



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

José Manuel Barroso
President

Brussels, 18th May 2010
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NOTE FROM JOSÉ MANUEL BARROSO, PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

TO

**LÁSZLÓ ANDOR, MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,
OLLI REHN, MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,
MICHEL BARNIER, MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,
VIVIANE REDING, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,
ANTONIO TAJANI, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

Subject: Commissioner's group on the Pensions

Please find attached the mandate of the Commissioner's Group on the Pensions As set out in the mandate, my cabinet and the Secretariat-General will support the group and take care of the logistics. The responsible members of my cabinet are Mr Antonio Cabral and Ms Agnieszka Skuratowicz, and the contact point in the Secretariat-General is Director Michel Servoz. I look forward to fruitful discussions and results of the group.

José Manuel BARROSO

Copy:

Androulla Vassiliou, Member of the European Commission
John Dalli, Member of the European Commission
Janusz Lewandowski, Member of the European Commission
Catherine Day, Secretary-General of the European Commission
Michel Servoz, Director, Secretariat-General
Antonio Cabral, Member of Cabinet of the President
Agnieszka Skuratowicz, Member of Cabinet of the President

MANDATE OF THE COMMISSIONER'S GROUP ON THE PENSIONS

Members: Mr ANDOR, Mr REHN, MR BARNIER, Ms REDING, Mr TAJANI, Other Commissioners, in particular Ms VASSILIOU, Mr DALLI and Mr LEWANDOWSKI to be associated on aspects with a specific impact on their portfolio.

Organisation: The President's Cabinet and SG will participate in all meetings of the group. The Cabinet/Service of the lead Commissioner will prepare papers for discussion in the group. Agendas, organisation and meeting reports will be done by the SG. The President can decide to attend any meeting of the group, which he will then chair. The President may decide to modify the mandate and the composition of the group in the light of its work. The group will not take decisions but will prepare issues for collegiate discussion/decision.

Mandate: The purpose of this Commissioner's Group is to develop, outline and communicate an EU approach for adequate, sustainable and safe European Pension systems, building on the political guidelines of the President. The initiative needs to be placed in the context of Europe 2020 and the need for fiscal consolidation taking account of the specific challenge of an ageing population, the need for social inclusion, ensuring financial sustainability and stable macro-economic conditions, and the functioning of the single market (e.g. facilitating mobility). The group should also look at developments in third countries.

The mandate of this group will begin with the delivery and communication of a Green Paper on Pensions in the EU (due in late June 2010) that takes an integrated approach across economic, social and financial market policies and recognises the links and synergies between pensions and the overall Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. It should focus on adequacy as well as long-term sustainability considerations. It should also explore how pension funds could be used more effectively as an important source for (long-term) investment in future growth. Close links will have to be ensured with actions developed as part of other Flagships (e.g. activating older workers as part of the Jobs and Skills flagship) and fresh initiatives on the single market. Following on the Green Paper the group should develop possible future scenario's for different pension systems (including their internal organisation, combining "pay-as-you-go", funded schemes and private pension provision), identifying areas for greater policy coordination, best practice/mutual learning, more rigorous surveillance, to examining areas where legal initiatives could be warranted, in order to ensure that the EU adds value and that pension reforms are consistent with the Europe 2020 strategy.

The group will ensure coherence in the messages that its members will send to the other Institutions and to the Member States. Communication and involvement of stakeholders will be an important part of the work of the group.

Responsibility for individual measures contained in the pensions agenda is broader than the portfolios of the members of this Group. Therefore, the group will liaise, as needed, with other relevant Commissioners.

Duration: This Group is set up until Summer 2012.