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7/07/09 **The EU beyond tomorrow – Barroso's Proposal for the Next Generation**

Speakers: President of European Commission **José Manuel Durao Barroso**, President of the Centre for European Studies and the European People's Party **Wilfried Martens**, Director of the Centre for European Studies **Tomi Huhtanen**, Director of the European Office of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, and **Dr. Peter Weilemann** and speakers from different think tanks and organisations in Europe as well as politicians from different European countries.

Organizer: Centre for European Studies

Report by Dragan Lukjanović and Olja Radlović, stagiers

The main goals Jose Manuel Barroso presented in his proposal for the next five years in the Commission are to overcome economic crisis and Lisbon Treaty adoption. He also emphasized the necessity of the introduction of a permanent Chair of European Council. Asked how will be the practice after the creation of new institutions and if he is scared to lose of power, Barroso answered that Europe needs a strong Commission, strong Parliament and a strong Council to play a major role in the global policy. The Lisbon Treaty gives the rules for each institution. One of the main duties predicted for the next mandate will be enhancing the respect of all minority diversity.

Barroso said that the current economic and financial crisis is the crises of values as well. The European values such as peace, freedom, solidarity or social care are the fundament of the European project. In Barroso's opinion, the European values are the fundamental to overcome the crisis and can inspire the other parts of the world to adapt these values. The European Union was the laboratory of the globalization by establishing supranational rules and institutions since almost 60 years. To face the future challenges it can be useful to concentrate on synergies of different institutions.

According to Barroso, diversity is the essence of the European identity and one of the aims for the next five years mandate will be to enhance the respect of all minorities. The European Court of Justice has to punish every sort of discrimination and guarantee more tolerance within the European Union.



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Concerning the EU budget, he avoided to make exact declaration, knowing well that for the moment it is necessary to observe the economic situation and to go step by step. The budget has to consider first of all the priorities of member states before fixing an amount to not risk a separation within the European Union. The two key points of his economic strategy have to be the increasing flexibility and the care about the social systems.

Overall, Barroso's proposal for the next mandate is not a precise programme but rather his goals to achieve the vision of a strong European Union in 2020. Due to a big uncertainty it is not realistic to present a precise programme for the next five years but it is clear that Europe as the real leader on the global stage is the objective Barroso wants to accomplish.

