



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

**PV(2002)1594 final**

Brussels, 8 January 2003

**MINUTES**

**of the 1594th meeting of the Commission**

**held in Strasbourg**

**(Winston Churchill Building)**

**on Tuesday 17 December 2002**

**(afternoon)**

—

These minutes were approved by the Commission at its 1595<sup>th</sup> meeting, held in Brussels on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2003.

They contain 28 pages.

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**Single sitting: Tuesday 17 December (afternoon)**

The sitting opened at 1335 hours with Mr Prodi, President, in the chair.

**Present:**

|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Mr PRODI          | President      |
| Mr KINNOCK        | Vice-President |
| Ms de PALACIO     | Vice-President |
| Mr MONTI          |                |
| Mr LIIKANEN       |                |
| Mr BOLKESTEIN     |                |
| Mr BUSQUIN        |                |
| Mr SOLBES         |                |
| Mr NIELSON        |                |
| Mr VERHEUGEN      |                |
| Mr LAMY           |                |
| Mr BYRNE          |                |
| Mr BARNIER        |                |
| Ms REDING         |                |
| Ms SCHREYER       |                |
| Ms WALLSTRÖM      |                |
| Mr VITORINO       |                |
| Ms DIAMANTOPOULOU |                |

**Absent:**

Mr FISCHLER  
Mr PATTEN

**The following sat in to represent absent Members of the Commission**

Mr POWER                                      A member of Mr Patten's staff

**The following also sat in**

|               |                                         |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Mr PETITE     | Director-General, Legal Service         |
| Mr MANSERVISI | Chef de cabinet to the President        |
| Mr FAULL      | Commission Spokesman                    |
| Mr MAMER      | Spokesman                               |
| Mr GUSSETTI   | A member of the President's staff       |
| Mr SCHINAS    | Deputy Chef de cabinet to Ms de Palacio |
| Mr SALMI      | Chef de cabinet to Mr Liikanen          |
| Mr LEHNER     | Chef de cabinet to Ms Schreyer          |
| Mr ARP        | A member of Ms Wallström's staff        |
| Mr ROMERO     | Director-General, Budget                |

Secretary: Mr O'SULLIVAN, Secretary-General, assisted by Mr BISARRE, Director in the Secretariat-General.

The PRESIDENT took the opportunity of this final meeting of the year to give a very positive assessment of the Commission's activities in 2002. The year had begun with the introduction of the euro and was ending with a very satisfactory political agreement on enlargement.

In all the important debates, the Commission had been not only the instigator of the Community decision-making process, thanks to its right of initiative, but also at its heart, thanks to its expertise and capacity for negotiation.

He thanked all Commission Members for their contribution to this collective performance, and particularly Mr VERHEUGEN and his departments for having brought the enlargement negotiations to a successful conclusion within the deadlines set.

Mr VERHEUGEN thanked the PRESIDENT for giving a clear policy line throughout the accession negotiations, and gave the Commission his assessment of the outcome of the Copenhagen European Council on this matter.

All the other Members present endorsed the thanks addressed to the PRESIDENT and Mr VERHEUGEN.

## **1. AGENDAS**

**(OJ(2002)1594/3; SEC(2002)1354/2)**

The Commission took note of that day's agenda and of the tentative agendas for forthcoming meetings.

**2. WEEKLY MEETING OF CHEFS DE CABINET  
(SEC(2002)1594)**

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 16 December.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND SPECIAL MINUTES OF 1593rd  
MEETING (11 December)  
(PV(2002)1593 and /2; PV(2002)1593, Part II)**

The Commission approved the minutes of its 1593rd meeting.

**4. PARLIAMENT**

**4.1. PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS GROUP  
(SP(2002)4094)**

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Parliamentary Affairs Group held on Friday 13 December.

It paid particular attention to the following:

**Preparations for December II part-session  
(point 2 of the record)**

Empowerment

Under Article 13 of its Rules of Procedure the Commission empowered Ms DIAMANTOPOULOU, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, the Member responsible for relations with Parliament and any other Members

associated, to adopt its opinion on the amendments, together with any amended proposals, on the basis of the line set out in SP(2002)4049, once Parliament had given its opinion, and transmit them to the Council in accordance with Article 251(2)(c) of the Treaty for the following:

- DAMIÃO report, Protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to asbestos,  
COM(2001)417, 01/0165 (COD)

#### **4.2. ACTION TAKEN ON PARLIAMENT'S OPINIONS AND RESOLUTIONS (SP(2002)3997; SP(2002)4020)**

The Commission adopted SP(2002)3997 on the action taken on Parliament's opinions and resolutions adopted at its November I and II part-sessions.

