

## Mandate and Membership of the Standing Commissioners' Group (September 1999)

**Caption:** The mandate and membership of the Standing Commissioners' Groups, established early in the mandate of the Commission which took up office in September 1999.

**Source:** European Commission. The reform of the European Commission - Reference documents. [ON-LINE]. [Brussels]: European Commission, [23.11.2001]. Disponible sur [http://europa.eu.int/comm/reform/refdoc/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/reform/refdoc/index_en.htm).

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## Groups of Members of the Commission

[...]

### Annex: Mandate and Membership of the Standing Commissioners' Group

The following Standing Commissioners' Groups are created with the mandates and membership as identified below:

(a) **Growth, competitiveness, employment and sustainable development.** This group chaired by the President of the Commission will be open to all the Members of the Commission potentially concerned by the subjects covered, depending on the draft agenda for each meeting established by the President. Its mandate shall be to:

— Co-ordinate the activity of the Commission in all areas covered by the group, in particular through the identification of strategic priorities and the coherent planning of Commission activity.

— Ensure the coherence of Commission activity in both the macro and micro-economic area, in particular, by taking account of the impact of market and technological developments, as well as the Commission's social, industrial and enterprise, research and training policies.

— Pay particular attention to the compatibility, complementarity and coherence of activities related to the so-called Luxembourg, Cardiff and Cologne processes.

(b) **Equal opportunities.** This group, whose chair will be the President of the Commission and whose vice chair will be the Member of the Commission responsible for employment and social affairs, will have an open membership. The group will include on a permanent basis the Vice-President responsible for reform and personnel and the Member of the Commission responsible for education and culture. Its mandate will be to:

— guarantee the coherence of Commission action with regard to equal opportunities both internally and externally.

— ensure that account is taken of the gender dimension in all relevant Community policies and action, in accordance with Article 3§2 of the Treaty.

(c) **Reform.** This group chaired by the Vice-President responsible for reform will be made up of a selected number of Commissioners invited *ad personam*, including the Member of the Commission responsible for budget. Its mandate shall be to:

— Help to design the internal reform of the Commission covering its overall activity, organisation and operation.

— Ensure and monitor the coherent and systematic implementation of the decisions of the Commission in this area.

(d) **Interinstitutional relations.** This group will be chaired by the Vice President of the Commission responsible for relations with the European Parliament. The mandate of this group will be to prepare and anticipate important policy discussions in the other institutions, including within the context of codecision procedures, and to follow the implementation of the Commission's work programme.

To this end, the group will meet on a regular basis to prepare the plenary meetings of the European Parliament and important Council meetings over the following trimester. The group will also meet on an ad hoc basis to discuss the planned work of the Commission and its services which implements the political priorities established by the Commission. It shall do this in the light of any priorities identified by the other institutions.

(e) **External Relations.** This group chaired by the Member of the Commission responsible for external relations will be made up of the Members of the Commission responsible for economic and monetary affairs, for development and humanitarian aid, for enlargement and for trade policy. Other Members of the Commission may be invited to participate in the work of the group on the basis of the subjects to be covered. Its mandate shall be to:

- Co-ordinate external policies of the Commission, in particular, to define strategic priorities and to plan activity in relation to its external relations, security, economic and development policy.
- Ensure the coherence of overall policy both in relation to horizontal issues and in relation to policies within geographical areas.
- Prepare and co-ordinate the positions of the Members of the Commission with specific portfolios in the area of external relations.