

E-4897/10EN

Answer given by Mr Barroso
on behalf of the Commission
(20.8.2010)

1. and 2. The European Union has no institutional, legal or working relations with the Bilderberg group. The Commission is not aware of which questions would be or would not be answered by the organisers.

3. The President of the Commission attends a wide variety of different events, where he meets representatives of civil society, enterprises, trade unions, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), etc. During his tenure as President of the Commission, he has attended the meeting in Rottach-Egern in May 2005. When invited to such gatherings, members of the Commission, as in any other meeting and as any other holders of public office at national or international level, take part in the debate and exchange of ideas. This is actually a useful way to convey the Commission's views to the audience.

4. The Commission is not in a position to undertake the research that would be required in order to provide the Honourable Member with the information requested.

5. and 6. As already said, the Commission has no institutional relations with the Bilderberg group as such. The participation of Commissioners is individual. The Commission is independent and the Members of the Commission neither seek nor take instructions from any government or other institution, body, office or entity. The Bilderberg invitees have no particular influence on the Commission's policies.

7. and 8. President Barroso did not attend the meeting in Sitges.