EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2008)1844 final

Brussels, 1st October 2008

MINUTES

of the 1844th meeting of the Commission

held in Brussels

(Berlaymont)

on Tuesday 23 September 2008

(afternoon)

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Single sitting: Tuesday 23 September (afternoon)

The sitting was opened at 13.06 hours by Ms WALLSTRÖM, President BARROSO being absent.

Present:

Ms WALLSTRÖM	Vice-President	
Mr VERHEUGEN	Vice-President	
Mr BARROT	Vice-President	Items 11 (in part) and 12
Mr KALLAS	Vice-President	
Mr TAJANI	Vice-President	Item 12 (in part)
Ms REDING		Items 1 to 12 (in part)
Mr DIMAS		
Mr ALMUNIA		Items 11 (in part) and 12
Ms HÜBNER		
Mr BORG		
Ms GRYBAUSKAITĖ		
Mr POTOČNIK		
Mr FIGEL’		
Mr REHN		
Mr KOVÁCS		
Ms KROES		
Mr McCREEVY		
Mr ŠPIDLA		
Mr PIEBALGS		
Ms KUNEVA		Items 1 to 12 (in part)
Mr ORBAN		
Ms VASSILIOU		Items 1 to 12 (in part)

Absent:

Mr BARROSO	President
Mr MICHEL	
Ms FISCHER BOEL	
Ms FERRERO-WALDNER	
Mr MANDELSON	

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

Mr STUCKENS	A member of Mr MICHEL's staff	
Mr CHRISTOFFERSEN	Chef de cabinet to Ms FISCHER BOEL	
Ms MARTÍNEZ CARBONELL	A member of Ms FERRERO-WALDNER's staff	
Mr PETERS	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Mr MANDELSON	

The following also sat in:

Mr THEBAULT	Deputy Chef de cabinet to the PRESIDENT	
Ms DURAND	Acting Director-General, Legal Service	
Mr DE RYNCK	DG Communication	
Ms AHRENKILDE	DG Communication – Commission Spokesman's Service	
Mr GASPAR	Acting Director-General, Bureau of European Policy Advisers	Items 11 (in part) and 12
Mr SCHMIDT	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Mr KALLAS	Item 11
Mr STROHMEIER	Chef de cabinet to Ms REDING	Item 12 (in part)
Mr POWER	Chef de cabinet to Mr McCREEVY	

Secretary: Ms DAY, Secretary-General, assisted by Mr AYET PUIGARNAU, Director in the Secretariat-General.

1. AGENDAS
(OJ(2008)1844/3; SEC(2008)2470/2; SEC(2008)2480; SEC(2008)2481)

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(2008)1844)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 22 September.

3. MINUTES OF 1843RD MEETING (17 SEPTEMBER)
(PV(2008)1843)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 1843rd meeting.

4. MONITORING THE APPLICATION OF COMMUNITY LAW

4.1. STATE AID – INDIVIDUAL CASE
(SEC(2008)2493 AND /2)

The Commission adopted the decision in SEC(2008)2493/2.

4.2. STATE AID – HORIZONTAL CASE

Commission Regulation on the form for notifying state aid in the environmental protection field
(SEC(2008)2498)

The Commission:

– adopted in principle the Regulation on the form for notifying state aid in the environmental protection field, distributed as SEC(2008)2498;

– empowered Ms KROES, Commission Member responsible for competition, to adopt formally the said Regulation in all the official languages, to have it published in the Official Journal of the European Union and to inform the EFTA Surveillance Authority.

5. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

5.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED (SEC(2008)2472 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 15 and 19 September.

5.2. EMPOWERMENT (SEC(2008)2473 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 15 and 19 September.

5.3. DELEGATION AND SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS (SEC(2008)2474 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedure between 15 and 19 September, as archived in e-Greffe.

5.4. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES (SEC(2008)2475 AND /2)

The Commission took note of the sensitive written procedures for which the time limit expired between 22 and 26 September and of the "finalisation" written procedure initiated following the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet on 22 September.

6. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS ON THE OUTCOME OF THE REVIEW OF THE FUNCTIONING OF REGULATION (EC) NO 717/2007 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ON ROAMING ON PUBLIC MOBILE TELEPHONE NETWORKS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AND AMENDING DIRECTIVE 2002/21/EC
(COM(2008)579 AND /2); SEC(2008)2492; SEC(2008)2491)

7. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING REGULATION (EC) NO 717/2007 ON ROAMING ON PUBLIC MOBILE TELEPHONE NETWORKS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AND DIRECTIVE 2002/21/EC ON A COMMON REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS AND SERVICES
(COM(2008)580 AND /2); SEC(2008)2489 AND /2; SEC(2008)2490 AND /2; SEC(2008)2494; SEC(2008)2492; SEC(2008)2491)

The Commission:

– approved the communication set out in COM(2008)579/2, for transmission to Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, and to the national parliaments;

– adopted the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council in COM(2008)580/2, for transmission to Parliament, the Council and the Economic and Social Committee, and to the national parliaments, accompanied by the impact assessment and the summary thereof in the staff papers distributed as SEC(2008)2489/2 and SEC(2008)2490/2, the contents of which were noted;

– also took note of the opinion of the Impact Assessment Board on the above proposal for a Regulation, as set out in SEC(2008)2494;

8. COMMISSION DECISION CONCERNING A PROCEEDING UNDER ARTICLE 8 (2) OF COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) 139/2004 ON THE CONTROL OF CONCENTRATIONS BETWEEN UNDERTAKINGS AND ARTICLE 57 OF THE EEA AGREEMENT (*CASE COMP/M.4980 – ABF/GBI BUSINESS*)
(C(2008)5273 TO /6)

The Commission:

– took note of the opinion of the Advisory Committee on Concentrations of 5 September in C(2008)5273/3;

– took note of the final report of the Hearing Officer of 15 September in C(2008)5273/4;

– adopted, in the authentic language (English), the decision set out in C(2008)5273/5 and /6, declaring the notified operation compatible with the common market and with operation of the Agreement on the European Economic Area, subject to full compliance with the commitments made, as set out in the Annex to document C(2008)5273/5;

– decided to notify the decision in C(2008)5273/5 and /6 to the company concerned, together with the final report of the Hearing Officer and the opinion of the Advisory Committee;

– decided that the most important parts of the decision and the opinion of the Advisory Committee and the report of the Hearing Officer would be published in the official languages in the Official Journal of the European Union (with business secrets removed);

– decided to publish the decision (with business secrets removed) on the Internet.

9. RELATIONS WITH NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES

9.1. VISIT TO AFRICA (ETHIOPIA, NIGERIA AND BURKINA FASO, 8-13 SEPTEMBER) (SEC(2008)2517)

The Commission took note of the information note from Mr MICHEL and Mr PIEBALGS in SEC(2008)2517.

9.2. VISIT TO LIBYA (TRIPOLI, 18 AND 19 SEPTEMBER) (SEC(2008)2508)

The Commission took note of the information note from Mr MICHEL in SEC(2008)2508.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10.1. PARALYMPICS GAMES – VISIT TO CHINA (BEIJING, 6-8 SEPTEMBER) (SEC(2008)2515)

The Commission took note of the information note from Mr FIGEL' in SEC(2008)2515.

10.2. EUROSKILLS 2008 COMPETITION (ROTTERDAM, 18-20 SEPTEMBER) (SEC(2008)2518)

The Commission took note of the information note from Mr FIGEL' in SEC(2008)2518.

11. COMMUNICATION TO THE COMMISSION ON THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2007 (SEC(2008)2500 TO /4)

Before presenting his communication to the Commission, Mr KALLAS explained that the Court of Auditors' annual report for 2007 was still under discussion and would not be officially presented until November.

He began by taking a global look at the 2007 budget that formed the subject of the report and noted that the utilisation rate of payment appropriations had been around 98%, an increase on 2006, despite the fact that 2007 had been challenging in a number of respects. It was the third full budget year of the current Commission, but also the last financial year to be discharged during the term of the present Commission and Parliament. It was also the first year of the multiannual financial framework 2007-2013, when many new programmes started up, and the year of the accession of Bulgaria and Romania.

