



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2010)1932 final

Strasbourg, 19 October 2010

MINUTES
of the 1932nd meeting of the Commission
held in Brussels
(Berlaymont)
on Tuesday 12 October 2010
(afternoon)

PV(2010)1932 final

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Attendance list	4-6
1. AGENDAS (OJ(2010)1932/3; SEC(2010)1172/2).....	7
2. WEEKLY MEETING OF CHEFS DE CABINET (SEC(2010)1932)	7
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND SPECIAL MINUTES OF 1931ST MEETING (7 OCTOBER) (PV(2010)1931; PV(2010)1931, PART II)	7
4. MONITORING THE APPLICATION OF EUROPEAN UNION LAW	7
<i>STATE AID – INDIVIDUAL CASES (SEC(2010)1203/2).....</i>	<i>7</i>
5. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS.....	8
5.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED (SEC(2010)1174 ET SEQ.).....	8
5.2. EMPOWERMENT (SEC(2010)1175 ET SEQ.)	8
5.3. DELEGATION AND SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS (SEC(2010)1176 ET SEQ.).....	8
5.4. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES (SEC(2010)1177)	8
6. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS (SEC(2010)1173)	9
7. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL – FACING THE CHALLENGE OF THE SAFETY OF OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS ACTIVITIES (COM(2010)560 TO /5; SEC(2010)1193; SEC(2010)1196).....	9
8. TOWARDS A COHERENT EUROPEAN APPROACH TO COLLECTIVE REDRESS: NEXT STEPS (SEC(2010)1192; SEC(2010)1195).....	10

9. RELATIONS WITH NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES.....	15
9.1. SUMMITS BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE ASIAN COUNTRIES (BRUSSELS: ASIA-EUROPE MEETING (ASEM), 4 AND 5 OCTOBER 2010; EU- SOUTH KOREA, 6 OCTOBER 2010; EU-CHINA, 6 OCTOBER 2010) (SEC(2010)1220).....	15
9.2. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN FOREIGN POLICY.....	17
9.3. 37 TH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO) (MONTREAL, 28 SEPTEMBER – 8 OCTOBER 2010) (SEC(2010)1225).....	20
10. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS (SEC(2010)1187).....	21
10.1. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS	21
10.2. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL	23
10.3. RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT	24

Single sitting: Tuesday 12 October 2010 (afternoon)

The sitting opened at 15.33 with Mr Barroso, President, in the chair.

Present:

Mr BARROSO	President	
Baroness ASHTON	High Representative/Vice- President	
Ms REDING	Vice-President	
Mr ALMUNIA	Vice-President	
Mr KALLAS	Vice-President	
Mr TAJANI	Vice-President	
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Vice-President	
Mr POTOČNIK	Member	
Mr REHN	Member	Items 8 (in part) to 10
Mr PIEBALGS	Member	
Mr BARNIER	Member	Items 8 to 10
Ms VASSILIOU	Member	
Mr DE GUCHT	Member	
Mr DALLI	Member	
Mr LEWANDOWSKI	Member	Items 8 and 9 (in part)
Ms DAMANAKI	Member	
Ms GEORGIEVA	Member	Items 1 to 9 (in part)
Mr OETTINGER	Member	Items 1 to 9 (in part)
Ms HEDEGAARD	Member	
Mr FÜLE	Member	
Ms MALMSTRÖM	Member	
Mr CIOLOŞ	Member	

Absent:

Ms KROES	Vice-President
Mr ŠEMETA	Member
Ms GEOGHEGAN-QUINN	Member
Mr HAHN	Member
Mr ANDOR	Member

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

Mr WHELAN	Chef de cabinet to Ms KROES	
Mr SADAUSKAS	Chef de cabinet to Mr ŠEMETA	Items 8 to 10
Mr BELL	Chef de cabinet to Ms GEOGHEGAN-QUINN	
Mr GAMBS	Chef de cabinet to Mr HAHN	
Ms GAGO	Chef de cabinet to Mr ANDOR	Items 8 to 10

The following also sat in:

Mr LAITENBERGER	Chef de cabinet to the PRESIDENT	
Mr ROMERO REQUENA	Director-General, Legal Service	
Mr CARVOUNIS	Deputy Director-General, DG Communication	
Mr DOENS	Head of the Commission Spokesperson Service	
Ms AHRENKILDE HANSEN	Commission Spokeswoman	
Mr THEBAULT	Head of the Bureau of European Policy Advisers	
Ms MARTÍNEZ ALBEROLA	Adviser in the PRESIDENT's Office	Items 1 to 8
Mr SELMAYR	Chef de cabinet to Ms REDING	Items 1 to 8
Ms DARMANIN	Chef de cabinet to Mr DALLI	Items 1 to 8

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

1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2010)1932/3; SEC(2010)1172/2)

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(2010)1932)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 11 October.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND SPECIAL MINUTES OF 1931ST MEETING
(7 OCTOBER)**

(PV(2010)1931; PV(2010)1931, PART II)

The Commission held over approval of the minutes of its 1931st meeting for the following week.

