




BRIEFING NOTE: Günter OETTINGER

Name	Günter OETTINGER 
First time Commissioner?	Yes.
Date of Hearing	Thursday 14 January 9.00-12.00
Country	Germany
Political Party	Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands (EPP)
Previous German Commissioner	Gunter Verheugen
Portfolio	Energy
Services	DG Energy to be created out of DG Transport and Energy (TREN); (The state aid competencies currently in DG Transport and Energy (TREN) will move to DG COMP) Euratom Supply Agency; The energy part of Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI).
Personal details	Born on 15 October 1953 in Stuttgart One son
Current duties	Prime Minister of Baden-Wuerttemberg since 21 Member of the Parliament of Baden-Wuerttemberg since 12
Political career	2007-2009: Co-Chairman of the Commission to modernize the federal-state 2007: Coordinator of the media policy pursued by the EU countries Chairman of the media-political circle of experts of the CDU Germany of the CDU Baden-Württemberg 2005- present: Member of the Presidium and of the federal CDU Germany Chairman of the CDU Nordwürttemberg 1999-2006: Chairman of the Federal Advisory Committee on media policy of the

	<p>CDU Germany</p> <p>1983-1989: Chairman of the Junge Union, Baden-Württemberg</p> <p>Party Chairman CDU in the municipal council of Ditzingen County Council in Ludwigsburg</p> <p>1977-1985: Chairman of the CDU</p>
Professional career	<p>1991-2005: Chairman of the CDU parliamentary group of Baden-Württemberg</p> <p>1988-2005: lawyer and director of an Auditing and tax consulting company</p> <p>1982-1988 Auditor and tax adviser,</p>
Education	<p>Studied law and economics in Tübingen</p> <p>First state law examination , 1978</p> <p>Research assistant at the University of Tuebingen,</p> <p>Second State Examination, 1982</p>
Languages	<p>German: mother tongue</p> <p>English: good knowledge</p> <p>French: basic</p> <p>Italian: basic knowledge</p>
FYI....	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ His nomination came as a surprise to all, including himself, and is considered to be controversial, both in Germany and Brussels. ▪ In 2006, he was re-elected as first minister of Baden Württemberg (one of the biggest states in Germany) and failed to gain an absolute majority by only one vote. ▪ Oettinger began his career in local politics before he became chairman of the CDU's federal youth organisation in 1983. He caused a stir for the first time when he called for the resignation of the then chancellor Helmut Kohl. ▪ As first minister he introduced university tuition fees in Baden-Württemberg. ▪ Last summer, he accepted the patronage of the "We help Africa" project prior to the World Cup in 2010. ▪ He has no experience of European politics. His relationship with Angela Merkel is known to be complicated, due to some controversial statements he made about the past of one of his predecessors in Baden Württemberg - Hans Filbinger. Insiders therefore consider his nomination to be driven partly by the wish to remove him from national politics.

For more information on the Commission hearings and the other nominees, please contact:

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