

Eurostars

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The Brussels power base is in flux. In this round of European elections, the total number of MEPs is due to be reduced – but the politicians' powers will simultaneously be greatly increased under the new Lisbon treaty, Ireland willing. An Irish ascent to the treaty, expected in October, will also guide the re-shaping of the European Commission, which is the EU capital's traditional power centre.

One major player, Commission president José Manuel Barroso, looks to have done enough to secure a second term. If he has, his power of patronage will elevate him once again as he looks to refresh his 26-member team by the end of the year.

Amid the shifting sands, use the FT's guide below to find out which 30 people are the prime influencers of policy and legislation in Brussels, both in public and behind the scenes.

See more news and analysis of the European elections on the FT's [elections in-depth page](#), and leave us your suggestions about our choice of the 30 eurostars on Brussels bureau chief [Tony Barber's blog](#).

Eurostars

Peter Guilford, 48

Senior partner of GPlus Europe
British



Efficient, straight-talking, and well-connected, Peter Guilford established his Brussels-based lobbying consultancy in 2000 to help guide EU outsiders through the labyrinthine paths of political influence. Mr Guilford first came to Brussels in 1988 as a correspondent for The Times but soon jumped the fence to work at the commission, first as competition spokesman and latterly as senior media adviser to the former commission president Romano Prodi. Although Guildord is known for his expertise as an anti-trust negotiator, GPlus was also famously hired to cover Russia's priorities during the country's 2006 G8 presidency.

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