

<b>Main priorities of the new European Commission – to the attention of the ECO Commission</b>
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These are the most important extracts from the written and oral answers to the European Parliament of those new Commissioners interesting for the ECO Commission:

### 1) **Barnier – FR – Internal Market and Services**

- **Reinforcement of the single market:** Recognises the need for an in-depth review of the single market in order to identify new sources of growth and employment and to strengthen the position of the European Union on the world stage; willingness to identify areas in which the internal market is not delivering its full potential and presenting new initiatives to stimulate growth in the interest of citizens and SMEs; towards introduction of **social and environmental impact studies** before launching new initiatives; willingness to **guarantee access to quality public services** → in this framework: NO framework directive on services of general economic interest (SGEI) foreseen at this stage... but towards initiative in the field of **social services??**
- **Services:** mutual evaluation process provided for under the 'Services' Directive to take place in 2010 → should provide an overview of the situation in the Member States and help identifying potential requirements in terms of additional actions.
- **Public procurement:** rules aimed at stimulating the competitiveness; securing optimum value for money; stimulating demand for environmentally-friendly products/services and/or promoting social inclusion.  
For this purpose:
  - **Interpretative Communication on environmental and social aspects** in public procurement (timing?);
  - **Assessment of 2004 Directives for potential future modernization and facilitated access for SMEs** to public procurement markets (timing?);
  - Finalisation of impact assessment → **towards legislative initiative in field of concessions** (timing?).
- **Company law:**
  - Report on the functioning of the **Statute for a European company** to be presented.
  - Set up of European one-stop shop to reduce administration burden.
- **Financial system:** In favour of a stable and dynamic European financial sector, regulated in an intelligent manner and monitored efficiently. Efficient regulation to be defined without creating excessive constraints. 5 objectives identified: (i) a financial sector at the service of sustainable growth, (ii) a more equitable sector, with consumers, savers and SMEs protected appropriately, (iii) a more disciplined sector, with better supervision of financial institutions and greater coordination at European level, (iv) preparation of mechanisms which will enable us to deal with crises, (v) playing a leading role in identifying common solutions at world level (G20 and other international institutions).
- **Crisis management:**
  - Forthcoming proposal to create a **legal framework for crisis management and resolution!**
  - Goal:** reinforce and harmonise **supervision** of financial groups in terms of equity and liquidity and the financial stability of each Member State and of the Union.
  - Towards implementation of European deposit guarantee funds and resolution funds?
- **Capital Requirements Directive:** towards 4<sup>th</sup> revision of the CRD to incorporate G20 agenda and work of Basel Committee into Community agenda.
- **International accounting rules:**
  - towards adoption by all EU partners – incl. USA – of global accounting standards, in line with recommendations of the G20?



- towards improvement of IASB governance?
- towards modernization of accounting regulations for SMEs.

## 2) Tajani – IT – Industry and Entrepreneurship

- Boost **competitiveness of European industry** → in line with EU 2020 Strategy:  
**Goal:** develop a low-carbon / green, more knowledge-based / innovative economy → with reference to the social market economy.  
For that purpose: establish a strategic framework for an **integrated industrial policy**, preparing for future needs in terms of **skills, R&D, innovativeness, standardisation and regulation**.  
With namely: Forthcoming Communication on innovation (autumn 2010); and public consultation on European industry challenges (timing?).
- **Develop SMEs in Europe** → with promotion of the “**Think Small First**” principle!  
With: implementation and enforcement of the **Small Business Act** → in-depth study of the implementation of the SBA to be conducted in 2010 to measure progress achieved and identify new areas of action.
- Promote **access to payments/credits for SMEs:**  
With: quick **adoption of Late Payment Directive**; introduction of a European electronic invoicing system;  
**closer work with the EIB on financing and guarantees** → to make the best use of the 30 billion € for SMEs for the period 2008-2011 under the competitiveness and innovation programme.
- Towards improvement of **access to third country markets** and improvement of EU's capacity to export its standards through regulatory dialogue with its trading partners.

## 3) Kallas – EE – Transport

- **White Paper on the future of transport** → to be released mid-2010:  
**Goal: Tackling climate change through more sustainable transport policy!**  
For that purpose: achieve major shift towards decarbonised transport system, through a mix of infrastructure development, technology and funding/pricing mechanisms; ensure the necessary funding, including from EU budget; gradual introduction of **pricing of transport externalities in all transport modes** (cf. **internalization of external costs** and “**Eurovignette**” **Directive** → where progress on negotiations are awaited during 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2010!); secure other private resources; increased EU structural funds mobilized towards rail network; **ensure more strategic investment policy** (rather than spread out money between small projects!); stimulate innovation; establish a stable and reliable regulatory framework that spells out clear long-term objectives.  
→ However in favour of balance between green regulations and profitability!

