



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2013) 2067 final

Strasbourg, 10 December 2013

MINUTES
of the 2067th meeting of the Commission
held in Brussels
(Berlaymont)
on Wednesday 27 November 2013
(morning)

PV(2013) 2067 final

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Single sitting: Wednesday 27 November 2013 (morning)

The sitting opened at 9.07 with Mr BARROSO, President, in the chair.

Present:

Mr BARROSO	President	
Baroness ASHTON	High Representative/ Vice-President	
Ms REDING	Vice-President	
Mr ALMUNIA	Vice-President	
Mr KALLAS	Vice-President	Items 1 to 22
Mr TAJANI	Vice-President	Items 22 and 23
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Vice-President	
Mr REHN	Vice-President	Items 1 to 22 (in part)
Mr POTOČNIK	Member	
Mr BARNIER	Member	Items 1 to 23 (in part)
Ms VASSILIOU	Member	
Mr ŠEMETA	Member	
Mr DE GUCHT	Member	
Ms GEOGHEGAN-QUINN	Member	
Mr LEWANDOWSKI	Member	
Ms DAMANAKI	Member	
Mr OETTINGER	Member	
Mr HAHN	Member	
Ms HEDEGAARD	Member	
Mr FÜLE	Member	
Mr ANDOR	Member	Items 22 (in part) and 23
Ms MALMSTRÖM	Member	
Mr CIOLOŞ	Member	
Mr BORG	Member	
Mr MIMICA	Member	

Absent:

Ms KROES

Vice-President

Mr PIEBALGS

Member

Ms GEORGIEVA

Member

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

Mr VAN ORANJE-NASSAU	Chef de cabinet to Ms KROES	Item 22 (in part)
Mr KARHUNEN	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Mr PIEBALGS	
Mr LEMASSON	A member of Ms GEORGIEVA's staff	

The following also sat in:

Mr LAITENBERGER	Chef de cabinet to the PRESIDENT	
Mr ROMERO REQUENA	Director-General, Legal Service	
Mr PAULGER	Director-General, DG Communication	
Ms AHRENKILDE HANSEN	Commission Spokeswoman	
Mr THEBAULT	Head of the Bureau of European Policy Advisers	Items 22 (in part) and 23
Mr SOBRAL	Deputy Chef de cabinet to the PRESIDENT	Item 23
Ms MARTÍNEZ ALBEROLA	Adviser in the PRESIDENT's Office	Items 1 to 22
Mr MORRISON	Chef de cabinet to Baroness ASHTON	Items 22 (in part) and 23
Mr NOCIAR	Chef de cabinet to Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Items 1 to 21
Mr PESONEN	Chef de cabinet to Mr REHN	Items 22 (in part) and 23
Mr SPRIET	A member of Mr DE GUCHT's staff	Items 22 (in part) and 23 (in part)
Mr HAEUSLER	Chef de cabinet to Mr CIOLOŞ	Items 1 to 22
Ms DARMANIN	Chef de cabinet to Mr BORG	Items 1 to 22

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

1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2013) 2067/FINAL; SEC(2013) 587/3)

The Commission took note of that day's agenda and of the tentative agendas for forthcoming meetings. It also took note of the addition of items 21.1 and 21.2 (on administrative decisions) to that day's agenda.

2. WEEKLY MEETING OF CHEFS DE CABINET

(RCC(2013) 2067)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 25 November.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES AND SPECIAL MINUTES OF THE 2065TH AND 2066TH MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION (6 AND 13 NOVEMBER)

(PV(2013) 2065; PV(2013) 2065, PART II TO /3; PV(2013) 2066; PV(2013) 2066, PART II AND /2)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 2065th and 2066th meetings.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

4.1. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

- i) Facility for providing financial assistance for Member States whose currency is not the Euro (Council Regulation) – HÜBNER report – 2012/0164 (APP)**
(SI(2013) 528 to /3)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2013) 528/3.

- ii) **'Roadworthiness' Package – Periodic roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles and their trailers and repeal of Directive 2009/40/EC (Regulation) – KUHN report – 2012/0184 (COD) / Amendment of Council Directive 1999/37/EC on the registration documents for vehicles (Directive) – SAVISAAR-TOOMAST report – 2012/0185 (COD) / Technical roadside inspection of the roadworthiness of commercial vehicles circulating in the Union and repeal of Directive 2000/30/EC (Regulation) – SEHNALOVÁ report – 2012/0186 (COD)**
(SI(2013) 601 and /2)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2013) 601 and /2.

- iii) **Approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States concerning the manufacture, presentation and sale of tobacco and related products (Directive) – McAVAN report – 2012/0366 (COD)**
(SI(2013) 609 and /2)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2013) 609 and /2.

- iv) **Clinical trials on medicinal products for human use and repeal of Directive 2001/20/EC (Regulation) – WILLMOTT report – 2012/0192 (COD)**
(SI(2013) 610 and /2)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2013) 610 and /2.

- v) **Amendment of Directives 2003/71/EC and 2009/138/EC in respect of the powers of the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority and the European Securities and Markets Authority (Directive) – BALZ report – 2011/0006 (COD)**
(SI(2013) 611 and /2)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2013) 611 and /2.

- vi) Access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization in the Union (Regulation) – BÉLIER report – 2012/0278 (COD)**
(SI(2013) 612 and /2)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2013) 612/2.

- vii) Amendment of Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (Directive) – ZANONI report – 2012/0297 (COD)**
(SI(2013) 613)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2013) 613.

- viii) Fluorinated greenhouse gases (Regulation) – EICKHOUT report – 2012/0305 (COD)**
(SI(2013) 614 and /2)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2013) 614/2.

