNIA, Commissioner and Commissioner-Designate, who, subject to the positive conclusion of the nomination procedure, will be in charge of Economic and Monetary Affairs.

Prior to the hearing, the committee submitted a written questionnaire to which the Commissioner-Designate replied in writing, in a satisfactory manner overall.

The Committee would like to underline Mr ALMUNIA's specific situation as acting Commissioner as well as Commissioner designate within the same portfolio.

In his introductory statement Mr. ALMUNIA touched principally on the challenges which he saw for the Commission's term and beyond: growth and employment and the Lisbon strategy, the Stability and Growth Pact, Eurostat and statistics and international aspects of economic and monetary affairs.

During the debate that followed, the nominee Commissioner answered questions relating to, in particular, how to make more efficient the implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact, stressing its preventive nature and the improvement of the monitoring of the debt. Mr. ALMUNIA also noted the need to improve the quality of national accounts through new procedures and increased resources. Mr. ALMUNIA also expounded on the urgency of increased efforts to implement the Lisbon strategy, co-ordination of economic policies, employment,

productivity, pension system, poverty, conditions for the new member states' entry into the Euro area, economic convergence as well as inter-institutional relations and the role of national parliaments in this process.

On the basis of the reactions of the Members present at the hearing, I am able to provide you with the following assessment of the hearing:

Mr. ALMUNIA has an adequate academic record, an extensive political career as parliamentarian and minister as well as experience in the trade unions and the Chambers of commerce.

We noted his respect for the roles of the EU institutions, notably the European Parliament, while at the same time he expressed his regrets that the draft Treaty did not go as far as he had wished in enhancing the Commission's role in the field of multilateral surveillance. His attitude on co-operation with the EP and its parliamentary committees is reasonably satisfactory but he gave general answers to specific questions. He has expressed his willingness to take a co-operative approach in his relations with the EP.

A majority of members expects him to adopt a stronger attitude toward the Council regarding the Stability and Growth Pact and its enforcement and would have liked him to be more specific on how to ensure proper statistical systems and reporting by Member States and sanctions in case of violation. Furthermore, they would also have preferred that he be prepared to assume a more dynamic leadership role in the field of economic policy.

Taking into account his background, his written answers, the debate, and his approach, the evaluation of the candidate is positive.

Yours sincerely,

P. Berès

Pervenche BERÈS

PARLAMENTO PARLAMENT PARLAMENTET
KOINOBOYAIO PARLIAMENT PARLEMENT
PARLAMENTS PARLAMENTAS
IL-PARLAMENT PARLAMENTI

COMISIÓN DE DESARROLLO REGIONAL
EL PRESIDENTE

Mr. Josep BORRELL FONTELLES
President
European Parliament

CONFIDENTIAL

309990 30.09.2004

Dear President,

In accordance with Rule 99 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, the Committee on Regional Development held a public hearing on Tuesday 28 September 2004 with Commissioner-Designate, Mrs Danuta Hübner, who, subject to the positive conclusion of the nomination procedure will be responsible for regional policy.

Prior to the hearing, a written questionnaire was submitted, to which the Commissioner-Designate replied in writing in a satisfactory manner.

In her introductory address Mrs Hübner recalled her international and European credentials and experience, emphasising amongst other issues, her commitment to serve the European Union independently and to liaise closely with the European Parliament. She concentrated, in particular, on the future of regional and cohesion policy within the context of the financial perspectives for 2007-13.

In the ensuing debate, the Commissioner-Designate underlined the importance of a reinforcement of the Community method and a strengthening of the role of the Union. In considering the European Parliament as the Commission's natural ally she declared herself particularly committed to ensuring a constructive dialogue between the two institutions and to establishing close and constructive relations with the Committee on Regional Development.

With regard to her specific portfolio, the Commissioner-Designate demonstrated that she had already acquired a reasonable grasp of the various concepts associated with Community regional policy and on all the key points it was clear that her position broadly concurred with that adopted most recently by the European Parliament in its opinion on the Commission's strategic Third Report on Economic and Social Cohesion.