In addition to these common goals:

- **Revision of the TEN-T Guidelines:**  
With: integration of various transport modes into one low-carbon transport system; smart use of logistics (traffic management); identification of the core network on which Community funding should focus in the future and with taking into account cohesion.
- Towards creation of a “**European Infrastructure Investment Fund**”!

## 4) Hahn – AT – Regional Policy

- **Future Cohesion Policy post 2013:**  
With: target of whole EU territory, with special focus on outermost, “transitional” and poorest regions; no renationalization; closer coordination with other EU policies (integrated approaches); alignment with EU 2020 strategy (particularly in competitiveness, knowledge society, energy shift, climate protection, research, training and SMEs); reinforcement and simplification of multilevel governance system; support of



sustainable development; support to the notion of territorial cohesion introduced in the Lisbon Treaty; support to cross-border approach; support to the principle of additionality; improved application of the principle of proportionality.

In this framework: **5<sup>th</sup> Cohesion Report** (autumn 2010) and forthcoming **new regulatory framework for post 2013**.

- **Increase transparency and improve control environment** in Cohesion Policy:

**Goal:** Ensure the legality and regularity of EU co-funded expenditure → towards “zero tolerance” on misuse of EU money!

For that purpose: In favour of Action Plan to strengthen Commission’s supervisory role for structural actions; efficient implementation of simplification measures for period 2007-2013; support to Member States’ annual summaries; **revision of the Financial Regulation in 2010**.

- Towards implementation of a **new European urbanization policy**.  
With: launch of a major consultation as soon as possible!
- Help Member States and regions to successfully **exit from the crisis** → by using resources and instruments of the Cohesion Policy.
- Foreseen **strategic report on the contribution of Cohesion Policy to the Lisbon Strategy**.

## 5) Rehn – FI – Economic and Monetary Affairs

- Promotes a **coordinated and comprehensive “exit strategy”** from the current crisis:  
With: forthcoming **EU 2020 Strategy as key instrument** of this approach!  
**Goal:** sustainability of public finances; facilitating the emergence of a smarter, greener economy that is based on knowledge and innovation.  
For that purpose: role of EIB in stimulating investment; clear support of Stability and Growth Pact; reorientation of public expenditures, at national and EU level, to areas with potential output.
- In favour of **innovative financing**, such as “Eurobonds”, taxes on financial transactions and increased private participation in needed investment.
- Towards a **legislative proposal on the external mandate of the European Investment Bank (EIB)** for the 2011-2013 period
- Towards a **Commission Communication on the longer term future activity of the EIB and the reshaping of the European Financial Architecture**.

## 6) Almunia – ES – Competition

- Competition policy to support exit strategies from crisis; to help restructure real economy and **facilitate companies’ access to finance**.
- Towards revision of State aid procedural framework?
- **Towards State aid guidelines for environmental protection, training and high-quality services of general economic interest**
- **Improvement of State aid regulation to promote energy and transport sectors (together with Kallas)!** Namely: conclusions on State aid to ports to be delivered in the coming months.
- **Towards drawing-up of EU collective redress measures (together with Reding?)** → with effective coordination procedures and necessity of avoiding abuses, as has happened in the US class action system!

## 7) Semeta – LT – Taxation and Customs Union, Audit and Anti-Fraud

- Promotes the development of a **new “green” taxation framework** → by revising the Energy Taxation Directive to complement the Emission Trading System with a CO<sub>2</sub>-tax element.  
**Goal:** Encourage innovation to strengthen energy efficiency and environmental protection.



- Towards improvement/revision of the **VAT system**.  
**Goal:** Improve the efficiency of indirect taxation.
- **Better execution of the EU Budget:**  
Priority → reducing global error rates in structural funds spent to Member States.  
For that purpose: simplification; strengthening of the annual summaries' role through the review of the Financial Regulation; and forthcoming concrete proposals to introduce limits for a “tolerable risk of error” in the areas of research, energy, transport, rural development, external aid, development, enlargement and administrative expenditure.
- Further proposals to be made later on, culminating with Cohesion policy.

