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"The European Commission 2000 - 2005 One year on"

Foreword

We are proud to present our second European Commission brochure, providing easy access to information on the Commissioners and their Cabinet officials, as well as an overview of their major achievements over the last year and the many challenges that lie ahead

The key question to raise is whether President Prodi, after being in office for one year, has been able to salvage the reputation of the Commission, following the resignation of the Santer team, which was tarnished by allegations of cronyism and financial mismanagement.

It is true to say that work to repair the damage began immediately. Commissioner Kinnock's internal reform programme had as its immediate objective to decentralise financial controls, re-instate a tight system of budgetary accountability and improve personnel management at all levels. This process is now well underway. Furthermore, the internal reform programme has been accompanied by a re-structuring of the Directorates General to make them more efficient and streamlined. And here, it is no surprise that DG Sanco (dealing with the public's growing concerns towards health and consumer protection) was one of the DGs which underwent the most significant makeover.



The Commission has also set about improving relations with the European Parliament. Highly sensitive to the role which the Parliament played in the fall of the previous Commission, Commissioners are now actively working with MEPs and encouraging transparency in their services.

As far as the public is concerned, the Commission has strived hard to improve its image: EU citizens have been given access to the daily contents of Romani Prodi's postbag, and the Commission has approved a "Code of Good Administrative Behaviour", which stipulates how officials

must respond to requests for information.

In the last twelve months, we have witnessed some notable achievements. In particular, the publication of the White paper on food safety to restore public confidence in the European food chain and setting the framework of the European Food Authority; the publication of a Community strategy on health; the on-going implementation of Agenda 2000; the successful completion of the EU-Mexico Free Trade Agreement which allows the EU to enjoy near NAFTA parity with Mexico; the launch of the European Research Area to improve the co-ordination of national and EU-level research and development programmes; the Financial Services action plan due to be completed by 2005; the eEurope initiative to create an information society for all; the launch of the liberalisation of the European telecommunications markets; the signing of the Montreal Biosafety protocol; proposed legislation to enhance maritime safety following the Erika tanker disaster; the Cotonou Agreement, replacing the much criticized Lome Convention providing the framework for a 20-year partnership for development aid to the 77 ACP states and so on.

However, whilst the Commission has tried to ward off a repeat scenario of the circumstances which brought down its predecessor, it is now faced with an increasing number of external challenges. The first of these challenges is undoubtedly enlargement. Managing a Union of 25-30 members requires far-reaching institutional restructuring: not only of the Commission itself (for example, through a reduction in the number of Commissioners), but also in the Council voting procedures. Furthermore, eastern accession means tough decisions will need to be taken on the current spend-ing on both the Common Agricultural and Regional Policies.

Over the past year, there has also been a trend towards intergovernmentalism which has prevent-ed the Commission from taking a leadership role in addressing enlargement and other key ques-tions. The creation of a multi-speed Europe and the need for new competing institutions to accommodate those Member States which agree to speed up their integration drive is an enormous challenge to the position of the Commission. Already, the division between the 'ins' and 'outs' of the Eurozone threatens the central role that the Commission plays in steering the EU's economic policy and the completion of a Single European Market.

The Commission is now making moves to respond to this challenge. President Prodi, in a keynote address to the European Parliament in October 2000, stated that direct co-operation by governments "undermines the democratic nature of the EU structure" and that the intergovern-mental

model of running the EU would turn the community into "an international talking shop". Furthermore, he called for the job of the Member States' High Representative for foreign policy to be absorbed by the Commission and for the executive to become the "voice" of EU economic policy and the "interlocutor" for managing the Euro.

President Prodi's planned White paper on Governance may be seen as the first concrete attempt by the Commission to address this challenge and help the institution to re-establish itself at the centre of the EU's decision-making structure. In the paper, scheduled to be adopted in 2001, President Prodi suggests involving industry much more directly in drawing up legislation, especially in the high-technology field. This would mean not merely consulting with stakeholders at the outset as is presently the case, but rather involving third parties all the way through the process of drafting legislation.

However, the Commission's initiative on governance is only a beginning if the popular image of the institution and its President are to be strengthened. President Prodi refers to himself as a diesel engine - slow to start, but quick and efficient once it gets moving. The engine may well now be fuelled, but it still has a long way to go if it is to overcome the challenges ahead.

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Overview of the Team

| NAME | RESPONSIBILITY | COUNTRY |
|----------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Romano Prodi | President | Italy |
| Neil Kinnock | Vice-President for Institutional Reform | UK |
| Loyola de Palacio | Vice-President for Relations with the Parliament; Transport and Energy | Spain |
| Michel Barnier | Regional Policy and Institutional Reform | France |
| Frits Bolkestein | Internal Market | The Netherlands |
| Philippe Busquin | Research | Belgium |
| David Byrne | Health and Consumer Protection | Ireland |
| Anna Diamantopoulou | Employment and Social Affairs | Greece |
| Franz Fischler | Agriculture | Austria |
| Pascal Lamy | Trade | France |
| Erkki Liikanen | Enterprise and Information Society | Finland |
| Mario Monti | Competition | Italy |
| Poul Nielson | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Denmark |
| Chris Patten | External Relations | UK |
| Viviane Reding | Education and Culture | Luxembourg |
| Michael Schreyer | Budget | Germany |
| Pedro Solbes Mira | Economic and Monetary Affairs | Spain |
| Günter Verheugen | Enlargement | Germany |
| Antonio Vitorino | Justice and Home Affairs | Portugal |
| Margot Wallström | Environment | Sweden |

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ROMANO PRODI



Having started off at a brisk pace with the confirmation by the European Parliament of what is acknowledged to be a Commission team of high quality, President Prodi then set about trying to render the Commission more accountable and transparent in its dealings. Hence, the old Roman numerals which formerly designated Directorates

General, were replaced with names describing their functions. The designation of Neil Kinnock as Vice-President in charge of Commission reform also indicated a President who meant business.

President Prodi's major challenge over the past year has been preparing for an enlarged Union of up to 30 Member States. This will require far-reaching institutional re-structuring and important EU policy revisions - particularly in the field of agriculture. Furthermore, Romano Prodi has come up against the challenge of a rising tide of intergovernmentalism - a development which threatens the future position of the Commission at the centre of the EU's decision-making process.

Looking to the future, Romano Prodi aims to re-establish the position of the Commission through bringing forward its White Paper on Governance. The paper, due to be adopted in 2001, will suggest involving industry directly in drawing up legislation, especially in the high-technology field. However, this initiative is only a beginning and much work remains in winning popular support for both the Commission and Romano Prodi's leadership.

NATIONALITY :

Italian

PERSONAL DETAILS

- Born 9th August 1939, Scandiano, (Reggio Emilia) Italy
- Married, two sons

EDUCATION

- Degree in Law, Catholic University of Milan
- Postgraduate studies at the London School of Economics

ACADEMIC CAREER

- 1963-1971 Assistant in Political Economics at the University of Bologna
- 1971-1999 Professor of Industrial Organisation and Industrial Policy at the University of Bologna
- 1963-1964 Researcher at the Lombard Institute of Economic and Social Studies (ILSES)
- 1968 Researcher at Stanford Research Institute
- 1973-1974 Professor of Economics and Industrial Politics at the Free University of Trento
- 1974 Visiting Professor at Harvard University

POLITICAL CAREER

- 1978-1979 Minister for Industry
- 1982-1989 Chairman of the Institute for Industrial Reconstruction (IRI)
- 1993-1994 Re-appointed Chairman of the Institute for Industrial Reconstruction (IRI)
- 1995 Chairman of the Ulivo, the centre left coalition
- 1996-1999 Member of Parliament
- 1996-1998 President of the Council of Ministers of the Italian Republic
- 1999 President of the European Commission

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NEIL KINNOCK - VICE-PRESIDENT FOR INTERNAL REFORM



Commissioner Kinnock was one of the few Commissioners to survive the fall of the Santer administration. Upon his return to the Commission, he received the demanding brief of reforming the operation of the institution and its 20 000 staff.

