



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2012) 2027 final

Brussels, 9 January 2013

MINUTES

**of the 2027th meeting of the Commission
held in Strasbourg
(Winston Churchill building)
on Wednesday 12 December 2012
(afternoon)**

PV(2012) 2027 final

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Single sitting: Wednesday 12 December 2012 (afternoon)

The sitting opened at 13.10 with Mr BARROSO, President, in the chair.

Present:

Mr BARROSO	President	
Ms REDING	Vice-President	
Mr ALMUNIA	Vice-President	
Ms KROES	Vice-President	
Mr TAJANI	Vice-President	Items 13 (in part) and 14
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Vice-President	Items 1 to 13 (in part)
Mr POTOČNIK	Member	
Mr ŠEMETA	Member	
Ms DAMANAKI	Member	
Ms GEORGIEVA	Member	
Mr HAHN	Member	
Ms HEDEGAARD	Member	
Mr FÜLE	Member	Items 1 to 14 (in part)
Mr ANDOR	Member	
Ms MALMSTRÖM	Member	
Mr CIOLOŞ	Member	
Mr BORG	Member	

Absent:

Baroness ASHTON	High Representative/ Vice-President
Mr KALLAS	Vice-President
Mr REHN	Vice-President
Mr PIEBALGS	Member
Mr BARNIER	Member
Ms VASSILIOU	Member
Mr DE GUCHT	Member
Ms GEOGHEGAN-QUINN	Member
Mr LEWANDOWSKI	Member
Mr OETTINGER	Member

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

Mr PARISOT	A member of Baroness ASHTON's staff	
Mr LAHTI	Adviser in Mr REHN's office	Items 13 (in part) and 14
Mr ROSA	A member of Mr PIEBALGS's staff	
Mr RIEKELES	A member of Mr BARNIER's staff	Items 1 to 14 (in part)
Mr HILL	A member of Ms VASSILIOU's staff	
Ms PERESSO	A member of Mr DE GUCHT's staff	Items 1 to 13
Mr HARMON	A member of Ms GEOGHEGAN-QUINN's staff	

The following also sat in:

Mr LAITENBERGER	Chef de cabinet to the PRESIDENT	
Mr ROMERO REQUENA	Director-General, Legal Service	
Mr VANDERSTEEN	Deputy Director-General (acting), DG Communication	
Ms AHRENKILDE HANSEN	Commission Spokeswoman	
Mr SCHINAS	Bureau of European Policy Advisers	
Mr SOBRAL	Deputy Chef de cabinet to the PRESIDENT	Items 13 (in part) and 14

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

1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2012) 2027/FINAL; SEC(2012) 685/2)

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

2. WEEKLY MEETING OF CHEFS DE CABINET

(RCC(2012) 2027)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Friday 7 December.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2025TH MEETING OF THE COMMISSION (28 NOVEMBER) AND THE MINUTES OF THE 2026TH MEETING (5 DECEMBER)

(PV(2012) 2025)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 2025th meeting and decided to hold over for one week approval of the minutes of its 2026th meeting.

4. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

4.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED (SEC(2012) 686 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 3 and 7 December.

4.2. EMPOWERMENT (SEC(2012) 687 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 3 and 7 December.

4.3. DELEGATION AND SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS (SEC(2012) 688 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedure between 3 and 7 December, as archived in e-Greffe.

4.4. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES (SEC(2012) 689)

The Commission took note of the sensitive written procedures for which the time limit expired between 10 and 14 December.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS
(SEC(2012) 690)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
(PERS(2012) 123)

**5.1. DG EDUCATION AND CULTURE – TERMINATION OF SELECTION
PROCEDURE FOR AN AD14/15 DIRECTOR AND APPOINTMENT OF
AD14/15 DIRECTOR**
(PERS(2012) 96 TO /4)

On a proposal from Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Ms VASSILIOU, the Commission decided:

- to terminate the internal selection procedure COM/2012/1834 for the post of Director, ‘Culture and Media’, in DG Education and Culture, without making an appointment; this decision would take effect immediately;
- to fill that post by transferring in the interest of the service under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations, Mr Michel MAGNIER, an AD15 official and currently Director, ‘HR Core Processes 1: Career’, in DG Human Resources and Security; this decision would take effect on 16 January 2013.

