

Explanations of vote

Gomes (PSE), in writing . (PT) I opted to make the Commission proposed by President Barroso viable because I feel that, in light of recent events, to bring down the new Commission would cause a major crisis in the running of the EU and would trigger serious conflict between the institutions. Although the most inappropriate of the original Commissioners-designate has, thanks to Parliament's intervention, been prevented from taking up his post in the college of Commissioners, I feel that this is a Commission with an excessively neoliberal bias, under a leadership that could do a good job provided it does not backslide on the democratic principles and objectives of European integration.

I could not, however, vote in favour of the Commission due to serious misgivings about the fact that Mrs Kroes has retained her competition portfolio. I have no doubts as to her skills, not least because her appointment would be a case of 'poacher turned gamekeeper'. What is at stake, however, is her personal suitability - essential in a Commissioner - given that, among the numerous multinationals to which she has declared professional links, she omitted the arms producer Lockheed Martin.

I also have reservations about the portfolio of Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs going to an ex-Minister under Mr Berlusconi, jointly responsible for the delay in adopting the arrest warrant (...)

(Explanation of vote abbreviated in accordance with Rule 137 of the Rules of Procedure)