



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2013) 2059 final

Brussels, 25 September 2013

MINUTES

of the 2059th meeting of the Commission

held in Brussels

(Berlaymont)

Wednesday 18 September 2013

(morning)

PV(2013) 2059 final

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Single sitting: Wednesday 18 September 2013 (morning)

The sitting opened at 9.09 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	Item 15
Mr KALLAS	Vice-President	
Ms KROES	Vice-President	Items 1 to 14, and 15 (in part)
Mr TAJANI	Vice-President	Items 1 to 15 (in part)
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Vice-President	
Mr REHN	Vice-President	Item 15 (in part)
Mr POTOČNIK	Member	
Mr BARNIER	Member	Item 15
Ms VASSILIOU	Member	
Mr ŠEMETA	Member	
Mr DE GUCHT	Member	Item 15 (in part)
Ms GEOGHEGAN-QUINN	Member	
Mr LEWANDOWSKI	Member	
Ms DAMANAKI	Member	
Ms GEORGIEVA	Member	Item 15 (in part)
Mr OETTINGER	Member	Item 15 (in part)
Mr HAHN	Member	
Ms HEDEGAARD	Member	
Mr FÜLE	Member	
Mr ANDOR	Member	
Ms MALMSTRÖM	Member	
Mr CIOLOŞ	Member	Items 1 to 15 (in part)
Mr BORG	Member	Item 15 (in part)
Mr MIMICA	Member	

Absent:

Mr PIEBALGS

Member

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

Mr RAZAALY	A member of Mr PIEBALGS's staff
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The following also sat in:

Mr SOBRAL	Deputy Chef de cabinet to the PRESIDENT	
Mr ROMERO REQUENA	Director-General, Legal Service	
Mr PAULGER	Director-General, DG Communication	
Mr DOENS	Head of the Commission Spokesperson Service	Items 1 to 15 (in part)
Ms AHRENKILDE HANSEN	Commission Spokeswoman	
Mr THEBAULT	Head of the Bureau of European Policy Advisers	Item 15 (in part)
Ms MARTÍNEZ ALBEROLA	Adviser in the PRESIDENT's Office	Item 15 (in part)
Mr KARNITSCHNIG	A member of the PRESIDENT's staff	
Mr PESONEN	Chef de cabinet to Mr REHN	Items 1 to 15 (in part)
Mr HOFFMEISTER	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Mr DE GUCHT	Items 1 to 15 (in part)
Ms HRISTCHEVA	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Ms GEORGIEVA	Item 15 (in part)
Mr MORDUE	Chef de cabinet to Mr FÜLE	
Mr HÄUSLER	Chef de cabinet to Mr CIOLOŞ	Item 15 (in part)
Ms DARMANIN	Chef de cabinet to Mr BORG	Items 1 to 15 (in part)
Mr KORTE	Acting Director-General, DG Enlargement	Items 1 to 15 (in part)

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

1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2013) 2059/FINAL; SEC(2013) 472/2)

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(2013) 2059)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 16 September.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES AND SPECIAL MINUTES OF THE 2057TH MEETING OF THE COMMISSION (4 SEPTEMBER) AND THE MINUTES OF THE 2058TH MEETING (10 SEPTEMBER)

(PV(2013) 2057 AND /2; PV(2013) 2057, 2ND PART; PV(2013) 2058)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 2057th and 2058th meetings.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

4.1. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL

i) Programming of Council business

(SI(2013) 466)

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2013) 466 on the Council meetings between 19 September and 2 October.

4.2. RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT

ii) Results of Parliament's September part-session

(SP(2013) 540; SP(2013) 541)

The Commission took note of the information in SP(2013) 540 and SP(2013) 541 on the proceedings of the part-session of Parliament held in Strasbourg from 9 to 12 September.

iii) Action to be taken on Parliament's legislative resolutions and other resolutions of a legal nature

(SP(2013) 581)

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(2013) 581, drawn up following the September part-session of Parliament, the contents of which were noted.