4. MONITORING THE APPLICATION OF EUROPEAN UNION LAW

STATE AID – INDIVIDUAL CASES

(SEC(2010)1203/2)

The Commission adopted the decisions in SEC(2010)1203/2.

5. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

5.1. *WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED* (SEC(2010)1174 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 4 and 8 October.

5.2. *EMPOWERMENT* (SEC(2010)1175 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 4 and 8 October.

5.3. *DELEGATION AND SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS* (SEC(2010)1176 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedure between 4 and 8 October, as archived in e-Greffe.

5.4. *SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES* (SEC(2010)1177)

The Commission took note of the sensitive written procedures for which the time limit expired between 11 and 15 October.

**6. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS
(SEC(2010)1173)**

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
(PERS(2010)140)**

***DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – SPECIAL ADVISERS TO
COMMISSION MEMBERS – 1 OCTOBER 2010 TO 31 MARCH 2011
(PERS(2010)33/2)***

The Commission took note of the information at point 1 of PERS(2010)140 and, on a proposal from Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, authorised:

- Mr ŠEFČOVIČ to adopt the list of special advisers to Commission Members set out in PERS(2010)33/2;
- the Director-General for Human Resources and Security to implement that decision by signing contracts of employment on behalf of the authority empowered to conclude contracts of employment.

The decision would take effect retroactively from 1 October 2010 (unless otherwise stated in PERS(2010)33/2).

**7. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL – FACING THE CHALLENGE OF
THE SAFETY OF OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS ACTIVITIES
(COM(2010)560 TO /5; SEC(2010)1193; SEC(2010)1196)**

The Commission approved the communication in COM(2010)560/5, for transmission to Parliament and the Council and, for information, to national parliaments, together with the staff paper distributed as SEC(2010)1193, the contents of which were noted.

8. TOWARDS A COHERENT EUROPEAN APPROACH TO COLLECTIVE REDRESS: NEXT STEPS
(SEC(2010)1192; SEC(2010)1195)

The PRESIDENT introduced the discussion by pointing out that collective redress had been a highly sensitive issue during the term of the previous Commission following the presentation of several initiatives, both from the general viewpoint of consumers and in the specific field of competition policy.

He reminded the meeting that there had been mixed reactions from stakeholders, with approval from consumers but also concern on the part of businesses that the scheme introduced would be based on the US model, even if this was not Commission purpose. The proposals had also had a negative reception from the European Parliament, which wished to be more closely associated with the decision-making process and also wanted a more consistent and coordinated approach to be taken to this matter. Given all these considerations, he had decided to suspend the various proposals made.

The PRESIDENT thanked Ms REDING, Mr ALMUNIA and Mr DALLI for their joint information note, which provided certain clarifications and laid down the principles to be observed should a collective redress initiative be relaunched at European level.

This aspect was extremely important in the single market for better application of consumer rights. However, he stressed the need to take a coherent approach and assess the different alternatives available carefully in order to take a well-balanced decision as to the next steps.

Ms REDING, in her turn, began by highlighting the controversial nature of the issue of collective redress, which, while attractive to consumers' associations and employees' representatives, was a matter of concern for businesses, and the need for the Commission to define its position on this point.

She pointed out that no decision need be taken today. The purpose of the note distributed was solely to relaunch the process of reflection on the way forward,

following the abandonment, at the end of the previous Commission, of various sectoral initiatives.

The work carried out so far in collaboration with Mr ALMUNIA and Mr DALLI was based on a definition of the concept of collective redress that was both more precise and broader than in the past. It went beyond mere actions for damages and was intended to enable the Commission to adopt a more coherent and comprehensive approach to the issue while respecting the procedural autonomy of the Member States and making full use of the existing mechanisms.

Ms REDING also referred to the need to ensure that the system introduced was effective by examining the cost of this system and assessing the comparative benefits of a public or private body and the contribution that could be made by mediation and other out-of-court dispute resolution mechanisms.

She reminded the meeting that, following a consultation of all Commission departments, a public consultation would be held between November 2010 and February 2011 in order to help identify common legal principles and consider which forms of collective redress could be included in European legal systems, with a view to submitting a communication on the subject in summer 2011. Only then should it be decided whether specific initiatives were necessary.

In conclusion, Ms REDING referred to the various aspects of the communication, in particular the need to demonstrate the benefit of intelligent forms of collective redress not only for consumers but also for businesses (in particular SMEs) since a collective procedure would make it possible to simplify litigation management and thus lead to savings.

Taking the floor, Mr ALMUNIA said that he had been working on this matter with Ms REDING since this Commission took office. Ever since their hearings before the European Parliament they had been drawing up a joint approach designed to emphasise the need to address the issue of collective redress and to work horizontally and coherently, covering all the areas affected.

In his view, the Commission should make coherent proposals on this issue which

should be as wide-ranging as possible in their scope, while taking into account political and legal factors and specific national features. On the basis of the results of the public consultation and the Commission's analysis of these results, the Commission should take the initiative with regard to proposals affecting various spheres.

With regard to competition policy, an effective collective redress system should be compatible with current competition rules, restore the harmonious operation of the single market, allow victims of infringements – consumers or enterprises, namely small enterprises – to obtain fair compensation from the responsible persons for these infringements, while avoiding the abuses of the current US system.

Winding up, he stressed the need to involve the European Parliament fully in the process of adopting future proposals and, consequently, the need to find an appropriate legal basis in the framework of the ordinary legislative procedure.

Mr DALLI began by saying that the purpose of consumer policy was to strengthen consumers' powers. This objective was based on three pillars: safety, information and the possibility of redress.

He noted that over time, a quality infrastructure had been established to guarantee consumer safety in all areas, which was at the heart of all the departments under his responsibility. A sound information structure was also being established to enable consumers to take informed decisions in terms of healthy and sustainable consumption and promote the development in the market of healthy and sustainable goods and services.

He praised the work carried out by Mr BARNIER on the single market and said that this market must ensure that businesses involved consumers as full partners both in their structures and their actions. Both elements were essential to enable the market to operate properly and stimulate growth. He referred in this connection to the recent report by Mario Monti and the work done by the European Parliament, which highlighted the need for consumers to have confidence in the single market if it was to operate properly. While safety and information were important for consumer

confidence, consumers also needed to know that redress was possible when things went wrong.

Consumers should have access to an effective, affordable and rapid collective redress structure in Europe allowing them to act collectively or through representatives, either to bring legal actions or settle out of court. In the interests both of consumers and enterprises, the tools available should be as complete as possible.

Although injunction mechanisms existed in Europe to put a stop to illegal actions and behaviour by businesses, in future it was important to ensure that in all the Member States the victims of such practices could obtain compensation more easily by bundling their complaints. From this standpoint, the first stage of the process should be to take effective account of complaints by businesses and that, should no agreement be reached at this stage, an alternative European dispute settlement system should be available both for consumers and businesses. Mr DALLI was committed to reinforcing this system in order to encourage its use.

However, he recognised the need, at the same time, for a collective redress system both to encourage an alternative means of dispute settlement and as a final solution in the event of the failure of that alternative. He referred to the various existing national collective redress systems and pointed out that none of them currently allowed the cross-border aspects of issues to be addressed, although this was essential for the smooth functioning of the single market. He also noted that these systems had not given rise to unlawful or exaggerated claims, which was a very positive consideration.

He therefore supported a collective redress system that would be available for all EU consumers in line with the principles set out in the information note. Such a model should respect the legal traditions of the Member States and, at a low cost, should provide efficient guarantees to prevent abuses, without being like the US system of "class actions". It would also encourage businesses to use out-of-court dispute settlement procedures.

Lastly, he felt that the European law should be adjusted and, if necessary, modified to facilitate the treatment of collective redress involving consumers in several Member States.

Mr DALLI referred to the discussions held in the European Parliament and those he had had with certain consumer organisations which wanted to move forward more rapidly on this matter, whereas certain businesses had fears about it. He was convinced that it was possible to build a sound European system that would not encourage unsubstantiated actions and would enable consumers and businesses to enjoy all the benefits of such a system.

In the brief discussion that followed, the following matters were highlighted:

- the importance of avoiding the pitfalls of the US model;
- the need for good communication, in particular to alleviate the concerns of businesses;
- the appropriateness of the comprehensive and open approach taken, and its usefulness for consumers and businesses, in particular smaller businesses;
- its importance, also, for the relaunch of the single market and the possibility of providing for a form of redress in the area of services;
- in parallel with this approach, the need to develop amicable dispute settlement mechanisms like those which already existed in certain Member States;
- the need to ensure that any future system was compatible with Commission procedures and to this end to carry out a thorough impact analysis.

Ms REDING thanked the other Commission members for their comments, which would be taken into account in the inter-service consultation, and said that the discussion would be resumed in 2011 in the light of the results of the public consultation.

The PRESIDENT thanked all those who had contributed to the discussion and noted

the support expressed for the launching of the consultation. He too noted that the discussion would be resumed following this consultation in order to determine the measures to be taken. He highlighted the concern expressed that the excesses permitted by the US system should be avoided and amicable dispute settlement mechanisms should be developed. In conclusion, he stressed the importance, given the background to this dossier, for the Commission to be united in this approach.

The Commission took note of the results of the discussion, the conclusions of the PRESIDENT and the information note distributed by Ms REDING, Mr ALMUNIA and Mr DALLI in SEC(2010)1192.

9. RELATIONS WITH NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES

9.1. SUMMITS BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE ASIAN COUNTRIES (BRUSSELS: ASIA-EUROPE MEETING (ASEM), 4 AND 5 OCTOBER 2010; EU-SOUTH KOREA, 6 OCTOBER 2010; EU-CHINA, 6 OCTOBER 2010) (SEC(2010)1220)

The PRESIDENT reported on the outcome of the recent Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) and summits with China and South Korea, held in Brussels from 4 to 6 October, the details of which were set out in a briefing note which had, under his authority, been disseminated to the Commission. Recalling the importance, reasserted by the European Council in September, of enhancing relations with Europe's strategic partners in Asia, these meetings had made it possible to demonstrate the crucial role played by Europe and Asia in major world issues, together with the political and economic interdependence of Europe and Asia.

At these three summits, held against the background of post-crisis economic and financial measures, a debate had taken place on progress towards sustainable economic recovery – fiscal and financial measures included – with

a view to achieving a convergence of views upstream of the G20 summit scheduled for Seoul in November.

The PRESIDENT was pleased that the ASEM summit had made it possible to send out signals about strengthening world economic governance, the Doha Development Agenda, sustainable economic recovery and development, and combating climate change. Progress had also been made on opening up the dialogue between Asian leaders. The President referred to the frank and fruitful bilateral meetings he had held with some leaders at this summit, during which he had announced the start of negotiations to sign free trade agreements with Vietnam and Malaysia.

The summit with South Korea had been very successful, with the signing of a free trade agreement prepared by Mr DE GUCHT and, before that, by Baroness ASHTON, which would be used as a model for future negotiations. The bilateral meeting with his counterpart, during which a constructive exchange of views had taken place on the situation in North Korea, had been useful in preparing the forthcoming G20 summit in Seoul.

Lastly, the PRESIDENT referred to the topics discussed at the summit with China such as the position of the Chinese authorities on the currently very sensitive issue of exchange rates, which should be analysed and handled carefully in the run-up to the G20 summit in Seoul as escalating tensions on the exchange market would promote neither global competitiveness nor economic recovery. He referred to the position of the Chinese authorities on the question of obtaining market economy status under World Trade Organisation rules, which was highly important for China in political terms; however it would be advisable to proceed very cautiously with the process leading to such recognition, which was to be granted only in 2016. At the end of the summit, Mr Herman Van Rompuy and the PRESIDENT had both clearly asserted their willingness to find joint solutions in the coming months, a task which would also be taken on by Mr ALMUNIA, Mr DE GUCHT and Mr REHN at the next high-level economic meeting. The summit had been generally positive, and pragmatic and strategic efforts must now be continued

with the Chinese authorities in the various areas of mutual interest.

The PRESIDENT said that the EU was entering a very intense period in terms of international relations: in addition to the G20 summit, there would be summits between the EU and the United States, Ukraine, Russia and India, which would surely result in a consolidation of relations with these strategic partners. He asked the Commission Members concerned to ensure good coordination of the messages to be communicated concerning these summits.