The Commission adopted the replies to own-initiative resolutions adopted by Parliament for which the Commission had undertaken to give a reply (SP(2002)4020), for transmission to Parliament, apart from the action taken on the resolutions in the BURG and RANDZIO-PLATH reports.

### **5. PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE (SI(2002)1543)**

#### **COUNCIL AFFAIRS GROUP (SI(2002)1543)**

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Council Affairs Group held on Friday 13 December (SI(2002)1543).

It paid particular attention to the following:

**Proposal for a Council Regulation temporarily suspending import duties on certain weapons and military equipment**

Mr BOLKESTEIN reminded the meeting that the Commission proposal to suspend duties on imports from non-member countries of weapons and military equipment used by the armed forces had been pending in the Council for 14 years. The recent transfer of the dossier from the Polarm group to the customs union group had greatly helped in getting things moving again.

The compromise presented by the Presidency was likely to secure a qualified majority in the Council, and its adoption was subject to the Commission taking a position on the action it intended to take on the infringement proceedings in progress, initiated against nine Member States, for non-payment of customs duties.

Following a brief exchange of views, the Commission:

- authorised Mr BOLKESTEIN to accept the Presidency compromise;
- asked the departments concerned (DG TAXUD, DG BUDG, Legal Service), under the authority of Mr BOLKESTEIN, Ms SCHREYER and the PRESIDENT, to consider how the infringement proceedings initiated against certain Member States could be terminated.

**6. MONITORING THE APPLICATION OF COMMUNITY LAW: STATE AID  
AND INFRINGEMENTS**

**(SEC(2002)1197; SEC(2002)1201)**

***INFRINGEMENTS***

**Report A 2/2002 on infringements noted**

Mr BOLKESTEIN outlined the reasons for the proposals he was tabling on the following matters:

- **1999/5049 UNITED KINGDOM**  
**Supervision of Lloyd's insurance market**

Proposal: Held over

- **2002/4260 UNITED KINGDOM**  
**Equitas**

Proposal: Held over

- **2000/0789 (FRANCE), 2000/0797 (LUXEMBOURG), 2000/0802 (BELGIUM), 2000/0807 (NETHERLANDS), 2000/0815 (GERMANY), 2000/0823 (ITALY), 2000/0870 (PORTUGAL), 2000/0880 (AUSTRIA), 2000/0891 (SWEDEN)**

**Non-transposal of the Directive on the legal protection of  
biotechnological inventions**

Proposal: Reasoned opinion with authorisation of contacts

Following a brief exchange of views, the Commission adopted all the proposals in SEC(2002)1201, including those proposed by Mr BOLKESTEIN for the above dossiers.

It agreed that the reasoned opinion on the non-transposal of the Directive on the legal protection of biotechnological inventions would be accompanied by all the information available to answer the questions of the national parliaments concerned.

## **7. WRITTEN PROCEDURES AND EMPOWERMENT**

### **7.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED**

*(SEC(2002)1355 to /5)*

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted by written procedure between 9 and 13 December.

### **7.2. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES**

*(SEC(2002)1356)*

The Commission took note of the following written procedures initiated between 9 and 13 December for the adoption of decisions with political implications:

#### **Time limit: 19.12.2002**

**E/2002/2560 - C(2002)5115      Environment DG**

Commission working paper on Natura 2000

**E/2002/2568 - COM(2002)743      Internal Market DG**

Commission report *Economic reform: Report on the functioning of Community product and capital markets*

**E/2002/2604 - COM(2002)747      Economic and Financial Affairs DG**

Commission communication *The introduction of euro notes and coins - one year after.*

**Time limit: 20.12.2002**

**E/2002/2592 - C(2002)5169      Legal Service**

Commission decision to appeal against the Court of First Instance judgments of 25 October 2002 in Cases T-5/02 and T-80/02 *Tetra Laval v Commission*.

