



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2004) 1652 final

Brussels, 7 April 2004

MINUTES

of the 1652nd meeting of the Commission

held in Strasbourg

(Winston Churchill Building)

on Tuesday 30 March 2004

(afternoon)

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These minutes were approved by the Commission at its 1653rd meeting, held in Brussels on 7 April 2004.

They contain 27 pages

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Single sitting: Tuesday 30 March (morning)

The sitting opened at 1330 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 PATTEN	
Mr LAMY	
Mr BYRNE	
Mr BARNIER	
Ms REDING	
Ms SCHREYER	
Ms WALLSTRÖM	
Mr DIMAS	

Absent:

Mr FISCHLER
Mr VITORINO

The following sat in to represent absent Members of the Commission

Ms GAGO FILORI A member of Mr Vitorino's staff

The following also sat in

Mr PETITE Director-General, Legal Service

Mr MANSERVISI Chef de cabinet to the President

Mr KEMPPINEN Commission Spokesman

Ms MANFREDI A member of Mr Bolkestein's staff

Mr RICHTER A member of Mr Bolkestein's staff

Mr BEKX Deputy Chef de Cabinet to Mr Solbes

Ms ABAD A member of Mr Solbes's staff Item 18

Ms PROUT A member of Mr Verheugen's staff

Mr BANNER A member of Mr Patten's staff

Mr FIELDING Deputy Chef de cabinet to Mr Dimas

Ms FOTINOU A member of Mr Dimas's staff

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

1. AGENDAS AND QUARTERLY ROLLING PROGRAMME

(OJ(2004)152/3; SEC(2004)359/2; SEC(2004)399)

The Commission took note of that day's agenda, the tentative agendas for future meetings, and the quarterly rolling programme of items to be entered on the agenda from 7 April to 26 May.

2. WEEKLY MEETING OF CHEFS DE CABINET

(SEC(2004)1652)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 29 March.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 1651st MEETING (24 March)

(PV(2004)1651)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 1651st meeting.

4. PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE

COUNCIL AFFAIRS GROUP (CAG)

(SI(2004)281 and /2)

The Commission took note of the record of the Council Affairs Group meeting held on 26 March.

It paid particular attention to the following:

- i) **Council decision authorising the Member States which are contracting parties to the Paris Convention of 29 July 1960 on Third-Party Liability in the Field of Nuclear Energy to ratify, in the interest of the European Community, the Protocol amending that Convention, or to accede to it – case of the new Member States**

(point 4 of the record; SI(2004)281/2)

The Commission took note of the note drawn up under the authority of Ms de PALACIO in SI(2004)281/2 and instructed departments to argue in the Council for the policy guidelines therein. The Legal Service would later study the flexibility limits referred to in the last paragraph of item 3 of the note.

- ii) **Amended proposal for a Parliament and Council Decision amending the amended proposal for a Parliament and Council Decision amending Decision No 1692/96/EC on Community guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network**

(point 5 of the record; SI(2004)233 and /2)

Having noted the state of play as set out in SI(2004)233 and /2, the Commission authorised Ms de PALACIO to support the Presidency compromise for a common position to be adopted by the Council by written procedure on 16 April.

5. MONITORING THE APPLICATION OF COMMUNITY LAW: STATE AID

SPECIFIC CASES

(SEC(2004)343; SEC(2004)344/2)

The Commission adopted the decisions in SEC(2004)344/2.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

(SEC(2004)363/3)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

(PERS(2004)46)

6.1. DG REGIO - APPLICATION OF ARTICLE 50 OF THE STAFF

REGULATIONS

The Commission continued its discussions on this matter, begun on 28 January (PV(2004)1643).

The Commission, on a proposal from Mr KINNOCK, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr BARNIER, adopted the decision in PERS(2004)48 to apply the second stage of the procedure laid down in Article 50 of the Staff Regulations with respect to Mr Guy CRAUSER, an A1 official, currently Adviser *hors classe* reporting to the Director-General, Regional Policy.

This decision would take effect on 1 May.

6.2. INITIAL COMMUNICATION UNDER ARTICLE 50 OF THE STAFF

REGULATIONS

This item was withdrawn from the agenda.

6.3. *ESTAT.B - A2 POST OF DIRECTOR*

(PERS(2003)152 to /4)

The Commission had before it applications under Articles 29(1)(a), 29(1)(c) and 29(2) of the Staff Regulations for the A2 post of Director in Eurostat (PERS(2003)152 and /2).