On the basis of the reaction of the Committee to Mrs Hübner's written and oral statements and overall performance and on the results of the subsequent Coordinators' meeting, we are able to provide you with the following assessment of the candidate.

Both the written statements by the Commissioner-Designate and her oral answers to questions, led Members to the conclusion that she held a genuine commitment to act with integrity and independence. Moreover, it was felt that her professional experience and competence had been clearly demonstrated. Although some Members felt that, in response to certain complex questions she had not always provided fully precise and detailed replies and that not all her answers had been sufficiently concise, there was, overall, relative satisfaction with her performance.

The Hearing was generally conducted in a cordial and positive atmosphere and most of the comments made by the Commissioner-Designate made a favourable impression upon the Members present.

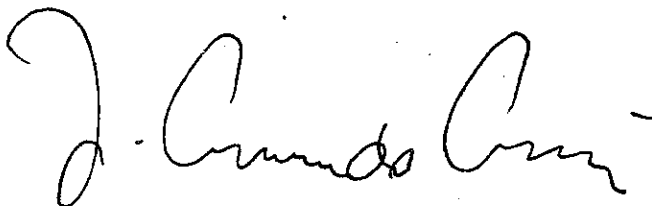
Following the Hearing, at my invitation, the Chairman of the Commission on Territorial Cohesion Policy of the Committee of the Regions, Mr Van Cauwenberghe, briefly addressed the Committee.

The elements contained in the present letter constitute the unanimous opinion of the Members present at the Coordinators' meeting and reflect moreover, we believe, the consensus view of our Committee.

On behalf of the Committee on Regional Development I therefore propose that there should be an acceptance of the candidate's suitability for the post for which she has been proposed.

Yours sincerely,

in front always,



Gerardo GALEOTE QUECEDO

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES THE CHAIRMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr Josep BORRELL FONTELLES
President of the European Parliament
rue Wiertz
B-1047 BRUSSELS

Dear Mr President,

Pursuant to Rule 99 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, the Committee on Fisheries held a public hearing on 5 October 2004 with Mr Joe Borg, Commissioner-designate, who, subject to a positive outcome to the nomination procedure, will be in charge of fisheries and maritime affairs.

Prior to the hearing the committee had submitted a written questionnaire to the Commissioner-designate, to which he had replied satisfactorily.

In his introductory statement, Mr Borg developed the priorities he would set in the fisheries sector during his term of office at the Commission. He also addressed the maritime affairs aspect of his portfolio.

During the debate, the Commissioner-designate answered many questions on, inter alia, the following aspects of the common fisheries policy (CFP): continuation of CFP reform, the new rules on application of the CFP to the Mediterranean, international fisheries agreements and European Parliament involvement in regional fishery organisations, small-scale fishing, aquaculture, CFP monitoring and control, regional advisory committees, the principle of relative stability, fleet policy, the CFP's social dimension and policy on safety at sea, scientific opinions, problems concerning the outermost regions, TACs and quotas, relations with certain northern countries (Russia, Norway and Baltic countries), the new European Fisheries Fund, and stock recovery plans.

A delegation from the Committee on Transport and Tourism also put questions on maritime affairs.

Mr Borg committed himself in particular to promoting sustainable fishing and to paying special attention to living conditions for fishermen and fishing communities by means of a long-term partnership, without losing sight of issues concerning the environment, transport, energy, research, tourism and regional policy. The system of TACs and quotas would be the main CFP tool for stock management; but it would be strengthened by stock recovery plans and long-term

management action. He undertook to maintain ongoing dialogue with Parliament, on an official footing, and to step up this committee's role.

The hearing was conducted in a cordial and positive atmosphere and, overall, the undertakings given by the Commissioner-designate were welcomed by the members present.

