



The European
Commission 2010-14

Profiles and priorities

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The European Commission 2010–14

Profiles and priorities

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INTRODUCTION

The European Commission at work

Some 500 million people and 27 countries make up the European Union. Three main institutions steer the Union: the European Parliament (the voice of the people), the Council of the European Union (the voice of the Member States) and the European Commission (the executive body). The European Commission drafts proposals for new European laws, keeps an eye on how those laws are implemented and manages the EU budget. It is made up of 27 Commissioners – one from each EU country.

Every five years, a new College of Commissioners is appointed. Their term in office coincides with the period for which the European Parliament is elected. The process starts with the President of the Commission. The governments of the EU countries appoint a new president, who must then be confirmed by Parliament. José Manuel Barroso is at the wheel of the EU executive for the period 2010 to 2014, following his term at the head of the 2004 to 2009 Commission.

The incoming president discusses potential Commissioner candidates with the national governments. When they have all been nominated, the President allocates portfolios among them and then they have to undergo several hours of hearings by members of the European Parliament. The parliamentarians then take a vote to either approve or reject the Commission as a whole.

The Commissioners do not represent their home country's government. They are bound to act independently, solely in the interests of Europe. Each Commissioner is responsible for a specific policy area, ranging from environment to competition or trade. The Commissioner is in charge of one or several directorates-general and, in some cases, EU agencies.

Compared to the previous term, the President has changed several portfolios for the 2010–14 Commission: the previous Environment portfolio has been split into two to become Environment and Climate Action; Innovation has been added to Science and Research; and Justice, Security and Home Affairs has been assigned to two Commissioners, one responsible for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship, the other focusing on Home Affairs.

Another novelty in this Commission is the first 'de facto' EU Foreign Minister in the form of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, who is in charge of the new External Action Service. The High Representative is appointed by the European Council and is also one of seven Commission Vice-Presidents. The Lisbon Treaty specifies that the position combines the powers of the Commissioner for External Relations and the previous Common Foreign and Security Policy High Representative.

The new Lisbon Treaty makes many changes in the EU. First and foremost, however, the redesign of the Commission is intended to do one thing – something that has always been at the top of the Commission's agenda: to help the EU tackle the challenges society is facing now and will face in the future.

JOSÉ MANUEL BARROSO



'The European project is based on the values of peace, freedom, justice and solidarity.'

SETTING LONG-TERM GOALS FOR THE EU

President

The President of the European Commission sets the agenda and priorities for the European Commission and works together with the other 26 Commissioners to deliver on policy initiatives. He calls and chairs meetings between the Commissioners, and can assign responsibility for specific activities or set up working groups.

The President is a member of the European Council and he represents the European Union at international summits in all the Commission's areas of competence.

President Barroso was first elected in 2004. In his first term, he pushed for an agenda focused on economic reform. He led ambitious policies on climate change, energy and better regulation. It was also in this period that the European Union adopted and ratified the Treaty of Lisbon.

When he was reappointed in 2009, President Barroso set out a vision for the next 10 years, known as Europe 2020. This strategy charts a path out of the economic and financial crisis and urges the European Union to concentrate on three mutually reinforcing priorities: smart growth, sustainable growth and inclusive growth. President Barroso also wants to ensure that the Commission plays a full part in maintaining the EU's position as an important player on the global stage. He believes that external relations should play a central role in how the EU approaches and achieves its internal policy goals.

Before becoming President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso was Prime Minister of Portugal. Mr Barroso has also held a number of ministerial posts, including home and foreign affairs. Mr Barroso has also been active in academia, heading the international relations department of the University of Lusíada. He was born in Lisbon in 1956.

ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/president

JOSÉ MANUEL BARROSO

CATHERINE ASHTON



'The European Union's credibility depends on how we interact with our global partners.'

PROMOTING PEACE, PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE AND FIGHTING POVERTY

Vice-President

High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Commissioner Ashton is the first to hold the position of High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, as created by the Treaty of Lisbon. This makes her responsible for the EU's external relations and its security and defence policies. She is Vice-President of the European Commission and head of the European External Action Service (EEAS), the diplomatic corps that oversees the EU's huge aid and humanitarian budget, as well as relations with countries around the world.

The EEAS comprises 130 'EU delegations' – comparable to embassies – and brings together the EU's international political, economic and military engagements. As head of the service, Commissioner Ashton's main priority is to ensure that the EU is active and operational on global issues. However, she does not expect the EU to act alone and values an effective partnership with NATO and the EU's global partners.

Commissioner Ashton is also focused on various matters of global concern, such as non-proliferation, counterterrorism, human rights, energy and climate change. Another priority is to strengthen the EU's crisis-management operations, ensuring missions are well staffed, well equipped and well led.

Born in Upholland, United Kingdom, in 1956, Catherine Ashton held ministerial posts in several British government departments between 2001 and 2008. In 2007, Commissioner Ashton was Leader of the House of Lords. She joined the European Commission in 2008, as Commissioner for Trade.

ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/ashton

VIVIANE REDING



'There can be no freedom
without security and justice.'

A NEW ERA FOR JUSTICE AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS IN EUROPE

Vice-President Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship

The 2010–14 European Commission is the first to have a Commissioner for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship – policies where citizens expect the most from Europe. The Lisbon Treaty revolutionises policymaking in these areas by making the European Charter of Fundamental Rights legally binding and by putting citizens at the heart of all Union policies.

Viviane Reding's priority is to develop a truly European area of justice where citizens, consumers and businesses can rely on their right to free movement within the EU. The Commissioner plans to build a coherent European contract and consumer law, elaborate measures for resolving cross-border family law issues and strengthen European criminal law for cross-border crimes.

As the guardian of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, Viviane Reding will make sure that the Charter becomes the compass for all EU policies and will apply a zero-tolerance policy towards Member States that violate it.

Commissioner Reding is also taking the lead in promoting EU citizenship. This involves ensuring a high level of data privacy, improving consular protection abroad and improving mutual recognition of national

legal documents. The Commissioner also coordinates the EU's communication efforts, keeping citizens and media posted on EU activities.

Finally, Commissioner Reding also plans to strengthen gender equality in all fields of EU policy. Reducing the gender pay gap, increasing the number of women in decision-making, and combating violence against women are her main priorities in this area.

Luxembourger Viviane Reding was born in Esch-sur-Alzette in 1951. She is now in her third term as a European Commissioner. Education, Culture, Youth, Media and Sport was her first portfolio (1999 to 2004), followed by Information Society and Media (2004 to 2009). But Viviane Reding's work in European politics began even earlier: between 1989 and 1999 she held a seat in the European Parliament.

ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/reding

JOAQUÍN ALMUNIA

A black and white portrait of Joaquín Almunia, a middle-aged man with receding hair, wearing a dark suit jacket, a light-colored striped shirt, and a dark tie. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a subtle smile. The background is blurred, showing other people in a professional setting.

'Competition policy is an essential tool
for the EU to be competitive
on the global stage.'

ECONOMIC GROWTH BASED ON OPEN AND COMPETITIVE MARKETS

Vice-President Competition

Fair competition within the European Union benefits both European businesses and consumers. The Competition Commissioner is tasked with securing the right balance between the two and making sure that neither companies nor Member State governments break the rules.

In all economy-related policy areas, there is one huge challenge that no one can currently avoid: overcoming the economic crisis. Commissioner Almunia has vowed to play his role, stressing the importance of competition policy to help Europe recover from the downturn better equipped for balanced and sustainable growth.

The Commissioner has promised to crack down on companies and governments that do not abide by European competition rules: anti-competitive agreements between competitors, abusive behaviour of dominant companies and distortion of competition by means of unlawful subsidies will have no place in the Union. He is also considering ways to strengthen the rights to compensation for companies and consumers who have suffered from cartel behaviour.

