



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2004)1676 final

Brussels, 3 November 2004

MINUTES
of the 1676th meeting of the Commission
held in Strasbourg
(Winston Churchill Building)
on Tuesday 26 October 2004
(afternoon)

These minutes were approved by the Commission at its 1677th meeting, held in Brussels on 3 November 2004.

They contain 29 pages.

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Single sitting: Tuesday 26 October (afternoon)

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 FISCHLER	
Mr BOLKESTEIN	
Mr NIELSON	
Mr VERHEUGEN	
Mr PATTEN	
Mr LAMY	
Mr BYRNE	
Ms REDING	
Ms SCHREYER	
Ms WALLSTRÖM	
Mr VITORINO	
Mr DIMAS	
Mr BARROT	
Mr ALMUNIA	
Mr BALÁZS	
Ms HÜBNER	
Mr KALLAS	
Mr BORG	
Ms KALNIETE	

Ms GRYBAUSKAITĖ

Mr POTOČNIK

Mr FIGEL

Mr KYPRIANOU

Mr TELIČKA

Mr REHN

Mr MICHEL

The following also sat in

Mr MARENCO	Deputy Director-General, Legal Service
Mr MANSERVISI	Chef de cabinet to the President
Mr KEMPPINEN	Commission Spokesman
Mr MANN	Spokesman
Mr THOMAS	Spokesman
Mr LEHNER	Chef de cabinet to Ms Schreyer
Mr CAVACO	Chef de cabinet to Mr Vitorino
Mr MOAVERO MILANESI	Deputy Secretary-General

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

1. ARRANGEMENTS FOR MINUTES AND SPECIAL MINUTES OF THIS MEETING

The Commission took note of the arrangements made for the adoption of the minutes of this meeting on account of the end of its term of office. The minutes would be approved on Friday 29 October 2004, at 18.00 hours, all requests for amendments being required to reach the Registry of the Secretariat-General no later than 12.00 hours on Friday.

**2. AGENDAS
(OJ(2004)1676/3; SEC(2004)1304/2)**

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

**3. WEEKLY MEETING OF CHEFS DE CABINET
(SEC(2004)1676)**

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 25 October.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND SPECIAL MINUTES OF 1675th MEETING
(20 October)
(PV(2004)1675 and /2; PV(2004)1675, Part II and /2)**

The Commission approved the minutes of its 1675th meeting.

5. PARLIAMENT

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS GROUP

(SP(2004)2660)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Parliamentary Affairs Group held on 21 October (SP(2004)2660).

It paid particular attention to the following:

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

First reading

- Report MORGANTINI - Operations to aid uprooted people in Asian and Latin American developing countries - COM(2004)126, 04/0040(COD)

The Commission adopted the line set out in SP(2004)2666.

ii) **Stocktaking of the work of the GAP as currently constituted**

The Commission thanked the members of GAP, and all the staff of the Secretariat-General and the departments concerned in the group's work, for their excellent contribution to decision-making in Parliament-related matters.

6. MONITORING THE APPLICATION OF COMMUNITY LAW

6.1. STATE AID - SPECIFIC CASE

C 6/2000 (ex *Germany*
NN 93/1999)

Kvaerner Warnow Werft - Excess payment of operating aid
(C(2004)3910 and /2)

The Commission adopted the decision in C(2004)3910/2 on the corrigendum to its decision of 20 October on this matter.

**6.2. INFRINGEMENTS - CASES POSTPONED BECAUSE OF
UNAVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS - REGULARISATION
(SEC(2004)1327)**

The Commission adopted the decisions in SEC(2004)1327.

**6.3. INFRINGEMENTS - URGENT OR POSTPONED CASES
(SEC(2004)1328; SEC(2004)1358)**

The Commission adopted the decisions in SEC(2004)1358, subject to the following clarifications:

2000/5224 *France*

Right of establishment - Act 96-603, 5 July 1996

Item held over with a view to consideration of further information supplied by the French authorities.

7. WRITTEN PROCEDURES AND EMPOWERMENT

**7.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED
(SEC(2004)1305 et seq.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 18 and 22 October.

**7.2. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES
(SEC(2004)1306)**

The Commission took note of written procedures initiated between 18 and 22 October for the adoption of decisions with political implications.

7.3. EMPOWERMENT

(SEC(2004)1307 et seq.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 18 and 22 October.

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 18 and 22 October, as archived on the "Greffé 2000" (Registry) website.