In July 2000, Neil Kinnock announced that "the footings of reform have been dug, much of the foundations have been laid and where they have, building is progressively taking place".

While he acknowledges that the pace of change has been slow, he insists that "real and systematic progress" has been made since his White Paper was launched in March 2000. Commissioner Kinnock's reforms have focused upon strategic planning, financial management, a modernised personnel policy and the fight against fraud. Following his first year in office, Neil Kinnock has been praised for his political sense in including the Commission's powerful unions in the discussions surrounding the institution's new structure. Over the coming years, Commissioner Kinnock will play a critical role in renewing public faith in the European Union's executive body.

NATIONALITY :

British

PERSONAL DETAILS

- Born in Tredegar, South Wales, United Kingdom on 28 March 1942.
- Married, two children. EDUCATION
- BA in industrial relations and history (Cardiff)
- Postgraduate Diploma in Education.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER

- 1966-70 Tutor, Organizer in industrial policy and trade union studies for the Workers' Educational Association
- 1970 Labour Member of Parliament for Bedwellty and Islwyn in South Wales
- 1970-79 Various member of the House of Commons Public Expenditure Select Committee, Nationalized Industries Select Committee and European Legislation Select Committee
- 1974-75 Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Employment
- 1979 Labour's Chief Opposition Spokesperson on Education
- 1980 Elected member of Labour's Shadow Cabinet
- 1978-94 Member of the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party
- 1988 Chairman of the National Executive Committee
- 1983 Privy Councillor
- 1983-92 Leader of the Labour Party, Vice-President of the Socialist International, Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition
- 1995-1999 Member of the Commission, Transport (including Trans-European Networks)
- Vice-President of the Socialist International

→ Next - [Loyola De Palacio Del Valle-Lersundi](#)

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LOYOLA DE PALACIO DEL VALLE-LERSUNDI - VICE-PRESIDENT FOR RELATIONS WITH THE PARLIAMENT, TRANSPORT AND ENERGY



Although Loyola De Palacio is quoted as saying that the trick to managing in Brussels is patience, she has embarked upon her first year as Commissioner with great vigour, energetically pushing through a number of highly controversial dossiers.

On transport, she has succeeded in finding enough consensus between Member States for the Commission to represent the EU on the hushkit dispute with the US. Her strength of character was also evident in her determination to push forward the "Single Sky" proposal and accelerate legislation on maritime safety, following the Erika tanker disaster in December 1999.

Commissioner De Palacio has been equally tenacious on energy policy. Whilst a proposal for a Directive on renewable energy has already been adopted, two proposals on the complete liberalisation of the gas and electricity markets, and on the security of energy supply are in the legislative pipeline.

As far as her responsibilities for the Commission's relations with the European Parliament are concerned, Loyola de Palacio has been successful in improving this link. Following the European Parliament's role in the demise of the Santer executive, it has been more assertive vis-à-vis the Commission, whilst

Commissioners have been more sensitive to the need to attend Parliamentary debates and improve Parliament's access to Commission documents.

NATIONALITY :

Spanish

PERSONAL DETAILS

- Born 16th September 1950, Madrid

EDUCATION

- Law degree, Universidad Complutense de Madrid

CAREER

- 1979-1982 Technical Secretary General of the Federation of Press Associations
- 1977-1978 First General President of Nuevas Generaciones
- 1986-1989 Senator (Vice-President of the Popular Group)
- 1988-1989 Member of the People's Party (PP) National Executive Committee
- 1989-1996 Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Vice-President of the parliamentary PP.
- 1996-1999 Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Member of the Chamber of Deputies.

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MICHEL BARNIER - REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND INSTITUTIONAL REFORM



Having been the Minister responsible for European Affairs in the Juppé Government in France and having participated in the negotiations on the Amsterdam Treaty, it is not surprising that President Prodi decided that Michel Barnier would be best placed working on institutional reform issues.

With the upcoming enlargement of the EU, sensitive subjects up for discussion will include the number of Commissioners, the number of votes for each country in the Council, the policy areas in which legislation can be adopted by majority voting, rather than unanimity and the provisions on enhanced cooperation between some Member States.

As far as regional policy is concerned, Michel Barnier has stated that his priorities are to improve the efficiency of the Structural and Cohesion Funds via the concentration of resources into less privileged and isolated regions, sustainable development, more efficient management, and showing EU citizens the added value of structural policies through effective information provision and communication activities.

NATIONALITY :

French

PERSONAL DETAILS

- Born : 9 January 1951
- Married, three children

EDUCATION

- 1972 Diploma from the Ecole Supérieure de Commerce de Paris

CAREER

- 1973-1978 Private Office of the Ministers for the Environment, Youth and Sport, and for Trade and Craft Industries
- 1973-1999 Departmental Councillor for Savoie, can-ton of Bourg-Saint-Maurice
- 1978-1993 Member of the National Assembly (RPR) for Savoie, 2nd constituency (Albertville)
- 1982-1999 Chairman of the Departmental Council of Savoie
- 1987-1992 Co-President, Organising Committee for the XVIth Olympic Games, Albertville and Savoie
- 1993-1995 Minister of the Environment
- 1995-1997 Minister of State for European Affairs
- 1997-1999 Senator for Savoie
- 1997-1999 Chairman of the French Association of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions
- 1998-1999 President of the French Senate Delegation for the European Union

OTHER DETAILS

- Author of : "Vive la politique" 1985, "Le défi écologique, chacun pour tous", 1990, "L'Atlas des risques majeurs", 1992, "Vers une mer inconnue", 1994

→ [Frederik Bolkestein](#)

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FREDERIK (FRITS) BOLKESTEIN - INTERNAL MARKET



Commissioner Bolkestein's assigned portfolios of internal market, taxation and customs were considered to be highly suitable for such a dedicated liberal. He has become the campaigning face of Brussels, systematically identifying discrepancies in the internal market which impact on business competitiveness.

His position in the Commission is his third career move: previously he worked in Royal Dutch/Shell before turning to national politics - as a Member of Parliament, party chairman and Minister.

Although at 66 years he is the oldest Commissioner in the College, Frits Bolkestein shows no sign of being a retiring chief and has approached his first year in the job with vigour.

He has begun the process of adopting a new strategy for the Internal Market and moving against the former state monopolies. Work has also pushed forward on the Financial Services Action Plan, due for completion by 2005.

His remit has seen him face the national veto on taxation, such as on the savings tax. Noteworthy achievements include the e-commerce Directive, a proposal on the taxation of e-commerce, finalising data protection negotiations with the US, moves towards an EU single patent and reform of the customs code. Forthcoming targets range from EU Pension Funds to securities markets.

NATIONALITY :

Dutch

PERSONAL DETAILS

- Born: 1933
- Married, three children

EDUCATION

- Barlaeus Gymnasium, Amsterdam
- 1951-1953 Oregon State College, USA - mathematics
- 1955-1959 Gemeentelijke Universiteit Amsterdam -mathematics and physics, philosophy and Greek
- 1964 Economics (first part) - University of London
- 1965 Master at Law - University of Leiden

PROFESSIONAL CAREER

- 1960 -1976 Shell Group : Posts in East Africa, Honduras, El Salvador, London, Indonesia and Paris
- 1973-1976 Director Shell Chimie, Paris

POLITICAL CAREER

- 1978-1982 Member of Parliament for the V.V.D. (Liberals)
- 1986-1988 Idem
- 1989-1999 Idem
- 1982-1986 Minister for Foreign Trade
- 1986-1988 Chairman Atlantic Commission (in the Netherlands)
- 1988-1989 Minister of Defence
- 1990-1998 Chairman of the V.V.D. Parliamentary Group
- Since 1996 President of Liberal Internationale

OTHER DETAILS

- Chairman of the Amsterdam Bach Soloists
- Member of the Royal Institute of International Affairs (London)
- Author of books and articles on a wide range of topics.