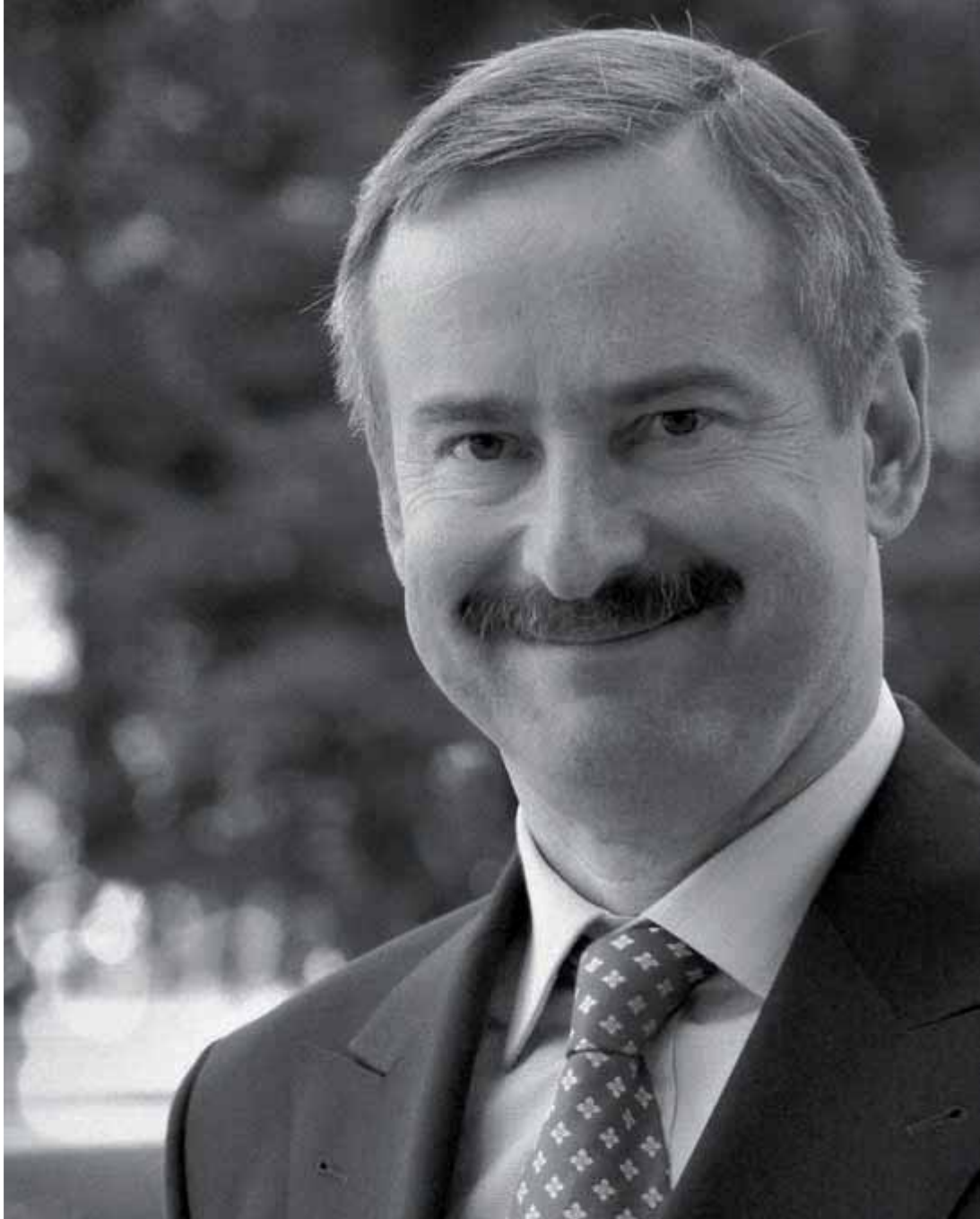
Controlling state subsidies for businesses is another priority for Commissioner Almunia. His aim is to ensure that banks emerge from the economic crisis fully operational;

to phase out the temporary measures that were set up to stabilise the financial sector; and to help companies through the crisis. When things have improved in these areas, he would like to modernise the state aid guidelines in areas such as research and development, environmental protection and risk capital. This should boost green and socially inclusive growth that is based on knowledge, skills and innovation.

Born in 1948 in Bilbao in Spain, Joaquín Almunia has been a member of the European Commission since 2004, when he took over responsibility for Economic and Monetary Affairs. His political career began more than 30 years ago: he was a member of the Spanish Parliament from 1979 to 2004 and founded the *Laboratorio de alternativas* think tank in 2002.

ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/almunia

SIIM KALLAS



'Free movement is one of the greatest freedoms for citizens of Europe.'

FAST, SAFE AND CLEAN TRANSPORT FOR ALL

Vice-President Transport

Moving people and goods quickly, efficiently and cheaply is a central tenet of a dynamic economy and a cohesive society – and the EU strives to have both of these qualities. The Commissioner for Transport deals with this challenge and must also ensure that Europe’s transport system is safe and secure. EU funding of over €104 billion has been set aside for trans-European networks for the period 2007 to 2013.

It is Siim Kallas’ responsibility to develop an integrated transport policy that combines more mobility with decarbonising transport. He plans to do this by removing obstacles that reduce transport efficiency, such as poor signalling systems for trains. A balance must be struck between protecting passengers’ rights, tackling environmental concerns, improving safety and ensuring that transport companies remain profitable.

The Commissioner is keen to speed up the introduction of intelligent transport systems. He hopes to increase infrastructure investment and believes that there is an added value in looking at this from a European perspective. Decisions to build new infrastructure are too often short-sighted and national in perspective, a state of affairs the Commissioner would like to change.

Promoting the use of trains and public transport is also high on Commissioner Kallas’ agenda.

Siim Kallas is well known in Estonia, having held several ministerial posts and, in 2002-03, the position of prime minister. He is equally well-known at European level, having joined the European Commission in 2004 when he was responsible for administration, audit and anti-fraud. He was born in Tallinn in 1948.

ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/kallas

NEELIE KROES



'Information and communication technologies
affect every European every day.'

FULL SPEED AHEAD FOR THE ONLINE SINGLE MARKET

Vice-President Digital Agenda

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are inextricably linked with all aspects of modern life. They are key to improving productivity and tackling major challenges in fields as diverse as energy efficiency and healthcare. The various responsibilities of preparing the European Digital Agenda therefore represent a challenging portfolio.

Commissioner Neelie Kroes places emphasis on six areas which she considers to be the building blocks of Europe's Digital Agenda. First, she calls for greater commitment to ICT research and innovation. €1.7 billion in EU funding is channelled into ICT research every year. Commissioner Kroes hopes to boost this figure with private and national funding.

