

ЕВРОПЕЙСКИ ПАРЛАМЕНТ PARLAMENTO EUROPEO EVROPSKÝ PARLAMENT EUROPA-PARLAMENTET
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319533 15.11.2012

Conference of Committee Chairs
The Chair

Mr Martin SCHULZ
President of the
European Parliament

Geda ref.: D(2012)59026

Dear President,

Rule 106 and Annex XVII of Parliament's Rules of Procedure provide that when a vacancy caused by resignation is to be filled, Parliament, acting with dispatch, shall invite the Commissioner-designate to participate in a hearing under the same conditions as when the entire College of the Commission is subject to Parliament's vote.

The hearing of Mr Borg as Commissioner-designate for the Health and Consumer portfolio took place on 13 November 2012 between 15.00 and 18.00. It was led by the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, with the association of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development.

Prior to the hearing and in line with the third paragraph of Article 1(a) of Annex XVII, the Committee on Legal Affairs scrutinised the declaration of interests of Mr. Borg and did not raise any objections.

The Conference of Committee Chairs heard Mr Groote, Chair of the ENVI committee, Ms Vergnaud, Vice-Chair of the IMCO committee, and Mr De Castro, chair of the AGRI committee, report orally during an extraordinary meeting which I convened on Wednesday 14 November as part of the Conference's new formal role in the organisation and evaluation of the hearings.

On behalf of their committees, they expressed a generally positive assessment based on the evaluation criteria such as general competence, European commitment, personal independence, knowledge of the prospective portfolio and cooperation with the European Parliament.

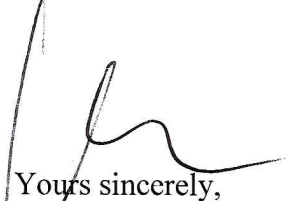
They also indicated that some of their Members expressed concerns on issues not directly linked to the portfolio of the Commissioner-designate. You will find the detailed assessments of each of the committees included in the attached letter from Mr Groote.

Therefore, in line with Annex XVII of the Rules of Procedure on the guidelines for the approval of the Commission, I have the pleasure to convey to you the statement of evaluation of the hearing of Mr Borg.

Furthermore, the Conference of Committee Chairs:

- certified that the new rules were correctly implemented;
- noted that the cooperation between the three Committees was smooth and satisfactory.

In view of the above, I hereby inform you that all the preparatory steps allowing the Conference of Presidents to assess the matter have been accomplished.

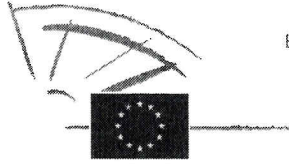


Yours sincerely,
Klaus-Heiner LEHNE

Cc:

Mr Matthias GROOTE, Chair of the ENVI Committee
Mr Malcolm HARBOUR, Chair of the IMCO Committee
Mr Paolo DE CASTRO, Chair of the AGRI Committee

Enclosure: Letter of Mr GROOTE



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Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety
The Chairman

IPOL-COM.ENVI D(2012)56480

Mr Klaus-Heiner LEHNE
Chairman
Conference of Committee Chairs
European Parliament

Dear Mr Lehne,

In accordance with Parliament's Rules of Procedure, in particular Rule 106 on the Election of the Commission and modified Annex XVII on Guidelines for the Approval of the Commission, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety held on Tuesday 13 November 2012 a public hearing with Commissioner-designate Tonio Borg.

The Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection as well as the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development participated in the hearing as associated committees. As foreseen in Annex XVII, point 1(a), the Committee on Legal Affairs examined Mr Borg's declaration of financial interests (see the enclosed letter from Mr Lehne of 13 November 2012, Annex IV).

Subject to the positive outcome of the nomination procedure, Mr Borg will be responsible for Health and Consumer Policy.

Prior to the hearing, a written questionnaire with general and specific questions was submitted. The Commissioner-designate replied to those questions in writing in advance of the hearing.

In his introductory statement, Mr Borg highlighted his main priorities in the areas of public health, food safety, consumer policy, plant health and animal welfare. He replied to thirty-nine questions, including supplementary questions, with twenty-four questions asked by the Members of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (60% of the question time), ten by the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (30% of the question time) and five by the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (10% of the question time). The hearing was concluded by a final statement by the Commissioner-designate.

