

PRESIDENT MARTENS DELIGHTED WITH BARROSO COMMISSION



22-07-2004

Former Portuguese Prime Minister Jose Manuel Durao Barroso was today confirmed as new European Commission president by the majority of the new European Parliament. With 413 votes in favour out of the 664 votes cast, Barroso will succeed Romano Prodi as head of the Commission on the 1st of November.

◆ This is a great success for the European People's Party, ◆ EPP President Martens said after the vote. ◆ We have proposed Durao Barroso against other proposals that did not take account of the outcome of the European elections. The EPP wanted to show clearly that this is not our opinion about democracy and respecting the choice of the voters. I am glad that the European Parliament expressed itself with such a large majority. ◆

◆ I have no doubt that Jos ◆ Manuel Durao Barroso is an excellent choice for the job ◆ he has proved as EPP Vice-President that he is a true European. I am confident that he will now build a strong Commission which is ready to do the job in the next five years, ◆ Martens concluded.