



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2003)1625 final

Brussels, 17 September 2003

MINUTES

of the 1625th meeting of the Commission

held in Brussels

(Breydel)

on Wednesday 10 September 2003

(morning)

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These minutes were approved by the Commission at its 1626th meeting, held in Brussels on 17th September 2003.

They contain 12 pages.

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Single sitting: Wednesday 10 September (morning)

The sitting opened at 0930 hours with Mr Prodi, President, in the chair.

Present:

Mr PRODI	President	
Ms de PALACIO	Vice-President	Items 9 and 10
Mr KINNOCK	Vice-President	
Mr MONTI		
Mr LIIKANEN		
Mr BOLKESTEIN		
Mr BUSQUIN		
Mr SOLBES		
Mr VERHEUGEN		
Mr PATTEN		
Mr BYRNE		
Mr BARNIER		
Ms REDING		
Ms SCHREYER		
Mr VITORINO		
Ms DIAMANTOPOULOU		

Absent:

Mr FISCHLER
Mr NIELSON
Mr LAMY
Ms WALLSTRÖM

The following sat in to represent absent Members of the Commission

Mr CALLEJA	Chef de cabinet to Ms de Palacio	Item 4
Mr PIRZIO-BIROLI	Chef de cabinet to Mr Fischler	Except item 9
Mr HAMBURGER	Chef de cabinet to Mr Nielson	Except item 9
Mr REDONNET	A member of Mr Lamy's staff	Except item 9
Ms CARPARELLI	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Ms Wallström	Except item 9

The following also sat in

Mr PETITE	Director-General, Legal Service	
Mr MANSERVISI	Chef de cabinet to the President	
Mr DE OLIVEIRA E SOUSA	Director-General, Press and Communication	Except item 9
Mr KEMPPINEN	Commission Spokesman	
Ms CORUGEDO STENEBOERG	Spokesman	Except item 9
Mr THOMAS	Spokesman	Except item 9
Ms HOUTMAN	Deputy Chef de cabinet to the President	Item 12
Mr ABOU	Chief Adviser in the President's Office	Item 9
Mr DE LECEA	Adviser in the President's Office	Item 12
Mr KOOPMAN	Chef de cabinet to Mr Kinnock	Item 9
Mr SCHINAS	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Ms de Palacio	Item 4
Mr PEREZ MONTES	A member of Ms de Palacio's staff	Item 12
Mr PLANAS	Chef de cabinet to Mr Solbes	Items 9 and 12
Mr MARTINEZ	A member of Mr Solbes's staff	Item 12
Mr DAVILA MURO	Secretariat-General	Item 12
Mr SAGREDO	Secretariat-General	Item 12

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

1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2003)1625/3; SEC(2003)949/2)

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(2003)1625)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 8 September.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND SPECIAL MINUTES OF 1624th MEETING

(2 September)

(PV(2003)1624; PV(2003)1624, Part II)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 1624th meeting.

4. PARLIAMENT

4.1. SEPTEMBER I PART-SESSION

(SP(2003)2906)

The Commission took note of the information supplied relating to Parliament's part-session held in Strasbourg from 1 to 4 September.

**4.2. ACTION TO BE TAKEN ON PARLIAMENT'S OPINIONS
(SP(2003)2896)**

The Commission approved the proposed empowerment decisions relating to action to be taken on the amendments presented by Parliament under the codecision and consultation procedures in SP(2003)2896.

**5. PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE
(SI(2003)873)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's reports on recent meetings of the Permanent Representatives Committee.

It paid particular attention to the following:

***POLITICAL DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION AGREEMENTS BETWEEN
THE EU AND THE ANDEAN COMMUNITY AND CENTRAL AMERICA
(SI(2003)873)***

The Commission authorised its representative in Coreper to lift its provisional reservation on the compromise proposal on Article 49 of the agreements, as presented by the Council Presidency, subject to a joint Commission and Council statement to be annexed to the text of the agreements to the effect that the provisions of that Article were without prejudice to the internal allocation of powers between the European Community and the Member States as regards the conclusion of readmission agreements.