During the debate the Commissioner-designate answered a wide range of questions relating inter alia to

[Questions by ENVI Members]

- the revision of Tobacco Products Directive, in particular timing and main contents of the future proposal
- the views of the Commissioner-designate on women's reproductive and sexual health rights (including abortion), both in the EU and in developing countries, including the funding of reproductive health programmes
- the views of the Commissioner-designate on non-discrimination against people on the basis of their sexual orientation and on the rights of homosexuals
- the views of the Commissioner-designate on sperm/egg donation and stem cell research
- the revision of the Clinical Trials Directive
- health inequalities
- the revision of EU legislation on voluntary beef labelling
- the Commissioner's priorities in relation to the ongoing legislative procedure on the 'Health for Growth Programme', especially in relation to its funding
- the improvement of preventive actions in relation to cancer
- management of conflicts of interest in relation to EU Agencies falling under the candidate's portfolio
- the timing and main contents of the expected Commission proposal on cloning of animals for food purposes
- health and nutrition claims and the adoption of nutrient profiles
- equal access to healthcare
- animal health and its impact on human health, in particular as regards antimicrobial resistance

[Questions by IMCO Members]

- the effective implementation of consumer protection legislation
- a quota for women sitting on company boards
- the right to a bank account for all
- the possible role of OLAF in screening candidates for high EU offices
- helping young people to make healthy nutritional choices
- access to innovative medicines
- the candidate's views on the active promotion of Article 21 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the anti-discrimination directive
- a possible legislative proposal on collective redress
- how to ensure consumer protection as a priority in all EU policies
- origin of products, 'made in EU' label
- the protection of online services from criminal activities
- plain packaging of tobacco products
- combating misleading business practices on the Internet
- collective redress in relation to financial instruments
- the candidate's commitment to the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights

[Questions by AGRI Members]

- the application of equivalent environmental, consumer and animal protection standards to imports of agricultural produce
- certain aspects of the fight against transmissible spongiform encephalopathies
- the introduction of tighter rules for animal transports
- the upholding of the EU's 'zero tolerance' policy towards imported GMOs
- the independence of EFSA, especially in relation to the evaluation of GMOs
- the costs of imports owing to the EU's protein deficit and the role of GM imports

[Questions by ENVI Members]

- the candidate's position on possible cuts in relevant Agencies' budgets
- the alcohol strategy
- the candidate's position on the pending proposal on legislation allowing Member States to restrict GMO cultivation
- long-term studies on the possible toxicity GMOs
- the vaccination strategy
- the enforcement of the ban of animal testing as foreseen in the Cosmetics Regulation
- counterfeit food and medical products
- possibility financial contributions from tobacco manufacturers towards costs caused by tobacco-related disease
- the Commissioners potential role in endorsing environmental policies as a Member of the College of Commissioners.

The verbatim record of proceedings is attached to this letter (see [Annex V](#)).

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* *

Opinion of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

The Members of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection made a generally positive assessment of Mr Borg's knowledge and commitment to the consumer policy programmes that he inherited from his predecessor. He made a number of pledges to potential future programmes, in particular on basic banking services and on collective redress. However, these commitments were less concrete and the committee will keep these under scrutiny.

Members welcomed his assurance to act as a champion of consumers in the EU. His commitment to work for the safety of consumers, both in relation to goods and services, including trading on-line was duly noted.

A number of Members remained concerned that as a Member of the College his commitments on human health, reproductive rights and sexual equality were not entirely convincing. They would like to stress that Parliament should remain vigilant that he delivers on his commitments in that regard.

The IMCO committee was unable to reach unanimous endorsement of Dr Borg for the office of Commissioner. However, a clear majority supports him for his office.

By a majority, the Committee therefore gave a favourable opinion on the appointment of Mr Borg as Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy.

The detailed contribution from the IMCO Committee is reproduced in Annex IV.

Opinion of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

In general, the Commissioner-designate demonstrated good listening skills and was able to respond to all the questions addressed to him. His background as a parliamentarian and his international experience also counted in his favour.

Overall, his answers were acceptable, but on the Agriculture Committee's specific policy areas, they were somewhat vague and lacked substance. However, expert knowledge on a wide range of policy areas cannot be expected with only a few weeks preparation.

There were no objections voiced by any of the group representatives of the Agriculture Committee, although this position is subject to a final decision within their own political group, with one political group fully supporting the nomination of the Commissioner-designate.