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PHILIPPE BUSQUIN - RESEARCH



Since his appointment as Commissioner, former Belgian Minister of State, Philippe Busquin has been making efforts to reverse the overall trend of reduced investment in research and development in Europe. He has strived to create more of a pan-European research policy in order to co-ordinate the European research effort. In a change of strategy, Commissioner Busquin has suggested that the Commission should 'think big' when it launches its next major spending programme (the Sixth Research and Development

Framework Programme), and give priority to fewer bigger projects as opposed to a greater number of small-scale projects where the budget is spread too thinly.

Commissioner Busquin has also launched the concept of the European Research Area which should improve the co-ordination of national and EU-level research and development programmes and the idea of European Centres of Excellence.

NATIONALITY :

Belgian

PERSONAL DETAILS

- Born in Feluy (Belgium) on 6 January 1941
- Married

EDUCATION

- 1962 Degree in Science (Physics) - Université Libre de Bruxelles

(ULB)

- 1971 "Candidature" in Philosophy (ULB)
- 1976 Postgraduate studies in Environment - Ecological guidance, the natural environment, polluted environments (ULB)

UNIVERSITY CAREER

- 1962-1977 Assistant Lecturer in Physics, Faculty of Medicine (ULB)
- 1962-1977 Teacher at the Nivelles Teachers' Training College
- 1978-1980 Chairman of the Board of Directors of IRE (Institut de Radioélément)

POLITICAL CAREER

- 1977-1978 Ordinary Member for the Province of Hainaut
- 1978-1995 Member of the House of Representatives of Belgium
- 1980-1981 Member of the Community Executive
- 1980 Minister of National Education
- 1981 Minister of Home Affairs
- 1982-1985 Minister of the Budget and Energy, Wallonia
- 1988 Minister of Economic Affairs, Wallonia
- 1988-1992 Minister of Social Affairs
- Since 1992 President of the Socialist Party
- Since 1992 Vice-President of Socialist International
- Since 1992 Minister of State
- 1995-1997 Vice-President of the European Socialist Party (PES)
- Since 1995 Mayor of Seneffe
- Since 1995 Senator
- June 1999 Elected to the European Parliament

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DAVID BYRNE - HEALTH AND CONSUMER PROTECTION



Irishman David Byrne's first year as Commissioner has undoubtedly been a busy one. Indeed, as he told a group of consumer organisations in July 2000, "there are times when the twelve months I have been in office seem like twelve years".

From the start, Commissioner Byrne identified the most pressing issue on the minds of European citizens - food safety - and made it his priority. With the ambitious aim of restoring the public's confidence in the European food chain, David Byrne launched a broad ranging White Paper on Food Safety, setting the framework for the European Food Authority. Commissioner Byrne also gave a new direction to the Community's health policy, with the publication of the Health Strategy in March 2000, drawing the Commission into new areas of health regulation - once the preserve of Member States. In the area of e-commerce also, David Byrne has enlarged his DG's role, recognising the need to increase consumer confidence to drive this sector's growth.

While developing these broad-stroke policies, Commissioner Byrne has also handled - largely successfully - a number of contentious dossiers, from British beef and GMOs to tobacco.

NATIONALITY:

Irish

PERSONAL DETAILS

- Born : 26 April 1947
- Married, three children

EDUCATION

- Monasterevan CBS, Co Kildare
- Dominican College, Newbridge, Co. Kildare
- University College Dublin (BA)
- King's Inns Dublin (Barrister-at-Law, SC) CAREER
- 1970 Called to the Bar
- 1974-1987 Member Bar Council
- 1974-1992 Member Executive Committee, Irish Maritime Law Association
- 1982-1983 Hon.Treasurer Bar Council
- 1985 Called to Inner Bar
- 1988-1997 Member, National Committee, International Chamber of Commerce
- 1989 Member of Government Review Body on Social Welfare Law
- 1990-1997 Member, ICC International Court of Arbitration, Paris
- 1995-1996 Member Constitution Review Group
- 1995-1997 Extern Examiner for arbitration and competition law, King's Inns
- 1995-1997 Member Barristers' Professional Practices and Ethics Committee
- 1997-1999 Attorney General
- Member of the Council of State
- Member of Cabinet Subcommittees on Social Inclusion, on European Affairs, and on Child Abuse

OTHER DETAILS

- Author of various publications on legal affairs

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ANNA DIAMANTOPOULOU - EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS



Anna Diamantopoulou, the youngest member of Romano Prodi's Commission, has been very active over the last year - in particular during the run-up to the March Lisbon European Council. Preparing the ground with a package of three reports calling for a comprehensive and integrated strategy to stamp out social exclusion and build an inclusive economy and society in the EU, Commissioner Diamantopoulou urged Union leaders to take the necessary steps to achieve this.

Over the coming five years, the Commissioner intends to create a European Social Model for the enlarged Union. And in re-launching the European Social Dialogue, Anna Diamantopoulou will face the difficult job of keeping the right balance between the demands of European industry representatives on the one hand and trade unions on the other.

NATIONALITY :

Greek

PERSONAL DETAILS

- Born 1959, Kozani, Greece
- Married, one child

EDUCATION

- 1976-1981 Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (School of Civil Engineering)
- 1991-1993 Panteion University of Athens (Postgraduate Studies in Regional Development)

PROFESSIONAL CAREER

- 1981-1985 Civil engineer
- 1983-1985 Lecturer, Institute of Higher Technological
- 1989-1993 Managing Director of a regional development company

POLITICAL CAREER

- 1985-1986 Prefect of Kastoria
- 1987-1988 Secretary General for Adult Education
- 1988-1989 Secretary General for Youth
- 1991-1999 Member of the Central Committee of PASOK
- 1993-1994 President of the Hellenic Organisation of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises and Handicrafts (EOMMEX)
- 1994-1996 Secretary General for Industry
- 1996-1999 Member of Parliament for Kozani
- 1996-1999 Deputy Minister for Development

OTHER DETAILS

- Member of FORUM for the co-operation of Balkan peoples
- Member of International Women's Network

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FRANZ FISCHLER - AGRICULTURE



Alongside Erkki Liikanen, Mario Monti, and Neil Kinnock, Franz Fischler is one of the four Commissioners to have been a member of the Santer Commission. With five years of experience as Agriculture Minister in Austria, and six years in charge of the Agriculture portfolio in the Commission, he is one of the most seasoned operators in the Prodi team. Franz Fischler has a reputation as a good negotiator and he masters his brief well. These skills have been crucial for a Commissioner with one of the toughest dossiers.

Implementing Agenda 2000 has featured strongly in the past year including: strengthening the environmental agenda in agriculture; implementing rural development plans; liberalisation of agriculture and fisheries markets; and the new Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG). Although food safety now falls under the responsibility of Commissioner Byrne, Franz Fischler has also had to negotiate an agreement on beef labeling made controversial by continuing BSE-related problems. On the agriculture front, enlargement and WTO negotiations loom large on the horizon. Fisheries does not promise to be a quiet dossier either - with a reform of the Common Fisheries Policy on the agenda and the need to renegotiate tricky fisheries agreements with third countries.

