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Barroso pushing for Joe Borg

EC president wants Borg to stay on

MATTHEW VELLA

THE president of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, is supporting the reappointment of Joe Borg to a second term in his Commission, this newspaper has learnt.

Barroso, who is expected to retain the presidency of the next Commission, has spoken directly to Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi on the matter.

A Commissioner is appointed by the member state together with the President, who decides upon their portfolio. The Commission in its entirety then seeks the approval of the Parliament and the Council of Ministers, by qualified majority. The post comes with a financial package of €220,000 per year, among other benefits.

Sources in Brussels have confirmed Barroso wants Borg to be nominated once again by the Maltese government, so that he stays in his team but with a different portfolio.

Borg, a former foreign minister, currently handles the EU's maritime and fisheries portfolio.

One of the portfolios he could



Borg and Barroso enjoy 'a good working relationship'

be tipped for is the future enlargement of the EU, which is currently in the hands of Olli Rehn, a Finn.

Sources close to Borg described

the Commissioner's relationship with Barroso to have been "very good" in these last five years. "They enjoy a good working relationship with each other, one

which Barroso may not necessarily have with other commissioners."

As Commissioner for enlargement, Borg would have the job

of keeping the Western Balkans and Turkey firmly on the track for European Union membership.

He recently ex- **page 3 ►**

Minister's brother arraigned in 'soap' trafficking case

Dalli speaks to Gonzi: 'case did not involve me in any manner'

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Church reiterates 'strong objection' to cathedral extension

KARL SCHEMBRI

THE Church has objected to the controversial extension to the St John's Co-Cathedral museum at least three times in strongly worded letters to the planning authority.

A MEPA spokesman yesterday confirmed that the Catholic

Cultural Heritage Commission sent two letters of objection on 28 March 2008 and more recently on 23 January.

"Both letters strongly object to the proposed extension ... in view of any damage that might be caused to the Co-Cathedral by the proposed works," the spokesman said.

In another letter dated 20 Jan-

uary, the Metropolitan Cathedral Chapter also took a similar stand, expressing its disagreement about the construction of an underground museum in St John's Square and against moving the historical tapestries into any other building outside St John's precincts.

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