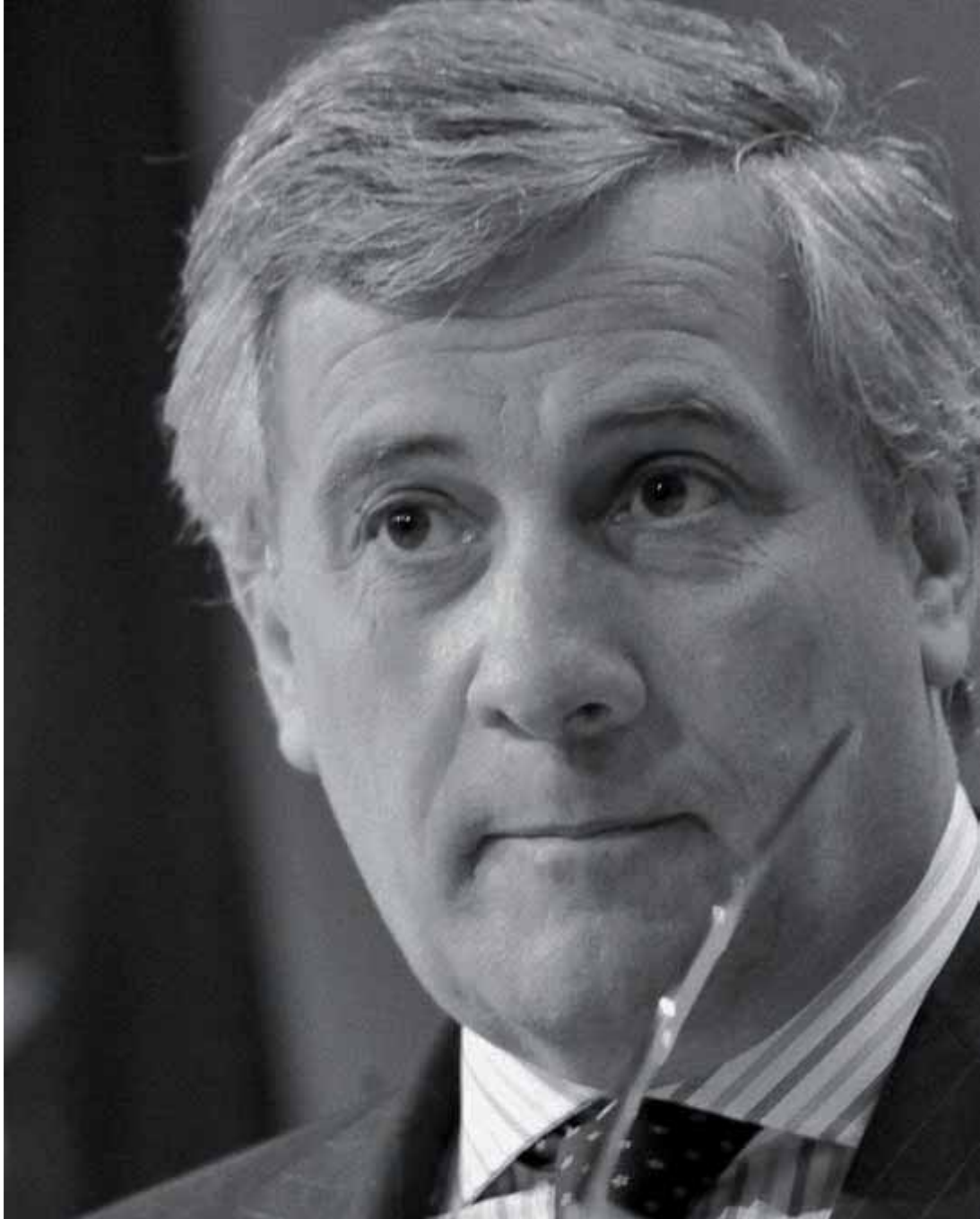
Second, she is an advocate of investment in open, high-speed broadband networks that allow citizens and businesses to be connected any time, anywhere. Third on her list is the fight against fraud and other forms of online threats. Fourth, Commissioner Kroes believes that every European should be given the chance to benefit from the use of ICTs. For this reason, the EU will act to promote citizens' access to technology and the skills to use it. Fifth, open ICT standards and interoperability principles should be applied as widely as possible. Government bodies should in particular be bound by these principles, including the European institutions.

Finally, Commissioner Kroes is set to develop a single online market for goods and services. Currently, Europe is a patchwork of fragmented national markets and regulations. Unifying them for the good of individual consumers and businesses is the sixth and last building block to her vision of a European Digital Agenda.

Born in 1941 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, Neelie Kroes joined the European Commission as Commissioner for Competition in 2004. Her first brush with Brussels was between 1989 and 1991, when she served as adviser to the European Commissioner for Transport, following seven years as Dutch Minister of Transport, Public Works and Telecommunication.

ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/kroes

ANTONIO TAJANI



'Industrial policy and the fight against climate change are two sides of the same coin.'

AN INDUSTRIAL POLICY FOR A GREEN ECONOMY

Vice-President Industry and Entrepreneurship

A modern industrial base with a strong emphasis on small- and medium-sized companies: this is a central aspect of the Europe 2020 strategy and will play a pivotal role in Europe's emergence from the economic slump. The Commissioner for Industry and Entrepreneurship is responsible for steering the course towards dynamic economic growth. He must identify new sources of sustainable growth and ensure that Europe remains an attractive place to be for industry. At the same time, Europe must move towards a low-carbon economy.

In his quest to ensure that European business emerges from the economic crisis stronger and more competitive, Commissioner Tajani plans to review existing industrial policy. Industry must become more globally competitive and both small and large companies must be able to address today's economic and environmental needs in a dynamic, sustainable and innovative way. By placing 'green economy' at the heart of any new industrial policy, he intends to help Europe take the lead in eco-efficiency, eco-design and eco-technology.

Commissioner Tajani also wants to make it easier for SMEs to access finance and to improve their day-to-day functioning. This can help to increase their exports. His goal is to develop a new culture of entrepreneurship and innovation in

Europe and to create an environment which encourages citizens to try out new business ventures.

Also in charge of space policy and tourism, Commissioner Tajani is keen to strengthen these two areas. When European businesses participate in projects such as the European Earth Observation Programme (GMES) and Galileo, it helps to maintain a competitive edge. Meanwhile, tourism is one of Europe's most important economic activities, and requires a more coordinated approach.

Antonio Tajani was born in Rome in 1953. He was a member of the European Parliament from 1994 to 2008 and Vice-Chair of the European People's Party from 2002 until 2006. He was European Commission Vice-President in charge of transport from 2008 until 2010.

ec.europa.eu/commission_2010/2014/tajani

MAROŠ ŠEFČOVIČ



'EU institutions should focus more on interlocking rather than interlocking.'

KEEPING THE EU MACHINE RUNNING SMOOTHLY

Interinstitutional Relations and Administration

The smooth functioning of the EU depends on a seamless connection between the Union's gears that keeps it running like a well-oiled machine. The Commissioner for Interinstitutional Relations and Administration is tasked with maintaining relations between the European Commission and the other institutions such as the Parliament and the Council of the European Union. He is also in charge of EU staff and staff regulations.

The Lisbon Treaty has changed the interinstitutional framework substantially: thanks to extended decision power, the Parliament is now on a more equal footing with the Council. However, these changes have made working relations more complex, which means that interinstitutional relations need to be modified. Maroš Šefčovič has promised to strengthen connections between the Commission and the Parliament.

His predecessor began work on revising the framework agreement between the institutions and it is one of Commissioner Šefčovič's major tasks to continue this work. This framework agreement deals with areas such as the flow of information between the Commission and the Parliament. It also outlines the political responsibilities of Commissioners and the process of legislative programming.

In line with President Barroso's political guidelines, Commissioner Šefčovič is also committed to reviewing the Code of Conduct for Commissioners. He hopes it will become a reference document that inspires other EU institutions. The code covers the ethical aspects of Commissioners' activities and is intended to increase transparency.

Born in 1966 in Bratislava, Maroš Šefčovič gained some experience as Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth prior to his appointment to the Interinstitutional Relations and Administration portfolio. A large part of his career has been spent in Slovak embassies and permanent representations around the world, namely in Harare, Ottawa, Tel Aviv and Brussels.

ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/sefcovic

MAROŠ ŠEFČOVIČ

JANEZ POTOČNIK

A black and white portrait of Janez Potočnik, a man with short hair and glasses, wearing a suit and tie. He is holding a pen in his right hand and looking slightly to the left with a slight smile. The background is blurred, suggesting an outdoor setting.

'Europe will either exist as a green continent,
or it will not exist at all.'