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

iv) Participation by Members of the European Economic and Social Committee in international conferences

(SC(2013) 33 and /2)

- United Nations special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (New York, 25 September 2013)

The Commission agreed to the request to the PRESIDENT from Mr Henri Malosse, President of the European Economic and Social Committee, concerning the attendance of two Members of the European Economic and Social Committee at the above-mentioned meeting as observers in the EU delegation, with a reminder about the procedure to be followed.

5. MONITORING THE APPLICATION OF EUROPEAN UNION LAW

STATE AID – INDIVIDUAL CASES

(SEC(2013) 480/2)

The Commission adopted the decisions in SEC(2013) 480/2.

6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED

(SEC(2013) 473 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 9 and 13 September.

6.2. EMPOWERMENT

(SEC(2013) 474 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 9 and 13 September.

6.3. DELEGATION AND SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS

(SEC(2013) 475 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedure between 9 and 13 September, as archived in e-Greffe.

6.4. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES
(SEC(2013) 476)

The Commission took note of the sensitive written procedures for which the time limit expired between 16 and 20 September and of the finalisation of written procedures initiated following the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet on 9 September.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS
(SEC(2013) 477/2)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
(PERS(2013) 115/2)

**7.1. DG INFORMATICS – CLOSURE OF A SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR
AN AD14/15 DIRECTOR POST AND APPOINTMENT OF AN AD15
DIRECTOR**
(PERS(2012) 103 TO /3)

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

- to close internal and interinstitutional selection procedure COM/2012/2316 for the post of Director, ‘Information Systems and Interoperability Solutions’, without making any 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, Ms Gertrud INGESTAD, an AD15 official and currently Director, ‘Support’, in DG Communications Networks, Content and Technology; this decision would take effect on 1 January 2014.

7.2. DG ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS – CLOSURE OF THE SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR AN AD14/15 DIRECTOR POST (PERS(2011) 46)

On a proposal from Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr REHN, the Commission decided to close internal selection procedure COM/2011/821 for the post of Director, ‘Resources and Communication’, in DG Economic and Financial Affairs, without making any appointment.

This decision would take effect immediately.

7.3. EUROSTAT – CLOSURE OF THE SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR AN AD14/15 DIRECTOR POST (PERS(2012) 14)

On a proposal from Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr ŠEMETA, the Commission decided to close internal selection procedure COM/2011/2938 for the post of Director, ‘Corporate statistical and IT services’, in EUROSTAT, without making any appointment.

This decision would take effect immediately.

7.4. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – CLOSURE OF THE SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR AN AD14/15 DIRECTOR POST (PERS(2011) 112 TO /7)

On a proposal from Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, the Commission decided to close internal, interinstitutional and external selection procedures COM/2011/1999 and COM/2011/10314 for the post of Director, ‘Security’, in DG Human Resources and Security, without making any appointment.

This decision would take effect immediately.

7.5. DG MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES – CLOSURE OF THE SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR AN AD14/15 DIRECTOR POST (PERS(2011) 15 TO /4)

On a proposal from Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Ms DAMANAKI, the Commission decided to close internal selection procedure COM/2010/2523 for the post of Director, ‘Resources’, in DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, without making any appointment.

This decision would take effect immediately.

7.6. EUROPEAN ANTI-FRAUD OFFICE – CLOSURE OF THE SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR AN AD14/15 DIRECTOR POST (PERS(2012) 24)

On a proposal from Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr ŠEMETA, the Commission decided to close internal selection procedure COM/2012/130 for the post of Director, ‘Resources’, in the European Anti-Fraud Office, without making any appointment.

This decision would take effect immediately.

7.7. DG EDUCATION AND CULTURE / DG COMMUNICATION / DG DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION – EUROPEAID – CLOSURE OF THE SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR AN AD14 DIRECTOR (PERS(2012) 106 TO /4)

On a proposal from Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Ms REDING, Mr PIEBALGS and Ms VASSILIOU, the Commission decided to close internal selection procedure COM/2012/10333 for the post of Director of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), without making any appointment.

This decision would take effect immediately.

7.8. *DG TAXATION AND CUSTOMS UNION – AMENDMENT OF THE ORGANISATION CHART*

Having noted the contents of point 8 of PERS(2013) 115/2, the Commission decided, on a proposal from Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr ŠEMETA, to approve the creation of a principal adviser post, directly attached to the Director-General of the Directorate-General for Taxation and Customs Union.