The Commission took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 24 February and 5 March (PERS(2003)152/3 and /4).

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 Mr SOLBES, it then decided to appoint Mr Pedro DIAZ MUÑOZ to the post.

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

6.4. *ESTAT.C - A2 POST OF DIRECTOR*

(PERS(2003)153 to /5)

The Commission had before it applications under Articles 29(1)(a), 29(1)(c) and 29(2) of the Staff Regulations for the A2 post of Director in Eurostat (PERS(2003)153 to /3).

The Commission took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 24 February and 5 March (PERS(2003)153/4 and /5).

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 Mr SOLBES, it then decided to appoint Mr Bart MEGANCK to the post.

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

6.5. *ESTAT.D - A2 POST OF DIRECTOR*
(PERS(2003)154 to /5)

The Commission had before it applications under Articles 29(1)(a), 29(1)(c) and 29(2) of the Staff Regulations for the A2 post of Director in Eurostat (PERS(2003)154 to /3).

The Commission took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 24 February and 5 March (PERS(2003)154/4 and /5).

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 Mr SOLBES, it then decided to appoint Mr Michel GLAUDE to the post.

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

6.6. *ESTAT.E - A2 POST OF DIRECTOR*
(PERS(2003)155 to /6)

The Commission had before it applications under Articles 29(1)(a), 29(1)(c) and 29(2) of the Staff Regulations for the A2 post of Director in Eurostat (PERS(2003)155 to /4).

The Commission took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 24 February and 5 March (PERS(2003)155/5 and /6).

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 Mr SOLBES, it then decided to appoint Mr Laurs NØRLUND to the post.

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

6.7. *ESTAT.F - A2 POST OF DIRECTOR*
(PERS(2003)156 to /5)

The Commission had before it applications under Articles 29(1)(a), 29(1)(c) and 29(2) of the Staff Regulations for the A2 post of Director in Eurostat (PERS(2003)156 to /3).

The Commission took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 24 February and 5 March (PERS(2003)156/4 and /5).

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 Mr SOLBES, it then decided to appoint Mr Pieter EVERAERS to the post.

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

OTHER MATTERS

6.8. *ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE MEDIATION SERVICE FOR 2003*
(SEC(2004)287 to /3)

The Commission took note of the annual activity report of the mediation service for 2003 as set out in SEC(2004)287/2 and /3.

**6.9. DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE COMMISSION, THE COURT OF JUSTICE, THE COURT OF AUDITORS, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE, THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS AND THE OMBUDSMAN SETTING UP A EUROPEAN ADMINISTRATIVE SCHOOL
(SEC(2004)379 and /2)**

The Commission:

- approved the proposal and the draft decisions on the establishment and organisation of the European Administrative School as set out in SEC(2004)379 and /2;
- asked the Director-General, Personnel and Administration, to refer these texts to the Staff Regulations Committee;
- asked the Secretary-General to transmit them to the other institutions for approval;
- agreed to move to final approval in the light of the outcome of these consultations.

**7. MODERNISATION PACKAGE - COMMISSION REGULATION AND COMMUNICATIONS RELATING TO THE CONDUCT OF PROCEEDINGS BY THE COMMISSION PURSUANT TO ARTICLES 81 AND 82 OF THE EC TREATY
(C(2004)1135 and /2; SEC(2004)371 to /7)**

The Commission:

- adopted in principle the Commission Regulation relating to the conduct of proceedings by the Commission pursuant to Articles 81 and 82 EC, as set out in C(2004)1135, as well as the six communications in SEC(2004)371 to /7;
- empowered Mr MONTI to adopt the final version of the Regulation and the six communications in all the official languages, after revision by the lawyer-linguists;
- decided to publish these documents in the Official Journal.