**5.2. DG EDUCATION AND CULTURE – TERMINATION OF SELECTION
PROCEDURE FOR AN AD14/15 DIRECTOR AND APPOINTMENT OF
AD14/15 DIRECTOR**
(PERS(2012) 95)

On a proposal from Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Ms VASSILIOU, the Commission decided:

- to terminate the internal selection procedure COM/2012/1833 for the post

of Director, 'Resources', in DG Education and Culture, without making an appointment; this decision would take effect immediately;

- to fill that post by transferring in the interest of the service under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations, Mr Arturo CABALLERO BASSEDAS, an AD15 official and currently Director, 'Resources and Logistics', in DG Informatics; this decision would take effect on a date to be determined.

5.3. *DG INTERNAL MARKET AND SERVICES – TEMPORARY POSTING AS DIRECTOR*

On a proposal from Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr BARNIER, the Commission decided, under Article 7(2) of the Staff Regulations, to grant a temporary posting as Director, 'Intellectual Property', in DG Internal Market and Services from 1 April to 15 December 2012 to Ms Kerstin JORNA, an AD13 official and, at that time, head of unit in the same DG.

This decision would take effect immediately.

5.4. *SECRETARIAT GENERAL – APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC ETHICS COMMITTEE SET UP BY COMMISSION DECISION C(2003) 3750 OF 21 OCTOBER 2003 (C(2012) 9343)*

The Commission adopted the decision in C(2012) 9343.

6. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – EU REGULATORY FITNESS

(COM(2012) 746 TO /3; SWD(2012) 422 AND /2; SWD(2012) 423 TO /3; RCC(2012) 131)

The Commission approved the Communication in COM(2012) 746/3, for transmission to Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, and, for information, to the national parliaments, together with the staff working documents distributed as SWD(2012) 422/2 and SWD(2012) 423/3, the contents of which were noted.

7. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) 1346/2000 ON INSOLVENCY PROCEEDINGS

(C(2012) 744/2); SWD(2012) 416; SWD(2012) 417; SEC(2012) 692; RCC(2012) 130)

The Commission adopted the proposal for a Regulation in COM(2012) 744/2, for transmission to Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee, the European Central Bank, the European Data Protection Supervisor and, for information, to the national parliaments, together with the impact assessment and the summary thereof in staff working documents SWD(2012) 416 and SWD(2012) 417, the contents of which were noted.

It also took note of the opinion of the Impact Assessment Board on the above proposal for a Regulation, as set out in SEC(2012) 692.

8. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE – A NEW EUROPEAN APPROACH TO BUSINESS FAILURE AND INSOLVENCY

(COM(2012) 742; RCC(2012) 130)

The Commission approved the Communication in COM(2012) 742, for transmission to Parliament, the Council and the Economic and Social Committee, and, for information, to the national parliaments.

9. REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE ON THE APPLICATION OF COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) 1346/2000 ON INSOLVENCY PROCEEDINGS

(COM(2012) 743; RCC(2012) 130)

The Commission approved the report in COM(2012) 743, for transmission to Parliament, the Council and the Economic and Social Committee, and, for information, to the national parliaments.