This decision would take effect on 1 October 2013.

8. COMMUNICATION TO THE COMMISSION ON THE DELEGATION OF THE MANAGEMENT OF THE 2014-2020 PROGRAMMES TO EXECUTIVE AGENCIES

(SEC(2013) 493 AND /2)

The Commission:

- adopted the communication in SEC(2013) 493/2;
- instructed the lead Directorates-General to finalise the individual draft Commission decisions to delegate programme management to an executive agency;
- mandated DG Budget to coordinate the submission to the Committee for Executive Agencies and to Parliament of these draft Commission decisions, accompanied by an information note based on this communication;
- tasked the central departments with implementing the proposed measures aimed at ensuring that career prospects for seconded Commission officials in the executive agencies are attractive;
- tasked the central departments with setting up the Common Support Centre (CSC) and supervising DG Research and Innovation's drafting of the CSC's

operating rules with the assistance of the entities participating in the CSC and of the Legal Service.

9. COMMUNICATION TO THE COMMISSION – MEASURES IN APPLICATION OF ARTICLE 39 OF THE ACT OF ACCESSION OF CROATIA

(SEC(2013) 484 TO /3; RCC(2013) 121)

The Commission took note of the communication distributed as SEC(2013) 484/3.

10. COMMUNICATION TO THE COMMISSION – CORPORATE COMMUNICATION UNDER THE MULTIANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK 2014-2020

(SEC(2013) 486)

On a proposal from the PRESIDENT, the Commission agreed that the Communication currently set out in SEC(2013) 486 would be adopted by ‘finalisation’ written procedure, the deadline for which was set at 12.00 on Monday 23 September (PE/2013/6176).

11. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ON INDICES USED AS BENCHMARKS IN FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS AND FINANCIAL CONTRACTS

(COM(2013) 641 TO /3; SWD(2013) 336 AND /2; SWD(2013) 337 AND /2; SEC(2013) 479; RCC(2013) 120)

The Commission adopted the proposal for a Regulation in COM(2013) 641/3 for transmission to Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social

Committee, the European Central Bank and to the national parliaments, together with the impact assessment and the summary thereof in staff papers SWD(2013) 336/2 and SWD(2013) 337/2 respectively, the contents of which were noted.

The Commission also took note of the opinion of the Impact Assessment Board on the above proposal for a Regulation, as set out in SEC(2013) 479.

**12. PROPOSAL FOR A DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND
OF THE COUNCIL ON THE MOBILISATION OF THE FLEXIBILITY
INSTRUMENT
(COM(2013) 647)**

The Commission adopted the proposal for a Decision set out in COM(2013) 647 for transmission to Parliament and the Council and, for information, to the national parliaments.

**13. AMENDING LETTER N° 1 TO THE DRAFT GENERAL BUDGET 2014 –
STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE BY SECTION – SECTION III –
COMMISSION
(COM(2013) 644)**

**14. AMENDING LETTER TO DRAFT AMENDING BUDGET N° 6 TO THE
GENERAL BUDGET 2013 – GENERAL STATEMENT OF REVENUE
(COM(2013) 655)**

The Commission adopted the amending letters set out in COM(2013) 644 and COM(2013) 655 for transmission to Parliament and the Council and for information to the national parliaments.

15. POLICY DEBATE ON ENLARGEMENT (SEC(2013) 492)

The President opened the policy debate on enlargement policy, which was traditionally held before the presentation of all the strategy documents and annual reports on the latest developments in the enlargement process to be submitted by Mr FÜLE to the Commission for adoption on 16 October.

The PRESIDENT began by referring to the strategic importance of enlargement policy, which played a key role in the security, stability and prosperity of the whole of Europe by providing a clear European perspective in return for the implementation of reforms. In his view this was testified by major events such as the accession of Croatia to the EU in 2013 and the historic agreement recently concluded between Serbia and Kosovo. He alluded to his state of the Union address to the European Parliament on 11 September, in which he had highlighted the success of enlargement policy, which had helped to heal the scars of past conflicts and establish democracies and market economies in a region of the world where this aim had appeared to be utopian. He therefore felt that, despite certain setbacks and uncertainties, the Commission must remain firm in its commitment to propose a European perspective to the candidate and potential candidate countries. At the same time, it must be even-handed in its approach, basing itself on an objective analysis of the merits of each country in its reform efforts. It must also be candid when the hoped-for results failed to materialise.

