

ЕВРОПЕЙСКИ ПАРЛАМЕНТ PARLAMENTO EUROPEO EVROPSKÝ PARLAMENT EUROPA-PARLAMENTET  
EUROPÄISCHES PARLAMENT EUROOPA PARLAMENT ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΒΟΥΛΙΟ EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT  
PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN PARLAIMINT NA ĦEORPA PARLAMENTO EUROPEO EIROPAS PARLAMENTS  
EUROPOS PARLAMENTAS EURÓPAI PARLAMENT IL-PARLAMENT EWROPEW EUROPEES PARLEMENT  
PARLAMENT EUROPEJSKI PARLAMENTO EUROPEU PARLAMENTUL EUROPEAN  
EURÓPSKY PARLAMENT EVROPSKI PARLAMENT EUROOPAN PARLAMENTTI EUROPAPARLAMENTET

300452 14.01.2010

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety  
The Chairman

IPOL-COM-ENVI D(2010)1466

CONFIDENTIAL

ACCES RESERVE

Mr Jerzy BUZEK  
President of the  
European Parliament

Dear President,

In accordance with Parliament's Rules of Procedure, in particular Rule 106 on the Election of the Commission and Annex XVII on Guidelines for the approval of the Commission, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety held on Wednesday 13 January 2010 a public hearing with Commissioner-designate Janez Potočnik. Subject to the positive conclusion of the nomination procedure, Mr Potočnik will be in charge of the environment portfolio.

Prior to the hearing, a written questionnaire with general and specific questions was submitted. The Commissioner-designate replied to those questions in writing in advance of the hearing.

In his introductory statement, Mr Potočnik highlighted his main priorities, namely resource efficiency, biodiversity, implementation and enforcement. He then replied to 33 questions raised by the MEPs. The hearing was concluded by a final statement by the Commissioner-designate.

### *Policy-related issues*

During the debate the Commissioner-designate answered a wide range of questions relating in particular to the following policies issues: biodiversity, REACH, nanomaterials, a potential 7th Environment Action Programme, resource efficiency, forest management, water, soil and waste management.

Members were generally satisfied with the answers given by the Commissioner-designate to those policy-related questions.

Mr Potočnik's strong commitment to resource efficiency and green economy (i.e. creating jobs and stimulating our economy through preserving the environment) was highly appreciated, as well as his willingness to prepare a potential 7th Environment Action

Programme. Members also welcomed his resolve to firmly implement REACH and biodiversity legislation as it stands.

Yet, some of the Commissioner-designate's answers could have been more concrete, for instance in the field of water policy. But the Committee is confident that Mr Potočnik will develop a clearer vision of the concrete actions to be taken.

### *Horizontal issues*

Mr Potočnik placed implementation and enforcement high in his priorities' list. He insisted on the importance of an effective enforcement of the existing environmental legislation (although his priorities could have been better specified), in order to provide a level playing field as well as predictability.

The Commissioner-designate promised to establish a constructive and transparent working relationship with the European Parliament, albeit without making concrete pledges. The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety will have the opportunity to put these commitments to the test in future legislative procedures as well as in the implementation methods.

The Environment Committee is also confident that following the re-allocation of tasks within the new European Commission, Mr Potočnik will engage himself to cooperate with his colleagues responsible for 'Climate Action' and 'Public Health and Consumer Policy', and to defend the interests of the environment in the College.

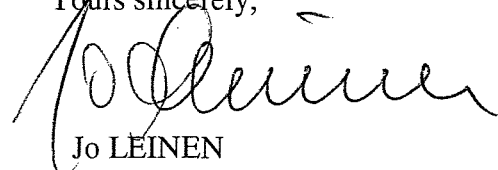
### *Overall assessment*

On basis of the reactions of the Members present at the hearing and the results of the evaluation meeting which took place right after the hearing, I am able to provide you with the following assessment of the Commissioner-designate:

Throughout the hearing, Mr Potočnik made a positive and constructive impression, showed ambition and demonstrated a systematic and analytical approach as well as a good grasp of the main issues inherent in his portfolio. He also demonstrated very good communications skills, as well as enthusiasm for his new portfolio.

In conclusion, I am happy to inform you that the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety can express its support for the nomination of Mr Potočnik and looks forward to a fruitful cooperation in the future.

Yours sincerely,



Jo LEINEN

[jo.leinen@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:jo.leinen@europarl.europa.eu)

B-1047 Brussels - Tel +32 2 284 5842/7842 - Fax +32 284 4948

F-67070 Strasbourg - Tel +33 3 88 1 75 842 - Fax +33 3 88 1 79842