8. COMMISSION DECISION AUTHORISING THE PLACING ON THE MARKET OF FOODS AND FOOD INGREDIENTS DERIVED FROM GENETICALLY MODIFIED MAIZE LINE NK 603 AS NOVEL FOODS OR NOVEL FOOD INGREDIENTS UNDER REGULATION (EC) N° 258/97 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL (FORMER WRITTEN PROCEDURE E/2169/2004) (C(2004)4138 to /4)

The Commission:

- adopted the decision in C(2004)4138/4 in the authentic language (French);
- empowered the Commission Member responsible for Health and Consumer Protection to adopt this decision in the Dutch language, which was also authentic.

9. REFORM OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS - 5TH PACKAGE**(SEC(2004)1277 to /14; SEC(2004)1288; SEC(2004)1350)**

The Commission approved the documents listed below at first reading and authorised the Commission Member responsible for staff and administration to undertake the necessary consultations, particularly at interinstitutional level:

- proposal for common rules to give effect to Article 45(2) of the Staff Regulations (concerning language training) (SEC(2004)1277/12);
- draft Commission decision relating to the general provisions to give effect to Article 43 of the Staff Regulations (appraisal) (SEC(2004)1277/3);
- draft Commission decision applying provisions enabling officials to continue working until the age of 67 (SEC(2004)1277/13);
- draft Commission decision amending the decision of 28 April 2004 relating to the reimbursement of expenses payable to an official assigned to a non-member country (SEC(2004)1277/5);
- draft Conclusion of Heads of Administration on the application of Article 2(4) of Annex VII to the Staff Regulations (treatment of a person as a dependent child when the official is on leave on personal grounds) (SEC(2004)1277/6);
- draft Conclusion of Heads of Administration concerning the education allowance (interpretation of the concept of accommodation against payment outside the family home) (SEC(2004)1277/7);
- draft Conclusion of Heads of Administration concerning the education allowance within the meaning of Article 3(1) of Annex VII to the Staff Regulations (interpretation of the concept of regular full-time attendance at an educational establishment) (SEC(2004)1277/8);

- draft Commission decision relating to the general provisions to give effect to Article 45 of the Staff Regulations (promotion) (SEC(2004)1277/14).

The Commission empowered the Member responsible for Personnel and Administration to make the necessary minor amendments following the consultations and to adopt definitively, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, each of these eight draft sets of implementing provisions; if there were significant amendments, they would be raised at second reading with the full Commission.

**10. LETTER OF AMENDMENT No 3 TO THE PRELIMINARY DRAFT
BUDGET 2005 - VOLUME 1: GENERAL STATEMENT OF REVENUE -
VOLUME 4: STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE BY
SECTION (SECTION III - COMMISSION)
(SEC(2004)1324 and /2)**

The Commission approved letter of amendment No 3 to the preliminary draft budget for 2005 as set out in SEC(2004)1324, for transmission to Parliament and the Council.

**11. INTRODUCTION OF TARIFF QUOTAS FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS -
FOLLOW-UP TO PROPOSALS ON SUGAR**

- **Council Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 2007/2000 introducing exceptional trade measures for countries and territories participating in or linked to the European Union's Stabilisation and Association process**
- **Recommendation from the Commission to the Council authorising the Commission to enter into negotiations with the Republic of Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, respectively, with a view to modifying the stabilisation and association agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, of the other part (COM(2004)739 to /4; C(2004) 4238; SEC(2004)1353)**

The Commission:

- adopted the proposal for a Council Regulation in COM(2004)739/3 and /4 for transmission to the Council;
- adopted the recommendation in SEC(2004)1353 for transmission to the Council.

**12. COMMISSION DECISION ON A PROCEEDING UNDER ARTICLE 81 OF
THE EC TREATY (CASE COMP/38.662 - GDF - DECISION GDF/ENEL)
(C(2004)4100 to /5)**

The Commission:

- took note of the opinion of the Advisory Committee on Restrictive Practices and Dominant Positions of 11 October in C(2004)4100/2;
- took note of the final report of the Hearing Officer of 13 October in C(2004)4100/3;

- adopted, in the authentic languages (French and Italian), the decision set out in C(2004)4100/4 and /5, declaring that Gaz de France, ENEL S.p.A. and ENEL Trade S.p.A. had infringed Article 81 of the EC Treaty;
- decided that the most important parts of the decision would be published in all the official languages in the L series of the Official Journal (with business secrets removed). The decision would be also made available on the internet.