Positions of the political groups represented in the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

The evaluation of Mr Borg as Commissioner-designate for Health and Consumer Policy by the Coordinators of the Environment Committee took place after the hearing, in the presence of IMCO Chair Malcolm Harbour and AGRI Chair Paolo De Castro.

The appraisal of the Commissioner-designate proved to be highly controversial. The positions of the political groups will be presented in turn.

The EPP Group took the view that the performance of the Commissioner-designate at the hearing had been very good. Taking account of the short preparation time of less than three weeks since his nomination, the Commissioner-designate had shown a surprisingly good grasp of the numerous specific issuers of his portfolio. In particular, Mr Borg had made several very clear commitments, for instance as regards the delivery of legislative proposals on tobacco products (January 2013) and on animal cloning (mid-2013); he also gave assurances to respect the March 2013 deadline on animal testing for cosmetics, and to invest more in better enforcement. Mr Borg had also promised to endorse a women's quota on company boards and pledged to fully respect the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. The EPP emphasised that Mr Borg was fully qualified not only in the light of his performance at the hearing but also on the basis of his rich political experience, his commitment to social values and his clear pro-European convictions.

The S&D Group considered that Mr Borg's performance at the hearing had been good and expressed, on balance, a positive assessment of the Commissioner-designate. However, the S&D Group expressed concerns about the candidate's previous stance in national politics with regard to issues of gender equality and women's sexual and reproductive rights. The S&D Group took note of Mr Borg's statements that his views would not translate into attempts to influence EU policies and legislation in this regard and stressed that the European Parliament would remain vigilant. The S&D Group welcomed Mr Borg's promise to deliver an ambitious proposal on tobacco products that would be submitted to the European Parliament in January 2013, welcomed his commitment to implement the Cosmetics Regulation without any delays or exemptions with regard to animal testing and welcomed his intention to present a proposal on Cloning and Novel Foods, ideally in the first quarter of 2013. The S&D Group underlined the importance of animal welfare in particular with regard to animal transport and urged the Commissioner-designate to address the issue. Finally, the S&D Group welcomed Mr Borg's statement on the importance of non-discrimination with regard to the rules governing blood donation. Finally, the S&D Group would like to remind the candidate that as he had made specific commitments in public and that it would watch very carefully that he delivers on all those.

The ALDE Group, while agreeing that the candidate gave a professional performance, expressed concerns that Mr Borg's views on homosexuality, divorce, abortion, and the scientific use of tissues and cells would imperil his necessary impartiality and announced accordingly that it would withhold its support for the confirmation of the Commissioner-designate with regard to the particular portfolio for which he had been nominated. The complete wording of the ALDE statement is reproduced in Annex I to this letter.

The Greens/EFA Group acknowledged Mr Borg had, account taken of the short preparation time, shown good general competence, as well as good knowledge of most files in his prospective portfolio and welcomed his commitment to bring forward a proposal for the revision of the Tobacco Products Directive, his commitment to the precautionary principle with regard to GMO authorisation as well as his endorsement for a women's quota on company boards. However, with regard to the sensitive questions on women's rights including abortion, LGBT issues, right of minorities, the Greens/EFA expressed concern that a Commissioner does not merely have to abide by the Treaties, but also develop new policies based thereon and that his statements did not match with his track record. On balance, the Greens/EFA could not endorse Mr Borg's nomination as Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection. The complete wording of the Greens/EFA statement is reproduced in Annex II to this letter.

The ECR Group emphasised that it would be inappropriate to attempt to evaluate the Commissioner-designate on the basis of his alleged "incompatibility with European values" and that freedom of thought and expression, including religious liberty, also formed part of the broader European values which had been cited. The candidate should be evaluated in accordance with Annex XVII which stipulates that "Parliament

shall evaluate Commissioners-designate on the basis of their general competence, European commitment and personal independence. It shall assess knowledge of their prospective portfolio and their communication skills." The representative ECR Group regretted that several of Mr Borg's answers had not been very clear, but the ECR Group would not now intend to oppose the appointment of Mr Borg.