The Commission has put forward a candidate who is sound in the established political sense. He comes from a country where fishing is an important sector of the economy. He displayed a determination to cooperate with Parliament. At a time when the codecision procedure is about to be introduced for fisheries, should the constitutional treaty be adopted, that is of paramount importance. He furthermore showed a particular interest in the needs of the industry and, in so doing, seems determined and prepared to restore its confidence.

Overall, the Commissioner-designate gave a convincing impression of his personal qualities and professional capabilities and of his ability to assume the duties for which he has been nominated.

The content of this letter reflects the unanimous opinion of the members of my committee.

Yours sincerely,

Philippe MORILLON

EUROPA-PARLAMENTET
EUROPAISCHES PARLAMENT
ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΒΟΥΛΙΟ
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

PARLAMENTO EUROPEO
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EUROPEES PARLEMENT
PARLAMENTO EUROPEU
EUROOPAN PARLAMENTTI
EUROPAPARLAMENTET



COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS

THE CHAIRMAN

310456 08.10.2004

Mr. Josep BORRELL FONTELLES
President
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

CONFIDENTIAL

Ref. : D(2004) 41661

Dear President,

The committee on Budgets held on 28 September 2004 a public hearing with Mrs Dalia Grybauskaitė, Commissioner designate, who, subject to the positive conclusion of the nomination procedure will be in charge of Financial Programming and Budget.

Prior to the hearing, the committee submitted a written questionnaire to which the Commissioner nominee replied in writing in satisfactory way.

In her introductory statement, Mrs Dalia Grybauskaitė expressed her views on the major political challenges that the EU is facing today at financial and budgetary levels, including the different aspects related to the current proposals in exam in the European Parliament, and the best way for an agreement to be reached in a European Union of 25 Members States. The designate Commissioner also underlined the importance of reinforced flexibility of the EU financial framework.

During the hearing the Members examined with Mrs Dalia Grybauskaitė the following issues:

- EU budgetary and financial policies;
- Co-operation between the Commission and the two arms of the Budgetary Authority, including best practices for improving the co-operation with the European Parliament;
- Implementation of the current financial legal framework and its revision;
- Improvement of the fight against fraud in the use of the EU funds.

PE 349.302/BUR/06

After the hearing, the Enlarged Bureau of the committee expressed their comments on its outcome. At its meeting of 6 October the committee made its evaluation of the hearing.

Overall, the comments expressed were supportive and very positive, as Mrs Grybauskaitė had showed clearly her strong negotiation skills and technical knowledge, necessary to deal with the complexity of the sector.

The committee underlined Mrs Grybauskaitė's commitment on a European approach of the main challenges that the Union faces today. It noted, however, a certain lack of clarity in what concerns her clear commitment to reinforce co-operation with the European Parliament, on the same grounds as those to follow with the Council, in particular on access to information.

The Political groups considered that Mrs Grybauskaitė had the right political feel for the job, fulfilling the prerequisites to be the Commissioner for Financial Programming and Budget.

In general terms, the Commissioner designate has given a convincing impression of her personal and professional capacities and her aptitude to assume the high office she has been proposed for.

The elements contained in the present letter reflect the opinion expressed unanimously by the Members of my committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janusz', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Janusz Lewandowski

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND ENERGY

The Chairman

310382 07.10.2004

Mr Josep BORRELL FONTELLES
President of the European Parliament

Ref.: D(2004)41610

Brussels,

Dear President,

On 1 October 2004, the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy held a public hearing, in accordance with Rule 99 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, with Mr Janez Potočnik, Commissioner-designate, who, subject to the positive conclusion of the nomination procedure will be in charge of Research.

Prior to the hearing, the ITRE Committee had submitted to Mr Potočnik a written questionnaire. The written answers provided by the nominee were considered satisfactory.

In his introductory statement Mr Potočnik stressed need to rebuild confidence in the Lisbon Strategy and revive the strategy itself. The role of the EU as a global scientific player had to be strengthened and science would have to be brought closer to people. The nominee spoke also about the need to ensure the full and equitable integration of the new Member States, to simplify, rationalise and coordinate the scientific system and promote autonomy, excellence and competition in basic research. He clearly advocated stimulating the integration of SMEs into research and enhancing the role of women and young scientists in research, while improving conditions for researchers.

