



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The President-designate

Brussels, 9th September 2004
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Dear President,

In reply to your letter of 29 July last concerning the hearings of the 24 Commissioners-designate to be held between 27 September and 7 October 2004, I have the honour of forwarding herewith the replies in French and English to the general questionnaire adopted by the Conference of Committee Chairmen on 26 July. All the language versions will be sent directly by e-mail to the relevant services of the European Parliament. As agreed between our two Institutions, the replies have been translated into the 20 official languages by the Commission services.

The hearings represent an essential step in the approval process of the new Commission. All the Commissioners-designate have attached great importance to this exercise, which we have conducted with great care.

I should like to point out that given that there was a single questionnaire for all the candidates, there are certain similarities between the replies to the questions of a more general nature. On the other hand, the individual replies also reflect the different political, institutional and cultural experiences and traditions, which each of the Commissioners-designate brings and which represent the great wealth of my team.

If, at the end of the hearings, Parliament expresses its confidence in the new Commission, my main task as President of this new Commission will be to form a real team with these 24 political personalities that can, in a spirit of collegiality and good inter-institutional co-operation, help advance the process of European integration by bringing it closer to citizens.

I would appreciate it if you would feature the attached as an integral part of the package of questionnaires that you will publish on the pages of the European Parliament's website dedicated to the upcoming hearings.

Best regards,

José Manuel BARROSO

cc: M. Julian Priestley

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