10. COMMISSION DECISION CONCERNING A PROCEEDING UNDER COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) 139/2004 ON THE CONTROL OF CONCENTRATIONS BETWEEN UNDERTAKINGS AND ARTICLE 57 OF THE EEA AGREEMENT (CASE COMP/M.6497 – HUTCHINSON 3G AUSTRIA / ORANGE AUSTRIA)

(C(2012) 9198 TO /4)

The Commission:

- took note of the opinion of the Advisory Committee on Concentrations of 27 November in C(2012) 9198/3;

- took note of the final report of the Hearing Officer of 29 November in C(2012) 9198/4;
- adopted, in the authentic language (English), the decision in C(2012) 9198, declaring the notified operation compatible with the internal market and with operation of the Agreement on the European Economic Area, subject to full compliance with the commitments made by the company concerned;
- decided to notify the decision set out in C(2012) 9198 to the company concerned, together with the final report of the Hearing Officer and the opinion of the Advisory Committee on Concentrations;
- decided that the key parts of the decision, together with the Advisory Committee's opinion and the Hearing Officer's final report, would be published in the official languages of the Union in the *Official Journal of the European Union* (with business secrets and other confidential information removed);
- decided also to publish the decision on the internet (with business secrets and other confidential information removed).

11. COMMISSION DECISION ON A PROCEEDING UNDER ARTICLE 101 OF THE TREATY ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ARTICLE 57 OF THE EEA AGREEMENT (CASE COMP/39847 – E-BOOKS) (C(2012) 9288 TO /7)

The Commission:

- took note of the opinion of the Advisory Committee on Restrictive Practices and Dominant Positions of 27 November in C(2012) 9288/3;
- took note of the final report of the Hearing Officer of 27 November in C(2012) 9288/4;

- adopted, in the authentic language (English), the decision in C(2012) 9288 finding that there was no need to act in the case in question, subject to compliance with the commitments made by the companies concerned;
- decided to notify the decision in C(2012) 9288/6 and /7 to the companies concerned, together with the final report of the Hearing Officer;
- decided to empower the Member of the Commission responsible for competition, to adopt, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, the necessary decisions to ensure that the companies concerned complied with the commitments forming part of the decision;
- decided that the key parts of the decision, together with the Advisory Committee's opinion and the Hearing Officer's final report, would be published in the official languages of the Union in the *Official Journal of the European Union* (with business secrets and other confidential information removed);
- decided also to publish the decision on the internet (with business secrets and other confidential information removed).

12. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – ACTION PLAN: EUROPEAN COMPANY LAW AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE – A MODERN LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR MORE ENGAGED SHAREHOLDERS AND SUSTAINABLE COMPANIES (COM(2012) 740 AND /2; RCC(2012) 127)

The Commission approved the Communication in COM(2012) 740/2, for transmission to Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, and, for information, to the European Data Protection Supervisor and the national parliaments.

13. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS (RCC(2012) 128)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group held on Thursday 6 December (RCC(2012) 128).

It paid particular attention to the following points.

13.1. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

i) Ordinary legislative procedure

(point 1.2 of the IRG record)

Dossiers at Parliament first reading

- Amendment of Council Regulation (EC) 539/2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement (Regulation) – DÍAZ DE MERA GARCÍA-CONSUEGRA report – 2011/0138 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2012) 576/2.

- Accounting rules and action plans on greenhouse gas emissions and removals resulting from activities related to land use, land use change and forestry (Decision) – ARSENIS report – 2012/0042 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2012) 566/2 and /3.

- Conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of seasonal employment (Directive) – MORAES report – 2010/0210 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2012) 571/3.

- European venture capital funds (Regulation) / Social entrepreneurship

funds (Regulation) – LAMBERTS / AUCONIE reports – 2011/0417 (COD) / 2011/0418 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2012) 578.

- Conferring on the European Central Bank of specific tasks concerning policies relating to the prudential supervision of credit institutions (Council Regulation) / Amendment of Regulation (EU) 1093/2010 establishing a European Supervisory Authority (European Banking Authority) as regards its interaction with Council Regulation (EU) .../... conferring specific tasks on the European Central Bank concerning policies relating to the prudential supervision of credit institutions (Regulation) – THYSSEN / GIEGOLD reports – 2012/0242 (CNS) / 2012/0244 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2012) 526/5.

