




**BRIEFING NOTE: Janez POTOČNIK**

<b>Name</b>	Janez Potocnik 
<b>First time Commissioner?</b>	second time Commissioner, previously Commissioner for Science and Research
<b>Date of Hearing</b>	Wednesday 13 January 13.00-16.00
<b>Country</b>	Slovenia
<b>Political Party</b>	Unaffiliated
<b>Previous Slovenian Commissioner</b>	Janez Potocnik
<b>Portfolio</b>	Environment
<b>Services</b>	DG Enlargement (ELARG); The neighbourhood parts of DG External Relations(RELAX) and of the EuropeAid-Cooperation DG Environment (ENV); (The Climate Directorate ENV C moves from DG ENV to the new DG for Climate Action (except the Clean Air Unit C.3); The Civil Protection Units ENV A.3. and ENV A.4 move from DG ENV to DG Humanitarian Aid (ECHO); The Biotechnology, Pesticides and Health Unit ENV D.4 moves from DG ENV to DG Health and Consumers (SANCO)) European Environmental Agency (EEA).
<b>Personal details</b>	Born: March 22, 1958 in Kropa, Slovenia Married with 2 children
<b>Current duties</b>	European Commissioner for Science and Research (since November 2004)
<b>Political career</b>	May 2004-November 2004 : "Shadow" European Commissioner for Enlargement, sharing portfolio for six months with Commissioner Günther Verheugen 2002-2004: Minister for European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia 1998-2004: Head of the Negotiating Team for the Accession of Slovenia to the EU 2001-2002: Minister Counsellor in the Slovenian Prime Minister's cabinet

<b>Professional career</b>	<p>1993-2001: Director of the Institute of the Macroeconomic Analysis and Development, Ljubljana, Slovenia</p> <p>1988-1993 Senior Researcher at the Institute for Economic Research, Ljubljana</p> <p>1984-1987 Assistant Director at the Institute of Economic Analysis and Development, Ljubljana</p> <p>In the period 1991-2004 Part-time Assistant Professor of Statistics and Economy, Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana</p>
<b>Education</b>	<p>2009 honorary degree (doctor honoris causa), Ghent University, Belgium</p> <p>2008 honorary degree Doctor of Science, London Imperial College</p> <p>1993: PhD in Economics, Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia</p> <p>1989: Master's degree, Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana</p> <p>1983: Honours degree in Economics, Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana</p>
<b>Languages</b>	<p>Slovenian: mother tongue</p> <p>English: thorough knowledge</p> <p>Croatian / Serbian: thorough knowledge</p> <p>French: basic knowledge</p>
<b>FYI....</b>	<p>He became a Member of the European Commission on 1 May 2004, with responsibility for the Science and Research portfolio. His main achievements have been the creation of a true European Research Area and its extension into the Western Balkans; the agreement on the ITER fusion reactor in Europe; and the recognition of the importance of the 5th freedom – free movement of knowledge.</p>

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

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