

José Manuel Barroso
President of the European Commission

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Dear Presidents,

Thank you for your letter of 8th January referring to press articles raising allegations concerning Commissioner-designate Rumiana Jeleva.

I naturally take seriously all issues that could have an impact on the overall reputation of the Commission. The hearings process is an important opportunity for a new Commission to establish the right basis for delivering an ambitious European agenda. At the same time, it creates a spotlight effect on all the Commissioners in the list proposed by Member States, agreed by me as president-elect, and adopted by the Council.

That is why I have underlined to all Commissioners-designate the importance of full respect for the Code of Conduct, and the importance of paying particular attention to the declaration of interest.

All the Commissioner-designates' declarations of interest have been looked at carefully in terms of respect for the terms of the Code of Conduct. Ms Jeleva confirmed to me that her declaration, like those of other Commissioners, respects the Code.

Anyone accusing anyone of any wrong doing should of course present corresponding evidence, as in our democratic societies the rule of law implies that the accuser should prove accusations, not the accused to prove innocence, as this was the case in some political regimes that Europe hasn't fortunately got any more.

Yours sincerely,



José Manuel BARROSO

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