

Brussels, 26 October 2006

President Barroso presents the Commissioner designate for Bulgaria

The President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, today presented the designated member of the European Commission proposed by the Bulgarian Government, in agreement with him. The nomination is Ms Meglena Kuneva, the current Bulgarian Minister for European Affairs. Ms Kuneva will be responsible for consumer protection.

« I am delighted to welcome among us» said President Barroso, « the Bulgarian Commissioner designate. From next January, the European Union of 27 will become a reality and that reality will be reflected in the composition of the Commission. I am convinced that Ms Kuneva has the professional and political qualities, as well as the personal commitment and necessary experience to accomplish all the tasks which I am proposing to make her responsible for. »

The Bulgarian Commissioner designate along with the Romanian Commissioner – yet to be designated - will attend hearings at the end of November in the European Parliament, which will give its opinion on the nomination in the following weeks. The hearings before the Parliament will take place according to the procedure adopted in 2004 during the formation of the Barroso Commission.

The consultations for the designation of the Romanian Commissioner are still ongoing.

The curriculum vitae of Ms Kuneva can be found in annex.

See also the [Memo/06/401](#) which sets out the procedures for nomination.

Meglana Shtilianova Kuneva

Bulgarian Minister for European Affairs

Born on 22 June 1957 in Sofia.

Master's degree in Law.

Meglana Kuneva graduated from the Faculty of Law at Sofia University St Kliment Ohridski in 1981; awarded PhD in Law in 1984.

She specialized in a number of universities abroad: International Relations and Environmental Law at Georgetown University, Washington, USA, 1995 and 1999-2000; Human Rights at Human Rights Institute, Turku, Finland, 1993; Environmental Law at Oxford, UK, 1996.

Assistant professor at the Faculty of Law, Sofia University St Kliment Ohridski from 1988 to 1989, and lecturer at the Free University of Burgas and the New Bulgarian University, 1992-1994.

Editor and presenter at the Bulgarian National Radio, January 1987-April 1991.

As a senior legal advisor at the Council of Ministers, 1990-2001, she participated in the drafting of a series of Bulgarian laws in Environment, Access to Information, etc.

A member of the Bulgarian delegation to the 4th Session of UN Commission on Sustainable Development, 1995.

Mrs. Kuneva was elected Member of Parliament in the 39th National Assembly, in June 2001, and appointed Deputy Minister and Bulgaria's Chief Negotiator with the EU at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, August 2001.

She was appointed Minister of European Affairs and Bulgaria's Chief Negotiator with the EU and a special representative of the Bulgarian government at the Convention for the Future of Europe, May 2002.

Honours:

Awarded the French Order of the Legion of Honour by French Minister of European Affairs Noelle Lenoir, on behalf of President of France Jacques Chirac, 2004

Awarded the Order for Civil Merit of the Kingdom of Spain, Order Prince Henry of the Republic of Portugal, as well as the Order of the Star of Italian Solidarity.

Member of the following organizations:

Berlin Conference on European Cultural Policy, trustee

Fluent in English and Russian.

Married, with one son.