Turning to the likely content of the 2007 report, Mr KALLAS said that the "red lights", of which there were fewer than in 2006, would relate this year to activities in the areas of cohesion policy, Structural Funds and rural development, while the "yellow lights" would apply to activities in the areas of research, energy, transport, external relations, education, the environment, fisheries, health and consumer protection. Economic and financial affairs and administration, which represented just 6% of the payments, would be the only two areas with an error rate of less than the threshold of 2%, thus qualifying for the "green light". Overall the result would be less satisfactory than in 2006, but, as Mr KALLAS pointed out, the error rate for the expenditure covered by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund, which represented approximately 85% of total agricultural spending, would be below the materiality level.

As regards the Commission's supervisory and control systems, the overall results of the assessments were positive, and the Court acknowledged that progress had been made.

He also informed the meeting that he had presented the 2007 summary report to Parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control on 8 September. He had made it clear on that occasion that the positive statement of assurance had become a political objective that shaped the work of the current Commission, providing effective incentives, stimulating cooperation with the other institutions and producing a consensus on the need to simplify the rules in future. These factors had been commented on favourably by several MEPs on the Budgetary Control Committee.

The Court of Auditors' report was due to be published in November, eight months before the European elections and a year before the end of the present Commission's term of office. In the light of this, Mr KALLAS said that the Commission's communication policy should be prepared for every eventuality. It was in the interests of both the auditor and the organisation audited to agree on the factual elements, in order to avoid any misconceptions and ensure that the criticisms were placed in their proper context. The communication effort should focus on highlighting suspensions of payments and financial corrections, debunking the myths surrounding certain issues, organising press visits on the ground so that journalists could accompany Commission officials on their inspections, and preparing for a rapid response by the Members of the Commission and the communication departments on the day the report was published.

Mr KALLAS concluded by detailing the proposed timetable for the discharge procedure for the 2007 budget, urging the other Commission Members to remain vigilant in the face of possible criticism from outside, and thanking the Directorate-General for Communication and the Commission's Spokesman's Service.

The Commission then held a brief exchange of views, covering the following points:

- the need for each of the Members to be alert and responsive to any criticisms or questions when the Court of Auditors' report was published;
- the importance of making maximum use of national and local media to explain the Commission's action;

- the more open attitude of the Court of Auditors, which now took account of the explanations given by the Member States regarding the use of Community funds;
- the importance of the Commission's action plan for an integrated internal control framework, even though its implementation would take time and relied partly on the good will of the Member States.

After this exchange of views, the Commission took note of the communication distributed as SEC(2008)2500/3 in English and /4 in French and German, and the annex in SEC(2008)2500/2.

12. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS (SEC(2008)2477)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group held on Thursday 18 September (SEC(2008)2477).

It paid particular attention to the following:

12.1. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

i) Preparation for the September II 2008 part-session of Parliament (Point 1.3 of the IRG record)

In accordance with the rules in force, the Commission authorised the Commission Members responsible, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Ms WALLSTRÖM and any other Members associated, to take a position on Parliament’s amendments to its proposals.

It considered the following in particular:

Codecision – 2nd reading

– Amendment of Directive 2002/59/EC establishing a Community vessel traffic monitoring and information system (Directive) / Fundamental principles governing the investigation of accidents in the maritime transport sector and amending Directives 1999/35/EC and 2002/59/EC (Directive) / Liability of carriers of passengers by sea and inland waterways in the event of accidents (Regulation) / Port State control (recast – Directive) / Common rules and standards for ship inspection and survey organisations and the relevant activities of maritime administrations (recast - Directive) – STERCKX / KOHLÍČEK / COSTA / VLASTO / DE GRANDES PASCUAL reports – 2005/0239 (COD) / 2005/0240 (COD) / 2005/0241 (COD) / 2005/0238 (COD) / 2005/0237 (COD).

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2008)5318, SP(2008)5561, SP(2008)5562, SP(2008)5563 and SP(2008)5564.

Empowerment

– Amendment of Directive 2002/59/EC establishing a Community vessel traffic monitoring and information system (Directive) / Fundamental principles governing the investigation of accidents in the maritime transport sector and amending Directives 1999/35/EC and 2002/59/EC (Directive) / Liability of carriers of passengers by sea and inland waterways in the event of accidents (Regulation) / Port State control (recast – Directive) / Common rules and standards for ship inspection and survey organisations and the relevant activities of maritime administrations (recast - Directive) – STERCKX / KOHLÍČEK / COSTA / VLASTO / DE GRANDES PASCUAL reports – 2005/0239 (COD) / 2005/0240 (COD) / 2005/0241 (COD) / 2005/0238 (COD) / 2005/0237 (COD).

