

## Barroso's Comments on Scotland to the BBC

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### The Andrew Marr Show, 16 February 2014

**ANDREW MARR:** I was talking about the 2017 Referendum. Of course we're going to have an earlier referendum this year about Scottish independence from the rest of the UK.

**JOSE MANUEL BARROSO:** Yes.

**ANDREW MARR:** Now, as I understand the situation, an independent Scotland would have to reapply for membership of the EU. The second question is would it be welcome?

**JOSE MANUEL BARROSO:** The referendum or the independence?

**ANDREW MARR:** An independent Scotland applying for membership of the EU, how would that be regarded? Would that be a welcome thing for the EU? Would you say yes, of course, come in?

**JOSE MANUEL BARROSO:** First of all, I don't want now to go in hypothetical questions. What I can say is the following. We respect the democratic process going on. It's for the Scottish people and for the British citizens to decide about that - the future of Scotland. What you said is perfectly right. In case there is a new country, a new state coming out of our current member states, it will have to apply. And - this is very important - the application and the accession to the European Union will have to be approved by all the other member states of the European Union.

**ANDREW MARR:** So countries like Spain, who've got their own secessionist issues as well?

**JOSE MANUEL BARROSO:** I think it will be ... I don't want to interfere, I repeat ...

**ANDREW MARR:** No.

**JOSE MANUEL BARROSO:** ... on your referendum here and your discussion, democratic discussion here, but of course it will be extremely difficult to get the approval of all the other

member states to have a member, a new member coming from one member state. We have seen, for instance, that Spain has been opposing even the recognition of Kosovo, for instance, so it's to some extent a similar case because it's a new country. And so I believe it's going to be extremely difficult, if not impossible, a new member state coming out of one of our countries, getting the agreement of the others.

**ANDREW MARR:** (*over*) And then re-applying and then re-applying?

**JOSE MANUEL BARROSO:** But having said that, it's now for the British people ...

**ANDREW MARR:** Of course.

**JOSE MANUEL BARROSO:** ... and the Scottish people of course in their referendum to decide about their future.

**ANDREW MARR:** And would it affect how Scotland was regarded if Scotland said it would want to be a member of say the Schengen group and even the Euro?

**JOSE MANUEL BARROSO:** Look, that I cannot go now in detail, you understand, because this is an hypothetical question. I don't think I should now interfere.

**ANDREW MARR:** Sure.

**JOSE MANUEL BARROSO:** It's up for the Scottish to decide and the British people also in the British system. But certainly I think it will raise a lot of difficulties and it will be never easy that process.

## **BBC Hardtalk, 15 December 2012**

**Interviewer:** The Commission has made it clear that any country, a country like Scotland, that would choose to be independent, would need to reapply for EU membership. When you think about how that would work, would it just be nodded through, do you think?

**Jose Manuel Barroso:** "Look, I did not comment on specific situations of member states because I very much respect that it is their right, their sovereign right to decide about their organisation.

"Now, what I said, and it is our doctrine and it is clear since 2004 in legal terms, if one part of a country - I am not referring now to any specific one - wants to become an independent state, of course as an independent state it has to apply to the European membership according to the rules - that is obvious."

**Interviewer:** "So, it has to renegotiate its terms?"

**Jose Manuel Barroso:** "Yes."

**Interviewer:** "And is it renegotiating those terms from inside, as a member of the EU, or is it effectively reapplying from outside the EU?"

**Jose Manuel Barroso:** "We are a union of states, so if there is a new state, of course, that state has to apply for membership and negotiate the conditions with other member states....."

**Interviewer:** "So if, and I am using the example of Scotland, and I appreciate you are not talking about specifics, but say a country like Scotland, it, say, chooses independence, it is then like a new state applying to the EU?"

**Jose Manuel Barroso:** "For European Union purposes, from a legal point of view, it is certainly a new state. If a country becomes independent it is a new state and has to negotiate with the EU."

**Interviewer:** "What about the rest of the UK that is effectively left behind by Scotland's independence...."

**Jose Manuel Barroso:** "That is the principle of the continuity of the state, in that case if a...."

**Interviewer:** "Would it have to renegotiate its terms?"

**Jose Manuel Barroso:** "No, no in principle no."

