

The mandate review

Naturally I also endeavoured to work towards my own goal. My goal was the federation of Europe, and that still remains my goal today! Nothing's going to change that, because I can't see any other solution for the future of the European Community except the completion of the European Union. I tried hard to be fair to everybody, to be non-partisan, and to acknowledge each and every MEP as a valuable partner.

In addition to that, I of course tried to organise things so that compromise was the order of the day. I was successful in this. I also managed to improve relations with the other European institutions - the Court of Justice, the Court of Auditors, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - and to see to it that the relationship with the Commission was maintained.

The President's view on the future of the EP

The Treaty of Lisbon offers a new approach. Of course, some rights the Parliament should have are still missing, but it is a big step forward. Where I feel it is lacking is that there is no way of expelling a member of the Community. In such a large Community, there has to be some means of applying pressure. According to our idea of democracy, there is still more that needs to be done.

The problem of the Commission has now been resolved, as all the appointed Commissioners have promised the Commission President to step down immediately if he asks them to do so. That is a good step forward. However, it is still not possible for a Commissioner to be forced to step down by a qualified majority, which is what the Parliament would have liked.