

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

29 April 2004

B5-0227/2004

PROPOSAL FOR A DECISION

pursuant to Rule 33(4) of the Rules of Procedure

by Andrew Nicholas Duff on behalf of the ELDR Group,
Hans-Gert Poettering on behalf of the PPE-DE Group,
Enrique Barón Crespo on behalf of the PSE Group

approving the Commission in its new form

RE\534315EN.doc

PE 344.799

Or. en

EN

EN

B5-0227/2004**Decision approving the Commission in its new form**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 214(2), third subparagraph, and Article 215 of the EC Treaty,
- having regard to the Act concerning the conditions of accession of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic, and the adjustments to the Treaties on which the European Union is founded, and in particular Article 45 thereof,
- having regard to the candidates nominated by the 10 acceding Member States for appointment as Members of the Commission, namely Péter Balázs, Joe Borg, Ján Figel', Dalia Grybauskaitė, Danuta Hübner, Siim Kallas, Sandra Kalniete, Markos Kyprianou, Janez Potočnik and Pavel Telička,
- having regard to the hearings of the candidates conducted by its Conference of Committee Chairmen on 13-15 April 2004,
- having regard to the Council's intention to appoint the 10 new Members of the Commission by 5 May 2004 at the latest, as stated in its letter of 26 February 2004 to the President of the European Parliament,
- having regard to the resignation of Mr Michel Barnier as a Member of the European Commission, tendered on 31 March 2004,
- having regard to the appointment by the Government of the French Republic on 1 April 2004 of Mr Jacques Barrot as a Member of the European Commission,
- having regard to the resignation of Mr Pedro Solbes as a Member of the European Commission, tendered on 17 April 2004,
- having regard to the appointment by the Kingdom of Spain on 19 April 2004 of Mr Joaquín Almunia as a Member of the European Commission,
- having regard to the hearings of the candidates to replace Mr Barnier and Mr Solbes conducted on 26 and 27 April 2004 respectively,
- having regard to the presentation of the new enlarged Commission made by its President on 5 May 2004,
- having regard to Rule 33 of its Rules of Procedure,

~~A. encourages the new members of the Commission to use the coming months to familiarise themselves with the working methods of the Commission and with the close cooperation between Parliament and Commission,~~

- A. noting the results of the hearings of the ten nominee Commissioners from the new Member States, as summarised in the evaluation letters addressed by the individual chairmen of the parliamentary committees to the chairman of the Conference of Committee Chairmen and the recommendation of the Conference of Committee Chairmen to the Conference of Presidents,
 - B. recalling that, in accordance with the procedure set out in the Treaties and Parliament's Rules of Procedure, Parliament will have to approve the new Commission in advance of its taking up its duties on 1 November 2004, and that comprehensive and decisive hearings by Parliament's committees will take place at that stage,
 - C. acknowledging that the Prodi Commission must continue to fulfil its duties in accordance with its 2004 legislative and work programme and Parliament's resolution on this subject right until the end of its mandate, but expecting it, for the period after the elections, not to take new initiatives of major political import relating to the period after the expiry of its mandate,
 - D. recalling the Council's decision of 9 July 1999 not to proceed to the replacement of resigning Commissioners and urging the Member States and the Council to refrain from replacing members of the current Commission who retire before the end of its term of office,
 - E. reiterating its call in favour of a parallelism of terms of office between the European Parliament and the Commission,
 - F. calling for a review of the procedure to cover circumstances in which individual Members of the Commission retire before their term of office ends,
1. Approves the Commission in its new form for the remainder of its term of office until 31 October 2004;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this decision to the Council, the Commission and the governments of the Member States.