The Commission empowered Mr TAJANI, under Article 13 of its Rules of Procedure, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Ms WALLSTRÖM and any associated Members, to adopt and transmit to the Council its opinion on the amendments, in accordance with Article 251(2)(c) of the Treaty, once Parliament had acted, and if necessary to attach to its opinion amended proposals, on the basis of the line set out in SP(2008)5318, SP(2008)5561, SP(2008)5562, SP(2008)5563 and SP(2008)5564.

Codecision – 1st reading

- Common regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services, access to and interconnection and authorisation of such networks and services (Directive) / Universal service, users' rights relating to networks and services, processing of personal data, protection of privacy, consumer protection cooperation (Directive) / Creation of the European Electronic Communications Market Authority (Regulation) – TRAUTMANN / HARBOUR / DEL CASTILLO VERA reports – 2007/0247 (COD) / 2007/0248 (COD) / 2007/0249 (COD).

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2008)4244/6 to /9.

- Adapting a number of instruments subject to the procedure referred to in Article 251 of the Treaty to Council Decision 1999/468/EC, as amended by Decision 2006/512/EC, with regard to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny - Part Two (Regulation) – SZÁJER report – 2007/0293 (COD).

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2008)5320.

Consultation

- Signature and conclusion, on behalf of the European Community, of the International Tropical Timber Agreement, 2006 (Council Decision) – LUCAS report – 2006/0263 (CNS).

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2008)5504.

ii) Preparation for the Council meeting (Justice and Home Affairs) (Brussels, 25 September)
(Item 1.4 of the IRG record)

– Conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly qualified employment (Council Directive) – KLAMT report – 2007/0228 (CNS).

In view of the fact that Parliament had not yet expressed an opinion under the consultation procedure, the Commission decided that Mr BARROT would reserve its formal position until Parliament had adopted a position.

Looking ahead to the Justice and Home Affairs Council on 25 September, the Commission also authorised Mr BARROT to support the move by the Council Presidency to reach a compromise, while trying to make the system more attractive to highly qualified third-country nationals, following the line set out in SI(2008)1301.

12.2. RELATIONS WITH THE COUNCIL

iii) Reflections on further reform of the Common Fisheries Policy
(SEC(2008)2505 and /2)

The Commission approved the Commission working document, distributed under the authority of Mr BORG as SEC(2008)2505/2, with a view to the informal meeting of Fisheries Ministers on 29 September.

12.3. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

iv) Preparation for the September II part-session of Parliament – non-legislative matters
(point 3.1 of the IRG record)

– Hedge funds and private equity / Transparency of institutional investors – RASMUSSEN / LEHNE reports – 2007/2238 (INI) / 2007/2239 (INI)

Mr McCREEVY reported on the debate held in Parliament on 22 September on the RASMUSSEN and LEHNE reports on certain financial services. During his speech to Parliament, he had outlined the measures in the roadmap on the financial markets - which the Commission had been implementing for a year in cooperation with the Member States - and the initiatives currently being prepared, which would be laid before the Commission shortly. In this connection he had conveyed a positive message to the *rapporteurs*.

Among the initiatives in the pipeline, Mr McCREEVY mentioned in particular the proposal on the agenda of the next Commission meeting to amend Directive 2006/48/EC on the taking-up and pursuit of the business of credit institutions and Directive 2006/49/EC on the capital adequacy of investment firms and credit institutions. The main purpose of the revision was to improve the rules on the securitisation of loans and banks' equity capital, and the establishment of colleges of supervisors for cross-border financial institutions. He also announced that proposals would be laid before the Commission in November concerning the legislative framework for credit rating agencies and a revision of the Directive on financial transparency.

