



BRIEFING NOTE: Andris PIEBALGS

Name	Andris PIEBALGS 
First time Commissioner?	Second time Commissioner, previously Commissioner for Energy
Date of Hearing	Monday 11 January 16.30-19.30
Country	Latvia
Political Party	Latvijas Ceļš (ALDE)
Previous Latvian Commissioner	Andris Piebalgs
Portfolio	Development (In close cooperation with the High Representative/Vice President in accordance with the treaties)
Services	DG Development (DEV); The development part of EuropeAid-Cooperation Office (AIDCO)
Personal details	Born September 17, 1957, Valmiera, Latvia Married 3 children
Current duties	Since November 2004: Commissioner for Energy
Political career	Since November 2004: Member of European Commission 1994 – 1995: Minister of Finance Latvia 1993 – 1994: Member of Parliament of Latvia, Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee 1990 – 1993: Minister of Education of Latvia
Professional career	2004: Head of Cabinet of the Member of European Commission, Kalniete

	<p>2003 – 2004: Deputy Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia, responsible for Latvia's relations with the European Union</p> <p>1998 – 2003: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Latvia to the European Union</p> <p>1995 – 1997: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Latvia to the Republic of Estonia</p> <p>1988 – 1990: Desk officer, Head of Department, Ministry of Education of Latvia</p> <p>1980 – 1988: Teacher, Headmaster, Secondary School No1, Valmiera</p>
Education	<p>1980: Graduated in Physics from the University of Latvia</p> <p>1975: Graduated in High School</p>
Languages	<p>Latvian: mother tongue</p> <p>English, German, French, Russian: thorough knowledge</p> <p>Estonian: basic knowledge</p>
FYI....	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ After the first democratic elections, Piebalgs was the first Minister for Education for the newly independent Latvia, from 1990 to 1993. ▪ After a short period of time as part of the cabinet of the first Latvian Commissioner, Sandra Kalniete, Andris Piebalgs became the Commissioner for Energy in the outgoing Commission in November 2004, after the European Parliament had rejected Riga's proposal of Ingrida Udre in a public hearing and decided that Hungarian László Kovács was unfit for Energy and should be moved to the Taxation portfolio. ▪ Throughout his term, Commissioner Piebalgs has profiled himself as the advocate for energy efficiency in buildings and appliances, under the motto "the best energy is the energy that is not used". ▪ He has also addressed sensitive issues such as the Ukrainian gas crises, nuclear energy, and the internal energy market. ▪ At the end of his mandate, Andris Piebalgs has come to be regarded as a very successful and popular Commissioner.

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

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