13. COMMISSION DECISION ON A PROCEEDING UNDER ARTICLE 81 OF THE EC TREATY (CASE COMP/38.662 –GDF – DECISION GDF/ENI) (C(2004)4101 to /5)

The Commission:

- took note of the opinion of the Advisory Committee on Restrictive Practices and Dominant Positions of 11 October in C(2004)4101/2;
- took note of the final report of the Hearing Officer of 13 October in C(2004)4101/3;
- adopted, in the authentic languages (French and Italian), the decision set out in C(2004)4101/4 and /5, declaring that Gaz de France and ENI S.p.A. had infringed Article 81 of the EC Treaty;
- decided that the most important parts of the decision would be published in all the official languages in the L series of the Official Journal (with business secrets removed). The decision would be also made available on the internet.

**14. COMMISSION DECISION ON A PROCEEDING UNDER ARTICLE 81 OF
THE EC TREATY (CASE COMP/38.338 – PO/NEEDLES)
(C(2004)4221 to /12; SEC(2004)1354)**

The Commission:

- took note of the opinion of the Advisory Committee on Restrictive Practices and Dominant Positions of 18 and 25 October in C(2004)4221/2 and /4;
- took note of the final report of the Hearing Officer of 19 October in C(2004)4221/3;
- adopted, in the authentic languages (English and German), the decision in C(2004)4221/12, declaring that William Prym GmbH & Co. KG, Prym Consumer GmbH & Co. KG, Entaco Ltd, Entaco Group Ltd, Coats Holdings Ltd and J & P Coats Ltd had infringed Article 81 of the EC Treaty and imposing on certain of them fines totalling EUR 60 million;
- decided that the versions with business secrets removed set out in C(2004)4221/6 to /11 would be notified to the companies concerned;
- decided that the most important parts of the decision would be published in all the official languages in the L series of the Official Journal (with business secrets removed). The decision would be also made available on the internet.

**15. COMMISSION DECISION ON A PROCEEDING UNDER ARTICLE 8(2) OF
COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC) No 4064/89 (CASE COMP/M.3216 –
ORACLE/PEOPLESOFT)
(C(2004)4217 to /4)**

The Commission:

(26 October 2004)

- took note of the opinion of the Advisory Committee on Concentrations of 19 October, as set out in C(2004)4217/2, for publication in the Official Journal;
- took note of final report of the Hearing Officer of 19 October 2004 in C(2004)4217/3 (this report would be notified and also published);
- adopted, in the authentic language (English), the decision in C(2004)4217/4, declaring the transaction notified by Oracle Corporation and PeopleSoft Corporation to be compatible with the common market and the EEA Agreement;
- decided that the most important parts of the decision would be published in all the official languages in the L series of the Official Journal (with business secrets removed). The decision would be also made available on the internet.

**16. COMMISSION DECISION ON A PROCEEDING UNDER ARTICLE 8(2) OF COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC) No 4064/89 (CASE COMP/M.3436 – CONTINENTAL/PHOENIX)
(C(2004)4219 to /4)**

The Commission:

- took note of the opinion of the Advisory Committee on Concentrations of 19 October, as set out in C(2004)4219/2, for publication in the Official Journal;
- took note of the final report of the Hearing Officer of 20 October in C(2004)4219/3;
- adopted, in the authentic language (German), the decision in C(2004)4219/4, declaring the transaction notified by Continental and Phoenix to be compatible

with the common market and the EEA Agreement, subject to compliance with the commitments made;

- decided that the most important parts of the decision would be published in all the official languages in the L series of the Official Journal (with business secrets removed). The decision would be also made available on the internet.

17. ELABORATION OF A COHERENT EUROPEAN POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR EXTERNAL ACTION TO CONFRONT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND TUBERCULOSIS

(COM(2004)726 to /3; SEC(2004)1326/2)

The Commission approved the communication in COM(2004)726/3 for transmission, together with the staff working paper in SEC(2004)1326/2, to Parliament and the Council.

18. COMMUNICATION ON THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EU ENERGY INITIATIVE AND THE MODALITIES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENERGY FACILITY FOR ACP COUNTRIES
(FORMER WRITTEN PROCEDURE E/2162/2004)

(COM(2004)711 to /5)

The Commission approved the communication in COM(2004)711/5 for transmission to Parliament and the Council.

**19. REPORT ON THE USE OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES EARMARKED FOR
THE DECOMMISSIONING OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS
(COM(2004)719 to /3)**

The Commission approved the report in COM(2004)719/3 for transmission to Parliament and the Council.

**20. ECONOMIC FORECASTS - AUTUMN 2004
(SEC(2004)1373)**

**21. THE EU ECONOMY: 2004 REVIEW– SUMMARY AND MAIN
CONCLUSIONS
(COM(2004)723 to /3; SEC(2004)1364; SEC(2004)1368)**

Mr ALMUNIA presented the two dossiers together. He outlined the main economic trends for the euro area, the European Union and the candidate countries for 2004-06, particularly as regards average GDP growth, the labour market, inflation trends, and the budget deficit of public administrations.

Following a brief exchange of views focusing more particularly on oil price trends, the Commission:

- took note of the information supplied during the meeting by Mr ALMUNIA and of information note SEC(2004)1373;
- approved the communication in COM(2004)723/3 for transmission with the staff working paper in SEC(204)1368 to the Council and the European Central Bank and, for opinions, to Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.

22. COMMISSION REGULATION LAYING DOWN SPECIFIC MEASURES IN THE CAULIFLOWER SECTOR (FORMER WRITTEN PROCEDURE E/1995/2004)

(C(2004)3704 to /4)

After its discussions, the Commission decided not to adopt the Regulation.

23. COUNCIL MEETINGS

(SI(2004) 855)

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS (LUXEMBOURG, 21 OCTOBER 2004)

(SI(2004)858)

Mr ALMUNIA reported on the meeting, devoted particularly to the application of the stability and growth pact (situation as regards public deficits; progress in ongoing procedures; revision of budgetary data for Greece) and the initiative as regards regulatory reform (planned method for measuring the administrative burden on companies). Ms SCHREYER also drew attention to the Council discussions on the financial perspective 2007-2013.

24. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

(SEC(2004)1308/2)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

(PERS(2004)201)

24.1. DG ECHO - APPLICATION OF THE ARTICLE 50 PROCEDURE (SECOND STAGE) WITH RESPECT TO AN A*15 OFFICIAL (PERS(2004)202)

The Commission continued its discussions on this matter, begun on 14 September 2004 (PV(2004)1670).

On a proposal from Mr KINNOCK, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr NIELSON, the Commission adopted the decision in PERS(2004)202 applying the second stage of the procedure laid down in Article 50 of the Staff Regulations to Ms Costanza ADINOLFI, a grade A*15 official, currently Director in Directorate-General ECHO (Humanitarian Aid Office) and acting as Director-General of Directorate-General ECHO since it was established on 3 September 2004.

This decision would take effect on 1 December.

**24.2. DG PRESS - INTERNAL PUBLICATION OF VACANCY NOTICE
FOR POST OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL
(SEC(2004)1357)**

On a proposal from Mr KINNOCK, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, the Commission approved the publication of the vacancy notice under Article 29(1a)(i) and (iii) in SEC(2004) 1357 and asked the Personnel and Administration DG to publish it.

This decision would take effect immediately.

**24.3. DG REGIO - POST OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL
(PERS(2004)199 to /5)**

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1) (a) (i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations for the A1 post of Deputy Director-General, Regional Policy (PERS(2004)199/2).

The Commission took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 19 and 21 October (PERS(2004)199/3 to /5).

The Commission proceeded to consider the applicants' qualifications for the post. On a proposal from Mr KINNOCK, in agreement with the

PRESIDENT and Mr BARROT, it then decided to appoint Mr Jean-Charles LEYGUES to the post.

This decision would take effect on 1 November.

24.4. DG MARKT/B - FUNCTION OF DIRECTOR (PERS(2004)192 to /4)

The Commission had before it applications for the post of Director of Directorate MARKT/B (Policy development, strategic programming and coordination) in the Internal Market Directorate-General under Article 29(1a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations (PERS(2004)192).

The Commission took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 13 and 22 October (PERS(2004)65/3 to /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 BOLKESTEIN, it then decided to appoint Ms Anne HOUTMAN to the post.

This decision would take effect on 15 November.

24.5. DG ENTR - AMENDMENT OF ORGANISATION CHART - CREATION OF A FUNCTION OF CHIEF ADVISER AND TRANSFER IN THE INTEREST OF THE SERVICE OF AN A*15 OFFICIAL

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

- to approve the creation of a function of Chief Adviser, reporting to the Director-General, Enterprise;
- to fill this function by the redeployment, in the interest of the service and with his post, of Mr Alfred Matthias RUETE, a grade A*15 official

currently Director of Directorate B (Coordination of negotiations and pre-accession; Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey) in the Enlargement Directorate-General.

This decision would take effect on 1 December.

**24.6. DG SANCO - AMENDMENT OF ORGANISATION CHART
(SEC(2004)1356)**

On a proposal from Mr KINNOCK, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr BYRNE, the Commission decided to approve the amendment to the organisation chart of the Health and Consumer Protection DG as set out in SEC(2004)1356.

This decision would take effect immediately.

**24.7. DG AGRI/C - FUNCTION OF DIRECTOR
(PERS(2004)186 to /4)**

The Commission had before it applications for the post of Director of Directorate AGRI/B (Relations with other institutions; communication and quality) in the Agriculture Directorate-General under Article 29(1a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations (PERS(2004)186).

The Commission took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 20 and 21 October (PERS(2004)186/2 to /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 FISCHLER, it then decided to appoint Mr Rudolf STROHMEIER to the post.

This decision would take effect on 1 January 2005.

24.8. DG ADMIN - APPOINTMENT OF NEW CCN RAPPORTEURS

The Commission decided to appoint CCN rapporteurs with immediate effect, as provided by item 9 of PERS(2004)201.

24.9. DG ADMIN - APPRAISAL OF SENIOR MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS

In cases where Commission Members currently in office had replaced Members who had left the Commission before the end of its term of office, the Commission decided to extend the reference period for the appraisal of the relevant senior management staff as proposed at item 10 of document PERS(2004)201.

This decision would take effect immediately.

24.10. DG RELEX - POST OF CHIEF ADVISER (PERS(2004)145 to /4)

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(2)(a) of the Staff Regulations for the A2 post of Director in the External Relations DG (PERS(2004)145).

The Commission took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 12 and 21 October (PERS(2004)145/2 to /4).

The Commission proceeded to compare the applicants' qualifications for the post. On a proposal from Mr KINNOCK, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr PATTEN, it then decided to appoint Mr Stefano SANNINO to the post.

This decision would take effect from 1 November.

Notwithstanding this decision, the Commission also noted the qualifications of Mr JANYSKA.

**24.11. DG TRADE - AMENDMENT OF ORGANISATION CHART
(SEC(2004)1374)**

The Commission approved with immediate effect, the amendment to the organisation chart of the Trade Directorate-General in SEC(2004)1374.

The Commission took note of the following statement by Mr PATTEN and Mr LAMY:

“Mr Patten and Mr Lamy reconfirm their agreement of May 2000 concerning their approach to cooperation and coordination between DG Relex and DG Trade. This includes reconfirmation of the following division of labour between their two Directorates-General:

- DG Relex has overall responsibility for external relations, including bilateral relations with third countries (except with ACP countries and pre-accession countries). That brings it into bilateral trade policy at the strategic level including priority-setting, where decisions will need to be taken by both DGs;
- DG Trade has overall responsibility for Commission trade policy, both multilateral and bilateral, including management of the relevant instruments. That means the WTO, of course. But it also means that it manages the trade dimension of bilateral and regional talks.

According to these principles, the new DG Trade organisation chart is adopted and its implementation will respect this division of labour.

It is understood that this in no way prejudices other decisions which could be taken in this regard in the future”.

**24.12. COMPILATION DOCUMENT ON POLICY ON SENIOR OFFICIALS
(SEC(2004)1352/2)**

The Commission approved the compilation document in SEC(2004)1352/2.

OTHER BUSINESS

24.13. ANNUAL REPORT ON AUDITS CARRIED OUT BY THE INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE IN 2003 (ARTICLE 86 OF THE FINANCIAL REGULATION) (COM(2004)740 and/2; SEC(2004)1351)

The Commission:

- adopted the annual report on internal audits carried out in 2003, as set out in COM(2004)740;
- took note of staff working paper in SEC(2004)1351;
- decided to transmit the two documents to Parliament, the Council and the Court of Auditors.

25. RELATIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES

25.1. SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY ISSUES: INCREASING POLICY COHERENCE IN THE CONTEXT OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS (SEC(2004)1366)

The Commission took note of the information note distributed under the authority of Mr NIELSON, Mr BYRNE and Mr LAMY.

25.2. OPENING OF A LIAISON OFFICE IN PRISTINA (SEC(2004)1367)

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

**25.3. RATIFICATION OF THE KYOTO PROTOCOL BY THE RUSSIAN
PARLIAMENT
(SEC(2004)1369)**

The Commission took note of the information note distributed by Ms WALLSTRÖM.

25.4. FOREIGN SALES CORPORATIONS

Mr LAMY reported that the American Act of Congress in this matter had just been signed by the President of the United States. The problem caused by the FSC scheme thus being solved for the main part, the Commission would be proposing that the Council suspend the Community trade sanctions. It would, however, be necessary to have WTO bodies check that certain transitional provisions of the legislation were in order.

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The Commission ended this last meeting of its term of office by extending its warm appreciation to all staff in the Members' Offices and Commission departments, in particular the interpreters and translators, for their contribution and support to the Commission's work.

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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 1450 hours.