

José Manuel Barroso
President of the European Commission

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Dear European Council colleagues,

Following my election as President-designate of the next Commission most of you have been contacting me regarding nominations to the next Commission.

Although this process of nomination cannot be formally conducted before a European Council decision to launch it, in line with the June European Council conclusions, I would like already at this stage to underline the importance of a balanced composition of the College, and in particular its gender balance.

A number of Members of the existing College will stay on for the next mandate and new choices will need to be made to complete the team. To allow me to propose a properly balanced team to the Council and the European Parliament, I would therefore ask you all to see gender balance as a common goal and a shared responsibility. I would therefore urge you to pay particular attention to the presence of women in the College as our discussions continue towards conclusion.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of connected loops and curves, starting with a small vertical stroke on the left and ending with a downward-pointing tail on the right.

José Manuel BARROSO

Members of the European Council