For all these reasons, he hoped that the Commission would resolutely defend this key EU policy and move forward on it until the end of its mandate. However, although the gates of Europe were open, there were no shortcuts on the road to be travelled, nor was there an automatic right of entry. Each candidate or potential candidate country had to shoulder its responsibilities and do its share to achieve accession.

Mr FÜLE pointed out the power of the EU's enlargement policy in the light of the

example of the western Balkans, a region at the gates of Europe that had been offered the prospect of accession after putting an end to the bloody conflict in which it was still engaged only 20 years ago.

He also pointed out that since the beginning of the present Commission's mandate, he had endeavoured to anchor enlargement policy in a new 'narrative' around the key concept of the credibility of the process, with a specific theme for each year. After the theme of transformative power in 2011 and the rule of law in 2012, the theme this year was 'fundamentals first', in particular in the field of economic governance and competitiveness. Lessons must be drawn from the crisis and the emphasis placed on the in-depth reforms designed to consolidate economic and financial stability in the countries in question and stimulate growth in those countries.

There were several aspects of the slogan 'fundamentals first' addressed to the western Balkans: (i) improving their economic governance and competitiveness, (ii) strengthening their democratic institutions and ensuring that inclusive democratic processes were put in place, (iii) enhancing specific respect for fundamental rights, in particular freedom of expression and the rights of vulnerable groups, and (iv) trying to settle bilateral disputes and to establish good neighbourly relations between the parties concerned. The second Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance could provide the financial support these countries needed to achieve these priorities.

Furthermore, he recalled that, in the light of the experience of recent accession negotiations, the rule of law chapters would from now on be the first to be opened and the last to be closed, and would therefore set the pace of the negotiation. He added that this new approach would enable the necessary changes to be made and, moreover, give the Union even greater political influence.

Mr FÜLE then reviewed the developments in the different countries, which would be reflected in the set of proposals to be submitted on 16 October.

A debate took place in which the Commission Members expressed, in particular,

widespread support for the approach described by Mr FÜLE, and approval of the emphasis placed this year on the theme of 'fundamentals first', particularly in matters of economic governance and competitiveness, and endorsement of the wider narrative of enlargement policy revolving around the notion of credibility; an emphasis on the transformative power of the accession process and the belief that the achievements of enlargement policy deserved a higher profile both as regards the benefits in terms of stability, and the democratic progress and economic advantages brought; recognition of the scale of the progress achieved in the course of the reforms required by the accession process itself, which entailed a real commitment by the governments of the candidate and potential candidate countries; the need for the European Union, beyond the procedural aspects, to engage with the people of the countries in question; the importance of taking into account the time needed for the principles adopted during the transition periods related to the accession process to become rooted in the culture.

Mr FÜLE thanked the Members of the Commission for their contributions and welcomed the resulting broad consensus. He pointed out that enlargement, far from being an isolated policy, was very much at the heart of the Commission's policies for deepening European integration. Accordingly, the institution had to seek to defend and promote the policy, since the process under way had not yet been completed.

The PRESIDENT thanked the Members of the Commission for their useful contributions to the discussion, which Mr FÜLE would take into account when finalising the strategy documents and the reports dealing with each of the countries concerned by the 'enlargement package'. He also thanked all the Commission departments that had taken part in the collective preparations. In conclusion, he noted a broad consensus in favour of the overall approach set out by Mr. FÜLE and recalled that these documents would be presented directly to the weekly meeting of Heads of Cabinet and then to the College on 16 October.

The Commission took note of the results and conclusions of the policy debate and of the background note distributed under the authority of Mr FÜLE as SEC(2013) 492.

The Commission's other discussions on this item are recorded in the special minutes.

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

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The meeting closed at 11.12.