Dossier at Council first reading

- Customs enforcement of intellectual property rights (Regulation) – CREUTZMANN report – 2011/0137 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2012) 570.

ii) Preparations for Parliament's December part-session
(point 1.3 of the IRG record)

Ordinary legislative procedure – First reading / Special legislative procedure

- Patent package – Enhanced cooperation in the area of the creation of unitary patent protection (Regulation) – RAPKAY report – 2011/0093 (COD) / Enhanced cooperation in the area of the creation of unitary patent protection with regard to the applicable translation arrangements (Council Regulation) – BALDASSARRE report – 2011/0094 (CNS) / Jurisdictional system for patent disputes (Parliament resolution) – LEHNE report – 2011/2176 (INI)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2012) 830/2, further to document SP(2012) 830, of which it had taken note on 5 December, and to note SI(2012) 503, which it had already approved on 20 November.

Ordinary legislative procedure – First reading

- European statistics on safety from crime (Regulation) – KIRKHOPE report - 2011/0416 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2012) 828 and /2.

13.2. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL

iii) Programming of Council business

(SI(2012) 583)

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2012) 583 on the European Council and Council meetings between 12 and 21 December.

iv) Preparations for the European Council (Brussels, 13 and 14 December)

Referring to the preparations for the European Council of 13 and 14 December, the PRESIDENT began by considering the interinstitutional context to the summit, notably the agreement reached on the general budget of the European Union for 2013 and on amending budget N° 6 to the general budget for 2012, while expressing the fear that postponing the conclusion of the negotiations on the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework to the beginning of 2013 would have a negative effect on the goals of this European Council. As regards the general political and economic context in the Union, he referred to the political developments in Italy and pointed out that the financial markets were still highly sensitive to the risks relating to the sovereign debt of certain Member States, the risk of contagion within the euro area and the structural reforms under way in some euro-area countries.

As regards the results hoped for from this European Council, he stressed above all the importance of reaching agreements and indeed of adopting convincing measures that could have short-term effects and create the right conditions for implementing a political vision in the longer term.

Among these measures, he cited in particular the single supervisory mechanism for the banking sector, which was essential to establishing a banking union and was a necessary preliminary to using the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) in order to proceed to direct bank recapitalisation. He explained that given the progress made in the last few days, this dossier seemed to be on track, provided there was the political will to define a global approach to the last issues to be negotiated, namely governance, the distribution of tasks between the European Central Bank and the national supervisory authorities, the arrangements for voting within the European Banking Authority and the gradual implementation of the mechanism.

The PRESIDENT turned next to the two-pack economic governance measures, on which final agreement had not yet been reached. The main reason for this was the stance taken by certain political groups in the European Parliament whose vote was conditional on a prior commitment by the Commission to immediately submit a proposal on the creation of a European debt redemption fund. He had indicated clearly that it was not possible to do so on the basis of the existing Treaties, as the Commission had emphasised unequivocally in the Blueprint for a Deep and Genuine Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), a project that combined considerable ambition with skilfully-defined stages for achieving it.

With regard to the deepening of the EMU, he hoped that the European Council would reach agreement, at least, on a credible roadmap for the work ahead. However, he was concerned that the Member States did not seem to feel clearly the need for action, which might make them reluctant to undertake specific commitments.

In any case, the PRESIDENT pointed out the significant convergence between the documents to be used for the discussions of the Heads of State or Government, namely the Commission blueprint and the roadmap submitted by the President of the European Council, Mr Van Rompuy. He noted in particular the convergence of the positions concerning the next stage of the banking union, which should enable agreement to be reached on the main points at the beginning of 2013, and reminded the meeting of the Commission's intention, once the single supervisory mechanism had been adopted, of introducing a proposal to introduce a single bank resolution mechanism that would finally put an end to the link between sovereign debt and the banking sector.