## 8) Reding – LU – Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship

- In favour of harmonization of contractual relations in the internal market, in particular B2C!  
For that purpose: intends to work on the three first building blocks of a coherent European contract law, namely standard terms and conditions, consumer rights and common principles of contract law  
**Namely in period 2010-2012:**  
To make substantial progress in the work **towards a European contract law**, in order to facilitate cross-border transactions, especially in B2C, by completing – with the help of academic expertise from across Europe – the work on the **common frame of reference in the course of 2010**, and to include it into a well-publicised legal instrument; also wish to accelerate the work on standard terms and conditions...  
**Goal → in the medium term: move from the first building blocks of European contract law** (common frame of reference, standard terms and conditions, consumer rights) **to a European Civil Code, which could take the form either of a voluntary tool to improve coherence, or of an optional 28th contract law regime or of a more ambitious project!**
- Complete the pending legislative procedure on the **Consumer Rights Directive** (together with Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy) → towards high level of protection for consumers and level-playing field for businesses → to be consistent with work on European Contract Law.
- Towards debate on how to better regulate business law in the internal market, such as defining common rules on the law applicable to company law, insurance contracts and transfer of claims.
- **Action Plan delivering the Stockholm Programme** → to be submitted soon after the start of the new Commission (together with the Commissioner for Home Affairs).  
With: comprehensive overview of concrete future EU actions in order to develop and strengthen the European area of justice, freedom and security at the service of the citizen.  
Reminder: The Stockholm Programme includes around 170 initiatives; it is therefore a legislative programme that is in many ways comparable to the Single Market Programme for 1992.
- Bring procedural coherence into the present forms of **collective redress** which exist or are being proposed in different areas of EU policies.  
For that purpose: cooperate with Commissioners for Health and Consumer Policy and for Competition to consult, **in 2010**, all relevant stakeholders in view of ensuring coherence of civil procedural law and of assessing possible solutions to avoid piecemeal legislation.

## 9) Dalli – MT – Health and Consumer Policy

- **In favour of consumer collective redress** → to work on it together with “Justice” and “Digital Agenda” Commissioners  
However: due to pressures from opposing directions → further consultations to be pursued and consensus for effective position to be looked for.



## 10) Lewandowski – PL – Budget and Financial Programming

- Towards adoption of the next financial package → including a **new reformed Multiannual Financial Framework (for programming period 2014-2020)** → **to be proposed by EC in 1<sup>st</sup> semester 2011**  
With: need for balanced package with EU competitiveness, climate change and security of energy supply sources as key challenges, while maintaining sound budgetary discipline.  
However: possible prolongation of current financial perspectives to match the financial perspectives with the mandate of the Parliament...
- Financing of **Cohesion Policy** in forthcoming financial framework: need to find a balance between traditional policies and innovative measures...
- In this framework: **Budget Review Communication reflecting in particular the priorities set out in the "EU 2020" strategy to be presented by the Commission and discussed at the Spring European Council.**  
The Budget Review will build on the results of the extensive consultation undertaken by the previous Commission and on the important contributions submitted in that context by the European Parliament.  
→ Not very much in favour of European tax, but IF introduced, has to be simple, fiscally neutral and cost of collecting has to be weak → to be discussed in framework of EU 2020 Strategy.  
Example: possible "Tax Tobin" on financial transactions, tax on CO<sub>2</sub>...
- **Triennial revision of the Financial Regulation and its implementing rules to be presented in May 2010!** (following public consultation of Winter 2009)  
Main priorities: simplification, efficiency, flexibility of rules, notably grants and delivery mechanisms, use of modern and efficient instruments, in particular in relation with EIB and use of PPPs!

## 11) De Gucht – BE – Trade

- Commitment to open markets, through rules-based multilateral system (WTO)  
Goal: win-win instrument → that EU show the lead, but **without accepting unfair practices!**
- Complement the multilateral system by strengthening key bilateral and regional relationships.  
With: negotiations with ASEAN, update relations with China...  
**And namely in: investment, public procurement and competition fields!**
- **Improve cooperation with EU's major trading partners – US and China – by removing non-tariff trade barriers, as well as social and environmental dumping!**
- **Towards strategy for increased access to third country markets and effective antidumping policy!**  
Goal: ensure that European companies are treated fairly and given opportunities to expand their business; preserve EU's social system.  
Through: when and where necessary → improve use of EU trade defence instruments! → with political debate to take place after the conclusion of the Doha Round.

## 12) Hedegaard – DK – Climate action

- Towards **initiative for a "full climate-transport package"**  
For now: only concerns → cars CO<sub>2</sub> emissions; and inclusion of aviation in ETS  
Additional forthcoming proposals to be followed up! (more specifically in fields of roads, sea and river transport?)
- In favour of **internalization of external costs!** (= link with draft "Eurovignette" directive)