The GUE/NGL Group criticised that Mr Borg had made a career out of support for some of the harshest provisions against gender-equality, LGBT-rights, reproductive rights including restrictions on pregnant women's ability to travel outside Malta if suspected of seeking an abortion abroad. His conservative views with regards to women's rights, to sexual and reproductive rights, to same sex marriage and cohabitation, and gender equality, would be detrimental and counterproductive to a number of EU policies, e.g. employment, social affairs, equal opportunities, common foreign security policy, development, foreign policies, humanitarian aid, human rights, external trade, justice and citizens' rights. The GUE/NGL concluded that, Mr Borg had not been able to remove a whole range of concerns to the GUE/NGL group's satisfaction. Therefore, the GUE/NGL group declared that it was unable to support the candidacy of Commissioner-designate for Health and Consumer Protection, Mr Borg. The wording of the GUE/NGL statement is reproduced in Annex III to this letter.

The EFD Group was not represented at the evaluation meeting.

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* * *

Conclusions of the Chairman

On the basis of the above positions of the political groups represented at the evaluation meeting, I am able to provide you with the following overall conclusions regarding the candidacy of Mr Tonio Borg for the post of Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy:

The coordinators of two political groups, representing a majority of the Members of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, expressed their support for the nomination of Mr Borg as European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy. The coordinators of three political groups rejected the candidate. The opinion-giving Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection gave a favourable opinion to the appointment of Mr Borg; no objections against the appointment of Mr Borg were voiced by any of the group representatives of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development.

For Mr Borg to be endorsed by a majority of the House, it is vital that the Commissioner-designate deliver in respect of the following issues and concerns and reaffirm publicly, prior to the final vote in Parliament, his unambiguous and full commitment to:

- the delivery of the legislative proposal on tobacco products by January 2013
- the adoption of legislative proposals on animal cloning and novel food by mid-2013¹
- the full respect of the March 2013 deadline for the ban on animal testing for cosmetics
- better enforcement of EU law, in particular on animal transport
- fully respect and abide by the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, in particular Article 21 thereof, as well as EU anti-discrimination legislation and case-law
- recognising the innate dignity of all Citizens of the EU, regardless of their sexual orientation or distinctions mentioned in Article 21, and to treating, as a Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy and as a Member of the College of Commissioners, all Citizens of the EU fairly and equally; actively working to address health inequalities and to acting against stigmatisation of people suffering from HIV/AIDS
- actively supporting EU policies with regards to women's rights.

There are substantiated reasons to believe that, if the above pledges are made, a constructive cooperation between the European Parliament and the Commissioner-designate could ensue and that Mr Borg would eventually be able to demonstrate by his actions that the reservations held against him by some were groundless.

Yours sincerely,



Matthias GROOTE

¹ As stated in paragraph 31 of Parliament's resolution of 6 July 2011 on the Commission Work Programme 2012: "31. Calls on the Commission to bring forward a legislative proposal to prohibit the placing on the market of foods derived from cloned animals and their offspring, and requests the Commission to submit a new legislative proposal on novel foods."

Enclosures:

- Annex I: Statement by the ALDE Group
- Annex II: Statement by the Greens/EFA Group
- Annex III: Statement by the GUE/NGL Group
- Annex IV: IMCO contribution to the evaluation of Commissioner-designate Mr Tonio Borg
- Annex V: Letter from Mr Lehne, Chairman of the Committee on Legal Affairs, on the outcome of the scrutiny of Mr Borg's declaration of financial interests
- Annex VI: Verbatim record of proceedings

Annex I

Statement of the ALDE ENVI Members for the evaluation letter of the ENVI Committee

"We recognise that Dr Borg gave a profound performance at the hearing this afternoon. We have no reason to doubt that he is competent and able. However, his views on homosexuality, divorce, abortion, and the scientific use of tissues and cells have been well reported and, while he stated his opposition to discrimination and support for human rights, Dr Borg made no attempt to deny his opinions on social issues of great importance. They remain his views. The health portfolio embraces a range of issues where impartiality is crucial. The personal views of a Commissioner should play no part in shaping policies that affect individuals of both genders and of all sexual orientations. But in the case of Dr Borg we are not assured that the necessary impartiality would prevail. Accordingly we withhold our support for the confirmation of the Commissioner-designate with regard to the particular portfolio for which he has been nominated."

Annex II

Greens/EFA evaluation of the hearing of Mr Borg

"He showed good general competence, as well as good knowledge of most files in his prospective portfolio (given the limited time he had to prepare). It is difficult to know about his personal independence. He is very confident of himself – almost over-confident, never admitting any lack of knowledge (which would have been entirely understandable).