SETTING THE COURSE TOWARDS A GREENER EUROPE

Environment

The EU's environment policy addresses a wide range of issues. These include biodiversity, pollution-related health topics and the use of natural resources such as water. Owing to its global and strategic significance, climate change has been placed in a separate portfolio in the 2010–14 Commission.

Commissioner Potočnik believes that the restructured portfolio is beneficial in that it allows environmental issues to come out from the overwhelming shadow of climate change.

The road towards a European society rooted in green growth has three lanes, according to Commissioner Potočnik: efficient use of natural resources, protection of biodiversity as well as the implementation and enforcement of existing environmental legislation.

He is determined to break the link between growth and the exploitation of natural resources. This requires a change in attitude from the mere protection of the environment to an appreciation of its value.

Commissioner Potočnik is also a firm believer that the Commission must take measures to ensure that EU laws on the environment are implemented in the Member States, albeit with a certain degree of flexibility. He aims to provide the legal certainty and level playing field that Europe needs while navigating its way to a greener economy and society.

Janez Potočnik was Commissioner for Science and Research before his current assignment. With a background in economics, his early career was in research and academia. In 1998, he was appointed Head of the Negotiation Team for the Accession of Slovenia to the EU, which he led until 2004. His stint in government was crowned by two years as Minister for European Affairs between 2002 and 2004. He was born in the Slovenian town of Kropa in 1958.

ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/potocnik

OLLI REHN



'We have to act on two fronts:
economic growth and public finance.'

MONEY MATTERS

Economic and Monetary Affairs

OLLI REHN

Improving the economic well-being of Europe's citizens is at the heart of EU economic and monetary affairs policy. The Commissioner must help put in place a framework that ensures sustainable economic growth, a high employment rate, stable public finances and financial stability. The smooth functioning of the EU's Economic and Monetary Union also falls into his area of competence.

Olli Rehn took on this portfolio in the middle of the global financial crisis. This factor has clearly had an impact on his priorities which serve a common goal: jump-starting the growth of the European economy and Europe's job market.

To achieve these goals, Commissioner Rehn seeks to better coordinate the economic strategies of the Member States. He is also working to consolidate public finances – after public stimuli for the weakened economy have taken effect, he wants the EU to adopt a coordinated exit strategy.

The Stability and Growth Pact is a key tool in the Commissioner's work. It allows for close observation of the Member States and sanctions if they do not comply with its rules.

Last but not least, Commissioner Rehn's term in office is about innovative financial instruments, which combine public and private sources of finance. Their simultaneous and efficient use is crucial for achieving the EU's long-term targets.

Olli Rehn was born in the Finnish town of Mikkeli in 1962. His involvement in EU politics began in 1991, when he was appointed chairman of the Finnish delegation to the Council of Europe. He joined the ranks of the European Commission in 2004 as Commissioner for Enterprise and Information Society. This short-term position was followed by a full five-year term as Commissioner for Enlargement.

ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/rehn

ANDRIS PIEBALGS



'My priority is more, better and faster aid.'

FIGHTING POVERTY AROUND THE WORLD

Development

The EU provides 60 % of global aid despite producing only 22 % of the world's GDP. The European Development Fund budget totals €22.6 billion for 2008–13. The Commissioner with this portfolio must ensure that the EU remains a champion of aid in the developing world, even in challenging economic times. The EU must tackle diverse challenges such as food and water security, health and education, and stronger relations with Africa.

High on Commissioner Piebalgs' agenda is his intention to ensure that the EU delivers what it has promised to achieve under the Millennium Development Goals. These have been agreed by all United Nations member states with the aim of reducing world poverty. He will urge EU countries to maintain their aid budgets despite trying economic circumstances.

His goal is to improve aid effectiveness by ensuring development programmes meet real needs on the ground. The Commissioner is also intent on modernising relations between the EU and poorer countries from one of donor-recipient to one of a partnership of equals.

Commissioner Piebalgs has pledged to make sure that all EU policies have a development component. He believes EU citizens have a right to be proud of what the Union does in this field, particularly in view of the fact that development aid is provided on the basis of European

values: solidarity, democracy, respect of fundamental human rights and the right to education and healthcare.

Andris Piebalgs served in the first Barroso Commission as the Commissioner for Energy. Prior to his move to Brussels, he held three ministerial posts in Latvia (education, finance and EU affairs) and chaired the Budget and Finance Committee in the national parliament. Commissioner Piebalgs was born in 1957 in Valmiera.

ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/piebalgs

MICHEL BARNIER



'We need to put transparency, responsibility and ethics at the heart of the financial system.'

PUTTING CITIZENS AT THE HEART OF THE INTERNAL MARKET

Internal Market and Services

The internal market is one of the EU's greatest achievements. It is founded upon the principle of free movement of people, goods, services and capital. It has increased standards of living and created millions of jobs. People can travel, live and work in the EU country of their choice, and shop around for the cheapest goods and services. Businesses are faced with less red tape and have direct access to a market of 27 countries and 500 million consumers.

The internal market is however a work in progress since it needs to keep up with political, technological and environmental change. Commissioner Barnier's goal is to respond to these challenges and to give new momentum to the internal market – particularly in the key areas of cleaning up financial markets after the economic crisis and making sure that the Services Directive delivers on its potential.

The Commissioner's foremost aim is to 'relaunch' the internal market via four main priorities: to strengthen confidence in the opportunities and protection that the internal market offers; to promote creation and innovation; to put citizens at the heart of the internal market; and to ensure that it plays its role in creating the growth the EU needs.


During his term, he plans to visit every EU country to speak directly to citizens,

consumers and businesses and to hear from them how the internal market is really working on the ground. Their input will be crucial in creating an internal market fit for the challenges of the 21st century.

Born in Grenoble, France, in 1951, Michel Barnier has been a politician for more than 25 years. He was Commissioner for Regional Policy, 1999–2004, and has been Minister in France for agriculture and foreign affairs. In 2006, the Commissioner was an adviser to José Manuel Barroso on the creation of a civil protection force.

ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/barnier

ANDROULLA VASSILIOU



'If Europe is to compete successfully in the new world economy, we must unlock excellence in education, in research, in innovation.'

THE IMPORTANCE OF MOBILITY AND CREATIVITY

Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth

High-quality education and training for both young and old will be a decisive factor in transforming Europe into a knowledge-based society. The Commissioner will drive progress in this area, while steering the EU's education and learning mobility programmes. Previously handled separately, multilingualism has now been added to this portfolio. Commissioner Vassiliou is also responsible for sport.

The EU has set aside €7 billion to support lifelong learning in the 2007-13 period. Commissioner Vassiliou has established the following priorities: to enhance people's skills, to widen access to education and training, to help young people become more mobile and to build a creative environment. Recognising the key role of higher education, the Commissioner will aim to increase the share of EU students with tertiary qualifications from the existing 31 to 40 % by 2020. She will draw on the European Institute of Innovation and Technology and other tools at her disposal to energise and modernise the research and study environment. She is also developing the new 'Youth on the move' initiative, which brings together and simplifies existing programmes, so as to give all young Europeans a chance to improve their skills abroad.

