



24 September 2009

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Jonathan gets his arms around this problem



Jonathan urges his team to save energy



Rogue's gallery



HOME

EU Priorities & Opinion

Commissioner Tajani signs contract for new 'chunnel' to Oxford [FR] [DE]



Only hours before Jonathan Scheele was due to leave DG TREN, it was revealed that Commissioner Tajani had signed a new private-public partnership to build a high speed tunnel from Place Schuman to Oxford. Tajani explained that he had recently learnt that the next UK government was likely to be led by people educated at Oxbridge and that although he could not find this bridge on any map, he was assured that the only sure way of binding a future UK government was to build a second tunnel. "This will also enable our representative in Oxford, Mr Jonathan Scheele, to travel more easily between Oxford and Brussels to facilitate this last important assignment of his career with the European Commission".

Breaking News

'Romanians want Scheele as Commissioner'

The Romanian government to-day denied that it had decided to nominate former EU representative in Bucharest as their next Commissioner in Brussels. However, contacted by our Bucharest correspondent, Adrian Lungu, many ordinary Romanians said that it would be a good idea. A spokesman for President Barroso refused to answer any questions on the matter fueling speculation that...

For more fun from Romania see:
http://www.euractiv.ro/uniunea-europeana/articles/categoryID_9/Club-Obelix-fun-download.html

EU Priorities and Opinion

"Romania ameninta ca va parasi UE daca Scheele nu se intoarce de la Oxford"

Intr-o miscare dramatica, in preajma zilei in care Jonathan Scheele paraseste Comisia pentru a se alatura Universitatii Oxford, Guvernul Roman si-a demonstrat nemulțumirea, amenintand ca va parasi UE daca Scheele nu se va intoarce imediat. Dan LUCA, un bine-cunoscut reprezentant al diasporei romanesti din mediul european de la Bruxelles, a spus: "Nu este deloc surprinzator; Jonathan Scheele a reprezentat Comisia Europeana in tara noastra pentru patru ani, inainte de aderarea Romaniei la Uniune. A reusit sa fie o fata umana a Uniunii Europene in Romania. Jonathan a invatat limba noastra, aparand cu regularitate in presa, atat in cea tiparita, cat si la televiziune, a fost mereu accesibil. Un om placut care incanta prin prezenta. Lumea si-l aminteste inca cu mare placere."

For those less familiar with the language of Romania, please see unofficial translation by Dana Spinant, former editor of European Voice, in the blue box.

EU Priorities and Opinion

Jonathan Scheele

Mr. Jonathan Scheele was born on 7 November, 1948, at a very early age. He gained an M.A. in Mechanical Sciences and Economics at Trinity Hall, Cambridge before becoming a Unilever Management Trainee. In 1970 and later worked at BLMC, Longbridge, Birmingham. First signs of wanting to meddle in transport? Fortunately got out of the unlamented British Leyland Motor Corporation, before it went spectacularly bust. He joined the European Commission in Brussels in 1974. From 1975 to 1982 he held positions as Administrator at the European Commission Textiles Division and later in the Mediterranean Division of the Commission. From 1982 to 1988 he was First Secretary and later Counsellor to the Permanent Delegation of the EC in Geneva with responsibility for trade matters, especially GATT and later Geneva international organisations generally. During this time he worked alongside the legendary Tran van Trinh initially on textiles and later as Trin's effective deputy. From 1988 to 1992 he was Principal Administrator and later Head of Services Section, Directorate General for External Relations at the European Commission and Community Negotiator in the Uruguay Round on Trade in Services. From 1993 to 1999, as Head of Division International Transport Relations, Mr. Jonathan Scheele had responsibility for international questions on transport, particularly enlargement issues, including all transport policy aspects, infrastructure development in third countries, and PHARE projects. From 1999 to 2002, he was Head of Division Southeast Asia and from 2000 to 2001 Acting Director Asia (except Japan and Korea). From 2001 to 2006 he was the Head of the European Commission's Delegation in Romania, before returning to Brussels as Director responsible for international transport relations, transport infrastructure and transport logistics. Throughout these challenging and sometimes exciting positions with the EC he has been loyally supported by his loving wife Sarah.

Trade & Industry

To iron-out the textile tangles: between the merits of natural and man-made fibres, between consumers and producers, who better than Jonathan Scheele, DG III? Our report contains strong language.

Foreign Affairs

Acting Director for Asia (excluding Japan & Korea), Jonathan Scheele, has just announced another major breakthrough in EU negotiations between Outer Mongolia and the Hebrides. "Women's underwear is safe in my hands" said Scheele from Ulan Bator.