Subsequently Members addressed a series of oral questions to Mr Potočnik. They concerned, in particular, the role of SMEs in research, doubling the EU research budget and the future European Research Council, the need to motivate Member States in the pursuit of the 3% target, several aspects of the RTD Framework Programme, the ITER project, the condition and mobility of researchers (especially women), funding for stem-cell research, the need to support humanities, the cooperation between universities and industry, the increasing gap between science and ordinary people, regional aspects of research and issues of funding for specific areas of research.

Responding to the questions, Mr Potočnik elaborated on measures that would enhance the involvement of SMEs in research and in the Framework Programme in particular, spoke of the need to restructure EU and national budgets in favour of research, advocated Technology Platforms as

PE 349.302/BUR/13

the best means of improving the linkage between research and innovation, stressed the need to strengthen the instruments that would allow smaller countries/research groups to participate in EU funding, emphasised the importance of education and an active human resources policy, expressed openness with respect to ethical issues in research, appeared prepared to initiate corrective measures to remove shortcomings of the Framework Programme and stressed the importance of the JRC.

The Members' reactions during the hearing and the opinions expressed during the coordinators' meeting that followed can be summarised as follows:

The nominee's appreciation of the role of SMEs in research and his clear statements in favour of basic science, simplification of procedures and stimulation of the research potential were highly appreciated. He saw research as an essential pillar of the Lisbon strategy, advocating a balanced approach between competitiveness, sustainability and social inclusion. The clear manifestation of his political will in favour of doubling the EU research budget in view of the 7th RTD Framework Programme was very positively received. Equally appreciated was his openness to dialogue with the Parliament and his willingness to admit shortcoming in the current Framework Programme and initiate the necessary reforms. Most groups appreciated the nominee's support for the ITER project.

The nominee was perceived as honest, sensitive to the human factor, with excellent communication skills, knowledgeable and well prepared, but also willing to listen and discuss possible points of disagreement. Being a scientist (economist) and having worked as a researcher himself, the nominee was equally sensitive to the economic and social aspects of research, as well as to the need to improve the condition of researchers. Although he was new to the field of research, his balanced approach and open-mindedness left no doubt that he would be in complete control of his area of competence. One large political group perceived a relative weakness in his visions for the future but expressed confidence that this would be overcome as he worked himself into his new tasks.

In conclusion, Members unanimously considered the nominee to possess the necessary personal and professional skills, as well as the dynamism and political determination to assume the high office for which he has been proposed.

Yours sincerely,



Giles Bryan CHICHESTER

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, YOUTH, EDUCATION, THE MEDIA AND SPORT

THE CHAIRMAN

310202 06.10.2004

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr Josep BORRELL FONTELLES
President
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Dear President,

In accordance with Rule 99 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, the Committee on Education and Culture and the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs held on 27 September 2004 a public hearing with Mr. Jan Figel, Commissioner-designate for education and culture (including vocational training).

Before the hearing, the committees had submitted a written questionnaire to which the Commissioner-designate had already replied.

In the course of the hearing, Mr. Figel answered questions across the range of policy areas for which he would be responsible were he to be confirmed as Commissioner.

He made the following commitments in particular:

- to keep the European Parliament fully informed about policy initiatives under the open method of coordination,
- to promote the greatest degree possible of transparency and user-friendliness in the administration of the programmes for which his directorate-general was responsible,
- to integrate gender mainstreaming in all educational and cultural programmes,
- to attempt to establish a European Year of Dialogue between Cultures,
- to establish a programme which would mobilise culture in order to promote active European citizenship
- to maintain a robust defence of European cultural and linguistic diversity, in particular in the contest of the UNESCO Convention on Cultural Diversity.

