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Press release

MEPs approve new EU trade Commissioner Catherine Ashton (UK)

The European Parliament voted 538 in favour, 40 against and 63 abstentions in favour of new EU trade Commissioner Catherine Ashton from the UK. Baroness Ashton faced a hearing at the European Parliament on Monday. She has been nominated to replace Peter Mandelson as Trade Commissioner following his appointment to the British government. MEPs questioned Baroness Ashton on the future of the Doha Round, the financial crisis, bilateral trade negotiations - and on her own experience.

Baroness Ashton will be Commissioner until the end of the current Commission's mandate - 31 October 2009.

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