

José Manuel Barroso
President of the European Commission

Brussels, 03.10.12
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Dear Mr Schulz,

Thank you for your letter in which, on the occasion of the appointment procedure of a member of the European Central Bank's executive board, you invite me to make a commitment to ensure that "all of the Union's Institutions, bodies, agencies and offices under my responsibility should practise what they preach and be role models for Europe in implementing concrete measures to ensure gender balance".

I would like to reassure you of my full commitment to improve gender balance at the European Commission. I have stressed the importance of the gender equality principle on many occasions and have urged Heads of State and Government to see gender balance as a common goal and shared responsibility, calling them to pay particular attention to the presence of women in the College. I am proud to say that today one third of the College's members are women.

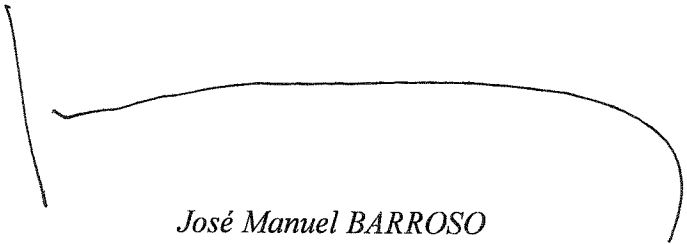
At the same time, the Commission has adopted its own internal Strategy on Equal Opportunities for the period 2010-2014, aiming to build further on the considerable progress made over recent years in terms of representation of women among its staff. The strategy sets multiannual targets to be achieved by the end of 2014. It also ensures that selection panels in the European Commission are fully aware of equal opportunities and take these into account during the full selection process, including for senior positions where the Commission presents a shortlist to the appointing authority. Here again, I am pleased to announce that the Commission is on good track to meet, or even exceed the targets set in the Strategy. Indeed, on 1 July this year, we had 26.6% female senior managers while our target is to have at least 25% by end 2014. We have 28.5% female middle managers, while the target for 2014 is to have at least 30%.

Mr Martin SCHULZ
President
European Parliament
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1047 BRUSSELS

Concerning the appointment of the members of the ECB's executive board, and on the basis of Article 11 of Protocol No 4 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the members of the ECB executive board are appointed by the European Council, acting by qualified majority, after consultation of the European Parliament. The Commission does not play any active role on the procedure; contrary to the European Parliament, it is not consulted, and based on Article 235 TFEU, the President of the Commission does not take part to European Council decisions taken by qualified majority.

I trust you will find this information useful.

Yours sincerely,



José Manuel BARROSO