



High Representative/Vice President Catherine Ashton

In November 2009 Catherine Ashton was appointed as the EU's first High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission (HR/VP). This new position was created under the Lisbon Treaty and the holder is charged with coordinating the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy. The post aims to make EU foreign policy more consistent and coherent. The High Representative/Vice-President leads the European External Action (EEAS) which was set up to support her work. Ashton is the chief negotiator on behalf of the E3/EU+3 on Iran's nuclear programme. She has also facilitated the dialogue for the normalisation of relations between Serbia and Kosovo. Catherine Ashton initiated the Task Force concept, launching them in Tunisia, Jordan and Egypt. Prior to taking up her current position, Catherine Ashton was the member of the Commission responsible for Trade. She led major negotiations on the Free Trade Agreement with Korea, finalised in October 2009, and solved a number of high-profile trade disputes with major trading partners. Catherine Ashton also represented the EU in the Doha Round of world trade talks and built on strong bilateral trade and investment relationships. Ashton held a number of different positions in UK public life. In 1999 she was made a Labour life peer as a result of her work towards building communities.



Vice-President/Commissioner for Industry and Entrepreneurship Antonio Tajani

Antonio Tajani is the current European Commission Vice-President and Commissioner in charge of Industry and Entrepreneurship, he is responsible for industrial policy, European single market, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), industrial competitiveness, access to finance, space and tourism. From May 2008 to February 2010, Antonio Tajani was the Vice-President and Commissioner in charge of Transport. He was Vice-Chair of the European People's Party, elected in 2002, 2006, 2009 and 2012 and member of the Bureau of the Group of the European People's Party. He has taken part in all EPP summits in preparation of the European Councils. Antonio Tajani was member of the Convention on the Future of Europe, which drew up the text of the European Constitution. In 1994, 1999 and 2004, he was elected as member of the European Parliament, head of the Forza Italia delegation in the European Parliament from June 1999 until May 2008 and spokesman for the President of the Italian Council of Ministers during the first Berlusconi Government. Together with Silvio Berlusconi, he was one of the signatories of the founding act of Forza Italia. Antonio Tajani also worked as a journalist for *il Settimanale*, *RAI 1* and *Il Giornale*. He studied Law at "La Sapienza" University in Rome and speaks French, English and Spanish.



Commissioner Andris Piebalgs

Andris Piebalgs is an experienced Latvian politician who occupied key positions in both national and European political fields. He is currently European Commissioner for Development. In 2011 Commissioner became a member of the Lead Group of the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement and later that year he also joined the UN High Level Group on Sustainable Energy for All. Since July 2012, he is also a member of the UN High Level Panel on the post-Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) agenda beyond 2015. During the first Barroso Commission (2004-2009), he was the European Commissioner for Energy. In that capacity, he led the development of a more competitive, sustainable and secure European energy system, which is one of the crowning achievements of the Barroso I Commission. Before joining the Commission, Andris Piebalgs pursued a political career, occupying strategic ministerial portfolios. He was also a high-ranking diplomat, helping Latvia to play its role in the EU. Piebalgs is a graduate in Physics from the University of Latvia.



Commissioner Dacian Ciolos

Having previously served as Minister for Agriculture in his native Romania, Dacian Ciolos took office as European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development in February 2010. Since then, his principle task was first to initiate proposals for reforming the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and then to oversee the negotiations, which reached political agreement in June. As well as achieving a fairer distribution of CAP support and measures for a greener CAP, one of the main achievements in the reform has been to take forward the Rural Development pillar of the CAP which looks at providing flexibility for additional options which include support for modernisation and restructuring, improving farmer organisation, establishing short supply chains, embracing innovation, and advice for farmers to establish business plans. Dacian Ciolos is also a founding member of the professional association "Agroecologia" and he has been a member of the "Groupe de Bruges", an independent think tank on European agriculture and rural development since 2000.