



Androulla Vassiliou
Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth

On 27 November 2009, Androulla Vassiliou was nominated by President José Manuel Barroso as EU Commissioner-designate for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth. She officially took over responsibility for the portfolio on 10 February 2010. Prior to this appointment, she was Commissioner for Health from February 2008.

Androulla Vassiliou studied law at Middle Temple Inn of Court in London (1961-1964) and international affairs at the London Institute of World Affairs (1964-1966). She practiced law in Cyprus for twenty years (1968-1988). During this period she acted as legal advisor to The Chartered Standard Bank and, later, to the Bank of Cyprus. She also served on the board of many public and private companies.

Mrs Vassiliou was for many years involved in the work of the United Nations Association of Cyprus and was elected as its President for four consecutive terms. In 1991 she was elected President of the World Federation of United Nations Associations and was re-elected for another term, serving until 1995. In 1996 she was elected President of the Cyprus Federation of Business and Professional Women and remained as such for two terms.

In 1996, she was elected as a Member of the Cyprus House of Representatives, representing the Movement of United Democrats. In 2001 she was re-elected for a second term of five years. She served on the following parliamentary committees: Foreign Affairs Committee, Legal Affairs Committee, Committee on Education and Culture, Committee on Environment and the European Affairs Committee. She was also a permanent member of the delegation of the Cyprus Parliament to the Inter-Parliamentary Union. As a member of the European Affairs Committee, she played a very active role in helping to prepare Cyprus for its accession to the EU. During this period she was also a member of the Joint Parliamentary Committee of Cyprus and the EU.

Mrs Vassiliou was an alternate representative of the Cyprus Parliament to the Convention for the Future of Europe (2001-2003), which paved the way a new Treaty aimed at making the EU institutions more democratic and effective. She was Vice President of the European Liberal Democrats and Reform Party (2001-2006) and chairperson of the European Liberal Women's Network.