8. COMMISSION REPORT *THE STABILISATION AND ASSOCIATION PROCESS FOR SOUTH-EAST EUROPE - THIRD ANNUAL REPORT* (COM(2004)202 to /4; SEC(2004)380)

9. COUNCIL DECISION ON THE PRINCIPLES, PRIORITIES AND CONDITIONS CONTAINED IN THE EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP WITH ALBANIA (COM(2004)202/2; COM(2004)203 and /2; SEC(2004)374/3; SEC(2004)380)

10. COUNCIL DECISION ON THE PRINCIPLES, PRIORITIES AND CONDITIONS CONTAINED IN THE EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA (COM(2004)202/2; COM(2004)204 and /2; SEC(2004)373/3; SEC(2004)380)

11. COUNCIL DECISION ON THE PRINCIPLES, PRIORITIES AND CONDITIONS CONTAINED IN THE EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP WITH BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (COM(2004)202/2; COM(2004)205 to /3; SEC(2004)375/2; SEC(2004)380)

**12. COUNCIL DECISION ON THE PRINCIPLES, PRIORITIES AND
CONDITIONS CONTAINED IN THE EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP WITH
SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO INCLUDING KOSOVO AS DEFINED BY
UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1244 OF 10 JUNE 1999
(COM(2004)202/2; COM(2004)206 and /2; SEC(2004)376/2; SEC(2004)380)**

Mr PATTEN introduced the third annual Commission report on the stabilisation and association process for South-East Europe and the draft European Partnerships with the Western Balkan countries, apart from Croatia, which would be dealt with shortly in the Commission opinion on Croatia's application for Union membership. He reminded the meeting of the background to the European partnerships and of their purpose, which was to help the countries concerned in their reform efforts to pave the way for future Union accession. He mentioned the specifics of each country and the progress made. It was important to continue efforts to settle the outstanding problems and support the stabilisation process in the region, especially in the light of recent events in Kosovo.

Having taken note of this information, the Commission:

- approved the annual report for 2004 on the stabilisation and association process for South-East Europe in COM(2004)202/4;
- approved the draft Council decisions on the principles, priorities and conditions contained in the European partnerships with each of the countries concerned, as set out in COM(2004)203/2, COM(2004)204/2, COM(2004)205/3 and COM(2004)206/2;
- decided to transmit them to the Council and Parliament, together with the Commission staff working papers for each country, as set out in SEC(2004)373/3, SEC(2004)374/3, SEC(2004)375/2 and SEC(2004)376/2.

**13. THE COMMISSION'S OBJECTIVES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND LATIN
AMERICA, WITH A VIEW TO THE THIRD SUMMIT OF HEADS OF
STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, LATIN
AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN TO BE HELD IN GUADALAJARA
(MEXICO) ON 28 MAY
(COM(2004)220 to /3; SEC(2004)398)**

Following an exchange of views, the Commission agreed that this dossier required further study.

**14. RELATIONS WITH NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES / COMMON FOREIGN
AND SECURITY POLICY**

***OVERALL SETTLEMENT OF THE CYPRUS QUESTION
(SEC(2004)407)***

Mr VERHEUGEN reported on the negotiations under way in Bürgenstock (Switzerland) between the Cypriot leadership and representatives of the Greek and Turkish governments on the Cyprus reunification plan presented by the UN Secretary-General. Without underestimating the difficulty of the negotiations, he emphasised that success would represent a major political signal for the whole region. He reminded the meeting of the Union's oft-repeated preference for the accession of a united Cyprus and of the Commission's commitment to make all necessary efforts to assist the United Nations and enable the inclusion of a possible agreement in the existing body of Community law and practice, according to the terms and procedure laid down in Protocol No 10 to the Accession Treaty of Cyprus.

The Commission took note of this information and held a brief exchange of views on the scope of the planned exemptions and whether they would comply with Community law. Subject to the results of the negotiations, the draft text to be transmitted to the Council on the adaptation of the terms of the Accession Treaty would be tabled for adoption by urgent written procedure. A special meeting of Chefs de cabinet would be held for this purpose.

15. MONITORING THE APPLICATION OF COMMUNITY LAW: INFRINGEMENTS

REPORT B 1/2004 ON ALLEGED INFRINGEMENTS (SEC(2004)381; SEC(2004)393/2; SEC(2004)396)

The Commission adopted the decisions in SEC(2004)396, subject to the following clarifications:

Case ***Germany***

2001/2154

Restrictions on investment in Volkswagen

Mr BOLKESTEIN explained that these infringement proceedings arose out of the Commission's obligation to investigate any measure directly attributable to a Member State that had the effect of restricting freedom of investment, in violation of Article 56 EC, a Treaty provision addressed exclusively to Member States. The particular measures in force at Volkswagen (ceiling for voting rights, presence of administrators representing public bodies, voting rights distinct from the number of shares) were enshrined in a special law exempt from the general framework of company law.