Since achieving such an ambition would require the introduction of increasingly integrated frameworks for budgetary and economic governance and of reinforced solidarity mechanisms, the PRESIDENT stressed that he would make a strong case at the European Council for the convergence and competitiveness instrument proposed in the blueprint. In the Commission's view, this instrument should be linked to the macroeconomic imbalance procedure. He defended the idea of setting up obligatory contractual arrangements for the euro-area Member States affected by a procedure to correct imbalances, and voluntary arrangements for States that came under the preventive arm of the procedure. More generally, he developed the argument whereby any financial support must be accompanied by such arrangements in order to guarantee the practical effectiveness of the incentives for reform.

In conclusion, the PRESIDENT would encourage the European Council to keep in its final conclusions the principle of a reasonably ambitious political project in the medium and long term, which would combine responsibility and solidarity, and to decide on a credible course of action for the future.

With regard to the other matters on the agenda for the European Council, he welcomed the broad consensus that was emerging on the measures on growth advocated in the annual growth survey submitted by the Commission, initiating the new European Semester for the coordination of economic

policies. He also referred to the positive reception of the Commission's proposals concerning the single market and youth employment.

He referred, too, to the Communication approved that day by the Commission on smart regulation (see item 6 of these minutes). He was prepared to bring this matter up, if possible, with the Heads of State or Government, given the impact that a lightening of regulation at European and national level would have on individuals and companies in the EU affected by the economic crisis.

The European Council intended to hold a discussion on European security and defence policy. While acknowledging that the challenge of a new form of defence cooperation during these times of budgetary constraints was a matter for the Member States above all, the PRESIDENT considered that the Commission could make a contribution by creating general conditions to ensure a sound, competitive and innovative industrial basis in the defence sector. He would therefore inform the European Council of the work the Commission had carried out in this domain which would be used as a basis for drafting a global strategy to be submitted to the Commissioners in 2013 with a view to drawing up a communication to be presented at the European Council meeting in December 2013.

The PRESIDENT ended his presentation by asking Mr ŠEFČOVIČ to report on the conclusions of the General Affairs Council meeting of 11 December, and by inviting Mr FÜLE to report more specifically on the conclusions relating to enlargement and the stabilisation and association process.

Mr ŠEFČOVIČ referred in particular to the talks held at the General Affairs Council meeting about the draft conclusions for the next European Council, which was to focus on possible initial steps to be taken to achieve fiscal capacity for the EMU, and which would take the form of contractual measures between the euro-area Member States and the European institutions covering the structural reforms the former agreed to implement. The Council had also broached the question of the annual growth survey and whether it would be

useful to involve the European Parliament and the national parliaments more closely in this exercise.

Several Member States had underlined the importance of cutting red tape and the need for concrete measures in this area at both European and national levels. Referring to the Communication on “EU regulatory fitness” which the Commission had adopted that day (see point 6 of these minutes), he emphasised the shared responsibility of the European institutions and Member States in making simplification efforts and the importance, for the Commission, of having a scoreboard to gauge the actual progress made in this policy.

Mr FÜLE reported on the discussions on enlargement held at the General Affairs Council. He said that he was satisfied with the conclusions, which would maintain the momentum of a concrete, credible process. Referring briefly to the progress in the negotiations with Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, he said that it was possible that a Stabilisation and Association Agreement would be signed with Kosovo.

Following these presentations, a brief discussion was held during which the following points in particular emerged:

- the need for the Member States to reach agreement on the single supervisory mechanism for the banking sector, the first step in breaking the vicious circle connecting sovereign debt and the financial sector;
- given the economic projections, prospects of weak growth and adverse effects of the current economic stagnation, questions about the European Council’s ability to tackle certain issues pragmatically which would have to be solved as soon as possible in order to restore the confidence of citizens and markets, and to implement the strategies identified at the European Council of June 2012, regardless of the election timetables of the Member States;
- questions as to the ambitious nature of the roadmap presented by the

European Council President compared with the Commission's blueprint;

- as regards the single supervisory mechanism for the banking sector, satisfaction was expressed with the solution proposed by the Commission for the relationship between home country and host country supervisory authorities in the case of crossborder groups;
- several comments about a future Commission measure on industrial policy in the defence sector;
- the question whether the Commission should raise the proposal on a financial transactions tax at the European Council in order to complete the procedure to allow closer cooperation in this domain.

