

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0576/04  
by Philip Claeys (NI)  
to the Commission

Subject: Electioneering activities of Romano Prodi

Four left-wing parties are due to contest the European elections in Italy jointly under the 'Prodi List'. Press reports suggest that the President of the Commission will not be standing himself on this list but will be playing an active part in the election campaign. He is reportedly involved in the selection of candidates. It would in fact be unlikely that the President of the Commission would lend his name to the list without being closely involved in the whole campaign.

Although these new party political activities will undoubtedly take up a great deal of his time, the Commission President has stated that he will remain in office until October.

Does Mr Prodi regard the office of President of the European Commission as a full-time job?

How much time does he think he will be spending each week on the election campaign in Italy?

Does the Commission consider it desirable for its members to be actively involved in election campaigns?

What arrangements have been made within the Commission? Who will take over Mr Prodi's duties in his absence?