NATIONALITY :

Austrian

PERSONAL DETAILS

- Born in Absam, Tyrol, Austria, on 23 September 1946
- brought up on a farm
- Married, four children

EDUCATION

- Studies in agriculture at University for Soil Science, Vienna.
- Practical work during university studies on a mixed holding in Austria (horticulture/pig enterprise), and two month traineeship on a dairy farm at Nyköping, Sweden.
- Doctorate as Dr rer. nat. oec. in November 1978

PROFESSIONAL CAREER

- 1973-79 University assistant in the Department of Regional Agricultural Planning at the Institute for Farm Management in Vienna; research leader on several research projects, worked on university training farms and was member of various official working parties
- 1979-84 Tyrol Chamber of Agriculture responsible for culture and education, land use planning, environmental protection and various other matters
- 1985-89 Director of the Chamber of Agriculture

POLITICAL CAREER

- 1989-94 Federal Minister of Agriculture and Forestry
- 1990-94 Member of the National Parliament (Nationalrat)
- 1995-1999 Member of the Commission, Agriculture and rural development

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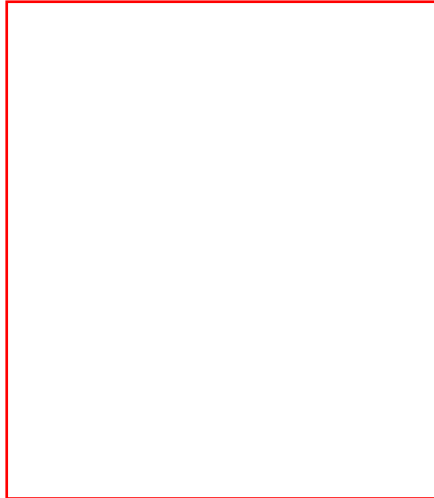
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PASCAL LAMY - TRADE



Commissioner Lamy was Jacques Delors's chief advisor in Brussels for nine years.

It was during this time that he earned the epithet of "exocet", for both his decisiveness and razor sharp intellect. This in-depth knowledge of Brussels and fearsome reputation among EU diplomats has served him well over the course of his first year as Commissioner for Trade.

Commissioner Lamy contends that a comprehensive round of trade negotiations remains the key goal of EU trade policy. Since the failure of Seattle, he has sought to identify key areas of disagreement, to promote a mutual understanding of conflicting positions and to develop compromises.

While acknowledging the difficulty posed by the US elections, Pascal Lamy is hopeful that a new trade round may take place this year.

Commissioner Lamy's most obvious achievements lie in bilateral trade negotiations.

Negotiations with China were successfully completed on the terms of their entry into the WTO, with important market access concessions to European companies. Negotiations with the Mercosur countries have begun and an EU-Mexico Free Trade Area was established, which allows the EU to enjoy near NAFTA-parity with Mexico.

Commissioner Lamy has only stood once for elected office. Young at only 53, his future prospects in Brussels or back home in France appear excellent.

NATIONALITY :

French

PERSONAL DETAILS

- Born in 1947

EDUCATION

- Advanced Business Studies College (Hautes Etudes Commerciales)
- School of Political Sciences
- Senior Civil Service College (Ecole Nationale d'Administration)

PROFESSIONAL CAREER

- 1975-1979 Inspectorate-General of Finances
- 1979-1981 Treasury
- 1981-1983 Advisor to Minister for Economic Affairs and Finance, Jacques Delors
- 1983-1984 Deputy Head of Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy's Private Office
- 1985-1994 Head of the Private Office of the President of the European Commission, Jacques Delors. Sherpas for G7 Summits
- 1994-1999 Member of the team responsible for overseeing the recovery of Crédit Lyonnais then Director-General

POLITICAL CAREER

- 1985-1994 Member of the Socialist Party Steering Committee
- Since 1995 Member of the office of the European Movement (France)

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ERKKI ANTERO LIIKANEN - ENTERPRISE AND INFORMATION SOCIETY



Erkki Liikanen's first year as Commissioner responsible for Enterprise and the Information Society has been a busy one.

Previously responsible for Budgets in the Santer Commission, Commissioner Liikanen has quickly got to grips with his new role as the Commissioner responsible for one of the EU's highest profile dossiers. Towards the end of 1999, Commissioner Liikanen presided over the ambitious and far-reaching eEurope initiative that intends to create an information society for all, benefiting EU citizens, and harness the digital revolution to bring growth, employment and higher productivity to the EU.

Erkki Liikanen has also overseen the Commission's proposals for a new regulatory framework in the field of electronic communications. This will streamline the sector in the EU; complete the liberalisation of the European telecommunications markets; introduce affordable high-speed internet access as well as a light-touch legal framework for market players; and help European industry to catch up and compete with the US. In the field of Enterprise, Erkki Liikanen has presided over the adoption of a Communication and a multi-annual programme on how enterprise policy will meet the challenges of globalisation and the new economy, as well the input to the Charter on Small Businesses that was adopted at Feira.

NATIONALITY :

Finnish

PERSONAL DETAILS

- Born in Mikkeli, Finland, on 19 September 1950
- Married, two children

EDUCATION

- Masters degree in political science (economics), University of Helsinki

POLITICAL CAREER

- 1972-90 Member of Parliament; member of Cultural Affairs Committee (1972- 75), Agriculture and Forestry Committee (Vice-Chairman) (1977-79), Foreign Affairs Committee (Member 1975-82; Chairman 1983-87)
- 1976-79 Member of the Supervisory Board of Televa Oy
- 1978, '82, '88 Elector of the President of the Republic
- 1980-89 Member then Chairman of Supervisory Board of Outokumpu
- 1981-87 Secretary-General of the Social Democratic Party
- 1983-87 Parliamentary Trustee to the Bank of Finland (Vice-Chairman), Speaker's Council
- 1987-90 Minister of Finance
- 1990-94 Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Head of Finnish Mission to the European Union
- 1995-99 Member of the Commission, Budget; Personnel and Administration; Translation and in-house Computer Services

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MARIO MONTI - COMPETITION



During his confirmation hearing before the European Parliament, Mario Monti vowed to fight the "evil" of state aids. His credentials as Jacques Santer's Internal Market Commissioner gave credibility to this claim and a year later, he is praised for having stayed true to his word - his relentless and protracted battle with the German Government over the publicly owned (and allegedly state-supported) Landesbanken showing he would not shy away from a high-profile confrontation to uphold competition

law.

Commissioner Monti is also faced with the daunting challenge of scrutinising the flurry of mergers currently sweeping Europe. To alleviate the burden on his notoriously over-worked staff, he has embraced his predecessor's proposal to cut DG Competition's routine workload and allow it to concentrate on more contentious cases with a wider European or global impact. At the same time, he has launched a debate on how to further improve merger control procedures, including possibly lower turnover thresholds above which mergers become liable to the Commission review, to ensure that deals with cross-border effects will benefit from the one-stop-shop.

Mario Monti should have little time to celebrate his first year in office, as current tasks, including the revision of the merger regulation and sharing of competition competencies with Member States' authorities and courts, promise to keep him busy.

NATIONALITY :

Italian

PERSONAL DETAILS

- Born in Varese, Italy, on 19 March 1943
- Married, two children

EDUCATION

- Degree in economics and management, Bocconi University, Milan
- Graduate studies at Yale University, USA

PROFESSIONAL CAREER

- 1965-69 Assistant at Bocconi University
- 1969-70 Associate professor at the University of Trento
- 1970-79 Professor at the University of Turin
- 1971-85 Professor of Monetary Theory and Policy at Bocconi University
- 1978-94 Economic commentator of Corriere della Sera
- 1979-94 Member of various company boards
- 1981 Rapporteur of the Treasury Committee on savings protection
- 1981-82 Chairman of the Treasury Committee on the Banking and Financial System
- 1982-85 Chairman of the European University Society of Financial Research
- 1985-86 Member of the Macroeconomic Policy Group set up by European Commission and CEPS
- 1985-94 Professor of Economics and Director of Institute of Economics at Bocconi University
- 1985 Founds the Paolo Baffi Centre for Monetary and Financial Economics at Bocconi University
- 1987-88 Member of the Competition Act drafting committee
- 1988-89 Member of the Treasury Committee on Debt Management
- 1988-90 Member of the working party preparing Italy for the single market
- 1989 Founds the Innocenzo Gasparini Institute of Economic Research at Bocconi University, in cooperation with CEPR (London) and NBER (Cambridge, Mass.)
- 1989-91 Member of the Treasury Committee on Banking Law Reform
- 1989-94 Rector of Bocconi University

- 1994 President of Bocconi University
- 1995-1999 Member of the Commission, Internal market, financial services and financial integration; Customs; Taxation

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POUL NIELSON - DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN AID



Having served for five years in his own country as Development Minister, Poul Nielson was a logical choice for Development Commissioner. He has been active over the past year and has mastered his dossiers well, making his influence felt behind the scenes and in the field rather than in the press.