The Culture Committee notes that, in the context of the Lisbon agenda, education and culture will assume a much greater importance in the Commission's work. These policy areas have moved from the periphery to the core of the identity of the Union. It is the key task of any incoming Commissioner to grasp this fact and ensure that the next generation of education, vocational training, youth, media and culture programmes meet this challenge.

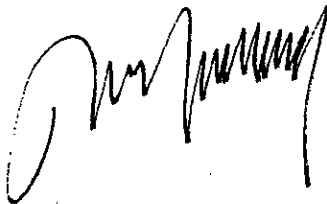
PE 349.302/BUR/03

The Employment and Social Affairs Committee, associated in the hearing of the Commissioner-designate Mr Figel, notes that Commissioner-designate Figel did not fully answer questions about promotion of the European social model. It takes note of his attachment to a social market economy and of his undertaking to promote tolerance; as well as of his promise to work closely with the social partners. It endorses the priority that the Commissioner-designate gives to investment in human capital and his undertaking to use to the fullest extent possible the open method of coordination to promote vocational training: it notes his intention to present a Commission proposal in this area before December 2004.

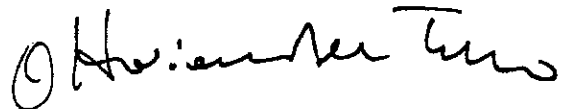
Following the hearing and their subsequent discussions, the Members of the two committees concerned were clear that the Commissioner-designate had given a good overall impression of his personal qualities and professional abilities; and of his capacity to assume the office for which he has been proposed.

This letter reflects the opinion expressed by consensus of the Members of the two committees.

Yours sincerely,



Nikolaos SJFUNKIS
Chairman of the Committee on
Culture and Education



Ottaviano DEL TURCO
Chairman of the Committee on
Employment and Social Affairs

PARLAMENTO PARLAMENT PARLAMENTET
KOINOBOYAIO PARLIAMENT PARLEMENT
PARLAMENTS PARLAMENTAS
IL-PARLAMENT PARLAMENTTI



COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL MARKET AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

310620 12.10.2004

Adonis 243016

Mr Josep Borrell Fontelles
President of the European Parliament
PHS 11B011
Brussels

Dear President,

In accordance with Rule 99 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, the Committees on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety and on Internal Market and Consumer Protection held a joint public hearing on Friday 8 October 2004 with Mr Markos Kyprianou, the Commissioner-designate for Health and Consumer Protection.

Prior to the hearing the Commissioner-designate replied in writing to a questionnaire containing both general questions submitted by the European Parliament to all nominees as well as to specific questions submitted by the Environment and Internal Market Committees.

Opening statement

In his introductory statement at the hearing Mr Kyprianou began by emphasising his absolute independence from all local, party, professional and economic interests which seek to determine EU policy, as well as his firm commitment to continuing dialogue with the European Parliament and with its relevant committees. He stated that he would adhere strictly to rules of good governance of the human and financial resources placed under his responsibility, and that he would attach a high priority to effective implementation of EU law. He then expressed a general wish that he could help instil a feeling of confidence in the internal market on the part of all European consumers.

Mr Kyprianou went on to raise some of his key priorities in the fields of public health and food safety and then responded to questions from members of the Environment Committee on the following policy issues:

PE 349.302/BUR/25

Public Health

- the importance of a proactive and preventive approach both as regards public health and food safety,
- the limits of community competence in the field of public health (the nominee promised to respect the principle of subsidiarity but pointed out the scope, even when legislation was not appropriate, for use of non-legislative instruments, such as the open method of coordination, in promoting public health),
- the consequences of free movement of people and of patient mobility, in particular with regard to health care expenditure in various parts of Europe,
- the consequences of demographic changes for public health,
- the balance to be struck between internal market and public health considerations,
- tackling specific health threats, notably obesity, tobacco consumption and alcohol abuse,
- issues related to cancer screening and to AIDS,
- public health aspects of REACH,
- biotech research, in particular genetic research, and related ethical considerations,
- health and social inequalities.

