



The President

Mr Herman Van Rompuy
President of the European Council
rue de la Loi 175
B - 1048 Brussels

314951 19.09.2012

Subject: Gender balance in EU institutions, bodies, agencies and offices

Dear Mr Van Rompuy,

As you may be aware, the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee (ECON) of the European Parliament decided earlier this month to postpone the public hearing of the Council's nominee for membership of the European Central Bank Executive Board.

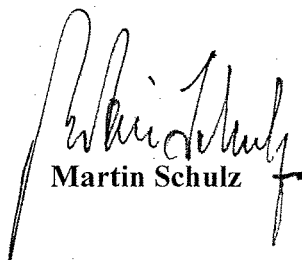
By letter dated 8 May 2012 to Mr Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the Euro Group, Ms Sharon Bowles, Chair of the ECON Committee, had expressed the coordinators' strong dissatisfaction that no female candidate was considered as a replacement of Mr González Páramo. In the same letter, she encouraged the Euro Group to implement a middle-term plan to promote women to influential positions in the ECB and national central banks, as well as within national finance ministries. It appears that this letter never received a reply.

The process for nominating the replacement of Mr González Páramo has already been considerably delayed and it is not the wish of the European Parliament to further prolong it. Consequently, at its meeting of 13 September 2012, the Conference of Presidents decided that I should request you to make a commitment to ensure that all of the Union's Institutions under your responsibility should practise what they preach and be role models for Europe in implementing concrete measures to ensure gender balance, as the European Parliament called for most recently in its resolution of 3 February 2012 on women in political decision-making - quality and equality.

I will be sending a similar letter to President Barroso.

I am convinced that we will find a mutually acceptable solution that would allow the nomination of the ECB Executive Board member to proceed without undue delay.

Yours sincerely,



Martin Schulz

Cc.: Mr Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the Euro Group