**E/2002/2594 - COM(2002)746      Justice and Home Affairs DG**

Green Paper on a European order for payment procedure and on measures to simplify and speed up small claims litigation.

**7.3. EMPOWERMENT**

**(SEC(2002)1357 to /5)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the empowerment procedure between 9 and 13 December.

**7.4. DELEGATION AND SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation procedure between 9 and 13 December, as archived on the "Grefte 2000" (Registry) website.

**8. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS**  
**(SEC(2002)1358/4)**

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**  
**(PERS(2002)169/4)**

**8.1. DG ENV.C - A2 POST OF DIRECTOR**

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a) of the Staff Regulations for the A2 post of Director of Directorate C (Environment and health) in the Environment DG (PERS(2002)84, /2, /3, /4 and /7).

The Commission took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 4 and 6 November (PERS(2002)84/5 and /8).

The Commission proceeded to compare the applicants' qualifications for the post. It also examined the reports on their ability, efficiency and conduct in the service. On a proposal from Mr KINNOCK, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Ms WALLSTRÖM, it then decided to appoint Mr Jos DELBEKE to the post.

This decision would take effect on a date to be fixed later.

**8.2. DG MARKT - CREATION OF A POST OF CHIEF ADVISER AND  
TRANSFER OF AN A2 OFFICIAL TO THE POST**

On a proposal from Mr KINNOCK, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr BOLKESTEIN, the Commission decided:

- to create a post of Chief Adviser, reporting to the Director-General, Internal Market;
- to transfer to it, in the interest of the service, Mr Thierry STOLL, an A2 official, currently Director of Directorate E (Services, electronic

commerce, intellectual and industrial property and the media) in the Internal Market DG.

It also decided that Mr STOLL would act as Deputy Director-General, Internal Market.

These decisions would take effect on 1 January 2003.

**8.3. DG MARKT - AMENDMENT OF ORGANISATION CHART**  
**(PERS(2002)170/2)**

On a proposal from Mr KINNOCK, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr BOLKESTEIN, the Commission decided to approve the amendment of the Internal Market DG's organisation chart, as set out in PERS(2002)170/2.

This decision would take effect on 16 January 2003.

The Commission also decided to fill the post of Director of Directorate D (Public procurement policy) by transferring to it, in the interest of the service and with his post, Mr Bertrand CARSIN, an A2 official, currently Director of Directorate C (Scientific opinions) in the Health and Consumer Protection DG, under the arrangements for mobility of senior officials.

**8.4. DG BUDG - APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSION ACCOUNTING OFFICER**  
**(PERS(2002)169/4)**

On a proposal from Mr KINNOCK, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Ms SCHREYER, the Commission decided to appoint Mr Brian GRAY to the post of Commission Accounting Officer.

This Decision would take effect on 1 January 2003, when Mr GRAY would also take up duties as Deputy Director-General, Budget.

**8.5. DECISION ESTABLISHING SPECIFIC MEASURES CONCERNING  
TERMINATION OF SERVICE, PRESENTED TO THE COMMISSION  
BY Mr KINNOCK, IN AGREEMENT WITH THE PRESIDENT  
(C(2002)5246)**

On a proposal from Mr KINNOCK, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, the Commission adopted the decision and the list of officials in C(2002)5246.

This decision would take effect immediately.

**9. COMMISSION DECISION CONCERNING A PROCEEDING UNDER  
ARTICLE 8(2) OF COUNCIL REGULATION No 4064/89  
(CASE COMP/M.2822 - ENBW/ENI/GVS JV)  
(C(2002)5080 and /2; SEC(2002)1375)**

The Commission:

- took note of the opinion of the Advisory Committee on Concentrations of 6 December in C(2002)5080;
- took note of the final report of the Hearing Officer in C(2002)5080/2;
- adopted, in the authentic language (English), the decision in C(2002)5080/2.

The full text of this decision would be published in the Official Journal (with business secrets removed) in all the official languages.

