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PRESS RELEASE

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JOSE MANUEL BARROSO GETS A SECOND FIVE YEARS TERM PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The European Parliament has approved today the appointment of **José Manuel Barroso** as president of the European Commission for a **second term**. Mr Barroso was elected by a majority of 382 votes in favour out of 736.

Within his last pleading in front of the plenary session yesterday in Strasbourg, Mr Barroso presented his **political guidelines** for the Commission's next five years term: a "**partnership for progress**" between the European **Commission** and the European **Parliament**.

The head of the European executive body expressed his political vision for a European revival based on a "**social market economy**". Highlighting the main challenges for the future of Europe, president Barroso undertakes to "**reinforce EU citizenship and participation**" by "empowering citizens to be involved in decisions affecting their lives, including by ensuring transparency on how they are taken".

If the treaty of Lisbon is ratified by the Irish people on 2 October, the new Treaty on the European Union (TEU) will include within its Article 11 mechanisms for a more participatory democracy. Then **a structured, efficient and sustainable overall framework for European civil dialogue** will need to be devised, consulting with the civil society organisations. As suggested by the European Parliament several times before, the European Commission should also revive the process for the adoption of a **statute of the European association**, so that the voice of millions of European citizens, freely and voluntarily joining together in associations and NGOs, should be given proper recognition.

M. Barroso is now highly expected to put this political will into action. But civil society stakeholders should also get together and join their forces so that these actions go beyond the concerns of Commission's President for transparency and access to information.

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