



## Hearings of the Commissioners-designate by the European Parliament

### Practical information for the media

Between 11 and 19 January, the European Parliament will hold a series of public hearings with the 26 candidate Commissioners put forward by the Council and Commission President José-Manuel Barroso. The "Commissioners-designate" will face three hours of questioning by MEPs sitting on the committees relevant to their proposed portfolios. They will be evaluated on their specific knowledge and competence in their field, including their European commitment, their independence and their communication skills.

MEPs from the relevant committees will then deliberate before sending their conclusions in writing to the Conference of Presidents (the President of the EP and political group leaders), which will meet with the Conference of Committee Presidents to discuss the results. It is at this point that any possible requests for changes in portfolios or in the composition of the proposed Commission would emerge. In 2004, pressure from the European Parliament before its final vote led to two changes in the line-up of Commissioners and one change of portfolio.

Parliament is scheduled to hold its final vote on Mr Barroso's new team on 26 January at a special plenary session in Brussels. It can only approve or reject the new Commission as a whole.

Mr Barroso's nomination for a second term as Commission President was approved by Parliament earlier, on 16 September 2009.

#### Full details on hearings website

Parliament has set up a website with full details of the procedures involved, the timetable for the different hearings and for subsequent steps in the procedure:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/hearings>

This site includes all the official documents relating to the hearings as they become available, including the answers to written questionnaires prepared by MEPs. All press releases relating to the hearings will also appear on this site.



### **EP Press Service Coverage and Contacts**

The hearings will be shown live on Europe by Satellite and webstreamed both on [EP Live](#) and on [EuroparlTV](#) – more details of the range of audiovisual coverage are given below. A press release summarising the event will be published in English, French and the language of each Commissioner-designate's country.

The meetings rooms (JAN 2Q2 and JAN 4Q2 in Brussels, LOW N1.4 and LOW S1.4 in Strasbourg) have a limited capacity, so while nearly 50 seats will be available for the press, journalists wishing to follow the event may find it easier to do so via Europe by Satellite, on the monitors in the press work room or online. There will also be "listening rooms" in Brussels (ASP5G3 for JAN2Q2 and ASP3G3 for JAN4Q2).

Relevant documents (CVs, questionnaire and answers, opening statement) will be available in the press room.

#### **EP Press Service contacts:**

##### ***Ralph Pine***

##### ***Spokesperson's Service***

☎: + 32 498 98 35 87

☎: +32 2 28 42941 (BRU)

✉: [ralph.pine@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:ralph.pine@europarl.europa.eu)

##### ***Malene Chaucheprat***

##### ***Spokesperson's Service***

☎: + 32 498 98 33 25

☎: +32 2 28 42530 (BRU)

✉: [malene.chaucheprat@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:malene.chaucheprat@europarl.europa.eu)

#### **Press points/interview requests with the Commissioners-designate**

Each Commissioner-designate will hold an informal press briefing/doorstep outside the relevant meeting room after the hearing. Requests for more details or for individual interviews with the Commissioners-designate should be addressed to the Commission's press team:

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/communication/about/contact\\_us/ec\\_spokespersons/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/communication/about/contact_us/ec_spokespersons/index_en.htm)

#### **Accreditation – written media**

No additional registration is needed for journalists already accredited to the EU institutions who wish to cover the event. Print journalists not already accredited can present their national press credentials and a passport or identity card at the EP press entrance (in Brussels: rue Vautier, in Strasbourg: first entrance on left from the courtyard of the Louise Weiss building) to obtain a one-day accreditation.

##### **Contact: *Claudia Candeago***

☎: +32 2 28 34088 (BRU) +33 3 881 74005 (STR)

✉: [presse-conf@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:presse-conf@europarl.europa.eu)



## **EP Audiovisual Coverage and Contacts**

### **HOTLINE NEWSDESK - PRESS ROOM COORDINATION**

The Hotline-Newsdesk team will coordinate the information for AV media on the available facilities, schedule updates, and programme time-table.

