

*José Manuel Barroso*  
*President of the European Commission*

Brussels,  
BARROSO (2009) A/10460  
BARROSO (2010) D/ 846

Dear Mr Kessler,

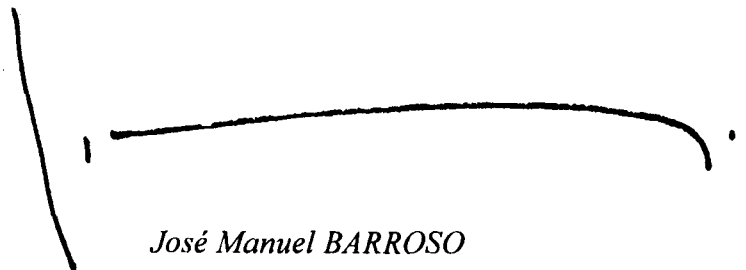
Thank you for your letter of 14 December in which you refer to the draft consultation document on the future EU 2020 Strategy.

The Commission agrees that regional and local stakeholders need to be more closely involved in the development and subsequent implementation of the strategy. I am pleased that so many regional and local authorities have submitted contributions and ideas in the context of the public consultation. Their close involvement is not only important for reasons of ownership and communication, but also because many of the policies needed to achieve our ambitions, such as innovation, skills provision, modern infrastructure and improving the business environment, are in the hands of regional and local authorities.

I am pleased to attach a copy of the Europe 2020 Strategy, which the Commission has adopted on 3 March.

As you might see, the Commission considers that cohesion policy will be crucial to the achievement of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

Yours sincerely,



*José Manuel BARROSO*

Enclosure

Mr Giovanni KESSLER  
President  
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