**10. COMMISSION DECISION ON A PROCEEDING UNDER ARTICLE 81 OF  
THE EC TREATY AND ARTICLE 53 OF THE EEA AGREEMENT  
(CASE COMP/E-2/37.667 - SPECIALITY GRAPHITE)  
(C(2002)5083 to /4; SEC(2002)1375)**

The Commission:

- took note of the opinion of the Advisory Committee on Restrictive Practices and Dominant Positions of 9 December, as set out in C(2002)5083, and the additional opinion of 13 December concerning fines in C(2002)5083/3;
- took note of the final report of the Hearing Officer in C(2002)5083/3;
- adopted the decision in C(2002)5083/4 in the four authentic languages (Dutch, English, French and German).

The full text of this decision would be published in the Official Journal (with business secrets removed) in all the official languages.

**11. COMMISSION DECISION ON A PROCEEDING UNDER ARTICLE 81 OF  
THE EC TREATY AND ARTICLE 53 OF THE EEA AGREEMENT  
(CASE COMP/E-1/37.671 - FOOD FLAVOUR ENHANCERS)  
(C(2002)5091 to /4; SEC(2002)1375)**

The Commission:

- took note of the opinion of the Advisory Committee on Restrictive Practices and Dominant Positions of 9 December, as set out in C(2002)5091, and the additional opinion of 13 December concerning fines in C(2002)5091/3;
- took note of the final report of the Hearing Officer in C(2002)5091/3;
- adopted, in the authentic language (English), the decision in C(2002)5091/4.

The full text of this decision would be published in the Official Journal (with business secrets removed) in all the official languages.

**12. COMMISSION DECISION CONCERNING A PROCEEDING UNDER  
ARTICLE 65 OF THE ECSC TREATY AGAINST 11 COMPANIES AND AN  
ASSOCIATION OF COMPANIES  
(CASE COMP/E-1/37.956 - CONCRETE REINFORCING BARS)  
(C(2002)5087 to /4; SEC(2002)1375)**

The Commission:

- took note of the opinion of the Advisory Committee on Restrictive Practices and Dominant Positions of 6 December, as set out in C(2002)5087, and the additional opinion concerning fines in C(2002)5087/3;
- took note of the final report of the Hearing Officer in C(2002)5087/3;
- adopted, in the authentic language (Italian), the decision in C(2002)5087/4.

The full text of this decision would be published in the Official Journal (with business secrets removed) in all the official languages.

**13. JOINT COMMISSION AND COUNCIL REPORT ON ADEQUATE AND  
SUSTAINABLE PENSIONS  
(COM(2002)737 to /5; SEC(2002)1369)**

The Commission:

- approved the draft joint Commission and Council report on an adequate and sustainable pensions system (COM(2002)737/5), for transmission to the

Council, Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions;

- empowered Ms DIAMANTOPOULOU, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, to adopt the joint report on behalf of the Commission, following the discussions to be held in the Council.

#### **14. RELATIONS WITH NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES**

##### ***EU ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION FOR PRESIDENTIAL, LEGISLATIVE AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP***

***(C(2002)5179)***

The Commission:

- adopted the draft decision in C(2002)5179 for an amount of €2 500 000 under Article B7-701 of the 2002 budget;
- authorised the signature of a contract with the service provider to implement project B7-701/2002/3053 (EU election observation mission for the elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip - 2003);
- empowered Mr PATTEN, in agreement with Mr NIELSON, to make changes to the project in the light of any changes to the electoral timetable or so as to ensure that the activities of the project are fully consistent with developments on the ground up to the date of the elections.

- 15. DRAFT DECISION ON INTERNAL PROCEDURE PROVISIONS FOR THE RECOVERY OF ENTITLEMENTS**  
(C(2002)5048 to /4; SEC(2002)1367)
- 16. DRAFT COMMISSION REGULATION LAYING DOWN DETAILED RULES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COUNCIL REGULATION (EC, EURATOM) No 1605/2002 OF 25 JUNE 2002 ON THE FINANCIAL REGULATION APPLICABLE TO THE GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES**  
(C(2002)5052 to /4; SEC(2002)1367)
- 17. OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE READINESS OF COMMISSION DEPARTMENTS FOR INTEGRATING THE NEW FINANCIAL REGULATION IN THEIR INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEMS**  
(SEC(2002)1362 to /5; SEC(2002)1376)
- 18. ORGANISATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR DECENTRALISING THE EX-ANTE CONTROL OF TRANSACTIONS**  
**TRANSFER OF THE STAFF AND ACTIVITIES OF THE FINANCIAL CONTROL DG**  
(SEC(2002)1366 to /4; SEC(2002)1376)
- 19. MODERNISATION OF THE ACCOUNTING SYSTEM OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES**  
(COM(2002)755 to /4; SEC(2002)1382)