In these circumstances, the proceedings against Germany were peculiar to this case and would not set any precedent for the Commission's position on the harmonisation of company law. The Commission had laid down in its May 2003 action plan that any initiative that would tend to introduce greater proportionality between participation in the capital and the control of a company would require prior study. The infringement proceedings did not concern the model of labour relations conciliation developed by the firm at all its plants in Europe, nor the *Mitbestimmung*, as provided for by German company law.

Having taken note of this information and following an exchange of views, the Commission decided to send a reasoned opinion, together with a press release which would have to be worded carefully so as to make clear the nature of the aspects being challenged.

Case ***Belgium***

2004/2049

Galileo joint undertaking

Decision: Held over, given the announcement of an imminent
response by the Belgian authorities.

16. PARLIAMENT

16.1. PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS GROUP

(SP(2004)1251)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Parliamentary Affairs Group held on 26 March.

It paid particular attention to the following:

i) **Preparations for March II and April part-sessions**

(point 2 of the record)

2nd reading

- STOCKMANN report – Allocation of slots at Community airports,
COM(2001)335 - 01/2140 (COD)

The Commission adopted the line set out in SP(2004)1242.

1st reading and simple consultation

- THORS report - Eco-design requirements for energy-using products,
COM(2003)453 - 03/0172 (COD)

The Commission noted that this item had been held over for the April part-session and that during the present week a trialogue would be held to reconcile the positions of the co-legislators.

The Commission adopted the line in SP(2004)1249 and authorised Ms de PALACIO and Mr LIIKANEN to continue contacts with the co-legislators with a view to an agreement at first reading. It noted that if necessary the PAG would consider this item again before the April part-session.

- KEPPELHOFF-WIECHERT report - Requirements for feed hygiene,
COM(2003)180 - 03/0071 (COD)

Further to its discussions of 24 March (PV(2004)1651, item 4), the Commission adopted the line in SP(2004)1062/3 and 1062/4 and authorised Mr BYRNE to continue contacts with the co-legislators with a view to an agreement at first reading.

- BERENGUER FUSTER report - Community statistics concerning balance of payments, international trade in services and foreign direct investment,
COM(2003)507 - 03/0200 (COD)

The Commission adopted the line set out in SP(2004)1250.

- RANDZIO PLATH report - Excise duties and taxation of insurance premiums,
COM(2003)797, 03/0309-0310 (COD)

The Commission adopted the line set out in SP(2004)1239.

- LULLING report - Data on the quarterly government debt,
COM(2003)761, 03/0295 (CNS)

The Commission adopted the line set out in SP(2004)1245.

- PRETS report - Equal treatment between women and men in the access to and supply of goods and services,
COM(2003)657, 03/0265 (CNS)

The Commission adopted the line set out in SP(2004)1105/3.

- BERENGUER FUSTER report – Macro-financial assistance to Albania,
COM(2003)834, 03/0330 (CNS)

The Commission adopted the line set out in SP(2004)1246.

- SEPPÄNEN report - Guarantee fund for external actions,
COM(2003)604, 03/0233 (CNS)

The Commission adopted the line set out in SP(2004)1226.

- BÖGE report - Enlargement and the new neighbourhood policy,
SP(2003)603-2, 03/232 (CNS)

The Commission adopted the line set out in SP(2004)1240.

- LISI report - Sustainable exploitation of fishery resources in the
Mediterranean Sea,
COM(2003)589, 03/0229 (CNS)

Having noted that the report called for the rejection of the
Commission proposal and that it might therefore be referred back to
committee, the Commission adopted the line in SP(2004)1156/2.

- MAES report, Development cooperation with South Africa,
COM(2003)627 - 03/0245 (COD)

Further to its discussions of 24 March (PV(2004)1651, item 4), the
Commission adopted the line in SP(2004)1075/4.

Non-legislative matters

Motion for a resolution on the protection of personal data in air passenger name records

The Commission took note of SP(2004)1191 and the information supplied
during the meeting by Mr BOLKESTEIN on the current state of play and
possible further developments in the light of Parliament's vote in plenary
to be held on Wednesday 31 March. Mr BOLKESTEIN would report back
to a future Commission meeting.

Empowerment

Under Article 13 of its Rules of Procedure the Commission empowered
the Member concerned, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, Ms de

PALACIO 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 the document concerned, 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:

- STOCKMANN report – Allocation of slots at Community airports
(SP(2004)1242, Ms de PALACIO)

ii) **Action taken on Parliament's opinions and resolutions**
(point 5 of the record)

The Commission adopted SP(2004)1155 on the action taken on Parliament's opinions and resolutions adopted at its February I and II part-sessions, for transmission to Parliament.

