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Brussels, 3 April 2001

Marc FRANCO appointed Deputy Director General of the Europe Aid – Cooperation Office.

The Commission has decided to appoint Marc FRANCO (Belgian, 54) as Deputy Director General of Europe Aid – Cooperation Office following a proposal by Vice-President Neil Kinnock, responsible for Administrative Reform and in agreement with President Romano Prodi, Development and Humanitarian Aid Commissioner Poul Nielson and Commissioner Chris Patten, responsible for External Relations.

Marc Franco, Master of Arts in Economics from the University of Louvain, started his career at the European Commission in the former DG VIII (Development) in 1978, working on a range of issues such as agricultural and food programmes and Macroeconomic Structural Adjustment programmes. From 1990-1998 he first became Head of Unit in DG I/DGIA (External Relations) responsible for various sectors in the PHARE programme and later Head of Unit responsible for relations with Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Slovenia.

In 1998 Marc Franco was appointed director of the Cohesion Fund and subsequently headed the EC Task Force for the reconstruction of Kosovo in 1998-2000, before coming back to DG Regional Policy to implement the launching of ISPA (structural pre-accession instrument).

His curriculum vitae is available from the office of Eric Mamer, Brey. 6/194.