Ms SCHREYER presented five documents whose adoption or approval was necessary for the entry into force of the new Financial Regulation (Council

Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002) on 1 January 2003, covering respectively:

- the internal procedure for the recovery of entitlements (draft Commission decision);
- the detailed implementing rules for the Financial Regulation (draft Commission Regulation);
- the overall assessment of Commission departments' readiness for the integration of the new Financial Regulation in their internal control systems;
- the decentralisation of the ex-ante control of transactions and the transfer of the staff and activities of the Financial Control DG (communication to the Commission);
- the modernisation of the Commission's accounting system (communication to Parliament, the Council and the Court of Auditors).

The adoption or approval of these proposals and communications would mark a decisive stage in the administrative and financial reform of the Commission, thanks to the establishment or preparation of effective instruments to improve substantially the institution's financial management.

Ms SCHREYER thanked the Budget DG for having put in place all the legislative and procedural instruments necessary for the entry into force of the new Financial Regulation on 1 January 2003, and Ms KITZMANTEL, Director-General, Financial Control, and her staff, for having smoothed the transition between the old and new internal control systems.

The Commission endorsed this statement.

Following this presentation, the Commission took the following decisions:

**Item 15 - Recovery of entitlements**

The Commission decided:

- to adopt the internal procedure provisions for the recovery of entitlements arising from direct management and the recovery of fines and penalty payments under the Treaties, as set out in C(2002)5048/3 and /4;
- to annex these internal provisions for the recovery of entitlements to the internal rules for the implementation of the general budget of the European Communities;
- to delegate powers to the Director-General, Budget, to update and adapt if necessary, after consulting the Legal Service, the standard guarantee letters, the enforcement decision and the standard grounds in support of the waiving, cancellation or technical and accounting adjustment of an amount receivable, as set out in C(2002)5048/3;
- to empower the Commission Member responsible for the Budget to finalise the text in C(2002)5048/3 and /4 in the light of the final text of the Commission Regulation on the detailed implementing rules for certain provisions of Council Regulation No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002.

**Item 16 - Rules for implementation of the Financial Regulation**

The Commission:

- adopted the Commission Regulation on the detailed implementing rules for the new Financial Regulation as set out in C(2002)5052, /3 and /4;
- empowered Ms SCHREYER, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, to finalise the Regulation in its various language versions following revision by the lawyer linguists, before its publication in the Official Journal, which would have to take

place by 31 December at the latest for the Regulation to enter into force on 1 January 2003.

**Item 17 - Readiness assessment**

The Commission approved the communication in SEC(2000)1362/4 and /5.

**Item 18 - Decentralisation of ex-ante control and transfer of the staff of the Financial Control DG**

The Commission adopted the communication in SEC(2002)1366/4 and empowered Ms SCHREYER, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, to define the detailed arrangements and the overall allocation of human resources for the mobile helpdesk.

**Item 19 - Modernisation of the accounting system**

The Commission adopted the communication in COM(2002)755/4 for transmission to Parliament, the Council and the Court of Auditors.

**20. ALLOCATION OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND DECENTRALISED ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE (TITLE A7) FOR 2003 (SEC(2002)1363 to /4)**

Ms SCHREYER, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr KINNOCK, presented a proposal for the allocation of human resources and decentralised administrative expenditure (Title A7 appropriations) for 2003.

From 2000, with the work of the Peer Group, and then in 2001, with the introduction of the strategic planning and programming cycle (implementation of the White Paper on reform), the Commission had rationalised the identification of its key activities and its major priority objectives, while creating a link between the

development of its activities and its requirements in resources (activity-based management).

She explained the means by which the resources available (500 auxiliary posts granted by the budgetary authority in the 2003 budget and 276 posts mobilised by internal redeployment) had been allocated to Directorates-General and departments.