Mr McCREEVY noted the interest shown by Parliament in the supervision of hedge funds and private equity, while pointing out that such funds had not been the cause of the current crisis in the financial markets. He believed that the standards of supervision established in the Member States were sufficient as regards both the mechanisms for authorising and overseeing these funds and the transparency requirements; moreover, the same requirements on investments by these funds in public undertakings applied in all the Member States. The Commission would look closely at the hedge fund and private equity sector and any developments in those markets, in particular the situation regarding the selling of naked options. He insisted on the need for the Commission and national regulatory and supervisory bodies to remain vigilant and prepared to intervene if necessary, and pointed out that the prime objective was still to restore confidence and stability to the markets.

Returning to the analysis of the situation in the financial markets, he felt that the crisis would have implications not just for financial services but also for the regulatory framework. He stressed the importance for the US financial market of swift implementation of the measures announced by the US Government, given the impact of developments in that market on the world economy as a whole.

Mr McCREEVY considered that the situation in Europe was less fragile than that of the United States financial market, although it would be wrong to underestimate the indirect effects suffered by the EU financial markets, where certain European banks were facing considerable upheaval because of their exposure to the US subprime mortgage market. He therefore felt that the supervisory authorities should continue to be extremely vigilant and had asked the Committee of European Banking Supervisors and the Committee of European Securities Regulators to coordinate their action as far as possible.

He argued that the current crisis presented an opportunity to develop cooperation between national supervisory bodies and to encourage the Member States to improve coordination of their respective approaches to market supervision methods. This would enable the high expectations of the public and investors to be met more fully and help restore confidence on the markets, while at the same time opening the way for the emergence of Community mechanisms that allowed a more effective response to any future turbulence and more coordinated crisis prevention.

Following up Mr McCREEVY's presentation, Mr ALMUNIA also mentioned the roadmap for the financial markets and the importance of amending Directives 2006/48/EC on access to the business of credit institutions and 2006/49/EC on capital adequacy. He agreed with Mr McCREEVY that hedge funds and private equity had not played a major role in the present crisis in the financial markets; however, several months of turmoil had revealed flaws in the systems of supervision.

Mr ALMUNIA noted the differences between Member States regarding the scope and scale of the supervisory measures to be taken in the financial markets, and the concerns of ordinary citizens at developments in those markets. He stressed that the approach defined by the roadmap still applied. He also believed that it was up to the US authorities to take steps to restore stability in their financial market, as it was there that the turmoil had begun.

He reported briefly on the measures taken at international level in response to the crisis, including the work undertaken in the G-7, the International Monetary Fund, the Financial Stability Forum and the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision. Unfortunately, multilateral cooperation - which focused on more technical aspects - and international intergovernmental coordination were not always sufficient to provide an effective response to the challenges thrown up by the crisis in the markets.

Mr ALMUNIA also drew attention to the meetings of the Economic and Financial Affairs Council and the European Council coming up in October, which would focus on developing joint action and discussing how to coordinate the response to future turbulence. He stressed the importance of closer cooperation between the Member States so that the high expectations of Parliament and the people of Europe could be met more fully.

The ensuing in-depth discussion highlighted in particular the following aspects:

- the importance of defining realistic long-term goals, in particular the stability of the European financial system, and of eliminating as far as possible the direct effects of the crisis on the real economy;
- the thought to be given to the room for manoeuvre in the Member States in terms of state aid, particularly in connection with failing markets;
- given the complexity of the financial markets, the importance of having appropriate instruments to hand, but also the need to acknowledge the limits of those instruments, and the benefits to be gained from simplifying the instruments available and ensuring their transparency;
- the case for focusing action on specific sectors such as pension funds and, more generally, stabilisation of the social security system and the fight against poverty;
- concern at the potential impact of the current climate of economic uncertainty on public and business confidence and the implications for the real economy;
- given the differing expectations of the Commission among the different political players, the need to identify what action was open to it within its remit, including the scope for limiting certain activities that did not represent any added value for the economy;
- the importance of having a detailed knowledge of the risks affecting the new international financial markets in order to come up with proposals on a system of financial supervision, and a clearer understanding of the links to the real economy, so that appropriate structural policies could be implemented, particularly as regards labour markets;
- while stressing that the present crisis had originated in the United States, the importance for the Union of working on a new medium and long-term architecture in financial markets in order to make the regulatory system less procyclical in nature, guarantee the availability of liquidity in central

banks as a buffer against shocks, and provide a better framework for lending activities as a way of supporting the economy;

– the opportunity presented by the current crisis to explore new solutions to regulation and also to change mentalities and heighten the sense of responsibility of the various players involved;

– calls from the business world for the Commission to propose principles and guidelines in response to the distress caused by the current crisis, and the opportunity for the Commission to demonstrate the need to establish guiding principles and take action at European level in future;

– the case for drawing on expertise in the banking and financial world.