Commissioner Nielson's field of responsibility is principally the ACP states and Humanitarian assistance (ECHO). His principal achievement in this field has been the Cotonou Agreement, replacing the much criticised Lomé Convention. This will provide the framework for a twenty-year partnership for development aid to the 77 ACP states. In the past year, ECHO has provided humanitarian aid to Chechnya, East Timor and Mozambique, but has been damaged by criticism over past management of programmes.

Commissioner Nielson's agenda for the future includes strengthening partnerships with NGOs, working in ACP countries and focusing aid more efficiently in order to reduce poverty.

NATIONALITY :

Danish

PERSONAL DETAILS

- Born 1943
- Married, two children

EDUCATION

- 1961 US High School Diploma

- 1972 Master of Political Science, University of Aarhus
- 1985-1986 Assistant professor, Danish School of Public Administration

POLITICAL CAREER

- 1966-1967 Chairman of national Social Democratic students organisation
- 1965-1979 Member of Social Democratic Foreign Affairs Committee (Chairman 1974-1979)
- 1977-1979 Chairman of Danish European Movement
- 1971-73 Member of Danish Parliament
- 1977-1984 Member of the Danish Parliament
- 1986-1999 Member of the Danish Parliament
- 1979 Chairman of Parliamentary Commerce Committee
- 1979-1982 Minister of Energy
- 1994-1999 Minister for Development Co-operation

PROFESSIONAL CAREER

- 1974-1979 Head of Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 1984-1985 Head of Section, Ministry of Foreign affairs
- 1988-1994 CEO of LD-Energy Inc.

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CHRIS PATTEN - EXTERNAL RELATIONS



Chris Patten was appointed Commissioner for External Relations with a clear remit: to reform the Commission's role in external relations and to make it more effective.

However, it has been remarked by a number of observers that his first year in office has been partly overshadowed by the enhanced role of the Council and the High Representative of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), Javier Solana.

Commissioner Patten has expressed frustration towards the role played by the Commission in EU foreign policy and, in particular, the slow delivery of external assistance. To remedy this situation, he has pushed forward proposals to speed up these decision-making mechanisms and cut out as much bureaucracy as possible.

Aware that the Commission cannot increase its role without reforming itself, Commissioner Patten insists that foreign policy actions should be more focused and that the Commission should be more effective in handling the tasks that it already performs. One of the priorities for the next four years is the overhaul of the Commission's multibillion external aid programme into EuroAid.

NATIONALITY :

British

PERSONAL DETAILS

- Born 1944
- Married, three children

EDUCATION

- St. Benedict's School, Ealing
- Balliol College, Oxford (BA Hons. and MA Hons. In Modern History).
- 1965 Coolidge Travelling Scholarship, USA

POLITICAL CAREER

- 1966 Conservative Research Department
- 1970-1972 Political Advisor, Cabinet Office,
- 1972 Political Advisor, Home Office
- 1974-1979 Director, Conservative Research Department
- 1979-1992 Member of Parliament for Bath
- 1983-1985 Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Northern Ireland Office
- 1985-1986 Minister of State, Department of Education and Science
- 1986-1989 Minister for Overseas Development
- 1989-1990 Secretary of State for the Environment
- 1990-1992 Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Chairman of the Conservative Party
- 1992-1997 Governor of Hong Kong
- 1998-1999 Chairman of Independent Commission on Policing for Northern Ireland
- 1999 Chancellor of Newcastle University

OTHER DETAILS

- Author of 'The Tory Case', 1983 and 'East and West', 1999.
- Enjoys reading, tennis, gardening.

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VIVIANE REDING - EDUCATION AND CULTURE



When entering the Commission last year, Commissioner Reding said that developing the audio-visual industry was high on her agenda. Her first step in the field was to put forward a Communication on the principles of audio-visual policy in the digital age.

Viviane Reding has also stressed the links between education policy and information technologies - emphasising the advantages that Internet and multimedia facilities offer

to teaching. An eLearning implementation plan, including training teachers in digital technologies and helping Member States equip their schools with multimedia facilities, will be put forward later this year.

As the Commissioner for Culture, Reding's ambition to preserve the EU's diverse cultural heritage is well documented. Her proposal for a new Media Plus programme and the creation of the first ever EU Media Prize supports the film industry and aims to put the European cinema industry on a more equal footing with its US counterparts. However, it is perhaps through her responsibility for the EU's sports dossier that Commissioner Reding has managed to raise her political profile the most. She has made a major contribution to the setting up of the proposed World Anti Doping Agency and she has actively contributed to the debate on the impact of the Bosman court ruling banning football clubs from keeping players after their contracts have expired.

NATIONALITY :

Luxembourger

PERSONAL DETAILS

- Born 27 April 1951 in Esch-sur Alzette, Luxembourg
- Married, three children

EDUCATION

- Doctor of Human Sciences, Sorbonne, Paris

PROFESSIONAL CAREER

- 1978 Journalist and Editor, Luxemburger Wort
- 1986-1998 President, Luxembourg Union of Journalists

POLITICAL CAREER

- 1979-1989 Member of Luxembourg Parliament
- President of Social Committee
- Member of the Office of the Chamber of Deputies
- Member of BENELUX Parliament
- Member of the North Atlantic Assembly (leader of Christian Democrat / Conservative group)
- 1981-1999 Communal Councillor, City of Esch.
- President of Cultural Affairs Committee 1992-1999
- 1988-1993 National president of Christian-Social Women
- 1989-1999 Member of the European Parliament
- President of the Petitions Committee 1989-1992
- Vice-president of Social Affairs Committee 1992-1994
- Vice president of Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs Committee 1997 - 1999
- Head of Luxembourg delegation of the EPP group
- Member of EPP Group Office
- 1995 Vice president, PCS (Parti Chrétien-Social)

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MICHAELE SCHREYER - BUDGET



Over the past year, Commissioner Michaela Schreyer has worked hard to improve the transparency and effectiveness of the budget administration.

In order to achieve this, Commissioner Schreyer has presented two draft Regulations: one on detailed rules for financial management and the control of

Structural Funds' expenditure and another on financial corrections in case Member States fail to manage properly the funds entrusted to them. As the Commissioner puts it: "The reform of the EU's financial management system has been a major priority for this Commission and is a key feature of the modernisation of the Union's finances and administration".

NATIONALITY :

German

PERSONAL DETAILS

- Born 9 September 1951, Cologne

EDUCATION

- 1970-1976 Economics and Sociology, University of Cologne
- 1983 Dissertation PhD thesis : Transfer policy and fiscal federalism - problems of the allocation of responsibilities

ACADEMIC CAREER

- 1977-1982 Research Assistant, Institute for Public Finances and Social Policy of the Free University of Berlin

- 1983-1987 Research Assistant and Adviser for Green Caucus in Federal Parliament (Bundestag)
- 1987-1988 Researcher, Institute for Economic Research (IFO)

POLITICAL CAREER

- 1989-1990 Minister for Urban Development and Environmental Protection in the State Government (Senate) of Berlin
- Member of various company boards
- Since 1991 Member of the State Parliament of Berlin
- Member of the Committee on Budget and Public Finance
- Spokeswoman of the Green Caucus for Public Finance
- Member of Sub-Committee on Public Capital and Real Estate
- 1991-1995 Member of the Berlin Parliament
- 1995-1997 Chairwoman of the Sub-Committee on Funds for Public Housing
- Since 1998 Chairwoman of the Green Caucus in the Berlin Parliament
- Since 1993 Member of various parliamentary committees of inquiry
- Since 1998 Lecturer at the Free University of Berlin, Department of Social Sciences
- Member of the Board, Berlin Branch of the German Society for the United Nations

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PEDRO SOLBES MIRA - ECONOMIC AND MONETARY AFFAIRS



With less than 500 days to go before the introduction of the Euro in cash, Pedro Solbes Mira is increasingly alarmed at the state of (un)preparedness of the Eurozone.

