EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2011)1946 final

Strasbourg, 15 February 2011

<u>MINUTES</u>

of the 1946th meeting of the Commission

held in Brussels

(Berlaymont)

on Wednesday 2 February 2011

(morning)

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Single sitting: Wednesday 2 February 2011 (morning)

The sitting opened at 9.05 with Mr BARROSO, President, in the chair.

Present:

Mr BARROSO	President	
Baroness ASHTON	High Representative/Vice-President	
Ms REDING	Vice-President	
Mr KALLAS	Vice-President	
Ms KROES	Vice-President	
Mr TAJANI	Vice-President	
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Vice-President	
Mr POTOČNIK		
Mr REHN		
Mr PIEBALGS		
Mr BARNIER		
Ms VASSILIOU		
Mr ŠEMETA		
Mr DE GUCHT		
Mr DALLI		
Ms GEOGHEGAN-QUINN		
Mr LEWANDOWSKI		
Ms DAMANAKI		
Ms GEORGIEVA		
Mr OETTINGER		
Mr HAHN		
Ms HEDEGAARD		
Mr ANDOR		Items 8 (in part) and 9
Ms MALMSTRÖM		
Mr CIOLOŞ		

Absent:

Mr ALMUNIA	Vice-President
Mr FÜLE	

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

Mr LORIOT	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Mr ALMUNIA
Mr MORDUE	Chef de cabinet to Mr FÜLE

The following also sat in:

Mr LAITENBERGER	Chef de cabinet to the PRESIDENT	
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	
Mr CABRAL	Adviser *hors classe* in the PRESIDENT's office	
Mr SOBRAL	A member of the PRESIDENT's staff	Item 8
Mr PESONEN	Chef de cabinet to Mr REHN	Items 8 and 9
Ms GAGO	Chef de cabinet to Mr ANDOR	Items 1 to 8 (in part)

Secretary: Ms DAY, Secretary-General, assisted by Mr GENISSON, Head of Unit in the Secretariat-General.

1. AGENDAS
(OJ(2011)1946/3; SEC(2011)118/2)

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)1946)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 31 January.

3. MINUTES OF 1945TH MEETING (26 JANUARY)
(PV(2011)1945)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 1945th meeting.

4. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

4.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED (SEC(2011)120 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 24 and 28 January.

4.2. EMPOWERMENT (SEC(2011)121 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 24 and 28 January.

4.3. DELEGATION AND SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS (SEC(2011)122 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedure between 24 and 28 January, as archived in e-Greffe.

4.4. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES (SEC(2011)123)

The Commission took note of the sensitive written procedures for which the time limit expired between 31 January and 4 February.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS (SEC(2011)119/2)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
(PERS(2011)18/2)

5.1. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – AMENDMENT OF CONTRACTS OF TWO SPECIAL ADVISERS

On a proposal from Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr HAHN, the Commission decided to authorise the Director-General of DG Human Resources and Security to amend the contracts of Mr Fabrizio BARCA and Mr Philip McCANN, special advisers to Mr HAHN.

This decision would take effect immediately.

5.2. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – DEROGATION FROM A COMMISSION DECISION ON MIDDLE MANAGEMENT STAFF

The Commission took note of the information at point 2 of PERS(2011)18/2 and decided, by way of derogation from Article 7(1) of Commission Decision C(2008)5028 on middle management staff, that officials who do not occupy or have not occupied a middle management post may be transferred in the interest of the service to AD9/14 head of unit posts, provided that they have passed a middle-management competition and have been appointed to a deputy head of unit, adviser or head of sector post in the Commission on the basis of that competition.

This decision would take effect immediately and apply until 31 December 2012.

5.3. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL – ACTIVITIES OF A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION AFTER LEAVING OFFICE (SEC(2011)157)

The Commission approved the communication in SEC(2011)157 concerning the activities planned by Ms KUNEVA 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.

5.4. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL – ACTIVITIES OF A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION AFTER LEAVING OFFICE (SEC(2011)158)

The Commission approved the communication in SEC(2011)158 concerning the activities planned by Mr VERHEUGEN 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, subject to the conditions specified in the communication.

5.5. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – REPORT ON THE 2004 ENLARGEMENT AND COMMISSION RECRUITMENTS (SEC(2011)144)

The Commission took note of the report circulated as SEC(2011)144.

6. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – TACKLING THE CHALLENGES IN COMMODITY MARKETS AND ON RAW MATERIALS
(COM(2011)25 TO /5; SEC(2011)117; SEC(2011)138)

The Commission approved the communication in COM(2011)25/5 for transmission to Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, and, for information, to the national parliaments.

7. PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ON THE USE OF PASSENGER NAME RECORD DATA FOR THE PREVENTION, DETECTION, INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF TERRORIST OFFENCES AND SERIOUS CRIME
(COM(2011)32 TO /4; SEC(2011)132; SEC(2011)133; SEC(2011)134; SEC(2011)135)

The Commission adopted the proposal for a Directive in COM(2011)32/4 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions, the European Data Protection Supervisor, and to the national parliaments, accompanied by the impact assessment and the summary thereof in staff working papers SEC(2011)132 and SEC(2011)133, the contents of which were noted.

It also took note of the opinion of the Impact Assessment Board on the above proposal for a Directive, as set out in SEC(2011)134.

8. RELATIONS WITH NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES

LATEST FOREIGN POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

Baroness ASHTON described the situation unfolding in Egypt, referring to the huge numbers taking part in the demonstrations in the capital and in other towns to bring about regime change, and also to the government's attitude and the role played by the different institutions and political forces there. She pointed to the uncertainty surrounding the course the protest movements would take, the emergence of a coalition and the form taken by the political transition. Referring to the content of the conclusions of the Foreign Affairs Council of 31 January, she reminded the meeting of the European Union's support for the introduction of a democratic process as soon as possible. The EU must now take stock of the means at its disposal to accompany Egypt on the path to change and to underpin the necessary political, economic and social reforms. It must also examine the possibility of adapting its cooperation, which already contains a pillar focusing on democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

In the case of Tunisia, Baroness ASHTON welcomed the positive development in the political situation, saying that she was delighted to be meeting that very day the new Tunisian Minister of Foreign Affairs on his first visit outside his country, which signalled the frontline role attributed to the EU in terms of supporting the democratic transition process. Recalling the trade talks held, she emphasised the fact that the EU was being offered an opportunity to strengthen its partnership with Tunisia and to reassert democratic principles and the need for economic and social reforms. She intended to raise the question of support for Tunisia before the United Nations Security Council, where she would be speaking the following week, and during a visit she would be making very shortly to Tunisia and the region, and also at a meeting of the Middle East Quartet which she would be attending in Munich on 5 February.

Baroness ASHTON also briefly outlined the effects which the situation in Egypt and Tunisia was having on certain neighbouring countries, particularly Jordan, Syria and Israel.

Mr REHN referred to the economic impact of the current situation in Tunisia and Egypt, saying that this was, for the moment, confined to the region but that it was difficult to predict how this would pan out in future. The volatile political situation and the uncertainty it was generating in the Middle East was having the effect of raising oil prices, a trend that could undermine world economic recovery and which should therefore be monitored closely, given the inflationary pressures. A combination of factors such as the current political events and increases in oil prices could prove to be risky: recent history had shown that this could lead to sharp recessionary phases.

The Commission then held a discussion during which the following aspects were discussed:

- the political forces in Egypt; questions about potential future developments;
- the number of countries affected by protest movements and the case for a common approach at European level combining economic cooperation, development aid and support for reform;
- the important signal conveyed by the visit of the new Tunisian Minister of Foreign Affairs to Baroness ASHTON;
- as regards the economic side, the negative role played by the credit rating agencies in the Tunisian political situation and the importance, therefore, of the current work relating to the activities of these agencies with a view to ensuring greater transparency;
- the need, now that the common tool consisting of the European External Action Service was in place, to consider redefining the neighbourhood policy to take account of the potential instability of the Mediterranean region; in this respect, the value of considering support at regional level rather than just national level;
- the importance of looking at all the support instruments which could be implemented in practice in the short and medium terms;

- the need to anticipate the consequences of a potentially significant increase in oil prices;
- the fact that there was an increased risk of immigration from the countries concerned, and the urgent need to devise a practical, coordinated approach to deal with these new circumstances;
- the role of youth unemployment in triggering the protest movements in several countries and the need to bring about effective economic reforms that offer real prospects to people, in particular this large section of the population;
- some puzzlement about the separate joint statement on the situation in Egypt issued by three Member States at the weekend, and the consequences that such an initiative had on the credibility of the EU as an international player.

Baroness ASHTON replied to the various comments, pointing out that, although some people appeared to be speaking on behalf of the opposition to the current government, no political coalition had emerged so far in Egypt, where the climate could deteriorate. In the meantime, the EU must continue to monitor developments closely. In the case of Tunisia, however, she felt that the EU could already take action, for instance by sending a mission to the country and deploying the instruments available to it to make it clear on the ground what it could do in terms of practical assistance for the country.

