

PRESS RELEASE

12 December 2008: Nomination of Josep Borrell as President of the European University Institute in Florence, Italy

On Friday 12 December Josep Borrell Fontelles was appointed President of the European University Institute (EUI) by unanimous vote of all Member States of the EUI. Former President of the European Parliament, Josep Borrell's nomination was confirmed at the conclusion of a selection procedure involving top-class candidates from Europe and beyond.

Borrell will bring to the EUI his vast experience in both academic and political fields: Professor of Mathematical Economics at the Complutense University of Madrid, founder of the Spanish School of Public Finance, he has held various other academic positions and is author of numerous publications. Josep Borrell began his political career as Spanish Secretary of State for Finance in the Eighties, subsequently nominated Minister for Public Works, Transport and Environment. Member of the Spanish Parliament, from 2004, he was elected Member of the European Parliament (EP). Later the same year, he was appointed President of the European Parliament. He is currently President of the Development Committee of the EP.

Josep Borrell will take up his position at the head of the European University Institute in January 2010, at the conclusion of the mandate of the President in office, Yves Mény.

The European University Institute, founded in 1972 by the Member States of the European Communities, is a post-graduate and post-doctoral university benefiting from the status of international organization. It currently hosts around 600 PhD students in the Social Sciences. The EUI also offers the largest post-doctoral fellowship programme in Europe, and is home to the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, an interdisciplinary research centre focussing on European and international themes.

Students, administrative and teaching staff are recruited from EU Member States and further afield. Applications in 2008 were received from over 100 countries. This unique multicultural environment allows an integrated approach to both teaching and research that transcends national academic traditions. The EUI is also home to the Historical Archives of the European Union, which will move, in the near future, to the prestigious site of Villa Salviati, made available by the Italian Government.

Florence, 12 December 2008

EUI communications & public relations

- Ana Aguado Cornago (in charge of media correspondents in Brussels)
ana.aguado@eui.eu - Tel.: +32 2 227 11 31
- Serena Bürgisser (international media)
eui@serena.eu - Tel.: +39 055 4685 378
- Catherine Divry (Italian media)
eui@divry.eu - Tel.: +39 055 4685 791