The Commission also adopted the replies to own-initiative and non-legislative resolutions adopted by Parliament to which the Commission had undertaken to reply (SP(2004)1161), for transmission to Parliament.

iii) **Other matters**
(point 8.1 of the record)

Exchange of views between Mr DIMAS and Parliament's Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

Having noted that Article 215 EC gave Parliament no role in the process of appointing new Commission Members part way through a term of office, the Commission took note of the information concerning the exchange of views to be held between Mr DIMAS and Parliament's Committee on Employment and Social Affairs.

16.2. ADDITION TO PARLIAMENT'S AGENDA

(SP(2004)1333)

Having noted that the BÖGE report on a proposal for a Regulation on the organisation of Community surveys on the structure of agricultural holdings after enlargement (COM(2003)605, COD 2003/234; codecision procedure, first reading), had been added to Parliament's agenda at the last minute and had therefore not been considered by the PAG, the Commission adopted the line in SP(2004)1333.

17. WRITTEN PROCEDURES AND EMPOWERMENT

17.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED

(SEC(2004)360 et seq.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 22 and 26 March.

17.2. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES

(SEC(2004)361)

The Commission took note of written procedures initiated between 22 and 26 March for the adoption of decisions with political implications.

17.3. EURATOM - ARTICLE 82 (ex PE 544/2004)

(C(2004)867 to /4)

Having taken note of the information supplied during the meeting by Ms de PALACIO in support of her proposal, the Commission:

- decided to set as “before 1 June” the date by which the UK must submit the full plan called for in Article 2 of the draft Directive;
- subject to this amendment, approved the Commission Directive concerning a proceeding pursuant to Article 82 of the Euratom Treaty, as set out in C(2004)867/4;
- decided to transmit the text as thus adopted to the Council.

17.4. EMPOWERMENT

(SEC(2004)362 et seq.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 22 and 26 March.

17.5. EMPOWERMENT FOR DECISIONS ON PROFESSIONAL SECRECY IN STATE AID CASES

(SEC(2004)335 and /2)

The Commission approved the empowerment for decisions on professional secrecy in state aid cases as set out in SEC(2004)335/2.

It was noted that the responsibility of the Member responsible for energy as specified in the document concerned state aid to the coal industry in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1407/2002.

17.6. DELEGATION AND SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation procedure between 22 and 26 March, as archived on the "Greffé 2000" (Registry) website.

**18. COMMISSION DECISION RELATING TO ROMANIA: EURATOM LOAN
FOR THE COMPLETION OF UNIT 2 OF THE CERNAVODĂ NUCLEAR
POWER PLANT**

(C(2004)891 and /2; SEC(2004)378)

The Commission took note of the clarifications supplied during the meeting by Mr SOLBES as to the nature of the loan concerned, the examination and assessment procedure to which it had been subject, and its purpose, bearing in mind the fundamental importance attached by the Union to improving the safety and efficiency of nuclear power stations in Central and Eastern Europe.

On this basis, the Commission:

- approved the decision in C(2004)891 and /2;
- empowered the Commission Member responsible for Economic and Financial Affairs to take the measures necessary for implementation of the decision, including any appropriate subdelegations.

19. COUNCIL MEETINGS

(SI(2004)276)

EUROPEAN COUNCIL

(BRUSSELS, 25-26 MARCH)

(SI(2004)300)

The PRESIDENT referred to the main conclusions of the European Council on 25 and 26 March. He drew particular attention to the following points.

- Substantial progress had been made on the Intergovernmental Conference and there was now a clear desire to settle this matter. The Irish Presidency had

been asked to continue consultations with a view to reaching agreement on the Constitutional Treaty for the June European Council at the latest.

- Progress had also been made on combating terrorism, and the European Council had welcomed the Commission's proposals, although strengthening cooperation in the various subject areas concerned remained a sensitive issue.
- On the other hand, the situation concerning the achievement of the Lisbon goals was disappointing. It was hoped that fresh progress could be made following the setting-up of the high-level group chaired by Mr KOK.

20. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr KINNOCK indicated that, following the adoption of the new Staff Regulations by the Council (General Affairs) on 22 March, the final consultation procedures with the trade unions and staff associations on the implementing provisions, particularly concerning professional incompetence, had been completed on Monday 28 March.

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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 1615 hours.