Baroness ASHTON reported on the debate she had started in cooperation with Mr FÜLE on the neighbourhood policy, which stressed the need for a different approach to each country. She felt that the opportunity offered by this situation should be seized in order to strengthen coordination and cooperation on a more solid and more visible neighbourhood policy.

The PRESIDENT underlined the need for a coordinated approach by the EU to the situation in Egypt. Given its exceptional nature, he felt that a Commission statement should be published that was in line with the position expressed by Baroness ASHTON. He handed out a draft statement during the meeting, which was approved by the Commission following a brief discussion.

He considered that it was important to review the neighbourhood policy in cooperation with Mr FÜLE. A policy debate would be held on this before April.

The Commission took note of this information and conclusions.

9. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS (SEC(2011)127)

The Commission took note of the report, set out in SEC(2011)127, of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group held on Friday 28 January 2011.

It focused on the following points in particular.

9.1. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

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

Preparation of agreement at first reading

– Application of certain guidelines in the field of officially supported export credits (Decision) – JADOT report – 2006/0167 (COD)

The Commission authorised Mr DE GUCHT to pursue contacts with Parliament and the Council in order to reach agreement at first reading following the line set out in SPI(2011)5/2.

ii) Preparation for the February I 2011 part-session of Parliament
(point 1.3 of the IRG record)

Ordinary legislative procedure – Codecision – 2nd reading

– Amendment of Regulation (EC) 1905/2006 establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation (Regulation) – GOERENS report – 2010/0059(COD)

– Amendment of Regulation (EC) 1905/2006 establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation and amendment of Regulation (EC) 1889/2006 on establishing a financing instrument for the promotion of democracy and human rights worldwide (Regulation) – LOCHBIHLER/GAL report – 2009/0060B (COD)

– Amendment of Regulation (EC) 1905/2006 establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation and amendment of Regulation (EC) 1889/2006 on establishing a financing instrument for the promotion of democracy and human rights worldwide (Regulation) – MITCHELL report – 2009/0060 (COD)

– Amendment of Regulation (EC) 1934/2006 establishing a financing instrument for cooperation with industrialised and other high-income countries and territories (Council Regulation) – SCHOLZ report – 2009/0059 (COD)

The Commission approved the lines set out in SP(2011)585 and /2, SP(2011)587 and /2, SP(2011)588 and /2 and SP(2011)590 and /2 respectively.

Empowerment

– Amendment of Regulation (EC) 1905/2006 establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation (Regulation) – GOERENS report – 2010/0059 (COD)

– Amendment of Regulation (EC) 1905/2006 establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation and amendment of Regulation (EC) 1889/2006 on establishing a financing instrument for the promotion of democracy and human rights worldwide (Regulation) – LOCHBIHLER/GAL report – 2009/0060B (COD)

– Amendment of Regulation (EC) 1905/2006 establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation and amendment of Regulation

(EC) 1889/2006 on establishing a financing instrument for the promotion of democracy and human rights worldwide (Regulation) – MITCHELL report – 2009/0060A (COD)

– Amendment of Regulation (EC) 1934/2006 establishing a financing instrument for cooperation with industrialised and other high-income countries and territories (Council Regulation) – SCHOLZ report – 2009/0059 (COD)

The Commission empowered Baroness ASHTON and Mr PIEBALGS, 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 opinions 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 opinions amended proposals, on the basis of the lines set out in SP(2011)585 and /2, SP(2011)587 and /2, SP(2011)588 and /2 and SP(2011)590 and /2 respectively.

<u>Ordinary legislative procedure – Codecision – 1st reading</u>

– Waste electrical and electronic equipment (Directive – recast) – FLORENZ report – 2008/0241 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2011)591 and /2.

<u>Ordinary legislative procedure – Codecision – 1st reading / Non-legislative procedure (NLE)</u>

– Repeal of Council Regulation (EC) 1964/2005 on the tariff rates for bananas (Regulation) / Conclusion of a General Agreement on Trade in Bananas between the European Union and Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru and Venezuela and of an Agreement on Trade in Bananas between the European Union and the United States and signature and provisional application of a General Agreement on Trade in Bananas between the

European Union and Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru and Venezuela and of an Agreement on Trade in Bananas between the European Union and the United States (Council Decision) – BALZANI reports – 2010/0056 (COD) / 2010/0057 (NLE)

The Commission approved the line set out in SPI(2010)592.

