

Declaration of the Berlin European Council on the appointment of the President of the European Commission (24-25 March 1999)

Caption: Declaration of the Berlin European Council on the nomination of the Commission President.

Source: Bulletin of the European Union. 1999, No 3. Luxembourg: Office for official publications of the European Communities. "Special Berlin European Council - Conclusions of the Presidency, Declaration on the appointment of the President of the Commission", p. 17.

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Conclusions of the Presidency for the special Berlin European Council (24 and 25 March 1999)

[...]

Declaration on the appointment of the President of the Commission

I. The Heads of State or Government have noted with respect the resignation of the Commission and expressed their thanks for the work done for Europe.

They decided by common accord to ask Mr Romano Prodi to accept the important task to be the President of the next European Commission.

In accordance with the procedures of the Amsterdam Treaty, this decision shall be communicated to the present European Parliament for approval. After this approval, Mr Prodi should strive to prepare the nomination of a new Commission as soon as possible, in cooperation with the governments of the Member States. The governments of the Member States shall, by common accord with Mr Prodi, nominate the other persons whom they intend to appoint as members of the Commission. After the June elections, the newly elected European Parliament should give its approval on both the President and the nominees for the Commission. The newly elected European Parliament should start on the procedure for appointing the new Commission as early as July. After approval by the newly elected European Parliament, the President and the other members of the Commission shall be appointed by common accord of the governments of the Member States. The European Council wishes to enable the new Commission to start work at the earliest opportunity and to continue that work with a full mandate as from January 2000 for the next five years.

II. The European Union needs, as soon as possible, a strong Commission capable of taking action, while respecting the rule of openness and closeness to the citizens. Mr Prodi shall be asked to prepare a programme outlining the way in which the new Commission shall work. A first exchange of views on this reform programme will take place between the Heads of State or Government and Mr Prodi in a few weeks and, in any case, before his approval by the present European Parliament.

The new Commission should speedily put into effect the necessary reforms, in particular for the improvement of its organisation, management and financial control.

In order to do this, the next Commission ought to give urgent priority to launching a programme of far-reaching modernisation and reform. In particular, all means should be used in order to ensure that whenever Community funds, programmes or projects are managed by the Commission, its services are suitably structured to ensure highest standards of management integrity and efficiency.