We welcome his commitments concerning a fast adoption of the tobacco directive, to the precautionary principle with regard to GMO authorisations, full implementation of the cosmetics directive as it stands, as well as proposals on the prohibition of cloning for food and to come forward with a new proposal on novel food, and would like to see a clear statement in the evaluation letter that we expect him to fully deliver on these.

With regard to the sensitive questions on women's rights including abortion, LGBT issues, right of minorities, he responded that he will abide, and has to abide by the Treaties – "whether he likes them or not". The latter statement does not instil confidence in him, all the more that a Commissioner does not merely have to abide by the Treaties, but also develop new policies based thereon.

He has yet to prove his stated commitment to the Charter of Fundamental Rights by actively applying Article 21 of the Charter, and fight discrimination. We expect him to deliver on his statements that he will actively work to address health inequalities, and to act against stigmatisation of people suffering from HIV/AIDS. We welcome his statement that he will support a proposal by Commissioner Reding for a quota on women in boards.

However, we are concerned that his statements do not match with his track record. For example, during his term as Foreign Minister, Malta has tried to weaken the EU position on reproductive rights in several occasions at UN level. On issues linked on reproductive health, he was hiding behind subsidiarity, even though there is EU competence on such issues. We consider that his answers were evasive, and that he was not telling the full story, only referring to his latest actions, but not assuming previous long-running actions, that stand in contrast to this..

We are not convinced that he can separate his "personal views" on reproductive health from his political tasks, and that he will bring about the necessary integration in such sensitive matters.

As such, on balance, we cannot endorse his nomination as Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection, and would like this to be stated explicitly in the letter."

Annex III

Email from Ms Liotard to Mr Groote, on the GUE/NGL position on Mr Borg

"Dear President,

This is to express my deep concerns about the nomination of Mr Borg as Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy.

My concerns are based on the following:

- Mr. Tonio Borg has made a career out of support for some of the harshest provisions against gender-equality, LGBT-rights, reproductive rights including restrictions on pregnant women's ability to travel outside Malta if suspected of seeking an abortion abroad. I'm astonished that somebody with this kind of views has even been nominated to have a position as Commissioner. We need improvements and leadership in Europe on these issues, not a relapse into repression. And today, all these concerns have been illustrated by the questions asked by the MEPs at the hearing.
- In addition, if Mr. Tonio Borg will be appointed Commissioner, he will be able to influence policies outside his remit as Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection as a member of the College of Commissioners. In this respect his conservative views with regards women's rights, to sexual and reproductive rights, to same sex marriage and cohabitation, and gender equality, will be detrimental and counterproductive to a number of EU policies, as for instance (but not limited to): employment, social affairs, equal opportunities, common foreign security policy, development, foreign policies, humanitarian aid, human rights, external trade, justice and citizens' rights.
- Furthermore, during the hearing Mr Tonio Borg stressed several times that he is convinced of the European project, but he could not convince me of his commitment to the European values on equal access to the best care for everybody in the EU.
- During today's hearing, Mr Tonio Borg declared that "science will be his guide for food safety". I consider that firstly consumer protection should be his guide, followed by the precautionary principle and then science as a guide for food safety.
- With regards to the questions about long term toxicity studies on GMOs, Mr Tonio Borg gave an unclear reply on his intentions as he mentioned that this would entail difficulties and it should be left to the scientific evidences.
- In his introductory speech, Mr. Tonio Borg stated that he is in favour of budget cuts in an intelligent manner. I feel that this statement is conflicting with his pledges to MEPs for more budget on patient safety, innovation and research.
- A Commissioner must, according to Article 245 TFEU, refrain from any action incompatible with their duties. In the view of the GUE/NGL group, based on Mr. Tonio Borg's past clear statements and actions as a politician in Malta and today's vague statements, there is a risk that Commissioner-designate Tonio Borg might undertake actions contrary to Article 10 TFEU, which states that in defining and implementing its policies and activities, the Union shall aim to combat discrimination

based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

° During today's hearing, Mr. Tonio Borg did not take away the abovementioned concerns enough to the GUE/NGL group's satisfaction. Therefore, the GUE/NGL group is unable to support the candidacy of Commissioner-designate for Health and Consumer Protection, Mr Tonio Borg.