9.2. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL

iii) Programming of Council business
(SI(2011)19)

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2011)19 on the Council meetings between Thursday 3 and Wednesday 16 February.

iv) Preparation for European Council (Brussels, 4 February)
(point 2.2.5 of the IRG record)

The PRESIDENT pointed out that the European Council was being held at a time when, although the direct pressure on the euro area had lessened, it seemed essential to send a clear signal that the European Union was able to put in place a global solution to the problem of debt and thereby emerge stronger from the crisis.

Turning to the points on the European Council agenda, he spoke first of the economic situation. The annual growth survey, recently approved by the Commission, provided a precise framework setting out a global response to the crisis, even if it appeared that the time for decision-making had not yet come and the priority was therefore to ensure that this annual survey was better known and understood.

He was convinced of the value of this survey in getting the governments of the Member States to address the question of the economic situation at the European Council. In this respect, he referred to the discussion that had taken place at a Commission meeting on the need to make firm progress in providing the global response that Europe needed to tackle the crisis. He had addressed a letter on this subject, a copy of which had been sent to each of the Commissioners, to all the Heads of State or Government of the Member States before the European Council.

The European Council meeting on 4 February was an opportunity for taking stock of the progress made and the measures still to be taken. The PRESIDENT stressed once again that the annual growth survey was the appropriate framework for these measures, while recognising that, for reasons specific to each Member State, the European Council debates might lead to a somewhat different formulation of certain ideas put forward by the Commission.

The launch of the European semester represented an important step forward since it provided coordination upstream of the Member States' budgetary processes and other economic policies, for example through structural reform and targets aimed at competitiveness and correcting macroeconomic imbalances. He considered that the Commission's legislative proposals for improving economic governance would provide the right tools for making this coordination a reality. Referring to the discussions currently under way on the technical aspects of the future European Financial Stability Facility, he said that the European Council should also consider how to make the European Financial Stabilisation Fund (EFSF) more efficient. However, in his view the time had not yet come for taking final concrete decisions on any of these issues.

The PRESIDENT then referred to various suggestions which had been made for improving economic coordination within the euro area and which entailed introducing working methods and institutional arrangements that were specific to the euro zone. He regarded this as inappropriate and risky on several grounds.

He stressed that strengthening economic coordination was not a matter for the euro area alone, but applied to all, or almost all, Member States. It was therefore important that progress should be made as a group of 27, given that the foundations for future balanced growth in the euro zone for the next ten years were being laid today, even if the obstacles to progress in some areas, for example on the company tax base, did come from within the euro area.

In his view, there was nothing in the measures that might be taken for the euro area that was not authorised by the current treaties. On questions such as the tax rate or the retirement age, where the European Union had little or no legislative competence, the instruments of Article 136 of the Treaty could be used as grounds for coordinating economic policy. Moreover, if a legislative response proved necessary, there was always the possibility of proposing enhanced cooperation, if it was not possible to secure the Member States' unanimous agreement.

There was no guarantee that the financial markets would be more reassured by separate initiatives of this sort than by more broad-based action by all of the Member States together. Indeed the opposite might be true, quite apart from the fact that such a debate would be likely to divert time and energy from the real work that was needed to promote growth and employment.

He therefore stressed the need for the European Council to concentrate on what was important and what would help to liberate Europe's full potential for growth, starting with innovation and energy. He would be reiterating the importance of the Community method and the need for the Member States firstly to trust the European institutions to achieve results and secondly to avoid creating divisions and additional levels of action in what was already a highly complex system of governance.

The PRESIDENT then said that the European Council should ensure that tangible results were achieved in innovation and energy, two sectors which now more than ever lay at the heart of Europe's economic future. The Commission had thoroughly prepared the debate on these two issues; he would be giving an introduction on energy at the request of the President of the European Council.

He noted that the current draft conclusions of the European Council, although of course still subject to change, clearly reflected the main ideas of the Commission's flagship initiative on innovation.

For example, they included the key elements which were the need to maintain or increase funding for research and development and innovation, improving the conditions that foster innovation, a strategy on intellectual property that provides affordable protection and a system of managing rights fit for the digital era, pooling national and European resources and efforts to promote excellence and, finally, a common strategic framework for funding research and innovation and rapid reform of the Financial Regulation so that simpler rules could be applied from 2012 onwards.