Following a brief exchange of views, the Commission adopted the allocation of resources set out in SEC(2002)1363/3 and /4, and asked the Budget DG, under the authority of Ms SCHREYER, and DG ADMIN, under the authority of Mr KINNOCK, to implement the decision.

**21. COMMISSION DECISION ON A REQUEST FROM GREECE FOR  
AUTHORISATION TO USE HEAVY FUEL OILS WITH A MAXIMUM  
SULPHUR CONTENT OF 3% BY MASS IN PART OF ITS TERRITORY  
(C(2002)2475 to /6; SEC(2002)766 and /2; SEC(2002)779 and /2;  
SEC(2002)1370)**

Ms WALLSTRÖM presented a request by Greece of 17 December 2001 to be allowed to use heavy fuel oils with a maximum sulphur content of 3% by mass on part of its territory.

She reminded the meeting that, under Directive 1999/32/EC on the sulphur content of certain liquid fuels, Member States were required to take all necessary steps to ensure that from 1 January 2003 heavy fuel oils with a sulphur content of more than 1% by mass would no longer be used on their territory.

She referred to the analysis carried out by the Cooperative programme for monitoring and evaluation of long-range transmission of air pollutants in Europe

(EMEP) on Greece's contribution to sulphur deposits, in particular in Italy, where critical loads for acidity had been exceeded.

The criterion for critical acidity levels had not been met, and in the light of the opinion delivered by the advisory committee provided for in Article 9 of the Directive, she proposed that the Commission reject Greece's request for a derogation.

In the light of these explanations, the Commission adopted the draft decision in C(2002)2475/6 in the authentic language (Greek), for notification to the Greek authorities.

## **22. COUNCIL MEETINGS**

**(SEC(2002)1381 to /3; SI(2002)1546)**

### ***22.1. AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES***

***(BRUSSELS, 16-19 DECEMBER)***

***(SEC(2002)1381 to /3; SI(2002)1546)***

In the absence of Mr FISCHLER, who was attending the Council meeting (Fisheries) in Brussels, the PRESIDENT presented a compromise proposal submitted by the Council Presidency on the legislative package on the reform of the common fisheries policy.

The Commission should seek to ensure that any final decision on this matter preserved the main objectives it had laid down in its reform proposal (limitation of fishing effort; cessation of public aid for fleet renewal by the end of 2004; confining fleet modernisation aid to the improvement of safety conditions; etc.).

He proposed that, subject to compliance with these guidelines, Mr FISCHLER be empowered to finalise, as far as possible, an agreement at the Council meeting still in progress, so that the new regime could enter into force on 1 January.

Following a brief exchange of views, the Commission granted the empowerment requested according to the guidelines in SEC(2002)1381/3 and as clarified by the PRESIDENT during the meeting.

## **22.2. JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS**

### ***(BRUSSELS, 19 AND 20 DECEMBER)***

Mr VITORINO reported on the main items on the agenda for the next Council meeting (Justice and home affairs) and on the state of negotiations on two draft agreements between the EU and the United States, on:

- the exchange of information, including personal data, between police services, and
- judicial cooperation in criminal matters and extradition.

The Commission took note of this information.

## **23. OTHER BUSINESS**

### ***ARRANGEMENTS FOR WTO NEGOTIATIONS ON AGRICULTURE***

Mr LAMY reported on the timetable for the WTO multilateral negotiations on agriculture.

Since the adoption of the ministerial declaration in Doha in November 2001, WTO members had submitted a large number of negotiating proposals, on the basis of

which the arrangements for the agricultural negotiations, i.e. the main principles on which the negotiations would be based, would be defined on 31 March 2003.

An initial summary of the contributions received would be distributed by the chairman of the special meeting of the agriculture committee by the end of the week, and the Commission should table its own contribution by then. This was why a document drawn up jointly by Mr FISCHLER and himself had been put before the Article 133 committee.

This contribution was in line with the overall proposal tabled in December 2000, which was itself based on the mandate given by the Council in September 1999.

The Commission took note of this information and agreed to consider periodically the state of negotiations on the Doha agenda, particularly with a view to the next ministerial meeting in Cancun in September 2003.

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The Commission's other discussions on certain agenda items are recorded in the special minutes.

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The meeting closed at 1635 hours.