



José Manuel Barroso
President of the European Commission



- 1956** - Born in Lisbon, Portugal
- Graduated in Law, from University of Lisbon
 - Diploma in European Studies
 - Master's Degree in Political Science, from University of Geneva
- 1980** - Joined Portugal's *Social Democratic Party*
- 1999** - Elected President of the Social Democratic Party (re-elected 3 times; during this period he was also Vice President of the European People's Party [EPP] in the European Parliament).
- 2002** - Elected Prime Minister of Portugal
- 2004** - Appointed President of the European Commission
- 2009** - Confirmed for a second term as EU Commission President

Role in the EU:

- Appointed by the heads of all 27 EU member states, and then approved by the EU Parliament;
- Presidential term lasts for 5 years;
- "Gives a sense of direction to the Commission as a whole";
- Calls and chairs meetings of the Commissioners;
- Attends major debates of the EU Parliament and the Council of Ministers;
- Attends European Council meetings;
- Represents the EU at international summits.

Quotes:

"There is no Europe without freedom and solidarity." (2005)

"Political will and leadership are more important than institutions." (2005)

Trivia:

- Barroso started his political career on the left of the political, but he is now widely considered a centre-right President.
- Barosso is only the second EU Commission President to have been selected for two terms.
 - o He was re-elected to serve a second term by 382 MEPs (out of 736).
 - o He was the only candidate and had widespread support from the UK Conservatives.
- In February 2010, Barroso sparked controversy when he appointed his former chief of staff, João Vale de Almeida, as the EU envoy to Washington (many said the appointment should have been made by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton).

Website: http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/president/index_en.htm