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World Modified on October 12, 2016

Petition denounces Barroso's "pantouflage" at Goldman Sachs



Original text

Une pétition dénonce le "pantouflage" de Barroso chez Goldman Sachs

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12:30 October 12, 2016



Demonstration in Brussels against the commitment of José Manuel Barroso at Goldman Sachs

News

October 12, 2016

A petition signed by more than 150,000 people denounces the conversion of former European Commission President José Manuel Barroso to Goldman Sachs Bank. It was tabled in Brussels on Wednesday.

Launched by a collective of employees of the European institutions, this online petition calls for "strong and exemplary measures" against José Manuel Barroso, accused of "dishonoring the European civil service and the European Union as a whole".

The reconversion of José Manuel Barroso, after ten years of presidency of the European Commission, is a dramatic signal, at a time of increasing mistrust of the citizens towards the EU, according to the petitioners.

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Legal review and sanctions

The text, with more than 150,000 signatures, calls for a legal analysis of the former official's passing to Goldman Sachs, a bank insolvent challenged in the financial crisis and in the Greek debt crisis.

The petition also calls for a detailed and transparent examination of José Manuel Barroso's respect for his duties of reserve and delicacy towards the EU, in particular the use he will make of the confidential information he holds.

Finally, the text calls for possible sanctions against the former president of the Commission, in particular "the suspension of his retirement allowances" as well as "the suspension of all his honorific titles related to the European institutions".

Ethical rules to be strengthened

More generally, the petitioners are demanding a reinforcement of the ethics rules for the retraining of European commissioners, in order to avoid transfers deemed problematic in the private sector.

The text, addressed to the presidents of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker, the Council of the European Union Donald Tusk and the European Parliament Martin Schulz, was tabled by former European officials.

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