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By Martin Banks | The Parliament

Commission president Jos  Manuel Barroso is to give an annual "state of the union" address as part of a revamped communications policy, it has emerged.

The first address will be next Tuesday in Strasbourg before MEPs at their parliamentary plenary.

The move, which was announced by the commission, is said to be part of an attempt to "personalise" the image of Barroso.

However, it has come under immediate fire from eurosceptics who say the "state of the union" address is usually used by heads of state, for example US president Barack Obama.

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