**Contact Hotline-Newsdesk: Karima Ben Salah**

✉: [karima.bensalah@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:karima.bensalah@europarl.europa.eu)

✉: [hotlinenewsdesk@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:hotlinenewsdesk@europarl.europa.eu)

☎: +32 2 284 28 00 (BRU) ☎: +33 3 88 17 34 82 (STR) 📞: + 32 498 98 35 77

### **ACCREDITATIONS**

The usual procedures will be applied for accreditation.

**Contact: Kirsten Van Kampen**

✉: [kirsten.vankampen@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:kirsten.vankampen@europarl.europa.eu)

✉: [avaccreditations@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:avaccreditations@europarl.europa.eu)

☎: +32 2 284 48 17 (BRU) ☎: +33 3 88 17 45 61 (STR) 📞: + 32 498 98 35 44

### **EbS - Live coverage**

Europe by Satellite will offer the following broadcasts:

- Full live coverage of the hearings in all 22 languages
- Summaries of each hearing, reactions, atmosphere shots...
- Live coverage of press-points

**Contact Ebs: Elena Espejo-Verdu**

✉: [ebs-ep@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:ebs-ep@europarl.europa.eu)

☎: +32 2 284 29 21 (BRU) ☎: +33 3 88 1720 23 (STR) 📞: + 32 498 98 35 21

EbS-EP schedule:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/eng-internet-publisher/eplive/expert/ebs.do?schedule=both&language=en>

### **FTP**

#### **Video**

EbS summaries will be available via FTP server:

<ftp://epavvideoget:mo12ssb@ftpeps01.europarl.eu.int/epavvideo/Hearings/>

**Contact: Gérald Thirion**

✉: [gerald.thirion@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:gerald.thirion@europarl.europa.eu)

☎: +32 2 284 26 70 (BRU) ☎: +33 3 88 1726 70 (STR)

#### **Audio**

Audio files of the hearings will be available via FTP server:

<ftp://epavradioget:mo12SSB@ftpeps01.europarl.eu.int/epavradio/hearings>

**Contact: Marc De Martelaer**

✉: [radiobookings@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:radiobookings@europarl.europa.eu)

☎: +32 2 283 22 00 (BRU) ☎: +33 3 88 1744 42 (STR) 📞: + 32 498 98 35 74

### **Photography**

The European Parliament's photographers will cover the hearings and related events (press points, atmosphere...). Pictures will be available in 'high definition' on the photo web site after registration:

<http://www.photo-service.europarl.europa.eu>

You may also address your requests for pictures to:

**Contact: Catherine Juckler**

✉: [catherine.juckler@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:catherine.juckler@europarl.europa.eu)

☎: +32 2 284 48 08 (BRU) ☎: +33 3 88 17 47 98 (STR)



### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: TV, RADIO

Our booking centres for TV, radio and photo journalists will take requests for the usual technical assistance.

#### TV

A video/audio distribution will be available, on reservation and on a self-service basis.

Available for reservation: ENG crews, edit rooms, live positions, TV sets/studios, play-outs, copies

Please address your requests to:

**Contact: Ioannis Vlantis**

✉: [tvbookings@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:tvbookings@europarl.europa.eu)

☎: +32 2 284 20 10 (BRU) ☎: +33 3 88 17 20 10 (STR) 📞: + 32 498 98 35 20

#### Radio

Please address your requests concerning our radio facilities (studios, VoxBox, editing, ISDN connections, etc.) to:

**Contact: Marc De Martelaer**

✉: [radiobookings@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:radiobookings@europarl.europa.eu)

☎: +32 2 283 22 00 (BRU) ☎: +33 3 88 1744 42 (STR) + 📞: + 32 498 98 35 74  
17 44 42 (STR) 📞: + 32 498 98 35 74