

Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs
Committee on Employment and Social Affairs
The Chairs

ACCES RESERVE

CONFIDENTIAL

315839 09.10.2014

Jerzy BUZEK
Chair
Conference of Committee Chairs

Dear Mr BUZEK,

In accordance with Rule 118 of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament, the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) and the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL) held a public hearing on Monday 6 October 2014 with Valdis Dombrovskis, Commissioner-designate, who, subject to the positive outcome of the nomination procedure, will be a Vice-President of the Commission responsible for the Euro and Social Dialogue. The full transcript of the hearing is enclosed.

After the hearing and in accordance with Annex XVI to the Rules of Procedure, the Coordinators of the ECON and EMPL met on 6, 7 and 8 October 2014 to evaluate the Commissioner-designate. Regarding the issue of the membership of the euro, the Coordinators took note of the enclosed statement from Mr Dombrovskis. Concerning Mr Dombrovskis' portfolio and the working arrangements with other Commissioners, the Coordinators took note of the enclosed further information from President-elect Juncker.

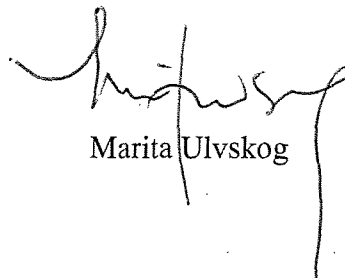
However the Coordinators were unable to reach a consensus on the evaluation. Therefore at the request of one political group, we convened a full joint committee meeting, which took place on 8 October 2014.

At that meeting, no consensus was reached on the evaluation and therefore the ECON and EMPL Committees proceeded to vote by secret ballot. The Committees decided, by 73 votes in favour, 25 against and 4 abstentions that Mr Dombrovskis was qualified to be a member of the College of Commissioners, and by 54 votes in favour, 37 against and 11 abstentions, that he was qualified to carry out the particular duties assigned to him.

We would be grateful if you could bring this assessment to the attention of the Conference of Presidents.

Yours sincerely,


Roberto Gualtieri


Marita Ulvskog



Jean-Claude JUNCKER
President-elect of the European Commission

Rue de la Loi, 200
B-1049 Brussels
T. +32 2 295 50 33
jean-claude.juncker@ec.europa.eu

Brussels, 6 October 2014
Ares (2014) 3310913

Dear President Schulz,

Further to my letter of 25 September 2014, I am pleased to confirm that Mr Dombrovskis, as Vice-President for the Euro and Social Dialogue, will manage and coordinate the participation of the Commission in the Council configuration "Economic and Financial Affairs", in the Eurogroup, in the economic dialogue with the European Parliament, in the Macroeconomic Dialogue and in the Governing Council of the European Central Bank, as well as for the preparation of the Tripartite Social Summits. And to do this, I have asked him to agree on pragmatic arrangements with the relevant Commissioners in the first weeks of the mandate.

Based on recent contacts, I can also confirm that Mr Moscovici, as Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs, will indeed represent the Commission in the Eurogroup and ECOFIN in his area of responsibility. I must stress that myself and Vice-President Dombrovskis may decide to participate in such meetings when necessary, following past practices.

As regards participation in international meetings such as the G20 and IMF, these should be addressed in the pragmatic arrangements mentioned above. As a rule, I would expect the decision to be taken depending on the topics on the agenda, with due consideration to the need to provide continuity of contacts for our partners, but also to allow Commissioners to meet their EU obligations, notably to make themselves available for and to take an active part in European Parliament's plenary sessions and committee meetings, as well as trilogue negotiations.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Martin SCHULZ
President of the European Parliament

E-mail: martin.schulz@europarl.europa.eu



Statement by Valdis Dombrovskis, Vice-President designate for the Euro and Social Dialogue
on Euro membership

European Parliament, 7 October 2014

Following the Hearing of 6 October of Vice-President designate for the Euro and Social Dialogue Valdis Dombrovskis in ECON and EMPL committees, Mr. Dombrovskis would like to clarify his position on the issue of the possibility for a Member State to leave the euro area.

Vice –President designate Valdis Dombrovskis stated:

"I understand that my replies in yesterday's hearing on the issue of the possibility for a Member State to leave the euro area may have given rise to some misunderstandings.

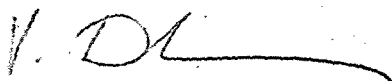
Membership of the euro is irreversible, as is made clear by the Treaties.

The euro is the common currency of the European Union, and sharing a single currency creates a community of destiny.

In the recent crisis, the Commission and the Member States have demonstrated their unshakeable belief and commitment in this fact.

Personally, I am strongly committed to the euro as our common currency and will put all my efforts towards further strengthening the economic and monetary union. I have demonstrated my commitment to the euro in practice, when as Prime minister I was strongly advocating Latvia's euro accession.

As I underlined in the introductory remarks: "In preparing for euro adoption during the euro area crisis we have demonstrated our trust to the future of a European project and the euro currency, at a time when many others were calling it into question."



Valdis Dombrovskis

Contact:

Rita Voine

Tel.: +32 2 28 47424

GSM +32 4 757386699