



Member of the European Parliament

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Baroness Catherine Ashton of Upholland
Vice-President/High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Bruxelles

Strasbourg, 18 January 2011

Dear High Representative,

With the EEAS's internal structure taking shape and most senior appointments made, we would like to draw your attention to three important concerns we have in relation to the Service's crisis management and peacebuilding structures and the gender balance at management level.

In your statement to the European Parliament of 8 July 2010 on the basic organisation of the EEAS central administration, you committed to creating an "appropriate structure" for crisis management and peacebuilding. Within this structure, the "relevant units from the Commission transferred to the EEAS which deal with planning and programming of crises response, conflict prevention and peace building, and the CSDP structures," were to work "in close cooperation and synergy, both under [your] direct responsibility and authority." Further to this, you wrote in your letter of 7 September 2010 to Mr Gabriele Albertini you intended to create a "dedicated crisis response and peacebuilding department" that would "stand on an equal footing with other crisis management departments, such as CMPD, CPCC, and the Military Staff" and *inter alia* "be tasked with the preparation of crisis response actions under the Stability Instrument."

You have now put forward a revised organisational chart of the EEAS. It has not immediately become clear to us in which way your commitments relating to the crisis management and peacebuilding structures are reflected in this organigramme. We would therefore invite you to clarify this point. Where can we find the appropriate structure? In this context, we would also appreciate it if you could explain the precise role the Managing Director for Crisis Response and Operational Coordination will play in the field of crisis management and peacebuilding.

The effectiveness of the new crisis management and peacebuilding structures will not least depend on their staffing. We therefore urge you to swiftly make good on your commitments to Parliament of July and September 2010 to integrate into the EEAS crisis management and peacebuilding structures the staff that has in the past planned and programmed the Stability Instrument at the Commission. This requires notably transferring to the EEAS 12 AD and 5 AST posts which previously planned and programmed crisis response measures (Stability Instrument Art. 3) and have recently been moved to the Commission's Foreign Policy Instruments Service. We would in this regard like to remind you of the reserve for the 2011 Union budget the Budgetary Authority has adopted in relation to the EEAS. It is our clear understanding that for the conditions set forth in this reserve to be met, the transfer of staff described above has to be made.

After the appointments you made over recent weeks, the management of the EEAS has taken shape. We are deeply disappointed by the strikingly low number of women at management level. In particular, the 12-member policy board comprises as little as one woman (with only one position not yet filled). With some 20 positions left to be filled at the head of unit level and higher, we urge you to correct this untenable imbalance that stands in stark contrast to your public commitments and legal obligations.

We trust you will take our concerns seriously – i.e. act immediately as regards the staff transfer and gender balance and clarify how the "appropriate structure" has been put in place – so as not to prove wrong the trust we put into the commitments you have made towards Parliament. We further hope that your response will reach Parliament within a reasonable period of time. It did, in fact, not facilitate effective cooperation between your office and Parliament that your previous letter on the issue, dated 7 September 2010, was effectively posted by your services only four months later in January 2011.

Yours sincerely,



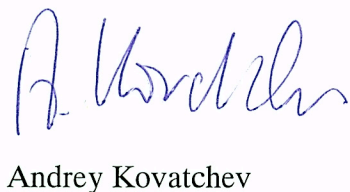
Franziska Brantner



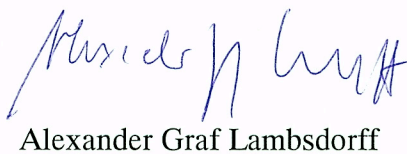
Elmar Brok



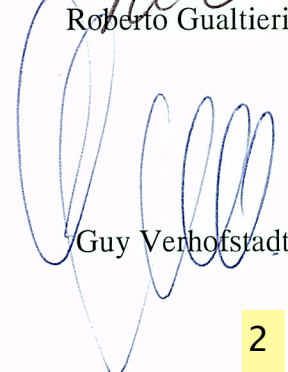
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