



# THE STATE OF THE UNION

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## **BARROSO DEFENDS RECORD AS COMMISSION PRESIDENT**

José Manuel Barroso defended his record as Commission President saying over the last ten years the correct decisions have been made.

Despite "the most difficult period since integration began," Barroso said the constitutional and financial challenges faced by Europe under his presidency had been met and Europe has come out stronger.

"We solved the constitutional crisis with the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty," said Barroso, adding: "The financial crisis has been solved, but problems remain."

The European Union has suffered a crisis of confidence among its citizens over the last ten years largely as a result of its handling of such crises. However Barroso was bullish.

"The European Commission doesn't need to apologise, those who said Europe would fall should apologise"

Despite predictions to the contrary the European Union had come through the constitutional and economic crisis stronger and with more integration.

"The problem in Europe is not so much institutional. The problem is a political one," Barroso said, adding the EU could only move at a speed that had political consensus.

Barroso said the Commission under its new president needs to be "political, but not partisan".

Despite the Lisbon Treaty granting increased powers to the European Parliament Barroso said the Commission still had an important role to play, acting in Europe's "common interest."

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