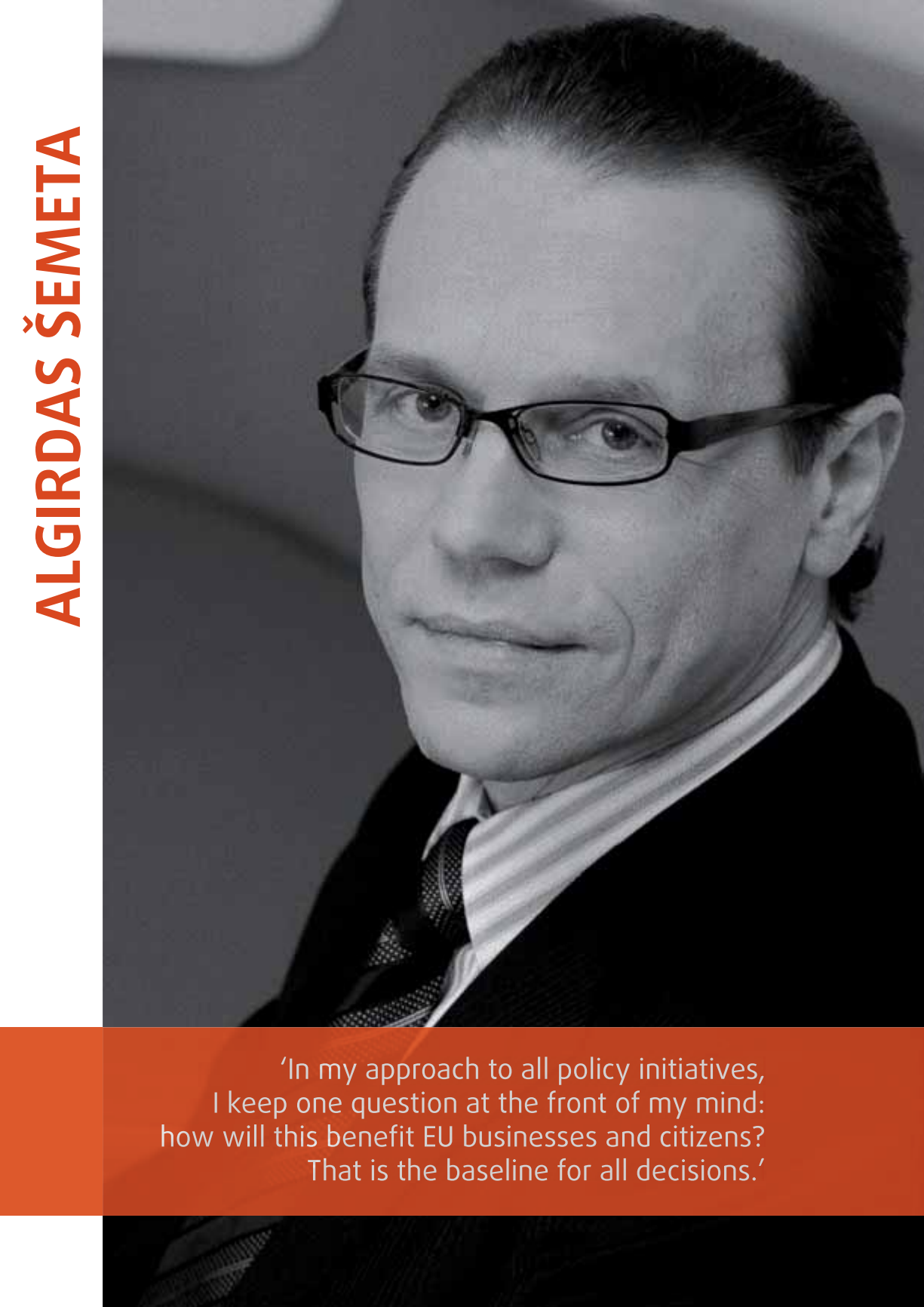
Commissioner Vassiliou considers the EU's cultural strategy – defined in the

European Agenda for Culture – as a key instrument in promoting European cultural values, which she would like to further strengthen through the European heritage label, a symbol of Europe's history and cultural diversity.

Androulla Vassiliou, born in 1943 in Paphos, Cyprus, was a member of the Cyprus House of Representatives between 1996 and 2006. During most of that time she was also Vice-President of the European Liberal Democrats and Reform Party. In February 2008, she became a member of the European Commission, covering the health portfolio.

ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/vassiliou

ALGIRDAS ŠEMETA

A black and white portrait of Algirdas Šemeta, a man with dark hair, wearing glasses, a dark suit jacket, a light-colored striped shirt, and a dark patterned tie. He is looking slightly to the left of the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

'In my approach to all policy initiatives, I keep one question at the front of my mind: how will this benefit EU businesses and citizens? That is the baseline for all decisions.'

EVERY CENT OF EU TAXPAYERS' MONEY MUST BE ACCOUNTED FOR AND WELL SPENT

Taxation and Customs Union, Audit and Anti-Fraud

Two fields – taxation and customs on the one hand, and audit and anti-fraud on the other – have been placed under a single portfolio in the 2010–14 Commission. From Commissioner Šemeta's point of view, the enlarged portfolio is only logical, since the collection of revenue through taxes and the effective spending of this money are two sides of the same coin. Both must serve the same objective: to benefit society. Both are subject to the same principles: transparency, simplicity, accountability and respect for taxpayers' money.

Driven by these principles, Commissioner Šemeta has made the fight against fraud a priority. OLAF, the European anti-fraud office, plays a central role in this endeavour, and the Commissioner is therefore intent on reinforcing its efficiency. He also advocates that audits of EU spending be carried out with the greatest care and diligence, as there is no justification for the misuse or abuse of citizens' money.

Commissioner Šemeta is committed to promoting quality taxation, which supports economic growth and helps meet Europe's social and environmental goals. This involves removing tax obstacles which prevent businesses and citizens from reaping the full benefit of the internal market. The EU must also help to tackle

the tax fraud and evasion which rob the public coffers of billions of euros each year, and to promote a 'green' taxation agenda that works in line with the EU's environmental objectives. In addition, the Commissioner plans to modernise EU customs in a way that will save businesses time and money while still ensuring that EU citizens have the highest level of protection.

Algirdas Šemeta became a member of the European Commission in summer 2009 as Commissioner for Financial Programming and Budget. The economist, who was born in Vilnius in 1962, was twice Minister of Finance in Lithuania.

ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/semeta

KAREL DE GUCHT

A black and white portrait of Karel de Gucht, a middle-aged man with short, light-colored hair, wearing a striped shirt and a dark tie. He is resting his chin on his hand, looking thoughtfully towards the camera. The background is a dark, solid color.

'Free trade must be a tool to generate prosperity, stability and development.'

GENERATING PROSPERITY, STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Trade

The 27 EU countries negotiate as one on the international trade scene, through the European Commissioner for Trade. He thus represents the EU at World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations, where the rules for international trade are set. He is also responsible for concluding bilateral trade agreements between the EU and individual countries or entities around the world.

The Commissioner is in charge of the legal and political framework that makes trade possible. At the same time, he must ensure that other priorities are maintained, and that European values are protected globally. He is required to keep a close eye on safety and hygiene standards, environmental protection and working conditions, while making sure that trade benefits developing countries.

Commissioner De Gucht has set himself five priorities for his five-year tenure. He wishes to preserve and further strengthen the WTO's multilateral trading system and deepen bilateral trade and investment. He plans to take cooperation with other leading economies – particularly the US and China – to a higher level, and to conclude economic partnership agreements with African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. And finally, he intends to make certain that European companies are treated fairly and given the opportunity to expand their business. He will do this

by improving access to third-country markets.

Ultimately, Commissioner De Gucht seeks to boost growth and jobs while ensuring respect for social rights during his term.

Karel De Gucht joined the Commission in 2009, taking on the Development and Humanitarian Aid portfolio. Prior to his move to European politics, he was Minister for Foreign Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister of Belgium. This was preceded by various ministerial positions and a 14-year spell as an MEP in the 1980s and 1990s. Karel De Gucht was born in Overmere in 1954.

ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/degucht

JOHN DALLI



'High food standards should serve as a competitive advantage for the EU.'

PUTTING PATIENTS AND CONSUMERS FIRST

Health and Consumer Policy

The EU seeks to protect human and animal health while empowering consumers and ensuring their safety. It is the Commissioner's job to see that the right protection is in place, watching over the safety of the food chain and safeguarding the EU against animal disease.