Food Safety

- the importance of the precautionary principle, but the need for its case-by-case application,
- health claims and fortification (the nominee said that he would not present a new proposal on health claims),
- the role, status and location of decentralised agencies and offices, in particular of EFSA and of the European Food and Veterinary Office,
- the safety of imported food, and of the adequacy of resources devoted to inspections,
- animal welfare considerations in long-distance transport,
- pesticides (the problems of residues in food, and of stocks of obsolete pesticides).

The members of the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety noted with approval the strong statements made by the nominee in his opening remarks concerning his independence and his commitment to a close dialogue with the Parliament. Members welcomed the thoughtful way in which Mr Kyprianou responded to their questions and concerns. Mr Kyprianou also showed that he had a realistic grasp of the subsidiarity and other constraints that he faced, and of the difficult balances that he would sometimes have to strike, but members welcomed his commitments to tackle these problems by seeking an appropriate balance of legislative and non-legislative measures, and by standing up forcefully within the Commission and elsewhere for public health and food safety objectives.

Consumer Protection issues

Mr Kyprianou then made a brief supplementary statement on general consumer protection issues. During the subsequent debate the Commissioner designate answered questions relating to Consumer Protection, in particular, on the following issues:

- the balance to be struck between the Internal Market and consumer protection, in particular in terms of the level of harmonisation required,
- the rights of consumers,

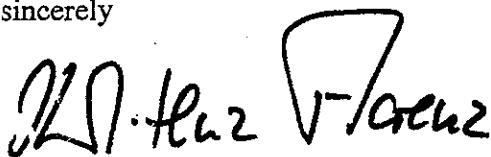
- better information for consumers,
- legislative proposals on consumer credit and unfair commercial practices,
- the need to better consolidate the legislation in force,
- a single framework for contracts.

The members of Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection were unanimous in finding that Mr Kyprianou's answers were impressive throughout, and welcomed the manner in which he engaged with members' views. He demonstrated conviction and a clear sense of political initiative, as well as a focused vision of how he would promote consumer protection, particularly for disadvantaged consumers, including women, during his mandate as Commissioner.

Overall evaluation

In conclusion, and taking into account all the above considerations, the Committees on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety and on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection consider that Mr Kyprianou is well qualified to take on his new tasks both in the light of his past political experience and of his performance at his hearing on 8 October. The two committees can thus express their support for his nomination as Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection.

Yours sincerely



Karl-Heinz FLORENZ



Phillip WHITEHEAD

Chairman of the Committee on the
Environment, Public Health and Food
Safety

Chairman of the Committee on the Internal
Market and Consumer Protection

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

- The Chairman -

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr Josep BORRELL FONTELLES
President
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Ref. D(2004)42106

Dear President,

In accordance with Rule 99 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure the committee on Foreign Affairs held on 4 October 2004 a public hearing with Mr Olli Rehn Commissioner designate, who, subject to the positive conclusion of the nomination procedure will be in charge of enlargement and the Western Balkans.

Prior to the hearing, the committee submitted a written questionnaire to which the Commissioner designate replied in writing in a satisfactory way, even though some of his remarks seemed rather superficial.

In his introductory statement Mr Olli Rehn touched upon the following issues:

- He believes in the community method and that the EU gains if Commission and Parliament act together as natural partners; he mentioned the important role of the EU external service in the future.
- He sees it as his task to bring Romania and Bulgaria into the EU.
- He sees it as his task to keep open the European perspective for Turkey in order to foster political, legal and economic reforms while taking heed of the need for Turkey to fulfil the Copenhagen criteria.
- It is his task to ensure that economic aid for the applicant and partner countries is of high quality.
- The Balkans need to be given, through the EU, a framework for good neighbourly relations.
- He emphasised the importance of respect for minority rights and dealing with Roma problems.

During the debate the Commissioner designate answered questions relating to, in particular, the following issues:

- the possibility of formally concluding accession negotiations with Bulgaria and Romania at the same time so that both can accede in January 2007.