The PRESIDENT replied to the above comments and questions, pointing out that the key objective consistently pursued by the Commission was to table sound, well-structured and ambitious proposals in order to stimulate growth by creating the conditions for its resumption, and to recommend structural reforms in Member States to enhance their competitiveness and promote investment at European level by means of the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework. It was now for the Member States to do their share and decide how they intended to follow up the Commission's proposals.

Coming back to the governance measures set out in the two-pack, the PRESIDENT repeated that they were essential preconditions for better integration and greater solidarity in the euro area. In relation to the blueprint presented by the Commission, he emphasised that the aim was to propose a global approach and structure to deepen economic and monetary union, which did not mean that the Commission could not take decisive action to respond to the social concerns of Europeans, as proven by a number of recent proposals.

He wound up the discussion by highlighting the role the Commission must play in facilitating the diverging political approaches of the Member States, striking a balance between ambition and realism, and he pointed out that it was more important now than ever for the European Union to keep moving

forward.

The Commission took note of this information.

13.3. RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT

v) Preparations for Parliament's December part-session (point 3.1 of the IRG record)

Non-legislative dossiers

- Impact of Council Regulation (EC) 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport (Commission report) – WOJCIECHOWSKI report – 2012/2031 (INI)

The Commission took note of the line set out in SP(2012) 854 and /3.

- Questions for oral answer O-000164/2012, O-000209/2012, O-000210/2012 and O-000211/2012 – EU growth

The Commission took note of document SP(2012) 863/2.

vi) Action taken on non-legislative resolutions adopted by Parliament at its October II part-session - European Semester for economic policy coordination: implementation of 2012 priorities – GAUZÈS report (point 3.4.2 of the IRG record)

The Commission approved document SP(2012) 868/2 on the action taken on the non-legislative resolutions adopted by Parliament at its October II part-session, for transmission to Parliament.

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

vii) Action taken on opinions of the European Economic and Social Committee – second quarter 2012

(SC(2012) 39 to /3

The Commission approved document SC(2012) 39/3 on the action taken by the Commission on the opinions adopted by the European Economic and Social Committee during the second quarter of 2012, for transmission to that Committee.

13.5. EXTERNAL RELATIONS

viii) Visa Liberalisation Action Plan (VLAP) for Georgia
(point 5.1 of the IRG record)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2012) 572.

13.6. OTHER BUSINESS

ix) Second review of the *Terrorist Finance Tracking Programme (TFTP)*
(point 7.2 of the IRG record)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2012) 573.

14. RELATIONS WITH NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES

18TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (DOHA, 26 NOVEMBER-7 DECEMBER)

Ms HEDEGAARD gave a brief account of the results of the 18th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, organised in Doha from 26 November to 7 December 2012, which, although expectations had been low, had nevertheless laid the basis for more ambitious short- and medium-term action to combat climate change.

Ms HEDEGAARD reported that one of the main outcomes of this conference had been the rationalisation of the forthcoming negotiation process, namely the merger of the two current negotiation tracks – on the Kyoto Protocol and on long-term cooperation – into a single track, the Durban Platform, which would henceforth be the only negotiating forum working towards the 2015 agreement.

She went on to say that the European Union had confirmed at the conference that it would be taking part in the second commitment period laid down by the Kyoto Protocol, and that it had therefore undertaken to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2020 in line with its self-imposed objective, while remaining open to the idea of a reduction of up to 30% if conditions permitted.

She also said that Mr Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, was planning to convene a world leaders' summit on climate change in 2014 in order to bring a new political impetus to this work.

Ms HEDEGAARD concluded her presentation by replying to questions, particularly on the position of various major economic powers in this area and on the changes to be made in future to the greenhouse-gas emissions trading scheme (ETS).

The Commission took note of this information.

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The meeting closed at 14.32.