While health systems are a national matter, the Commissioner must support their effectiveness and efficiency. He also coordinates policy on pharmaceuticals and medicinal products and helps EU countries coordinate their response to human and animal pandemics.

The motto 'patients first, consumers first' drives Commissioner Dalli's work. His vision is that of well-informed consumers who can take well-informed decisions on the foods and services that they consume. The Commissioner believes innovation can help ensure that consumers continue to enjoy high standards of food safety, food technology and healthcare.

Commissioner Dalli places huge importance on the prevention of illness. Some 97 % of health spending in Europe is currently allocated to treatment with only 3 % reserved for prevention. He is intent on convincing stakeholders that prevention is an investment that will extend lives and reduce health spending in the long term.

Commissioner Dalli's agenda also includes the wish to create more equality in the

health system and ensure that better information is given to the patient (for example on prescription drugs) and the consumer (on safety and rights).

Born in the Maltese town of Qormi in 1948, John Dalli has held ministerial posts ranging from economy to finance, foreign affairs and social policy. Outside of politics Commissioner Dalli spent almost 10 years in management consultancy.

ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/dalli

MÁIRE GEOGHEGAN-QUINN



'I am passionate about fostering an innovation culture in Europe because it can change people's lives and transform our society.'

TRANSLATING RESEARCH INTO JOBS

Research, Innovation and Science

Research and innovation are crucial to replacing jobs lost during the economic crisis and to making Europe a successful and sustainable knowledge-based economy. This is at the heart of the EU's Europe 2020 strategy.

Under the seventh framework programme for research (2007–13), the EU invests over €50 billion in research and development. Most of this supports cross-border collaboration, which helps to avoid duplication of research and achieves better results and value for money. Through the European Research Council, grants are also made to individual scientists demonstrating excellence in groundbreaking research.

The Commission itself undertakes research and supports policy development in crucial areas such as food safety, climate change and nuclear security. This is done by the Joint Research Centre under Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn's authority. She is the first Commissioner with specific responsibility for EU innovation policy. Cooperating with other Commissioners, the European Parliament, Member States and business, she will work to close the 'innovation gap.' This expression refers to the fact that European research successes – like the MP3 audio standard – have not always been commercialised by European companies.

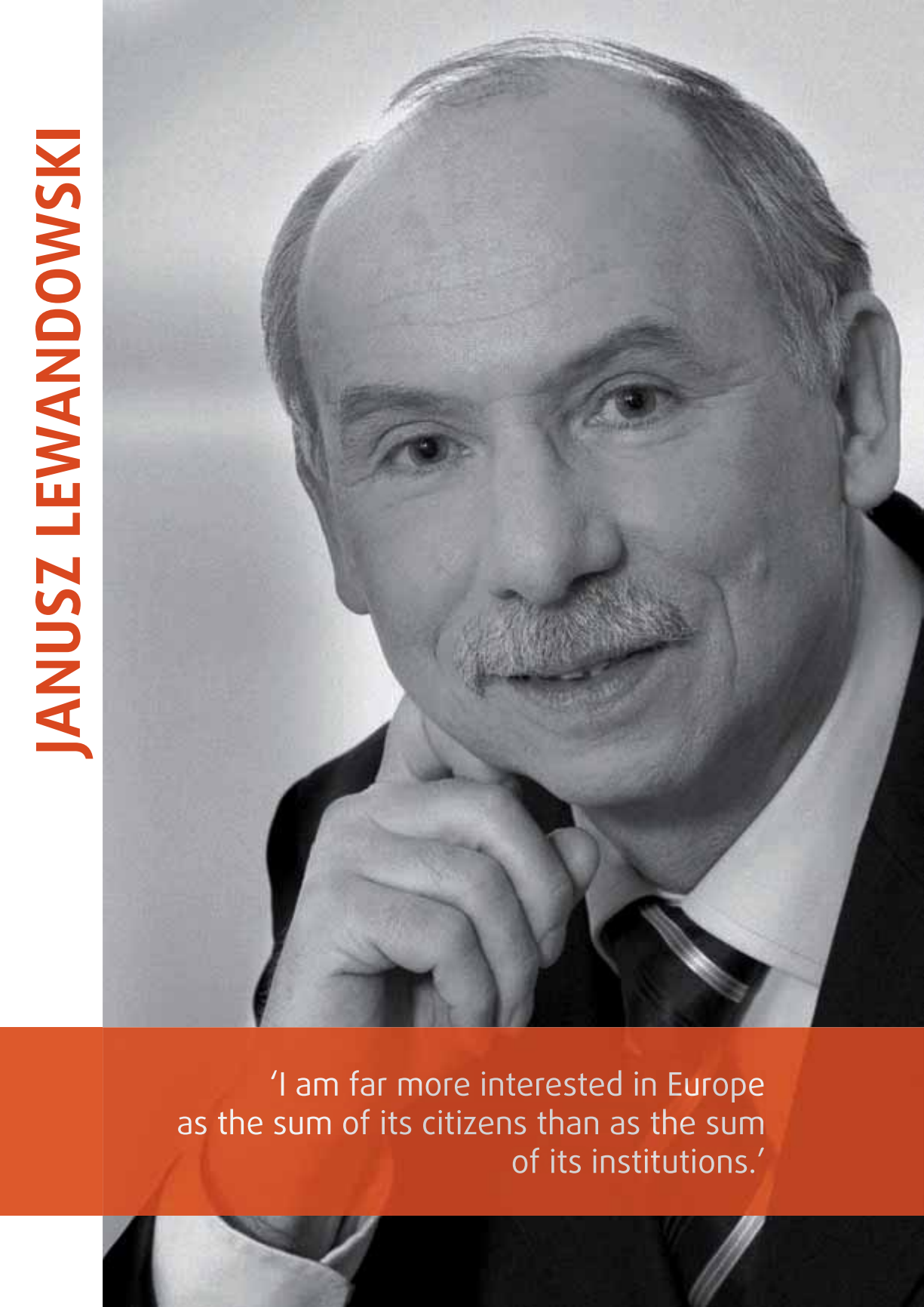
Another priority is to complete a 'European Research Area', where knowledge and researchers can move freely. One way in which this could be done is to facilitate the transfer to another country of researchers' entitlements to social security benefits and pensions. The EU and Member States must work closer together to establish world-class research infrastructures and to programme research in a coordinated way.

Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn is committed to cutting red tape from EU research funding. This will in particular attract more participation from SMEs.

Born in 1950 in Galway, Ireland, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn was Minister for the Gaeltacht, the Irish-speaking community, from 1979 to 1981. She was the first female cabinet minister since Ireland achieved independence. She has also held the posts of Minister for European Affairs and Minister for Justice. Before joining the Commission, she was a member of the European Court of Auditors.

ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/geoghegan-quinn

JANUSZ LEWANDOWSKI

A black and white portrait of Janusz Lewandowski, a middle-aged man with a mustache, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and dark tie. He is resting his chin on his clasped hands and looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

'I am far more interested in Europe as the sum of its citizens than as the sum of its institutions.'

A STRONG AND SOUND BUDGET MAKES A STRONG AND SOUND EU

Financial Programming and Budget

Directly or indirectly, every European citizen contributes to the budget of the European Union. The total budget, just over €0.5 per citizen per day, enables the EU to work on improving our daily lives with regard to issues such as the environment, transport, health, the economy and education.

The main task of the Commissioner for Financial Programming and Budget is to draw up and manage annual and multiannual spending plans for the EU's money. The budgets are to be approved by the directly elected representatives of the people (the European Parliament) and the governments of the Member States (the Council).

Commissioner Lewandowski's top priority is to make sure that the EU's spending plans are implemented smoothly and efficiently. He is convinced that the EU must reform its budget in order to face the changes that affect us now and that will continue to affect future generations. These include areas such as climate change, a new world economic order, security and energy supply.