PE 349.302/BUR/15

- the accession process of Turkey and its character as well as the possible future process if the European Council were to open accession negotiations.
- the Cyprus question and expressed his wish to support all efforts to find a solution for the reunification of the island on the basis of the Annan Plan.
- the Western Balkans as a whole.
- Croatia and its possibility of acceding to the EU by 2009, as well as the timing for the opening of negotiations.
- the possible future accession of Belarus and Ukraine (although not his brief).

He made, in particular, the following commitments with regard to the policy areas he will be responsible for:

- the inclusion of MEPs in delegations led by the Commission whenever the Commission negotiates with third countries, except in accession negotiations.
- a full willingness to co-operate with Parliament, taking into account its recommendations.
- rigorous and objective monitoring of the progress made in candidate countries, judgement on their own merits.
- the application, if necessary, of the safeguard clause in the accession treaties.
- more emphasis than during previous enlargements on the implementation of the acquis by the candidates.
- his contribution to a smoothly functioning EU external service.
- the regular appearance by Commission Heads of Delegation before the Foreign Affairs Committee.

On the basis of the reactions of the Members present at the hearing and the results of the evaluation meeting of the committee's Enlarged Bureau which took place after the hearing I am able to provide you with the following assessment:

As can be seen from his c.v. he has long experience in EU politics both in the Commission [former Head of Cabinet] and as a member of the European Parliament. His conduct gives no reason to doubt his integrity and independence. While not having any previous specific competence related to enlargement questions, his performance in the hearings has shown a sound knowledge of the technical aspects of the dossiers. During his presentation his political vision did not come across clearly. He appeared very status quo oriented and did not show much innovative political perspectives. He seems persistent in his approach and able to resist pressure. We hope that he will be able to bring a forceful message across in countries like the Western Balkans when he has to defend European values.

In conclusion, the Commissioner designate has shown that his technical qualifications are beyond reproach but he would need to further develop the political profile that is required, to respond in an adequate way to the enormous challenges linked to his portfolio. Given his potential, we can expect, however, that while acquiring experience, he will develop the political vision which should inspire concrete actions and decisions.

In general terms, the Commissioner designate has given a convincing impression of his personal and professional capacities and his aptitude to assume the high office he has been proposed for.

The elements contained in the present letter reflect the opinion expressed unanimously by the Enlarged Bureau of our committee.

Yours sincerely,



Elmar Brok

COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT

- THE CHAIR -

310574 7.10.2004

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr Josep BORRELL FONTELLES
President
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Dear President,

In accordance with Rule 99 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on 6 October 2004 the Committee on Development held a public hearing with Mr Louis Michel, Commissioner Designate, who, subject to the positive conclusion of the nomination procedure, will be responsible for development cooperation and humanitarian aid. Prior to the hearing, the Committee submitted a written questionnaire to which the Commissioner Designate replied in writing.

The Committee noted the Commissioner Designate's strong political profile and experience, which should allow him to defend development policy as a priority in the Commission.

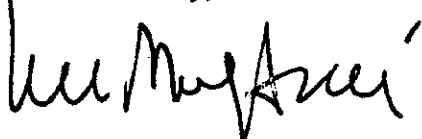
In general terms, the Commissioner Designate gave reasonably satisfactory answers to the questions posed during the hearing.

Nevertheless, the Committee felt that further clarification would be needed with regard to issues such as good governance, the mainstreaming of environmental issues and the role of non-governmental organisations.

On a more general note, the Committee expressed deep concern regarding the distribution of competences in the new Commission, notably the reduction of the Development Commissioner's authority over EuropeAid, which is seriously detrimental to development cooperation.

Overall, the Commissioner Designate has demonstrated sufficient aptitude to assume the high office for which he has been proposed.

Yours sincerely,



Luisa Morgantini

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL POLICIES OF THE UNION

B-1047 Brussels, Tel.: 32/2.284.6060, Fax: 32/2.284.9067
F-67070 Strasbourg, Tel.: 33/3.88.17.6060, Fax: 33/3.88.17.9975

PE 349.302/BUR/19