6. MONITORING THE APPLICATION OF COMMUNITY LAW

INFRINGEMENTS: CASES POSTPONED BECAUSE OF UNAVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS - REGULARISATION (SEC(2003)959)

The Commission adopted the decisions in SEC(2003)959.

7. WRITTEN PROCEDURES AND EMPOWERMENT

7.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED (SEC(2003)950 et seq.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 1 and 5 September.

7.2. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES (SEC(2003)951)

There were no written procedures with political implications.

7.3. EMPOWERMENT (SEC(2003)952 et seq.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 1 and 5 September.

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 1 and 5 September, as archived on the "Grefte 2000" (Registry) website.

**8. THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE UNITED NATIONS: THE CHOICE OF
MULTILATERALISM
(COM(2003)526 to /5; SEC(2003)960)**

The Commission approved the communication in COM(2003)526/5 for transmission to Parliament and the Council.

**9. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS
(SEC(2003)953)**

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
(PERS(2003)115)**

***DG AGRI - A1 POST OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL
(PERS(2003)117 to /3)***

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a) of the Staff Regulations for the A1 post of Deputy Director-General in the Agriculture DG (PERS(2003)117).

The Commission took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 28 August and 4 September (PERS(2003)117/2 and /3).

The Commission proceeded to compare the applicants' qualifications for the post.

On a proposal from Mr KINNOCK, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr FISCHLER, it then decided to appoint Mr Alexander TILGENKAMP to the post, given his great experience in negotiations and in the development of the common agricultural policy. These qualities would be of crucial importance in

implementing the decisions taken as part of the reform of the CAP, particularly in the context of enlargement.

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

**10. A MATURING PARTNERSHIP - SHARED INTERESTS AND
CHALLENGES IN EU-CHINA RELATIONS
(COM(2003)533 to /4; SEC(2003)960)**

Mr PATTEN presented the main points of the policy paper before the Commission. It was of political and strategic significance, and was intended to give new impetus to relations with China. He commented on the priority areas for action identified in support of this objective.

The Commission took note of this information and considered various sensitive aspects of the relations between the two parties, particularly the question of combating counterfeiting. Following this exchange of views, the Commission approved the policy paper COM(2003)533/4 for transmission to Parliament and the Council.

**11. A EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP FOR THE SUSTAINABLE HYDROGEN
ECONOMY
(SEC(2003)957 to /4)**

Mr BUSQUIN outlined the main actions identified in SEC(2003)957/4 with a view to launching a European partnership in the field of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies. Based on the conclusions of a high-level working group and taking

account of hydrogen's potential, this initiative reflected a desire to put in place a strategy at European level.

The PRESIDENT pointed out that this field of research, in which the United States and Japan were investing heavily, was a promising one, rich in economic potential. It was important for Europe not to be left behind, and the proposed measures should lead to the speeding-up and improved coordination of European efforts in this area. The use of renewable energy sources remained a priority; however, it would be premature at this stage to rule out all other types of energy, since it was necessary to galvanise industry and all economic operators to support this project to the maximum.

Taking note of this information, the Commission approved the guidelines set out in SEC(2003)957/4 and asked Mr BUSQUIN, in cooperation with Ms de PALACIO, to see that they were implemented.

12. COUNCIL MEETINGS

(SI(2003)870)

12.1. INFORMAL MEETING OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS MINISTERS

(VITERBE, 3 TO 5 SEPTEMBER)

(SEC(2003)1007)

The Commission took note of the information note distributed by Mr LIIKANEN.

**12.2. PREPARATIONS FOR INFORMAL MEETING OF MINISTERS FOR
ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS
(STRESA, 12 AND 13 SEPTEMBER)
(SEC(2003)995 and /2)**

In support of the information note distributed by the PRESIDENT and himself, Mr SOLBES presented an analysis of the European economic situation and its international backdrop.

On the basis of this presentation, the Commission held an in-depth discussion in which it examined in particular the challenges of the initiative for growth and its scope for helping to kick-start economic growth; the implementation of the Stability Pact and the situation in Germany and France; and, more generally, the questions of economic governance and economic policy coordination.

Following this exchange of views, the Commission took note of SEC(2003)995/2, which would be published.

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

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The meeting closed at 1300 hours.