Janusz Lewandowski was born in 1951 in Lublin, Poland. From 2004 until January 2010 he served as a Member of the European Parliament and chaired the Parliament's Budget Committee. An economist, his professional career began with a 10-year tenure as associate professor of international trade and maritime transport at the University of Gdańsk in 1974.

ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/lewandowski

MARIA DAMANAKI



'Fish is more than a source of food. The fishing industry is a culture and a way of life.'

BLUE GROWTH FOR A GREEN ECONOMY

Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

The EU is developing an integrated maritime policy that makes the most of the economic potential of Europe's seas and oceans in harmony with the marine environment and the needs of coastal communities. The common fisheries policy assures the conservation and management of fisheries resources, promotes international cooperation and responsible fishing in non-EU waters and supports competitiveness in the sector.

Commissioner Damanaki is charged with strengthening maritime policy, generating new growth and jobs and seeing that it contributes to a greener economy. She has four maritime priorities: creating 'blue' growth, creating 'blue' jobs, a new maritime surveillance system to guarantee security for citizens, fisheries and transport, and supporting marine research.

The EU's fisheries policy has been in place since 1983. Reform is now needed to set EU fisheries on a clear course to environmental, economic and social sustainability. The Commissioner is steering the reform, but wants to ensure that detailed decisions are taken locally. She is also seeking to strengthen fisheries partnership agreements with non-EU countries. Some €3.8 billion in EU funding is available for the European Fisheries Fund between 2007 and 2013.


Millions of livelihoods depend on the maritime and fisheries sector. Commissioner Damanaki is looking out for their well-being, as well as that of the environment.

Born in Crete in 1952, Maria Damanaki has been active in politics throughout her adult life. At 18 she joined a student movement of the Polytechnic University of Athens against the dictatorship in Greece. During the uprising in 1973, she broadcast from a clandestine radio transmitter and became known as 'the voice of the uprising'. She has been an MP for 21 years.

ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/damanaki

MARIA DAMANAKI

KRISTALINA GEORGIEVA

A black and white portrait of Kristalina Georgieva, a woman with short dark hair, smiling slightly. The background is blurred.

'We are the front line of European solidarity.
For those in dire need, this is the most
important portfolio of the Commission.'

HUMANITARIAN AID, THE EUROPEAN WAY: FAST, COORDINATED AND EFFECTIVE

International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response

Every year, some 300 million people worldwide are affected by natural disasters or man-made calamities. A staggering number among them – at least 42 million – have had to leave their homes, seeking refuge elsewhere. Due to the consequences of climate change, these figures are likely to rise further. Europe is leading the response to this challenge as the single largest donor of development assistance and humanitarian aid worldwide.

Kristalina Georgieva is the first to take on the specific combination of policy areas that brings together the EU's instruments for humanitarian aid, civil protection and emergency response. She is charged with deploying those tools in the most effective way possible.

Following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, it is also the first time that humanitarian aid is recognised as a stand-alone policy. The Treaty also calls for the establishment of a European Voluntary Humanitarian Corps – one of the tasks within the realm of Commissioner Georgieva's responsibilities.

Her main priority is to ensure a faster, more united and more visible European response when the next disaster strikes. She will

strive to give a voice to the voiceless, ensuring the respect of international humanitarian law, and speaking up when humanitarian workers are killed, prisoners abused or sexual violence used as a weapon of war.

She has vowed to build on the EU's past humanitarian aid and disaster response efforts and improve the Union's response capacity based on the lessons learnt.

Kristalina Georgieva was born in 1953 in Sofia, Bulgaria. In 2008, she took over the position of Vice-President of the World Bank, which she held until being called to Brussels. An economist, her career with the World Bank began in 1993 and focused on environmental strategy and sustainable development, including the coordination of World Bank support to countries affected by conflict.

ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/georgieva

GÜNTHER OETTINGER



'Europe's energy future should be based on decarbonisation, a low-carbon economy, security of energy supply and solidarity.'

GREEN ENERGY FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Energy

Boosting the use of renewable energy and curbing energy consumption have long been key aims of the EU's energy policy. The goal is for Europe to be the world leader in renewable and low-carbon technologies. Reducing dependence on imports of gas and oil and keeping energy prices and supplies stable also figure high on Europe's energy agenda.

Commissioner Oettinger's approach to energy policy is built on three pillars: competitiveness, sustainability and security of supply. With this in mind, his priorities lie in decarbonising energy input, developing a low-carbon economy and ensuring both security and solidarity in the way we get energy.

European energy policy has both a domestic and an external dimension. Commissioner Oettinger therefore envisages stronger coordination within the EU, which should ultimately lead to a more effective European policy towards other countries. Meanwhile, a stronger energy infrastructure within the EU will help ensure better security of supply.

The Commissioner aims to achieve a massive expansion of renewable sources of energy. He is convinced that each EU country must remain free in its choice of energy sources, including whether it wants to use nuclear power.

Commissioner Oettinger will continue to pursue the 20 % target for saving energy. Tighter rules for energy efficiency for industrial machines and household appliances will help. We must also reduce the costs of making energy-efficient investments.

Prior to his term as Energy Commissioner, Günther Oettinger was Minister President of the German state of Baden-Württemberg for four and a half years. Born in 1953 in Stuttgart, he embarked on his political career as a member of the youth organisation of the German Christian Democratic Union, which he chaired in Baden-Württemberg from 1983 to 1989.

ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/oettinger

JOHANNES HAHN



'Investment in regions means European progress across the board.'

TAILOR-MADE SOLUTIONS FOR EUROPEAN REGIONS

Regional Policy

Just over one third of the EU budget goes to regional policy. Between 2007 and 2013, around €347 billion is being invested in projects that aim to strengthen economic and social cohesion. These include infrastructure upgrades, training and projects to support research and innovation. The goal is to achieve a balanced and sustainable development across all of the EU's regions.

The Commissioner in charge of this portfolio works with national, regional and local actors, as well as the Committee of the Regions, to define the concept of territorial cohesion – introduced by the Lisbon Treaty – and to give it real meaning.

Johannes Hahn will also focus on moving towards a more knowledge-based economy, which invests in innovation, and smarter and cleaner products and production methods. In order to achieve optimal use of the regional investment funds, it is essential to evaluate previous cohesion programmes and to introduce simpler rules, streamlined management processes and greater coordination with other EU spending programmes. The Commissioner is looking for tailor-made solutions for each and every EU region, aware that each has its own strengths and needs. He is also keen on developing a new urban policy for Europe. Cities


represent an important hub of activity in Europe, as 80 % of all EU citizens live in urban areas.

Commissioner Hahn is determined that Europe should be able to hold its own in the face of global competition, and sees support for the competitiveness of Europe's regions as a key priority.

Johannes Hahn was born in the Austrian capital Vienna in 1957. Prior to his Brussels posting he was Minister for Science and Research. Before this, he was a member of the Viennese regional parliament and held various management roles.

ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/hahn

CONNIE HEDEGAARD

A black and white close-up portrait of Connie Hedegaard. She has short, wavy hair and is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. Her right hand is resting against her cheek, and she is wearing a ring on her finger. She is wearing a dark jacket and a necklace with a small pendant.

'Climate change requires us to work together.
If we don't, we lose — if we do, we can win.'

LEADING THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Action

Climate action represents a new portfolio in this Commission. The Commissioner in charge is responsible for ensuring Europe's continued leadership in the fight against climate change, examining how best to deal with its consequences and leading international negotiations on the topic.

Commissioner Hedegaard seeks to ensure that the EU meets its targets for 2020 and beyond to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. She is also leading the development and implementation of the EU emissions trading system. This has to be linked to similar systems in other countries, in order to build an international carbon trading market.