Understandably, he does not look forward to the prospect of thousands of firms unable to operate on 1 January 2002 because they cannot handle Euro-cash and have not updated their accounting systems.

Pedro Solbes Mira's portfolio also encompasses the evolution of the newly re-christened Euro group, a highly political and contentious issue, considering the misgivings of Member States outside the Eurozone, notably the UK, and the ambitions of France at the helm of the EU Council (July-December 2000). With regards to broader economic policy, Commissioner Solbes Mira has argued that governments can legitimately use increased fiscal revenues to cut taxes or raise public investment, a notable although modest departure from his predecessor and the ECB's budgetary ultra-orthodoxy. Finally, another high profile dossier on his desk is the extension of qualified majority voting to taxation matters.

Since this field is essential to deepen economic integration, the Commissioner hopes that negotiations on this issue will produce a substantial breakthrough. However, a lowest common denominator outcome is more likely.

NATIONALITY :

Spanish

PERSONAL DETAILS

- Born August 31st 1942, Pinoso (Alicante)

EDUCATION

- Doctorate of Political Sciences, University of Madrid
- Bachelor of Law, University of Madrid
- Diploma in European Economics, Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)

CAREER

- 1968 Civil servant, Ministry of Foreign Trade
- 1973 Commercial Counsellor, Spanish Mission to the European Community
- 1978 Special Adviser to the Minister for Relations with the European Community
- 1979-1982 Director General of Commercial Policy, Ministry of Economics and Trade
- 1982-1985 General Secretary, Ministry of Economics and Finance. Member of Task Force for Spanish Accession negotiations to the European Community
- 1989 President of Internal Market Council during first Spanish Presidency of EC
- 1985 Secretary of State for Relations with the EC
- 1991-1993 Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
- 1993-1996 Minister of Economics and Finance
- 1995 President of Ecofin Council during Spanish Presidency of EU
- 1996 Member of the Spanish Parliament
- 1996 President, Joint Committee of the Spanish Parliament on the European Union

OTHER DETAILS

- Guest Professor at the University of Alicante

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GÜNTER VERHEUGEN - ENLARGEMENT



When he took office in September 1999, Commissioner Verheugen promised to keep up the political momentum for enlargement. At the time, the EU was negotiating with six candidate countries. Significant steps have been taken since then, opening a new phase in the enlargement process. In December 1999, negotiations were opened with six additional countries. Furthermore, in a decisive political move initiated by Günter Verheugen himself, Turkey was officially granted candidate status for accession to the European Union.

Commissioner Verheugen's main merit so far has been to advance the enlargement process without giving in to the political pressures exerted by the candidate countries. The basic principle of differentiation - each country is judged according to its own state of preparedness - continues to underpin the Commission's action.

However, many challenges still lie ahead : in particular the question of the free movement of people and the reform of the Common Agriculture Policy. Furthermore, support for enlargement is weak in the candidate countries and Member States. The outcome of the Intergovernmental Conference in Nice at the end of 2000 will be key to determining the pace of accession to the EU.

NATIONALITY :

German

PERSONAL DETAILS

- Born 28 April 1944, Bad Kreuznach
- Married

EDUCATION

- 1963-1965 Trainee at the "Neue Rhein-Neue Ruhr-Zeitung" newspaper
- 1965-1969 Studied history, sociology and politics in Cologne and Bonn

CAREER

- 1969-1974 Head of the Public Relations Division at the Federal Ministry of the Interior
- 1974-1976 Head of the Analysis and Information Task Force at the Federal Foreign Office
- 1977-1978 Federal Party Manager of the Free Democratic Party (FDP)
- 1978-1982 General Secretary of the FDP
- 1982 Joined the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD)
- 1983-1999 Member of the German Bundestag
- 1983-1998 Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, German Bundestag
- 1986-1987 Spokesman of the SPD National Executive
- 1987-1989 Editor-in-Chief of "Vorwärts", the SPD newspaper
- 1990-1999 Chairman of the Radio Broadcasting Council of Deutsche Welle
- 1992 Chairman, European Union Special Committee, Bundestag
- 1993-1995 Federal Party Manager of the SPD
- 1994-1997 Deputy Chairman of the SPD Parliamentary Group for Foreign, Security and Development Policy
- Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee
- 1997 Chairman of the Socialist International Peace, Security and Disarmament Council
- Member of the SPD National Executive
- 1998-1999 Minister of State, Federal Foreign Office

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ANTONIO VITORINO - JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS



Over the course of his first year in office, Commissioner Vitorino has adapted with apparent ease to the European Commission, and demonstrated a masterful grasp of his Justice and Home Affairs portfolio.

Following the October 1999 Tampere European Council, Antonio Vitorino was called upon to draw up a wide range of initiatives on asylum, immigration and organised crime. He subsequently won praise for the "scoreboard", a table setting out the commitments made by Member States in Tampere and a timeframe for their completion. A former MEP himself, Commissioner Vitorino has sought to develop a constructive relationship with the European Parliament and has earned the respect of his colleagues in the European Commission.

Among his future challenges, Antonio Vitorino will be seeking to win support from Member States for the expansion of his small Directorate General, so as to guarantee the steady stream of Commission proposals in the field of Justice and Home Affairs. Commissioner Vitorino has emphasised his particular interest in furthering the ambitious issue of mutual recognition of judicial decisions under the French Presidency. As the representative of the Commission President, Antonio Vitorino has also been active in the drafting of the EU Charter of Fundamental Human rights.

NATIONALITY :

Portuguese

PERSONAL DETAILS

- Born Lisbon, January 12, 1957
- Married, two children

EDUCATION

- 1981 Graduated in Law, Lisbon Law School
- 1986 Master in Law and Political Science, Lisbon Law School

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL CAREER

- 1982 Lawyer and Juridical Assistant
- 1982 Assistant Professor, Lisbon Law School
- 1986 Professor, Lisbon Autonomous University
- 1989-1994 Judge, Portuguese Constitutional Court
- 1998-1999 Vice-president, Portugal Telecom Internacional
- 1998-1999 Chairman of General Assembly, Banco Santander Portugal
- 1998-1999 Professor, International University

POLITICAL CAREER

- 1980 Member of Parliament
- 1980-1984 Member of Joint European Parliament/Portuguese Parliament Committee on European Integration
- 1984-1985 Secretary of State for Parliamentary Affairs
- 1985-1986 Chairman, Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional Affairs and Civil Rights
- 1986-1987 Secretary of State for Administration and Justice of Macao Government
- 1987-1989 Representative of President Mario Soares, Sino-Portuguese Joint Liaison group on Macau
- 1994 Member of the European Parliament
- Chairman of Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs Committee
- 1995-1997 Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence

OTHER DETAILS

- Author of several books on European Affairs, Constitutional Law and Political Science.

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MARGOT WALLSTRÖM - ENVIRONMENT



In an ironic twist, Margot Wallström is seen as the most 'untypical politician' in the Commission line-up, and yet has been dealing with some of the most political dossiers in her first twelve months in office. Under her supervision, the EU has signed the Montreal Biosafety protocol, the environmental liability and precautionary legislative texts were unblocked and agreement was reached on the contentious End-of Life Vehicle Directive and the Water Framework Directive.