Turning to energy, the PRESIDENT said he would be calling on the Heads of State and Government to enter into clear commitments to ensure secure, sustainable energy supplies for Europe at an affordable price. The priorities here were those set out by the Commission in its communications on the Europe 2020 energy strategy and on infrastructure and aimed to achieve a fully integrated internal energy market by 2014, to end the isolation of certain Member States in terms of energy supply by 2015, to secure the means that would enable the Union to achieve its energy efficiency targets by 2020 and, finally, to devise a more coordinated approach to energy questions on the external front.

He had invited the prime ministers of the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania to the Commission's headquarters on Thursday evening, on the eve of the European Council, for the official launch of the creation of the Nord-South energy corridor. In this connection he also mentioned his recent visit to the Caspian Sea region, in the course of which major statements on the Southern gas corridor had been signed with the President of Azerbaijan. He believed the European Union could deliver added value for its citizens by creating a single platform for negotiations with third country partners.

The PRESIDENT concluded by highlighting the work that still had to be done on Friday and saying that the conclusions of the European Council should mark a clear and firm step towards the decisions on Europe's global response to the crisis that were due to be taken at its meeting in March.

Mr REHN communicated the latest economic figures which showed that the recovery was becoming increasingly solid and sustainable, while unemployment had stabilised within the EU. Although the situation was improving on the financial markets, the sovereign debt markets were still under some strain. It was therefore important to remain vigilant and for the European Union to take firm steps to respond to the crisis.

He stressed the importance of maintaining the dynamic in view of the responses to be adopted at the European Council in March. With this in mind, and given the different approaches envisaged in certain Member States, it was important that in addition to preparing the policy side of these responses, the Commission paid careful attention to communicating the significance of the European semester and strengthening coordination of economic policies.

The Commission then held a discussion in which the following points were highlighted:

– the importance of striving for global solutions to the crisis, with a view to the March European Council, and of promoting a 27 Member State approach through the coordination of economic policies but also of other EU policies such as the single market and the cohesion policy; the need to press ahead firmly with the process of adopting legislative proposals on economic governance and the establishment of a permanent financial stability mechanism;

– the importance of keeping a close eye on the unemployment figures, given the sharp disparities which still existed between the Member States;

– the support given by the General Affairs Council during its meeting on 31 January to the implementation of long-term strategies such as those proposed for energy and innovation;

– the need to continue to remove obstacles to the mobilisation of venture capital, particularly in the area of taxation.

The PRESIDENT said that although there were positive signs, they should be wary of possible setbacks. He welcomed the Member States' apparent willingness to commit themselves firmly to competitiveness and coordination in Europe, exactly as recommended by the Commission in the annual growth survey. However, he reiterated the importance of pursuing a joint approach which did not undermine the credibility of the European institutions and framework and urged the Members of the Commission actively to articulate the message of cohesion and coherence of EU action, adding that such action must be both ambitious and realistic.

The Commission took note of this information.

v) Preparation for COREPER meeting (2 February)
(point 2.2.5 of the IRG record)

– Enhanced cooperation in the area of the creation of unitary patent protection (Council Decision) – LEHNE report – 2010/0384 (NLE)

The Commission took note of note SI(2011)20.

9.3. RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT

vi) Preparation for the February I part-session of Parliament – non-legislative matters
(point 3.1 of the IRG record)

– Oral question O-0013/2011 – Geneva Agreement on Trade in Bananas

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2011)592.

– Oral question O-0203/2010 – Tuberculosis Vaccine Initiative (TBVI) – practical implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy with a view to meeting one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG 6) by 2015

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2011)595/2.

vii) Action taken on legislative opinions and non-legislative resolutions adopted by Parliament at its November I and II part-sessions
(point 3.5.3 of the IRG record)

The Commission approved document SP(2011)610 on the action taken on the legislative opinions and non-legislative resolutions adopted by Parliament at its November I and II part-sessions, for transmission to Parliament.

viii) Presence of Members of the Commission at Question Time during Parliament's part-sessions in Strasbourg in 2011
(point 3.6 of the IRG record)

The Commission approved document SP(2011)685 setting out the list of Commission Members to be present at Question Time during Parliament's part-sessions in Strasbourg in 2011, for transmission to Parliament.

It was also noted that SP(2011)685 cancelled and replaced SP(2010)7957/3, which had been approved by the Commission at its meeting on 1 December 2010.

9.4. RELATIONS WITH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE, THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS, THE EUROPEAN OMBUDSMAN AND NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS

ix) Meeting attended by Mr LEWANDOWSKI at the House of Lords (London, 8 February)
(point 4.3 of the IRG record)

The Commission approved the Commission's draft reply to the questions put by the House of Lords, as set out in SP(2011)675.

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The meeting closed at 10.55.