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Dear colleagues,

This week's European Council, following in the wake of the European elections, will be a particularly important meeting at which we need to show the EU delivering on a wide range of important political and institutional decisions. I have written separately to you on the main policy issues that I would suggest we focus on.

As regards the institutional issues, the December European Council conclusions set out the task of the June European Council to initiate the process of nominating the next President of the Commission. I was very honoured that the President of the European Council, Jan Fischer, asked me if he could put forward my name for a second mandate, in view of the consultations he has been making with European Council colleagues and will undertake with the European Parliament. I would like to confirm my agreement to this request.

I would also like to confirm that should I be nominated by the European Council and approved by the European Parliament, I would take this as a mandate to implement the ambitious political vision Europe needs for the next five years.

Building on the statement I made on 9 June, allow me to underline some of the key elements of this vision with a particular reference to the most pressing tasks.

I believe that in times of crisis we need more than ever a strong European Union and a strong European Commission. We need more, not less, Europe. We need Europe to focus on where it can add real value. This is what our citizens expect from us. We should be clear: this is the moment to raise our ambition for Europe, not to lower it. This is, more than ever, the moment for action. The world will not wait for Europe.

My ambition for the next five years is a Europe that:

- puts opportunity, responsibility and solidarity at the heart of a social market economy. An open, competitive, and prosperous Europe which uses the full potential of our internal market and of the euro; which fosters an advanced and high-value added industrial base, nurtures excellence in our services sector; which promotes the development of our agricultural sector; and which helps create more and better jobs for our citizens;*
- invests in its future: in modern infrastructure, in research and development, in innovation, in developing our skills base. A Europe committed to the radical transformation towards a knowledge-based society;*

*Heads of State and Government
of Member States*

- *leads our economies out of the current crisis, and paves the way for smarter, greener and more sustainable growth, promoting economic and social cohesion and ensuring long term fiscal sustainability;*
- *keeps world leadership in fighting climate change and promoting energy security, while helping European technology and European companies to pioneer the development of a low carbon economy;*
- *refuses all forms of economic protectionism but is clear in its determination to protect and promote the European interest worldwide;*
- *continues to lead the drive towards effective regulation and supervision of global financial markets, shaping globalisation with our own values, respecting ethical principles and promoting higher social and environmental standards worldwide; which acts as a champion for the promotion of human rights and development and speaks loud and clear, with one voice, in the world scene.*

In short, a Europe of responsibility and action, where citizens can exercise their rights in an environment of justice, freedom and security.

I believe deeply in Europe as a political project grounded in a strong partnership between Member States and the European institutions, respecting both national competences and the Community method. The entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon will give this project still more momentum. The Europe I want is a Europe which listens to its citizens and provides the concrete solutions they expect. A Europe which means we must not only share a high level of ambition, but that we must together commit ourselves to defend and promote our common vision with vigour.

It is in this spirit of active partnership and ambition that I would like to address you tomorrow evening. If I can count on your clear commitment and if my vision is shared by you and by the European Parliament, it will be an honour for me to continue to serve the European project. My belief in Europe, strengthened still further by my experience of these last five years, will be the cornerstone for my work.

Yours sincerely,



José Manuel BARROSO