Enlargement & Neighbours

A spot of bother in The Med left the EC struggling until Jonathan Scheele was sent to sort out East from West, North from South and all those islands in between (Since when has Italy been an island? Editor, but good idea Scheele, thanks).

Enterprise & Jobs

Oxford University has just announced a new job for Jonathan Scheele, Director at DG TREN. The enterprise with which Scheele has demonstrated since leaving British Leyland has impressed us: sorting out the Uruguay Round, supporting Romania's successful accession into the EU and so on

Transport & Services

Commissioner Tajani signs new contract for tunnel from Brussels to Oxford. In a surprise announcement on the eve of Jonathan Scheele's departure from Brussels, the Commissioner announced that without a tunnel to Oxford it was difficult to contemplate how the UK's continued EU membership could be assured. "As Britain is likely to be run by people from Oxbridge within months, we felt it imperative that we instigate this new TEN-T immediately. Jonathan Scheele is clearly the person to persuade the UK from his unique perspective, coming from Brussels and now about to start in Oxford."

>> more

Interviews

Trans-European Networks - Transport

Sir Robert Coleman, former Director General at DG Transport, gives a detailed and no holds barred assessment of the first ten years of TEN-T projects. "Without Jonathan Scheele to drive this important route-map, I didn't know where to turn" quotes Robert in his idiosyncratic style.

The Uruguay Round – 15 years on

Paul Tran Van Trinh, former EC negotiator in Geneva for most of the Uruguay Round, gives a frank assessment of the highs and lows in the road from Punte del Este to Marrakesh. Two of the most intractable of the 15 topics were Textiles & Clothing and Services: "Without the unstinting support of Jonathan Scheele on these twin dossiers from hell, we would never have been able to complete the longest trade negotiations in history." Perhaps he should be seconded to the Doha Round instead of Oxford!" quipped the EC's former negotiator.

Financial Services: solving the global banking crisis

Further endorsement of Scheele's negotiating skills comes from the chairman of Goldman Sachs International and the first Director General of the WTO, Peter Sutherland, in an exclusive interview for EurActiv. Asked about how the global banking crisis could be solved Sutherland suggested that Scheele could be invited to spend a few days in Pittsburgh sorting this out – is there anything Scheele can't do?

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"Romania threatens to leave EU if Scheele not returned from Oxford"

In a dramatic move, on the eve of Jonathan Scheele leaving the Commission for a Visiting Fellowship in Oxford University, the Romanian government demonstrated its displeasure by threatening to leave the EU if Scheele was not re-instated immediately. Dan Luca, a well-known representative of the Romanian diaspora in Belgium said "This is not at all surprising; Jonathan Scheele represented the Commission in our country for the four years up to our accession and put a real human face in front of the Romanian public. Jonathan learnt our language, spoke regularly to the print and online media and on radio and TV and was always accessible".

Agenda

eis Article: **EUROMANIA: ACCESSION TO BE MARITAL BLISS? (Shume mistake here? editor)**
 Article from: European Report
 Article date: May 12, 2004

Mr Scheele said he hoped that there was now less than a year to go before an Accession Treaty was signed with Romania and less than a thousand days before the accession date. But before this happened there was still a lot to do and, Mr Scheele pointed out, not all that had to be done was contained in the Government's recently published "to do" list of priority actions to be taken by the end of June, with a view to closing accession negotiations in 2004 (see issue 2847). Mr Scheele recalled that the Commission 2003's Regular Report on Romania showed that progress had been made but there were still gaps which had to be filled before Romania could become an EU member.

Blogactiv **Europeans challenge Europe**

- AriRusila: **Quality Peace?**
- Florian Pantazi: **US: A Farewell to Arms**
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- Michael Berendt: **Vote for continuity before Copenhagen**
- etambuyu: **The Paradox of China's Involvement in Africa**

LinksDossiers

Jonathan Scheele prefers the Motorways of the Sea for his journey to Oxford

Jonathan Scheele, a senior official of the Commission who's responsibilities include the Motorways of the Sea, decided to choose the maritime highway Brest-Cardiff for his journey to Oxford where he will take up an EU Visiting Fellowship at the Oxford University. At an intimate party he organised just before leaving for Oxford where European Voice was exclusively invited, Jonathan Scheele said: "I could have taken the Eurotunnel but I'm so fed up with the congestion around greater London and my gardening equipment sticks out of the window which is a bit inconvenient. Motorways of the Sea are a great way to travel, they are also very environmentally friendly. I choose this mode of transport because I want to set the example for my fellow Europeans. Motorways of the Sea is THE means of transport of the future."

See map of planned trip.