On behalf of the GUE/NGL,

Kartika Liotard"

Annex IV

IMCO contribution to the evaluation of Commissioner-designate Mr Tonio Borg

Consumer policy

In his opening remarks, Mr Borg stated that he will endeavour to deliver for European consumers by putting them at the heart of EU policy-making. To achieve that objective, the Commissioner-designate pledged to complete the work under-way in consumer protection area and to ensure continuity if confirmed as Commissioner. He also underlined the importance of winning consumers' confidence in the internal market.

Furthermore, the Commissioner-designate pledged that, as Commissioner designate with responsibility for Consumer Policy, he would work to protect consumers, and be a champion of consumers' interests within the College of Commissioners. To underpin the safety of consumers among his highest priorities, the Commissioner-designate confirmed that, in cooperation with other Commissioners, he would be presenting, among others, a package on product safety and market surveillance as well as an initiative on bank accounts at the beginning of 2013.

During the debate, the Commissioner-designate answered questions relating to the following subjects in particular:

- Effective enforcement of the Union consumer protection law to equal benefit of all consumers;
- Future Commission initiatives on bank accounts;
- Future EU framework on collective redress;
- Consumer empowerment in the context of the new European Consumer Agenda;
- Tools to improve information and raise awareness of consumer rights;
- Non-discrimination of consumers;
- Safety of products and services in the market;
- On-line trade and gambling;
- Protection of consumers against misleading practices.

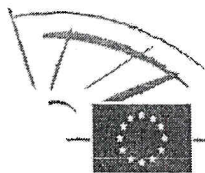
The Members of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection made **a generally positive assessment of** Mr Borg's knowledge and commitment to the consumer policy programmes that he inherited from his predecessor. He made a number of pledges to potential future programmes, in particular on basic banking services and on collective redress. However, these commitments were less concrete and the committee will keep these under scrutiny.

Members welcomed his assurance to act as a champion of consumers in the EU. His commitment to work for the safety of consumers, both in relation to goods and services, including trading on-line was duly noted.

A number of Members remained concerned that as a Member of the College his commitments on human health, reproductive rights and sexual equality were not entirely convincing. They would like to stress that Parliament should remain vigilant that he delivers on his commitments in that regard.

The IMCO committee was unable to reach unanimous endorsement of Dr Borg for the office of Commissioner. However, a clear majority supports him for his office.

By a majority, the Committee therefore gives **a favourable opinion** on the appointment of Mr Borg as Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy."



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Committee on Legal Affairs
The Chairman

D(2012)58790

Mr Matthias Groote
Chair
Committee on the Environment,
Public Health and Food Safety
BRU - ASP 12G201

Subject: Scrutiny of Commissioner-designate Tonio Borg's Declaration of Interests

Dear Mr Groote,

In accordance with Rule 106 of the Rules of Procedure and the third paragraph of Article 1(a) of Annex XVII thereto¹, the Committee on Legal Affairs held an extraordinary meeting on Tuesday 13 November 2012 in order to scrutinise the Declaration of Interests of Commissioner-designate Tonio Borg, who, subject to the positive outcome of the nomination procedure, will be responsible for Health and Consumer Policy.

Prior to this meeting, the Members of the Committee had been provided with the Curriculum Vitae of the Commissioner-designate and his Declaration of Interests provided under the terms of the Code of Conduct for Commissioners drawn up on the basis of Article 17 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) and Article 245 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

After duly scrutinising the Commissioner-designate's declaration of interests, the Committee had the following observations to make thereon:

There is an obvious typographical error regarding the redemption date of the HSBC Finance bonds, which should be corrected in the future.

Apart from this, the Committee has no further comments.

This represents the consensus of the Members present for the extraordinary meeting².

¹ "Parliament may seek any information relevant to its reaching a decision on the aptitude of the Commissioners-designate. It shall expect full disclosure of information relating to their financial interests. The declarations of interest of the Commissioners-designate shall be sent for scrutiny to the committee responsible for legal affairs."

² Raffaele Baldassarre, Luigi Berlinguer, Sebastian Valentin Bodu, Cristian Silviu Buşoi, Marielle Gallo, Christian Engström, Lidia Joanna Geringer de Oedenberg, Klaus-Heiner Lehne, Antonio Masip Hidalgo, Clemente Mastella, Alajos Mészáros, Bernhard Rapkay, Evelyn Regner, Dagmar Roth-Behrendt, Dimitar Stoyanov, Rainer Wieland, Cecilia Wikström, Tadeusz Zwiefka

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'K' followed by a series of loops and a horizontal line.

Klaus-Heiner LEHNE

copy: Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament