



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2011)1944 final

Brussels, 26 January 2011

MINUTES

**of the 1944th meeting of the Commission
held in Strasbourg
(Winston Churchill building)
on Tuesday 18 January 2011
(afternoon)**

PV(2011)1944 final

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Attendance list	4-6
1. AGENDAS (OJ(2011)1944/3; SEC(2011)56/2).....	7
2. WEEKLY MEETING OF CHEFS DE CABINET (SEC(2011)1944)	7
3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES AND SPECIAL MINUTES OF THE 1942 ND MEETING OF THE COMMISSION AND THE MINUTES OF THE 1943 RD MEETING (5 JANUARY; 11 AND 12 JANUARY) (PV(2011)1942; PV(2011)1942, PART II; PV(2011)1943).....	7
4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS (SEC(2011)64).....	8
4.1. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS	8
4.2. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL	9
4.3. RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT	9
5. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS.....	11
5.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED (SEC(2011)58 ET SEQ.).....	11
5.2. EMPOWERMENT (SEC(2011)59 ET SEQ.).....	11
5.3. DELEGATION AND SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS (SEC(2011)60 ET SEQ.).....	11
5.4. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES (SEC(2011)61)	11
6. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS (SEC(2011)57/2).....	12
6.1. JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE – APPOINTMENT OF AD14 DIRECTOR (EU-6) (PERS(2010)110 TO /5).....	12
6.2. DG ENTERPRISE AND INDUSTRY – APPOINTMENT OF AD15/16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL (PERS(2010)105 TO /5).....	12
6.3. DG ENTERPRISE AND INDUSTRY – APPOINTMENT OF AD15/16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL (PERS(2010)106 TO /4).....	13

6.4. DG COMPETITION – INTERNAL PUBLICATION OF VACANCY NOTICE FOR AN AD 15/16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL (PERS(2011)9)	13
6.5. DG COMPETITION – INTERNAL PUBLICATION OF VACANCY NOTICE FOR AN AD 15/16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL (PERS(2011)10)	14
6.6. DG ENERGY – INTERNAL PUBLICATION OF A VACANCY NOTICE FOR AN AD 15/16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL (PERS(2011)11).....	14
6.7. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL – ACTIVITIES OF A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION AFTER LEAVING OFFICE (SEC(2011)81).....	14
7. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – DEVELOPING THE EUROPEAN DIMENSION IN SPORT (COM(2011)12 TO /4; SEC(2011)66 AND /2; SEC(2011)67; SEC(2011)68; SEC(2011)69; SEC(2011)71)	15
8. POLICY DEBATE ON THE REVISION OF THE DIRECTIVE SETTING NATIONAL EMISSION CEILINGS FOR CERTAIN ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTANTS – STATE OF PLAY AND FUTURE PROSPECTS (SEC(2011)72; SEC(2011)73)	15
9. OTHER BUSINESS.....	18
UPDATE ON THE COMMISSION'S SCRUTINY OF THE HUNGARIAN MEDIA LAW	18
10. REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL – MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE EUROPEAN SATELLITE RADIO NAVIGATION PROGRAMMES (COM(2011)5 TO /3; SEC(2011)55).....	19
11. RELATIONS WITH NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES.....	22
RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN FOREIGN POLICY	22

Single sitting: Tuesday 18 January 2011 (afternoon)

The sitting opened at 13.06 with Mr BARROSO, President, in the chair. Items 10 and 11 were chaired by Ms REDING.

Present:

Mr BARROSO	President	Items 1 to 9
Baroness ASHTON	High Representative/Vice-President	Items 8 to 11
Ms REDING	Vice-President	
Mr ALMUNIA	Vice-President	Items 1 to 10 (in part)
Mr KALLAS	Vice-President	
Ms KROES	Vice-President	
Mr TAJANI	Vice-President	
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Vice-President	
Mr POTOČNIK	Member	
Mr PIEBALGS	Member	Items 1 to 10 (in part)
Ms VASSILIOU	Member	Items 1 to 10 (in part)
Mr DALLI	Member	
Ms GEOGHEGAN-QUINN	Member	
Mr LEWANDOWSKI	Member	
Ms DAMANAKI	Member	
Ms GEORGIEVA	Member	
Mr OETTINGER	Member	
Mr HAHN	Member	
Ms HEDEGAARD	Member	
Mr FÜLE	Member	
Ms MALMSTRÖM	Member	
Mr CIOLOŞ	Member	

Absent:

Mr REHN	Member
Mr BARNIER	Member
Mr ŠEMETA	Member
Mr DE GUCHT	Member
Mr ANDOR	Member

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

Mr BAUDRU	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Mr ŠEMETA
Ms PERESSO	A member of Mr DE GUCHT's staff
Mr CSEREY	A member of Mr ANDOR's staff

The following also sat in:

Mr LAITENBERGER	Chef de cabinet to the PRESIDENT	Items 1 to 9
Mr ROMERO REQUENA	Director-General, Legal Service	
Mr SØRENSEN	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 VANNINI	Adviser in the PRESIDENT's Office	Items 1 to 8
Ms DE RICHEMONT	Adviser in the PRESIDENT's Office	Item 9
Ms VIŠNAR-MALINOVSKÁ	A member of Mr POTOČNIK's staff	Items 1 to 8
Mr VERHEYE	DG Environment	Items 1 to 8

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

1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2011)1944/3; SEC(2011)56/2)

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(2011)1944)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 17 January.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES AND SPECIAL MINUTES OF THE
1942ND MEETING OF THE COMMISSION AND THE MINUTES OF THE
1943RD MEETING (5 JANUARY; 11 AND 12 JANUARY)**

(PV(2011)1942; PV(2011)1942, PART II; PV(2011)1943)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 1942nd and 1943rd meetings.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS (SEC(2011)64)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group held on Friday 14 January (SEC(2011)64).

It paid particular attention to the following points.

4.1. *LEGISLATIVE MATTERS*

i) Ordinary legislative procedure (point 1.2 of the IRG record)

Conciliation procedure

- Novel foods (Regulation) – LIOTARD report – 2008/0002 (COD)

The Commission took note of SPI(2011) 2.

ii) Preparation of Parliament's January part-session (point 1.3 of the IRG record)

Empowerment

- Application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare (Directive) – GROSSETÊTE report – 2008/0142 (COD)

The Commission empowered Mr DALLI, under Article 13 of its Rules of Procedure, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr ŠEFČOVIČ and any associated Members, to adopt and transmit to the Council its opinion on the amendments, in accordance with Article 294(7)(c) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, once Parliament had been consulted, and if necessary to attach to its opinion an amended proposal, on the basis of the line set out in SP(2010)347 and /3, and SP(2011)3.

- Harmonised conditions for the marketing of construction products (Regulation) – STIHLER report – 2008/0098 (COD)

The Commission empowered Mr TAJANI, under Article 13 of its Rules of Procedure, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr ŠEFČOVIČ and any associated Members, to adopt and transmit to the Council its opinion on the amendments, in accordance with Article 294(7)(c) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, once Parliament had been consulted, and if necessary to attach to its opinion an amended proposal, on the basis of the line set out in SP(2010) 362 and SP(2011) 2.

4.2. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL

iii) Programming of Council business

(SI(2011)7)

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2011)7 on the Council meetings between 20 January and 2 February 2011.

4.3. RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT

iv) Preparation of January part-session of Parliament – Oral questions

(point 3.4 of the IRG record)

- H-0619/10, H-0621/10, H-0623/10, H-0625/10, H-0626/10, H-0627/10, H-0628/10, H-0629/10, H-0631/10 (joined with H-0641/10), H-0632/10, H-0633/10, H-0636/10, H-0637/10, H-0638/10, H-0639/10, H-0642/10, H-0643/10, H-0645/10, H-0648/10, H-0649/10, H-0650/10, H-0651/10, H-0655/10, H-0002/11, H-0003/11, H-0009/11

The Commission approved the draft answers set out in SP(2011)74 to /3, following the agreement reached between the Chefs de cabinet, and certain draft supplementary answers, revisions to answers and draft answers as set out in SP(2011)74/4 *et seq.*

v) Action taken on Parliament's non-legislative resolutions

(point 3.5.2 of the IRG record)

The Commission approved the communication set out in SP(2011)94 and /2 on the action taken on the non-legislative resolutions adopted by Parliament at its October I 2010 part-session, for transmission to Parliament.

vi) Participation by a Member of the European Parliament in an international conference

(point 3.7 of the IRG record)

- Twenty-ninth session of the Committee on Fisheries of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO-COFI) (Rome, 31 January and 4 February 2011)

The Commission decided to agree to the request to the PRESIDENT from Mr Jerzy Buzek, President of Parliament, concerning the attendance of one Member of the European Parliament at the above-mentioned meeting as an observer, with a reminder about the procedure to be followed.

5. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

5.1. *WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED* (SEC(2011)58 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 10 and 14 January.

5.2. *EMPOWERMENT* (SEC(2011)59 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 10 and 14 January.

5.3. *DELEGATION AND SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS* (SEC(2011)60 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedure between 10 and 14 January, as archived in e-Greffe.

5.4. *SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES* (SEC(2011)61)

The Commission took note of the sensitive written procedures for which the time limit expired between 17 and 21 January.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS
(SEC(2011)57/2)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
(PERS(2011)8/2)

6.1. JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE – APPOINTMENT OF AD14 DIRECTOR
(EU-6)
(PERS(2010)110 TO /5)

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(2) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Director, 'Ispra Site Management', at the Joint Research Centre (PERS(2010)110, /2 and /4).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 27 October and 11 November 2010 (PERS(2010) 110/3 and /5).

The Commission proceeded to compare the applicants' qualifications for the post. On a proposal from Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Ms GEOGHEGAN-QUINN, it then decided to appoint Mr Dan Claudiu CHIRONDOJAN to the post.

This decision would take effect immediately. Mr CHIRONDOJAN would take up his duties on 1 May 2011 at the latest.

6.2. DG ENTERPRISE AND INDUSTRY – APPOINTMENT OF AD15/16
DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL
(PERS(2010)105 TO /5)

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Deputy Director-General with responsibility for Directorates C, D, E and F, International relations and the Special Envoy for SMEs in DG Enterprise and Industry (PERS(2010)105 to /3).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 22 November and 10 December 2010 (PERS(2010)105/4 and /5).

The Commission proceeded to compare the applicants' qualifications for the post. It also considered their ability, efficiency and conduct in the service. On a proposal from Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr TAJANI, it then decided to appoint Mr Daniel CALLEJA CRESPO to the post.

This decision would take effect on 16 February 2011.

**6.3. DG ENTERPRISE AND INDUSTRY – APPOINTMENT OF AD15/16
DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL
(PERS(2010)106 TO /4)**

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Deputy Director-General with responsibility for Directorates G and H, and EU satellite navigation programmes, in DG Enterprise and Industry (PERS(2010)106 and /2).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 22 November and 10 December 2010 (PERS(2010)106/3 and /4).

The Commission proceeded to compare the applicants' qualifications for the post. It also considered their ability, efficiency and conduct in the service. On a proposal from Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr TAJANI, it then decided to appoint Mr Paul WEISSENBERG to the post.

This decision would take effect on 1 February 2011.

**6.4. DG COMPETITION – INTERNAL PUBLICATION OF VACANCY
NOTICE FOR AN AD 15/16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL
(PERS(2011)9)**

On a proposal from Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr ALMUNIA, the Commission decided to authorise the publication, under

Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations, of the vacancy notice in PERS(2011) 9 for the post of Deputy Director-General, 'Antitrust', in DG Competition.

This decision would take effect immediately.

6.5. *DG COMPETITION – INTERNAL PUBLICATION OF VACANCY NOTICE FOR AN AD 15/16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL (PERS(2011)10)*

On a proposal from Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr ALMUNIA, the Commission decided to authorise the publication, under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations, of the vacancy notice in PERS(2011)10 for the post of Deputy Director-General, 'Mergers', in DG Competition.

This decision would take effect immediately.

6.6. *DG ENERGY – INTERNAL PUBLICATION OF A VACANCY NOTICE FOR AN AD 15/16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL (PERS(2011)11)*

On a proposal from Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr OETTINGER, the Commission decided to authorise the publication, under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations, of the vacancy notice in PERS(2011)11 for the post of Deputy Director-General with responsibility for Directorates D and E in DG Energy.

This decision would take effect immediately.

6.7. *SECRETARIAT-GENERAL – ACTIVITIES OF A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION AFTER LEAVING OFFICE (SEC(2011)81)*

The Commission approved the communication in SEC(2011)81 concerning the activities planned by Ms FERRERO-WALDNER after leaving the

Commission. It concluded that these activities were compatible with the second paragraph of Article 245 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

**7. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – DEVELOPING THE EUROPEAN DIMENSION IN SPORT
(COM(2011)12 TO /4; SEC(2011)66 AND /2; SEC(2011)67; SEC(2011)68; SEC(2011)69; SEC(2011)71)**

The Commission approved the communication in COM(2011)12/4 for transmission to Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, and, for information, to the national parliaments, accompanied by the staff working paper, the impact assessment and the summary thereof in SEC(2011)66/2, SEC(2011)67 and SEC(2011)68 respectively, the contents of which were noted.

It also took note of the opinion of the Impact Assessment Board on the above communication, as set out in SEC(2011)69.

**8. POLICY DEBATE ON THE REVISION OF THE DIRECTIVE SETTING NATIONAL EMISSION CEILINGS FOR CERTAIN ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTANTS – STATE OF PLAY AND FUTURE PROSPECTS
(SEC(2011)72; SEC(2011)73)**

The PRESIDENT opened the policy debate on the revision of the Directive on national emission ceilings for certain atmospheric pollutants (NEC Directive), the purpose of which was to examine in particular the question of possible options for the scope and the best time for such a revision.

He pointed out that the purpose of the policy debate was to reach a clear view on the approach to take to the revision of the NEC Directive and the best time to carry out that revision, given that a review of policy and regulations on air quality was under way and would be completed in 2013.

Mr POTOČNIK argued that now was the right moment to decide on the best time to carry out the revision of the NEC Directive, which was widely awaited and in respect of which the Commission had to choose one of two proposed options. At the same time, he felt that the Commission should give a short-term undertaking to take certain decisions that would allow the Member States to comply fully with existing legislation.

He highlighted the importance of concerted action at European level, having regard to the cross-border nature of air pollution, and took the view that international cooperation was also increasingly desirable for the same reasons.

Against this background Mr POTOČNIK felt that the revision of the NEC Directive, which had been announced in 2005 then postponed twice, in 2006 and 2008, had to be addressed, and he reminded the meeting of the two proposed options: a rapid revision as early as 2011, or a more thorough and comprehensive revision within the review of the general policy on air quality, which had to take place by 2013.

The Commission then held an in-depth debate in which general support was expressed for the approach set out by Mr POTOČNIK, the need to revise the current system, particularly in view of the health and environmental risks, and the ultimate aim of achieving the best possible result. To this end it expressed a clear preference for the second option proposed, i.e. a thorough and comprehensive review which fostered coherence and synergies.

The debate also served to establish agreement on the need, at the same time, to speed up national implementation of the texts currently in force, the importance of having quantifiable objectives to allow for better evaluation of Member States' performances, and reliable checks, and the need for good communication on this issue, where there was undoubtedly European added value and also scope for

contributing to the achievement of the objectives of other policies, for example on combating climate change.

Mr POTOČNIK welcomed the agreement reached on the thorough and comprehensive revision, along the lines of the second option proposed, while acknowledging the case for speeding up the revision process to some extent, as some people had advocated, where this was feasible.

The PRESIDENT thanked Mr POTOČNIK and the other Members of the Commission for the discussion. Air quality remained a serious and pressing problem that called for continuing and enhanced action at European level. Resolving the problem entailed action in numerous areas, such as energy, transport, agriculture, innovation, industrial policy and regional policy, and a universal commitment to the success of these policies.

He concluded, in the light of the debate, that a comprehensive new policy on air quality, including the revision of the NEC Directive, had to be proposed in 2013 at the latest and would include actions in all the fields concerned in order to ensure that all European policies on the subject were fully consistent.

He stressed that the fact that the revision had the unanimous approval of Commission Members did not mean the Commission would do nothing further until 2013; measures to tackle the sources of air pollution were already being implemented, for example in relation to vehicle emissions and industrial emissions.

In this connection, appropriate measures had to be taken in the short term and presented as part of the European air quality strategy. These would include, specifically, measures aimed at significantly reducing emissions of fine particulates and nitrogen dioxide, to help Member States comply with European standards.

In the PRESIDENT's view, this revision would have to be based on an impact assessment involving the entire Commission, in order to develop the maximum possible number of synergies between different policies, and could be modelled on the virtuous circle that had led to the adoption of the European climate and energy strategy.

He also felt that it was important in the case of this dossier to communicate effectively with all the stakeholders on the need for a thorough and comprehensive revision, to involve them actively in the entire revision process, to reassure them as to current and future measures to combat air pollution at source and to help Member States implement the current legislation in full. For this purpose public consultations to prepare the way for the comprehensive revision of 2013 would have to be launched as soon as possible this year.

Finally, the PRESIDENT pointed out that all the measures aimed at improving air quality had to be based on – and reinforce – the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy. Commission Members would be kept informed of progress on this issue, and a Commission document would be presented shortly to provide a clearer explanation of the measures taken by the Commission on air quality and its strategy for the short and longer term.

The Commission took note of the results and conclusions of the policy debate and of the note from Mr POTOČNIK in SEC(2011)72.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

UPDATE ON THE COMMISSION'S SCRUTINY OF THE HUNGARIAN MEDIA LAW

Ms KROES gave an update of the situation concerning Hungary's new legislation on the media, which, she noted, had been raised in two European Parliament committees. She had also held bilateral discussions on the issue with the Hungarian Deputy Prime Minister, who had given certain assurances regarding his willingness to respond to the concerns expressed by the Commission, depending on the decisions to be taken by the Hungarian Government.

Ms KROES said that her office and the departments under her responsibility were looking at ways of finding a rapid and satisfactory solution to this issue, together with the other Commission departments concerned, in particular the Legal Service.

A brief discussion highlighted the importance of media freedom in the European Union and the need for the Commission and the Member States to defend that freedom in accordance with the Treaties and the respective powers of each player involved; if necessary this would include applying the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the Union.

The PRESIDENT concluded by pointing to the political aspects of this dossier and the importance of the Commission taking a clear position that was legally watertight, within its remit and in line with the procedures in force. He hoped that the high-level contacts would bring about a more constructive attitude on the part of the Hungarian authorities, which would have to answer the questions put by the Commission.

The Commission took note of this information.

**10. REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
AND THE COUNCIL – MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE EUROPEAN
SATELLITE RADIO NAVIGATION PROGRAMMES
(COM(2011)5 TO /3; SEC(2011)55)**

Mr TAJANI introduced the dossier, comprising both the annual report and mid-term review of the European satellite radio navigation programmes (EGNOS and Galileo), both of which were required by Article 22 of Regulation No 683/2008 in order to inform the European Parliament and the Council of the progress made on these programmes.

He thanked the Commission Members for the highly constructive discussions held during the preparation of the dossier and drew their attention to the fact that the figures in the report concerning the period after 2013 were provided for information only, and would not determine in advance the decisions to be taken on the ultimate content or structure of the programmes.

He hoped that the Commission would be closely involved in these programmes and pointed out that this was a key initiative in industrial and geopolitical terms; Galileo had become a flagship EU project and one of the pillars of the Europe 2020 strategy, and EGNOS and Galileo also had major applications in a wide range of sectoral policies.

He reviewed the progress made in the operational implementation of EGNOS and the deployment of Galileo, as well as the future phases planned (tendering procedure and launching of the first satellites in 2011 and 2012).

He referred too to the budget for these two programmes, particularly the amounts that were still to be committed. He was aware of the current budgetary constraints and had therefore not proposed allocating additional funds to the Galileo programme before the end of the current multiannual financial framework, in 2013. He had taken this decision despite its inevitable impact on the timetable for completing the programme infrastructure and on costs, despite certain delays and additional costs already identified, and without taking into account the future operating costs that would have to be covered. The report took this approach into account and redefined the timetable for deployment of the Galileo infrastructure while keeping as the main priority the need to provide a service of sufficient quality from 2014. He trusted that this transitional phase of reduced deployment would be as short as possible.

With regard to the period subsequent to 2013, the decisions laying down the budgetary and financial principles governing the continuation of the programmes and those concerning the governance framework would have to be taken in the next two years. The Commission would draw up detailed proposals on the basis of the guidelines to be established by the European Parliament and the Council.

In this context, Mr TAJANI felt that it would be detrimental to abandon the Galileo programme or even to reduce the number of satellites from 30 to 18. The reasons for this were both strategic, given international developments of new navigation systems, and industrial, since now that we were so close to achieving the goal, it would be ill-advised to lose the funds invested and knowledge accumulated and

harm the competitiveness of European industry and the European service sector. He pointed out that the Union, represented by the Commission, was responsible for managing these programmes, was the owner of the systems resulting from them and would be held responsible for any delays or additional costs.

He concluded by reiterating the main message of this report, namely that the Commission had established the Galileo programme on a firm basis, given its specific and realistic prospects and acquired undeniable experience in the management of complex industrial projects. He felt that it was therefore essential to complete the construction of the system as rapidly as possible in order to meet market requirements and enable Europeans to reap full benefits from the Galileo programme.

The Commission then held an exchange of views, covering the following points in particular:

- the value and emblematic nature of the European satellite radio navigation programmes and their potential for exporting European know-how; consequently, the importance of completing these programmes; however, the need also to explore other possible scenarios for the future, without ruling out the possibility of reduced deployment;
- the relevance of the realistic approach adopted at this stage, both in terms of the budget and of governance; however, the importance of also taking into account the financial needs in the next multiannual financial framework in order to ensure that the process was sufficiently ambitious;
- in future, with regard to large infrastructure projects more generally, the need for precise and well-defined budget planning, the guarantee of additional commitments by the Member States if needed, and management capacities adjusted to each case;
- the need, too, to explore new sources of financing, in particular private sources, possibly through European bond issues for infrastructure projects;

- the need for adequate, non-bureaucratic management of the programmes, but also for an independent audit and management methods enabling potential additional costs to be identified and reduced;
- the case for also exploring the military applications of these programmes.

In reply, Mr TAJANI reviewed the developments of the Galileo programme since it was adopted. He also highlighted the evolving situation in which it was being implemented, both in terms of increased costs, which made it necessary to explore new sources of financing, and the international environment, in particular the work done in China and Russia, which entailed additional constraints as regards security. He was willing to continue the debate on Galileo in the near future.

Ms REDING thanked the Commission for this exchange of views and said that the discussion could be continued at the Commission seminar to be held on 20 and 21 January.

The Commission approved the report in COM(2011)5/3, for transmission to Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and, for information, to the national parliaments.

11. RELATIONS WITH NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN FOREIGN POLICY

Baroness ASHTON briefly informed the other Commission members of the latest developments concerning the political situation in Tunisia and of her recent meeting with the Belarus foreign minister. She also reported that she would shortly be visiting Turkey in order to take parts in talks on Iran to be held in Istanbul.

The Commission took note of this information.

*

* *

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

*

* *

The meeting closed at 15.20.