

From: Lord Northfield



24th July 1984

Dear Prime Minister

Appointment of EEC Commissioners

My name was among those you considered when Ivor Richard was appointed four years ago. Should you be considering any change for the period ahead, may I confirm my continuing deep interest?

You will perhaps know of my work at Nuffield College and at Sussex, with a fellowship for study of the EEC institutions: this was in the first half of the nineteen-seventies, and Emile Noel gave me free run of Berlaymont. I then became chairman of the Development Commission (partly using European experience to change it into a rural development agency) and of Telford New Town, where your Ministers have twice re-appointed me. But I kept up my EEC connections by becoming one of the international group of four special advisers to the EEC Commissioner dealing with the environment; and I have been assisting understanding between the Commission and the DoE on several of the new environment directives, particularly the one dealing with environment impact assessment.

As to personal qualities and politics (I remain on the Labour benches but am well-known as very cross-bench!) these would be best commented upon by ministers such as Patrick Jenkin, Michael Heseltine or Irwin Bellwin. They would also no doubt comment on my work at Telford.

Yours sincerely

Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher M.P.
Prime Minister.

Donald Northfield

MJ

25 July 1984

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter confirming your interest in serving as a member of the EC Commission and to say that she will bear your interest and experience in mind when considering possible candidates.

CP

The Lord Northfield.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of several loops and a long vertical stroke, located in the bottom right corner of the page.