

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2213/99

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Subject: Reform of the Commission bureaucracy

According to unofficial information, also reported in the European press, in the context of the internal reorganisation of the Commission, a senior official who is a member of the President's private office is about to become Director-General of the DG for Enterprise Policy.

1. Does the Commission not consider that such an appointment not only belies the statements made by Mr Prodi on several occasions, but might also trigger the process of nepotism and back-door recruitment which has been repeatedly condemned by Parliament and is considered to be one of the reasons behind the mismanagement of which the Santer Commission was accused?
2. Mr Prodi has defined the abolition of national quotas for senior posts as a great achievement; does the Commission not consider that this somewhat premature approach – European integration being far from complete – might give rise to national imbalances and reward those countries that contribute least, in both political and financial terms, to the process of European integration?
3. Lastly, does the Commission not believe that the introduction of such a system of co-optation might be to the sole benefit of special interest groups or personal networks?