In reply to these various comments, Mr McCREEVY said it was important that the Commission draw up proposals and maintain the vigilance that was needed in order to tackle any fresh crisis. He referred once again to the content of the roadmap on financial markets approved at the Economic and Financial Affairs Council in October 2007 and pointed to the initiatives which the Commission was preparing to put forward in the coming weeks and months. He agreed that the financial markets were too sophisticated and that this had had an effect on the incremental build-up of the current financial crisis, particularly in relation to subprime mortgages. However, these had been only one of the factors that had triggered what was a more complex crisis. He also referred to the international nature of the financial system and the possibility that the current crisis might spark discussion on setting up an international supervisory system. Lastly, he recommended working towards balanced solutions at European level in accordance with the roadmap, while maintaining the independence of political decision-makers from the banking world and remaining within the Commission's remit, in particular with a view to the European Council meeting in October.

Mr ALMUNIA then replied to the comments, listing the various possibilities for action open to the Commission. He recommended in particular maintaining budget policy and helping to improve financial market mechanisms, pursuing the reforms begun under the Lisbon strategy for growth and employment, and ensuring that the errors committed in the past were not repeated. He also referred to the initiatives proposed in the roadmap for the financial markets, in particular on financial supervision, and the importance of safeguarding the ability of central banks to supply the necessary liquidity and of considering the possibility of suitable bank guarantees so as not to undermine consumer and business confidence. He also suggested holding a joint debate with the European Parliament, the Council and the European bodies responsible for the financial markets on other possible courses of action, notably to prevent a possible crisis among cross-border financial institutions. Lastly, he was in favour of putting forward ambitious initiatives, even in controversial fields such as the supervision of financial markets, of tightening up the application of existing instruments such as the recommendations presented by the Commission in 2004 on the remuneration of company directors, and of opening up a debate on new world economic governance.

Ms WALLSTRÖM wound up the discussion, which she said would be taken up again at future meetings of the Commission.

Having taken note of these points, the Commission approved the line set out in SP(2008)5502 and /2.

v) Preparation for the September II part-session of Parliament – Oral questions
(point 3.4 of the IRG record)

H-0612/08, H-0613/08 (joint with H-0618/08, H-0626/08 and H-0645/08), H-0615/08, H-0617/08, H-0620/08, H-0622/08, H-0624/08, H-0627/08, H-0628/08, H-0629/08, H-0630/08, H-0632/08, H-0634/08, H-0636/08, H-0637/08, H-0639/08, H-0641/08, H-0643/08, H-0646/08, H-0648/08, H-0651/08, H-0655/08, H-0657/08, H-0658/08, H-0659/08, H-0660/08, H-0661/08, H-0663/08, H-0664/08, H-0665/08, H-0667/08, H-0668/08, H-0670/08, H-0671/08, H-0673/08, H-0675/08, H-0676/08, H-0677/08, H-0678/08, H-0679/08, H-0681/08, H-0682/08, H-0683/08, H-0684/08, H-0685/08, H-0687/08, H-0689/08, H-0690/08, H-0694/08, H-0695/08, H-0698/08, H-0699/08, H-0701/08, H-0702/08

The Commission approved the draft answers set out in documents SP(2008)5397 to /3, following the agreement reached between the Chefs de cabinet on revisions to some of these draft answers, and certain draft supplementary answers, revisions to answers and draft answers as set out in SP(2008)5397/4 *et seq*.

vi) Action taken on Parliament's non-legislative resolutions
(point 3.5.1 of the IRG record)

The Commission approved documents SP(2008)5307 to /5 on the action taken on Parliament's non-legislative resolutions adopted at its July part-session, for transmission to Parliament.

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The meeting closed at 15.00 hours.