The jury is still out on the Commission's new strategy on GMOs and the proposed European Climate Change Programme. Forthcoming work includes the adoption of the Sixth Environmental Action Programme, the Chemical Policy review and the upcoming UN discussions on Climate Change.

NATIONALITY :

Swedish

Personal details

Born 28 Sept 1954 Married, two children

Education

- 1973 Graduated from high school Career
- 1974-1977 Ombudsman, Swedish Social Democratic Youth League
- 1977-1979 Accountant, Alfa Savings Bank, Karlstad
- 1979-1985 Member of Parliament

- 1986-1987 Senior Accountant, Alfa Savings bank, Karlstad
- 1988-1991 Minister of Civil Affairs (Consumer Affairs, Women and Youth)
- 1993-1994 CEO, TV Värmland (Regional Television Network)
- 1993- Member of the Executive Committee of the Swedish Social Democratic Party
- 1994-1996 Minister of Culture
- 1996-1998 Minister of Social Affairs
- 1998-1999 Executive Vice-president, Worldview Global Media, Colombo, Sri Lanka

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Changes in the Commission's DGs

At the beginning of the year, European Budget Commissioner Michael Schreyer was assigned to allocate the so-called reform reserve of staff among DGs and Services which had been singled out as priority areas, such as consumer protection, health and the information society. Additional staff were also needed for the Competition, Enlargement, External Relations and Justice and Home Affairs DGs which needed extra resources to meet the demands of an increased workload. Furthermore, the Commission's DG for Administration, in co-operation with the Budget DG, was asked to put in place appropriate measures to reduce the number of vacant posts in the Commission. This process has led the Commission to ask the European Parliament and the Council to approve a budget line for 375 new posts to be created in 2001. In addition, in the context of resource management, the Commission has specified the conditions and the framework for hiring third parties to carry out work for the Commission, including the Technical Assistance Offices (TAOs).

The past year has also seen a number of far-reaching structural changes in the Commission's internal organisation. These changes principally concern the external relations DG, the Transport and Energy DG, and the Health and Consumer DG.

One of the main changes brought about by the Prodi Commission was a complete reshuffle of the external relations structure. The move from a geographical approach to a more sectoral approach - through the creation of the Trade, Enlargement, Development and External Relations DGs - indicated a clear willingness to increase the Commission's visibility and efficiency in dealing with the outside world.

Commissioner Lamy's high profile on the international scene and Commissioner Verheugen's decisive role in advancing negotiations with the candidate countries have undoubtedly contributed to enhancing the Commission's international image. Commissioner Patten's contribution to

the management of political relations with third countries, however, has been partly overshadowed by the Council's newly appointed High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy.

In terms of efficiency, co-ordination by Commissioner Patten has so far been effective. However, the Service Commun Relex (SCR), responsible for the implementation of all financial cooperation with third countries, is still not running at full speed. Important delays in implementing external programmes have slightly undermined the Commission's credibility in many foreign capitals.

As far as the Transport and Energy DGs are concerned, the plan to merge the Energy and Transport DGs was adopted on 22 December 1999. The new DG became effective on 1 January 2000.

Directed by François Lamoureux, it comprises approximately 650 people who are divided between the seven Directorates : General Business, Trans-European Networks, Conventional Energy (dealing with coal, oil, gas, electricity and nuclear), New Energies and Control of Demand, Ground Transport, Air Transport and Sea Transport. Altogether, the DG manages a budget of h 850 million.

The merger of the Energy and Transport DGs was a logical decision and has allowed the Commission to benefit from the synergies between the two sectors. These policy overlaps are particularly apparent on environmental issues where transport and energy are blamed for being the biggest polluters in the EU and for the development of trans-European networks, aiming to reduce congestion and bottlenecks in Europe.

Finally, the DG for Health and Consumer Affairs (DG Sanco) has seen a number of significant changes. With new powers in the fields of health and consumer protection attributed under the Amsterdam Treaty and a new focus on food safety questions, DG Sanco has become one of the legislative powerhouses of the European Commission.

In the wake of the BSE crisis, it was recognised that food policy development should be decoupled from industry interests, as was achieved with the transfer of the Food Unit from DG Enterprise to DG Sanco and a reorganisation of two Directorates to deal with food safety.

The Luxembourg-based Public Health Directorate, previously joined to employment and social affairs, was also brought into the new structure, giving health issues a new profile within the Commission. DG Sanco also

gained responsibility for the issues of animal health, once part of DG Agriculture's portfolio.

This restructuring is not complete - changes in the Consumer Affairs Directorate are likely to go on into next year and DG Sanco continues to assume new responsibilities.

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The Commission's strategic objectives 2000-2005

I. INTRODUCTION

On 15 February 2000, European Commission President Romano Prodi presented the Commission's Strategic Objectives for 2000-2005 to the European Parliament plenary session in Strasbourg. This initiative fits into the Commission's new approach on transparency and integrated planning and programming.

The Communication setting out the Objectives carries the ambitious name - Shaping the New Europe - and is based on the assumption that the period 2000-2005 will be one of great change. It states that Europe will become more closely integrated and, at the same time, the European Union will embark on a process of enlargement leading ultimately to the unification of the Continent. Furthermore, the Commission stresses that real success is only possible if all institutions act in concert and if the public has confidence in the European Union.

II. FOUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The Commission will pursue four Strategic Objectives over the next five years:

- Promoting new forms of European Governance
- Stabilising the Continent and boosting Europe's Voice in the world
- Towards a new Economic and Social Agenda
- A better Quality of Life for all

Promoting new forms of European Governance

This objective means:

- Giving people a greater say in the way Europe is run;

- Making the institutions work more effectively and transparently, notably by reforming the Commission and setting an example for other bodies;
- Adapting the institutions to the needs of enlargement, building new forms of partnership between the different levels of governance in Europe; and
- Ensuring an active and distinctive European contribution to the development of global governance to manage the global economy and environment.

Stabilising the Continent and boosting Europe's Voice in the world

As a top priority, the European Commission will work to make a success of enlargement, and to build a real policy of co-operation with the neighbouring countries. It will also aim at closer co-operation between European institutions and amongst Member States and at enabling Europe to take a lead in building the new global economy.

Towards a new Economic and Social Agenda

This objective means modernising the European economy for the digital age in a manner which promotes employment and sustainable development (this topic was the main discussion item at the extraordinary European Council in Lisbon on 23-24 March 2000). The European Union's goal must be long term growth and competitiveness and according to the Commission, this should go hand in hand with there-modelling of our systems of social protection, in order to build a fair and caring society through an improved social and civil dialogue. With an ageing population and shrinking workforce, the Commission will encourage reform of Europe's protection, health care and pension systems.

A better Quality of Life for all

The European Commission wishes to provide effective contribution in favour of European citizenship by recognising the Union's rich and diverse cultural, linguistic and ethnic heritage. It also wants to find effective answers to the issues that affect the daily lives of European citizens, notably the environment, transport, food safety, consumer rights, justice and security against crime. In addition, the Commission will continue to work towards establishing a European Charter of Fundamental Rights.

III. IMPLICATIONS FOR BUSINESS

The European Commission's Strategic Objectives 2000-2005 are quite

general. However, they clearly set the political and economic direction that the Commission is to take in the coming five years. For business, it is important to realise that although new forms of governance will make the working of the European Union decision-making process more transparent, they will also become more complex.

This tendency will be strengthened by the enlargement process and the development of the global economy. Enlargement of the European Union not only increases the size of the Single Market, but it also requires accurate supervision in fields of competition and state aid. As far as globalisation is concerned, whilst this offers an enormous potential, it will not develop without minimum levels for social and environmental standards being set. Business must take into account that environmental legislation and food safety will be a top priority for the Commission in the coming years.

Moreover, it is important for industry to note that the process of globalisation has forced the Commission to prioritise the modernisation of the European economy by focusing on technology and research and building on knowledge and innovation.

