

# Procedure file

Basic information	
INI - Own-initiative procedure	1998/2133(INI)
Procedure completed	
Approval of the Commission President by the European Parliament: institutional consequences	
Subject 8.40.03 European Commission 8.40.10 Interinstitutional relations, subsidiarity, proportionality, comitology	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>INST</b> Institutional Affairs		23/11/1998
		PPE <a href="#">BROK Elmar</a>	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	<b>JURI</b> Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights		17/03/1998
		PPE <a href="#">ANASTASSOPOULOS Georgios</a>	
	<b>REGL</b> Rules of Procedure, Verification of Credentials and Immunities		30/06/1998
		GUE/NGL <a href="#">GUTIÉRREZ DÍAZ Antoni</a>	

Key events			
02/07/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
30/11/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
30/11/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	<a href="#">A4-0488/1998</a>	
12/01/1999	Debate in Parliament		
13/01/1999	Decision by Parliament	T4-0015/1999	Summary
13/01/1999	End of procedure in Parliament		
14/04/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1998/2133(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure

Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	INST/4/10261

### Documentation gateway

Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	<a href="#">A4-0488/1998</a> <a href="#">OJ C 104 14.04.1999, p. 0004</a>	30/11/1998	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T4-0015/1999 <a href="#">OJ C 104 14.04.1999, p. 0037-0059</a>	13/01/1999	EP	Summary

## Approval of the Commission President by the European Parliament: institutional consequences

Elmar Brok (D, EPP) will be presenting a draft resolution on behalf of the Institutional Affairs Committee on the institutional implications of the approval by the European Parliament of the President of the Commission and the independence of the members of the Commission. During the European election campaign he would like European political movements to each propose the candidate they would like to see appointed as Commission President. He also wants member state governments to take account of the outcome of the elections and the preference indicated by European political parties, when they come to nominate their candidate for the Presidency. He also argues that a relevant number of the members of the Commission should be chosen from among sitting MEPs and that the procedures for Parliament to give approval of Commissioners should be reformed. Mr Brok goes on to stress the importance of ensuring the independence of the Commission and of the need for individual Commissioners to avoid conflicts of interest and to be held politically responsible for serious misconduct committed by their subordinates; Mr Brok will also be reiterating the disappointment that many felt at the limited nature of the institutional reforms envisaged under the Amsterdam Treaty and will be stressing the need to go beyond the intergovernmental method. Nevertheless he accepts that the changes that have been introduced have now opened up important avenues for integration which he wants to see fully explored, and he now wants 'European citizens' to be involved as directly as possible in the process in order to further the goal of a united federal Europe.?

## Approval of the Commission President by the European Parliament: institutional consequences

The resolution drafted by Elmar Brok (D, EPP) on the institutional implications of the approval by the European Parliament of the President of the Commission and the independence of the members of the Commission was approved by the European Parliament. One amendment was adopted, seeking to ensure that the European Council appoints the new President after the European elections to be held on the 10th to the 13th June. The report considers that an important step in the political integration process would be made if European political movements each proposed the candidate they would like to see appointed President of the Commission. The governments of Member States would then be well advised to take account of this, in the light of the outcome of European elections, when nominating the candidate for the Commission Presidency. As a consequence of these proposals, the Parliament points out that this nomination could not occur at the Cologne European Council if this were to take place before the European elections. The report considers that a significant number of members of the Commission should be chosen from among the sitting MEPs and all persons nominated should have significant experience in European affairs. The distribution of portfolios should ensure the unity and efficiency of the Commission. The Parliament stresses the importance of safeguarding the independence of the Commission as guardian of the Treaties and the only body with the right of legislative initiative. To this end, it also stresses the need to strengthen parliamentary supervision, including the possibility that the Council complies with any request by the Parliament to initiate compulsory retirement of individual Commissioners. The Parliament undertakes to ensure the process of presidentialisation of the Commission goes ahead and requests the adoption of measures to strengthen the guarantees designed to avoid conflicts of interest created by the increase in the Community's powers. These measures should include in particular: - the need for a public declaration of interests and external sources of income; - the obligation to refrain from taking part in discussions relating to interests that are incompatible with their office; - the use of "blind trust", i.e. assigning to a trustee the management activities relating to property or finance which may give rise to conflicts of interest. The report stresses that this guarantee of independence should be extended to the Commissioners' Cabinets and that it should be possible to hold Commissioners politically responsible for any serious misconduct of their subordinates. As regards the programme, the Parliament takes the view that Member States should ensure that the figure they propose as Commission President is capable of securing a broad majority during the investiture vote within and requests that the nominee should make a statement of intent followed by a debate. Finally, it underlines the importance of the hearings of candidates.?