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From: Sent: To: Subject: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov> Sunday, September 20, 2009 4:35 PM H Fw: (AP) Ferrero-Waldner abandons race for UNESCO top job

From: Pearce, Jennifer To: NEWS-Mahogany; NEWS-IO Sent: Sun Sep 20 16:01:53 2009 Subject: (AP) Ferrero-Waldner abandons race for UNESCO top job

PARIS (AP) EU External Relations Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner is withdrawing her candidacy for the top job at the United Nations agency for culture and education. Paris-based UNESCO is choosing a new director in voting that began Thursday and continues Monday. Austrian Ferrero-Waldner was considered a strong candidate. The front-runner is Egyptian Farouk Hosni, opposed by Jewish activists. He threatened last year to burn Israeli books, but later apologized. The Austrian Foreign Ministry announced Sunday that Ferrero-Waldner was withdrawing ``for the greater good of the organization and European unity,'' and urged respect for UNESCO's ideals. Other candidates are former Bulgarian foreign minister Irina Bokova and Ecuadorean diplomat Ivonne Baki.