The Commissioner has pledged to promote low-carbon technologies, which will not only benefit the climate and the environment, but also create new jobs. She is therefore committed to increasing funding for research in low-carbon and green technologies.

Her foremost priority is to ensure that climate change is taken into consideration during the formulation of initiatives in all policy areas. She would like to see Europe become the most 'climate-friendly' region in the world by 2015 and prove that investing in energy-efficient technologies equals economic gain and not loss.

Commissioner Hedegaard also intends to make sure that Europe learns the lessons

of the Copenhagen climate summit – this means truly pulling together and learning to speak with one voice on this important issue.

Connie Hedegaard is more than familiar with climate change, having been president of the 2009 Copenhagen climate summit as Denmark's Minister of Climate and Energy. Outside of politics, she has had a successful career in journalism, working as a news anchor and a columnist for the newspaper *Politiken*. She was born in 1960 in Holbæk.

ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/hedegaard

ŠTEFAN FÜLE



'The last EU enlargements clearly showed that this is a policy that has brought huge benefits for citizens across the EU.'

EUROPEAN STABILITY BEGINS AT ITS BORDERS

Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy

Any European country that is democratic, has a functioning market economy and possesses the administrative capacity to manage EU rights and obligations may apply to become an EU member. The Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy is responsible for negotiations with candidate countries. He is also involved in assisting other European countries to prepare for membership and to conduct good neighbourly relations with the countries included in the European Neighbourhood Policy.

Commissioner Füle is a strong believer in the further reunification of the European continent following the fall of the Iron Curtain, and intends to ensure that the EU becomes stronger with each accession. However, short cuts to membership are not an option. The pace of reform in candidate countries must govern the speed of the accession process. He intends to make maximum use of all instruments and resources at his disposal to assist these countries in pursuing their reform agendas.

The European Neighbourhood Policy ensures that the EU is committed to deeper relations with all its neighbours while allowing for the development of tailor-made relations with each country. Commissioner Füle believes

that engagement in the closest dialogue possible with the EU's neighbours, listening to their needs in a spirit of partnership and providing them with the right incentives, is of key importance to the successful pursuit of this policy.

Štefan Füle was born in Sokolov in the Czech Republic in 1962. During his professional career, he has been Ambassador to Lithuania, the United Kingdom and NATO. His political career saw him in the roles of Deputy Minister of Defence and Minister of European Affairs in the Czech government.

ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/fule

LÁSZLÓ ANDOR



'People are what the EU is all about —
we forget this at our peril.'

HELPING PEOPLE BACK TO WORK – AN INCLUSIVE JOB MARKET FOR THE EU

Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Creating jobs is a top priority for the European Union and the main task of the Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. His aim is to work closely with Member States, workers and businesses to tackle unemployment and to prevent poverty and social exclusion. A particular priority is dealing with youth unemployment. The 'New Skills for New Jobs' initiative will help frame this work and ensure sustainable employment through 'green jobs' and active ageing in a healthy and safe work environment.

It will be particularly important to encourage governments to combine flexibility and security in labour markets so that workers can move safely from one job to the next. Commissioner Andor will also be looking at how to remove obstacles to the free movement of workers within the EU through better coordination of social protection schemes and the portability of pension rights.

Policies that support vulnerable groups and address the root causes of poverty are also vital. The Commissioner will focus on preventing old-age poverty through long-term initiatives to secure adequate pension systems. Accessible, affordable and high-quality social services are also essential. Where vulnerable groups such as the Roma population and people with

disabilities are concerned, Commissioner Andor aims to get them out of poverty and back into society.

Commissioner Andor is also responsible for the European Social Fund, which amounts to around €10 billion each year for the period 2007–13. The aim of the fund is to help Europeans acquire new skills and find better jobs.

Before taking up his EU post, László Andor was a member of the Board of Directors of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. He has also been a senior adviser to the Prime Minister in Hungary and to the World Bank. He was born in Zalaegerszeg in 1966.

ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/andor

LÁSZLÓ ANDOR

CECILIA MALMSTRÖM



'Our common values will permeate all our work. European citizens must be able to count on living in a safe and secure Europe, where freedom, integrity and rule of law are always guaranteed.'

BETWEEN PROTECTION AND OPEN ARMS

Home Affairs

The position of Commissioner for Home Affairs is similar to that of Home Secretary in many Member States. Security, counter-terrorism and the fight against organised crime are Commissioner Malmström's areas of responsibility. So is border control, asylum and migration policy. EU agencies such as Frontex, the agency for the promotion of cooperation in the field of border security, and the European Police Office, Europol, also fall within her remit.

The Lisbon Treaty, the European Charter of Fundamental Rights and the Stockholm Programme on EU Justice and Home Affairs will shape Cecilia Malmström's term in office. Further developing the EU's common policy for immigration and asylum, establishing an effective system for legal migration and formulating an action-oriented internal security strategy are top priorities.


Commissioner Malmström sees a common EU asylum and migration policy as grounded in partnership with third countries. It must offer protection to those in need, promote legal migration, but also control illegal immigration. She is determined to uphold human rights in all matters pertaining to home affairs.

Cecilia Malmström was born in 1968 in Stockholm. She has a PhD in political science from Gothenburg University. She was a Member of the European Parliament from 1999 until 2006. She then became Minister for EU Affairs in Sweden, a post she held until joining the Commission.

ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/malmstrom

CECILIA MALMSTRÖM

DACIAN CIOLOȘ

A black and white portrait of Dacian Cioloș, a middle-aged man with short, dark hair, looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. He is wearing a dark jacket over a light-colored turtleneck sweater. The background is a plain, light color.

'Reform does not mean reducing financial support but adapting the system to meet new challenges.'

NEW PERSPECTIVES FOR THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Agriculture and Rural Development

The common agricultural policy (CAP) has traditionally been one of the central pillars of EU policy. As a truly 'common' policy funded primarily from the EU budget rather than from national treasuries, the policy will account for 34 % of EU spending in the period between 2007 and 2013. The Commissioner with this portfolio provides different elements of public support, such as direct payments to supplement farmers' incomes to ensure their livelihood. But he must also watch over food security in the context of Europe's high production standards, the welfare and development of rural communities, and ensure that agricultural and environmental concerns remain compatible.

Dacian Cioloş' mandate is all about defining the perspectives of the CAP after 2013. He knows that farmers expect stability and predictability, that consumers need safe and healthy food, and that taxpayers want to be sure that their money is well spent. Commissioner Cioloş aims to meet all these expectations during his mandate, while taking into account new challenges relating to climate change, biodiversity loss and water scarcity.

He has set out three main priorities for the CAP. First, he is determined to review the distribution of direct payments to find a more balanced method of allocating

funds to regions, farmers and Member States. Second, he is calling for new mechanisms to address market volatility, after the 2009 dairy crisis highlighted shortcomings with the current tools. Lastly, he is targeting rural development policy and the greater role it has to play in the modernisation of European farms.

Dacian Cioloş graduated in environmental agronomy and agricultural development and has had various management and advisory positions in the field of agriculture. He has also worked on farms in Romania and other EU countries. In 2007 and 2008, Commissioner Cioloş was Romania's Agriculture and Rural Development Minister. He was born in 1969 in Zalău.

ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/ciolos

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There are European Commission and Parliament representations and offices in all the countries of the European Union. The European Union also has delegations in other parts of the world.

The European Commission 2010–14

Profiles and priorities

The European Commission — led by its President José Manuel Barroso — is made up of a college of 27 Commissioners, one from every European Union country. Each Commissioner deals with a specific policy area, functioning in a similar way to ministers in national governments. This brochure provides a brief insight into the work of the European Commission. It presents all of the Commissioners, their policy portfolios and the priorities they have set out for their five-year terms of office.