In terms of the institutional balance of power within the EU, the Commission intends to regain its position as the legislative motor of integration. Over the last year, there has been an increasing trend towards intergovernmentalism and a certain reluctance by Member States to enter the next stage of the Single European Market with a harmonised tax regime and a single currency. The Commission hopes that through flexing its legislative weight over the next five years, it can counter this opposition and create a truly internal market in which business may operate.

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The Intergovernmental Conference 2000: The Road to Nice and beyond

The IGC 2000 was formally opened on 14 February 2000 and is scheduled to conclude in December 2000 under the French Presidency at the Nice European Council. The purpose of the IGC is to address the critical issues of institutional reform in light of the forthcoming enlargement of the European Union. In the run-up to Nice, Member States will have to determine whether the summit's agenda will be 'narrow' or 'broad'.

A 'narrow' agenda will only tackle those issues that were left pending following the negotiations that resulted in the Amsterdam Treaty. Those issues include the number of European Commissioners, which is to remain at 20 and the weighting of votes in the Council so as to avoid any state being disadvantaged.

The extension of Qualified Majority Voting to such areas as agriculture and the environment would also be considered.

Although a 'broad' agenda has yet to be formulated, the European Parliament, the European Commission and Member States have raised a number of important issues that could be addressed in Nice. These include the concept of 'enhanced co-operation' (the possibility of certain Member States moving ahead of others), a European Charter of Fundamental Rights, the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the integration of the West European Union (WEU) into the EU.

The Portuguese Presidency reported in June this year to the European Council in Feira that the negotiations aimed at reaching a consensus among Member States had been disappointing. Progress in the IGC 2000 'Preparatory Group' has undoubtedly been hampered by the wider debate on the future of the European Union that was initiated by the German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer.

EU Foreign ministers, meeting in Évian, appeared to agree that it was counterproductive to question the finalities of Europe prior to enlargement and reasserted the need to focus on the highly technical preparatory negotiations prior to the Nice summit. Although Member States have demonstrated little flexibility, the French Presidency has expressed its determination to drive negotiations forward. Success in doing so will be measured at a special European Council in Biarritz on 13-14 October 2000.

Negotiations are usually only resolved at the last minute. However, a failure in Biarritz to demonstrate the basis of a consensus on those issues to be discussed in Nice would be a source of serious concern. The Nice European summit will take place from 7 to 9 December 2000.

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The Comitology Procedure

The word comitology is EU jargon referring to the procedure whereby the Commission implements its powers as assigned to it by EU legislation. In implementing its powers, the Commission makes use of Committees (hence the word comitology), which are composed of national experts from the 15 Member States and chaired by a Commission official.

With the adoption in June 1999 of the Decision on comitology, the old system dating back to 1987 was replaced. One of the main rationales behind the new Decision was to simplify the whole procedure. However, comitology still remains one of the most unclear legislative devices of the EU decision-making machinery, and is often misunderstood even by people who have been working for a long time in or with the EU institutions.

There are three distinct types of committees: the Advisory, the Management and the Regulatory Committee. Each has different powers and work according to different procedures. The type of Committee which is to be used will depend on the particular matter which is being treated.

A. THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The advisory procedure is used in those cases where it is deemed to be more appropriate than the management and the regulatory procedures.

The Commission submits to the Committee a draft of the measures to be taken; The Committee delivers its opinion within a certain time limit "if necessary by taking a vote" (simple majority); The Commission takes the "utmost account of the opinion delivered" and informs the Committee of the manner in which its opinion has been taken into account.

B. THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The management procedure is used for implementation and management

measures, in particular those related to:

Common policies such as the Common Agriculture Policy and the fishery policy; The implementation of programmes with significant budgetary implications.

The procedure works as follows:

The Commission submits to the Committee a draft of the measures to be taken. The Committee delivers its opinion within a certain time limit voting according to the Qualified Majority system.

The Commission shall adopt measures, which shall apply immediately. If the measures adopted by the Commission are not in conformity with the Committee opinion, the Commission has two options: It has to communicate them to the Council or It may defer the application of these measures for maximum three months. By Qualified Majority the Council can take a different decision within the same lapse of time.

C. THE REGULATORY COMMITTEE

The regulatory procedure is used for measures of a general scope designed to apply, update or adapt essential provisions of basic legislative instruments, including measures concerning the protection of the health or safety of humans, animals or plants.

Decisions are taken in the following way: The Commission submits to the Committee a draft of the measures to be taken. The Committee delivers its opinion within a certain time limit voting according to the Qualified Majority system. The Commission shall adopt the measures if they are in accordance with the committee's opinion.

If the measures are not in accordance with the opinion of the committee, or if there is no opinion the Commission shall immediately make a proposal to the Council according to the terms of the Treaty, informing the European Parliament. If a Qualified Majority within the Council votes against the text proposed by the Commission, the Commission will have to re-examine it. The Commission may: resubmit its proposal, submit an amended proposal or present a legislative proposal.

If, within a period of time to be determined in each basic act, the Council does not either adopt the measures proposed by the Commission or vote against them, the Commission can adopt them.

D. ASSESSMENT

Despite its complicated nature, comitology is often used as a political tool to avoid confrontation between the EU institutions. In cases where the Council and the Parliament have different positions over a proposed Directive, they may well decide to refer decisions over the specific problematic points to a relevant Committee.

Nevertheless, some commentators argue that comitology is a clear demonstration of an EU democratic deficit since decisions are referred to a small panel of people who are not directly elected. This criticism was partially addressed by the 1999 Comitology Decision, which allowed the European Parliament to play a role in the comitology process.

The European Parliament is now involved in the implementation of those acts which are adopted through the co-decision procedure. In particular, the Decisions foresees the following:

If the European Parliament thinks that the implementing measures that the Commission would like to take exceeds the implementing powers provided for in the basic act, the Commission is then forced to re-examine its proposal; and In case the Commission lacks the agreement of the Committee and refers a proposal on implementing measures to the Council, the European Parliament will have a scrutiny right by receiving extensive information on Committee's procedures.

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Co-decision is now the most common form of EU legislative decision-making. In theory it is one of the European Parliament's most important powers, and it applies to a wide range of policy areas: the free movement of workers, internal market, research and technological development, the environment, consumer protection, education, culture and health.

Furthermore, the newly introduced measure whereby - failing an agreement between the Council and the Parliament in the Conciliation Committee - the proposal falls completely, pushes both the Council and the Parliament to find a common ground even when their positions are very much at odds. This recently happened with an important piece of environmental legislation, the proposed Directive on end of Life Vehicles, dealing with the collection and the recycling of vehicles. Notwithstanding their very different positions after Second Reading, the Council and the Parliament managed to find a solution in the Conciliation Committee sooner than expected.

[illegible]

implementation of the new co-decision procedure does actually give more power to the European Parliament. Indeed, on a number of dossiers, the final joint text agreed by the Conciliation Committee has been much closer to the Council's original position rather than to that of the Parliament. This was true, for example, in the case of the End of Life Vehicles Directive. In terms of whether post-Amsterdam co-decision has changed the Commission's balance of powers, the new procedure gives the possibility for the European Parliament and the Council to come to an agreement at the First Reading stage, therefore taking away the opportunity for the Commission to make an amended proposal.

The so-called 'accelerated co-decision procedure' has been used just once, during a plenary session in May 1999 when agreement between the Council and the European Parliament was reached at First Reading (and a Final Act was immediately adopted) on the establishment of OLAF - the European Anti-Fraud Unit.

It is unlikely that the accelerated co-decision procedure will be used very often - it will most likely be restricted to either highly political debates - where the European Parliament and the Council agree on a policy against the Commission's wishes (this was the situation on the OLAF agreement above) or on non-contentious issues. However, for intermediate level policies (which most issues are) despite the accelerated procedure facility, legislation will continue to go to Second Reading.

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