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Brussels, 23 May 2001

Michel Petite appointed Director General of the Legal Service

Michel Petite will head the Commission's Legal Service, which provides legal advice to the institution and represents it in Court. The Legal Service reports to the Commission's President.

Welcoming Michel Petite's appointment, Romano Prodi said: "*I wish to thank Michel Petite for serving as head of my cabinet in what has been a very active and successful year. He has fine credentials as an expert in Community law and a masterly grasp of the Commission's policies. I believe his presence at the head of the Legal Service will be of great benefit to the whole Commission.*"

Michel Petite, a Commission official of French nationality, 54, is a lawyer by training and profession. He joined the Commission in September 1979 in what was then the Directorate-General for Industry and Internal Market. Over the next 20 years, he held various positions in the cabinets of Commissioners Lord Cockfield, Christiane Scrivener and finally President Jacques Delors, together with periods as Head of Unit and Director in the Directorate-General for Competition. Michel Petite joined President Prodi's cabinet in July 1999 and became Head of cabinet in May 2000.

The Commission appointed Michel Petite on a proposal by Vice-President Neil Kinnock, in agreement with President Romano Prodi.

CV attached.

Michel PETITE
Deputy Head of Cabinet of Madame Christiane Scrivener

Present function:

Deputy Head of Cabinet of Madame Scrivener, in charge of taxation.

Previous functions:

1985-1988 Member of the Cabinet of Lord Cockfield, Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for Internal Market, Customs Union Service, Taxation, Financial Institutions.

Within the Cabinet, Michel Petite was responsible for Internal Market, banking affairs, company law and direct taxation.

1979-1984 Principal Administrator at the European Commission Directorate General "Internal Market and Industrial Affairs"
Company Law and Accounting Division

1975-1979 Barrister at the Paris Bar
Specialised in Administrative and Tax Law cases at the Conseil d'Etat

1972-1979 Assistant at the Law Universities of Orléans and Paris

Academic Background:

1968 Master in Law - University of Paris

1970 "Diplôme d'Etudes Supérieures" - Public Law - University of Paris

1971 "Diplôme d'Etudes Supérieures" - Private Law - University of Paris

