

COMMISSIONER HEARINGS: EPP GROUP WANTS POLITICAL HEARINGS BUT WARNS AGAINST A WITCH HUNT

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*"The Commissioners-Designate will be judged on their European commitment and their ability" - **Joseph Daul***

"The Commissioners-Designate of the Barroso II Commission will be heard by MEPs from Monday 11 January 2010. This is the first time the European Parliament's ability to assume its responsibilities under the Lisbon Treaty will be put to the test", said Joseph Daul MEP.

The Chairman of the most influential political Group (Centre-Right) confirmed that *"the EPP will hear the future Commissioners scrupulously, but it will not be a witch hunt."*

Joseph Daul believes that the Commissioners-Designate will be judged *"on their European commitment, which must be beyond doubt", but also "on their ability to manage their respective portfolios."*

"I will not pre-judge anyone but I will call to order any candidate who fails to fulfil any of these two criteria", warned the Chairman of the EPP Group.

"At a time when unemployment in Europe is greater than 10%, we need experts at the Commission. We will ensure this at the Hearings and throughout the mandate of the Barroso II Commission."

We must bear in mind that the EPP Group was the only Group, even before the nomination of the Commission candidates, to define its criteria by publishing a document with 5 points: values, security, research & innovation, sustainable development and a social market economy, and international ambitions. Furthermore, the EPP Group requires that the Commissioners-Designate have not been associated with oppressive regimes, have not participated in a government or non-democratic political movements, or are tainted by corruption.

(Translation from the original French)

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