Following this presentation, the Commission held a brief exchange of views during which it expressed some concern about the way contacts were developing with the Chinese authorities, underlined the importance of efforts to restore a constructive atmosphere in the medium term, and took note of the predominant part played by the exchange rate question in international economic relations, in particular with China and the United States, as well as Japan, of the potential impact this could have on the euro area, and of the role which the International Monetary Fund must play in monitoring these developments in the run-up to the next G20 summit.

The Commission took note of these observations and of the PRESIDENT's briefing note in SEC(2010)1220.

9.2. *RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN FOREIGN POLICY*

Baroness ASHTON informed the Commission of a number of recent developments in international relations.

In a vote at the United Nations on 14 September there had been a majority in favour of postponing the vote on enhancing the status of the European Union. A task force had been set up within her department to monitor this question and she was optimistic about the chances of obtaining a second – favourable – vote on the EU's status in the near future.

Baroness ASHTON then reported on her contacts with the US Secretary of State and the Russian Foreign Minister, and in particular the work of the "E3+3" group, made up of the Foreign Ministers of Germany, China, the

United States, France, the United Kingdom and Russia and herself, to find a negotiated solution to the Iran nuclear question as quickly as possible.

She also reported on her meeting with the Prime Minister of Kosovo, Mr Hashim Thaçi, saying she was optimistic about future work with Kosovo in connection with the European perspective.

She also raised the issue of the forthcoming summit between the European Union and the United States to be held in November, and the main topics to be discussed by the EU and US representatives at the summit, in particular economic issues, the Middle East peace process, and the situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Regarding her visit to the United States at the end of September, she felt that talks with the EU's American partners had been conducted in a very constructive and positive atmosphere in recent weeks. She also reported on the preparations for the visit by the US Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton, to Brussels on Thursday 14 October.

Baroness ASHTON went on to discuss the Middle East peace process and her contacts with the US Special Envoy for Middle East Peace, George Mitchell, as well as with the Israeli and Palestinian representatives. She expressed regret that the moratorium on the building of Israeli settlements in the West Bank had not been extended and confirmed that the EU continued to support a rapprochement between the two parties and a strengthening of the Palestinian National Authority institutions.

She also raised the problem of piracy off the coast of Somalia and the EU's "ATALANTA" naval operation. Even though the EU was in contact with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, Russia, China and India with a view to stepping up security in the area, it was also important to continue to work with the African states in order to improve their ability to prosecute Somali pirates on their territory. She stressed the importance of finding a solution to these questions in view of the increase in activity by Somali pirates in recent

months.

Finally, she raised the question of the ongoing interinstitutional negotiations on the European External Action Service and thanked the Members of the Commission for their support in this matter.

During the discussion which followed, the Commission raised the following points:

- the complementarity between the EU’s internal and external policies and the importance of bearing this in mind when implementing the Lisbon Treaty and new policies in the economic field;
- the important role played by the European Union in the Middle East peace process, the advantages of continuing to cooperate closely with the US on this matter, the importance of reinforcing and institutionalising bilateral relations between the Union and Israel and the Palestinian Authority in the economic and cultural fields, and a proposal to invite the two sides to a meeting in Brussels under the auspices of the European Union;
- the need to step up the “ATALANTA” operation in view of the increase in Somali piracy and its effects on the security of an entire region, both for shipping companies and for ships’ crews, the need to include the protection of the fishing fleet in the operation and the opportunity to put forward a comprehensive initiative to improve the protection of European vessels; the question of whether criminal prosecutions of Somali pirates on Member States’ territory would be helpful;
- the importance of making progress in the negotiations on combating climate change, a reminder of the vital role the United States must play in this area, the recognition that a number of differences exist between the EU and the US on this matter, but also the importance of close cooperation between the two partners;

- the case for organising a discussion on relations with China at a future Commission meeting.

Baroness ASHTON replied to the comments made. On the Middle East peace process, she stressed the importance of taking into account the vital role played by the US in the region and the need for close cooperation between the EU and the US, given that their actions were very often complementary.

As regards measures to combat piracy off the Somali coast, she mentioned in particular the need to support the law enforcement agencies and increase prison capacity in neighbouring countries, and to step up cooperation with third countries such as China, including in matters such as communication between vessels and keeping them safe.

The Commission took note of this information.

**9.3. 37TH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO) (MONTREAL, 28 SEPTEMBER – 8 OCTOBER 2010)
(SEC(2010)1225)**

Mr KALLAS reported to the Commission on the outcome of the 37th session of the Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), at which the EU had observer status. He praised the excellent coordination between the Commission, the Member States and certain European non-member countries, both before and during the meeting, and considered that this had played a major role in the success of the European positions. He also thanked Ms HEDEGAARD for the work they had done together prior to the meeting on the question of the role played by civil aviation in combating climate change.

Mr KALLAS also expressed his satisfaction with the working relationship with the United States, and noted the importance for the EU of working closely with the ICAO Council and Secretariat.

The Commission took note of this information and of Mr KALLAS's note in SEC(2010)1225.

10. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS (SEC(2010)1187)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group held on Thursday 7 October (SEC(2010)1187).

It paid particular attention to the following points.

10.1. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

i) Action to be taken on Parliament's legislative opinions (SP(2010)6981)

The Commission decided to empower the Commission Members responsible for the sectors in question, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr ŠEFČOVIČ and, if necessary, with the other Members concerned, to adopt the amended proposals for transmission to Parliament and the Council, as set out in SP(2010)6981, drawn up following the October I part-session of Parliament, the contents of which were noted.

ii) Horizontal dossier (point 1.1 of the IRG record)

- Rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (Regulation) – SZÁJER report – 2010/0051 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SPI(2010)61/2.

iii) Ordinary legislative procedure

(point 1.2 of the IRG record)

Preparation of Council's position at first reading

- Charging of heavy goods vehicles for the use of certain infrastructure - (Directive) – EL KHADRAOUI report – 2008/0147 (COD)

The Commission authorised Mr KALLAS to support, at the Council meeting (Transport, Telecommunications and Energy) on 15 October, a Presidency compromise that would secure a qualified majority along the lines set out in SI(2010) 255/2.

iv) Preparations for October II part-session of Parliament

(point 1.3 of the IRG record)

Ordinary legislative procedure – Codecision – 1st reading

- Alternative investment fund managers (Directive) – GAUZÈS Report – 2009/0064 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2010)6998 and /2.

- Introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health at work of pregnant workers and workers who have recently given birth or are breastfeeding (Directive) – ESTRELA report – 2008/0193 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2010)6989 and /2.

- Statistical returns in respect of carriage of goods and passengers by sea (Regulation) – SIMPSON report – 2010/0041 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2010)6991.

10.2. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL

v) Programming of Council business

(SI(2010)261)

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2010)261 on the Council meetings between 14 and 27 October.

vi) Results of the Council meeting (Competitiveness) (Luxembourg, 11 and 12 October)

- Translation arrangements for the EU patent

Mr BARNIER reported briefly on the outcome of the discussions at the recent Competitiveness Council on the Commission's proposal relating to the European Union patent. He described the background and outlined the main features of the proposal as regards translation. The overwhelming majority of Member States was satisfied with the proposal currently on the table, and Mr BARNIER was continuing his efforts to win over Italy and Spain, who were not favourable at this stage.

He stressed the important contribution that new technologies could make in this context, in particular an effective machine translation system, which might be the key to progress in this dossier. He noted that a number of Commission departments worked with machine translation systems and felt that these efforts should be pooled to create the necessary financial and technological synergies. He therefore proposed that a task force be set up to define collectively a clear policy and roadmap and mobilise resources for the introduction of a machine translation system as soon as possible.

The PRESIDENT thanked Mr BARNIER and said that the Commission would come back to this issue later depending on the progress made in the discussions in the Council.

The Commission took note of this information.

10.3. RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT

vii) Results of Parliament's October I part-session

(SP(2010)7066)

The Commission took note of the information on Parliament's part-session held on 6 and 7 October in Brussels, set out in SP(2010)7066.

viii) Action taken on non-legislative resolutions adopted by Parliament at its July 2010 part-session

(point 3.3.1 of the IRG record)

The Commission approved the documents SP(2010)6850 and /2 on the action taken on the non-legislative resolutions adopted by Parliament at its July part-session, for transmission to Parliament.

ix) Participation by Members of the European Parliament in international conferences

(point 3.6 of the IRG record)

- Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (Nagoya, 18 to 29 October)

The Commission decided to approve the request to the PRESIDENT from Mr Jerzy Buzek, President of Parliament, concerning the attendance of eight Members of the European Parliament at the above-mentioned conference, pointing out that the request had been received late and including a reminder about the procedure to be followed.

*

* *

The meeting closed at 17.18.