- ix) Amendment of Directive 98/70/EC relating to the quality of petrol and diesel fuels and amendment of Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (Directive) – LEPAGE report – 2012/0288 (COD)**
(SI(2013) 615 and /2)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2013) 615/2.

- x) Amendment of Regulation (EU) 528/2012 concerning the making available on the market and use of biocidal products with regard to certain conditions for access to the market (Regulation) – GROOTE report – 2013/0150 (COD)**
(SI(2013) 616 and /2)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2013) 616/2.

- xi) Trade arrangements applicable to certain goods resulting from the processing of agricultural products (Regulation) – DE CASTRO report – 2013/0063 (COD)**

(SI(2013) 617)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2013) 617.

- xii) Amendment of Council Decision 2005/681/JHA establishing the European Police College (CEPOL) – Initiative by Member States to change the seat of CEPOL**

(SI(2013) 620 and /2)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2013) 620/2.

- xiii) Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 – Hercule III programme to promote activities in the field of the protection of the European Union's financial interests (Regulation) – MACOVEI report – 2011/0454 (COD)**

(SI(2013) 621)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2013) 621.

- xiv) Amendment of Regulation (EU) 912/2010 setting up the European GNSS Agency (Regulation) – SARTORI report – 2013/0022 (COD)**

(SI(2013) 622)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2013) 622.

- xv) Occurrence reporting in civil aviation, amendment of Regulation (EU) 996/2010 and repeal of Directive 2003/42/EC, Commission Regulation (EC) 1321/2007 and Commission Regulation (EC) 1330/2007 (Regulation) – DE VEYRAC report – 2012/0361 (COD)**

(SI(2013) 627)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2013) 627.

4.2. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL

xvi) Programming of Council business

(SI(2013) 625)

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2013) 625 on the Council meetings between 28 November and 11 December.

4.3. RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT

xvii) Results of November II part-session

(SP(2013) 825; SP(2013) 826)

The Commission took note of the information in SP(2013) 825 and SP(2013) 826 on the proceedings of the part-session of Parliament held in Strasbourg from 18 to 21 November.

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

(SP(2013) 835)

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) 835, drawn up following the November II part-session of Parliament, the contents of which were noted.

5. MONITORING THE APPLICATION OF EUROPEAN UNION LAW

STATE AID AND OTHER COMPETITION RULES

(SEC(2013) 632/2; RCC(2013) 149)

The Commission's decision on this item is recorded in the special minutes.

6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED (SEC(2013) 588 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 11 and 22 November.

6.2. EMPOWERMENT (SEC(2013) 589 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 11 and 22 November.

6.3. DELEGATION AND SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS (SEC(2013) 590 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedure between 11 and 22 November, as archived in e-Greffe.

6.4. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES (SEC(2013) 591/2 AND /3)

The Commission took note of the sensitive written procedures for which the time limit expired between 25 and 29 November and of the finalisation written procedure initiated following the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet on 25 November.

7. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL AND THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS ON THE REVIEW OF THE PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE WITH REGARD TO THE PRINCIPLE OF SUBSIDIARITY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROTOCOL NO 2 TO THE TREATIES (COM(2013) 851)

The Commission approved the communication in COM(2013) 851, for transmission to the European Parliament and the Council, and to the national parliaments.

8. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL – REBUILDING TRUST IN EU-US DATA FLOWS (COM(2013) 846 TO /3; RCC(2013) 148)

9. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL – FUNCTIONING OF THE SAFE HARBOUR FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF EU CITIZENS AND COMPANIES ESTABLISHED IN THE EUROPEAN UNION (COM(2013) 847 TO /3; RCC(2013) 148)

10. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL – A EUROPEAN TERRORIST FINANCE TRACKING SYSTEM (EU TFTS) (COM(2013) 842; SWD(2013) 488; SWD(2013) 489; SEC(2013) 627; RCC(2013) 148)

- 11. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL ON THE JOINT REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION AND THE U.S. TREASURY DEPARTMENT REGARDING THE VALUE OF TFTP PROVIDED DATA PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 6(6) OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE PROCESSING AND TRANSFER OF FINANCIAL MESSAGING DATA FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION TO THE UNITED STATES FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE TERRORIST FINANCE TRACKING PROGRAM**
(COM(2013) 843; RCC(2013) 148)

- 12. REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL ON THE JOINT REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE PROCESSING AND TRANSFER OF PASSENGER NAME RECORDS TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**
(COM(2013) 844; SEC(2013) 630; RCC(2013) 148)

The Commission:

- approved the Communications set out in COM(2013) 846/3 and COM(2013) 847/3, for transmission to Parliament, the Council and the European Data Protection Supervisor, and, for information, to the national parliaments;
- approved the Communication in COM(2013) 842, for transmission to Parliament, the Council and, for information, the national parliaments, together with the impact assessment and the summary thereof in staff working documents SWD(2013) 488 and SWD(2013) 489, the contents of which were noted;
- took note of the opinion of the Impact Assessment Board on the communication COM(2013) 842, as set out in SEC(2013) 627;

- approved the Communication in COM(2013) 843, for transmission to Parliament and the Council and, for information, to the national parliaments;
- approved the report in COM(2013) 844, for transmission to Parliament and the Council and, for information, to the national parliaments, accompanied by the joint review distributed as SEC(2013) 630, the contents of which were noted.

13. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – MAKING PROGRESS ON THE EUROPEAN UNION AGENDA ON PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS FOR SUSPECTS OR ACCUSED PERSONS – STRENGTHENING THE FOUNDATION OF THE EUROPEAN AREA OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

(COM(2013) 820 AND /2; RCC(2013) 145)

14. PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ON THE STRENGTHENING OF CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE PRESUMPTION OF INNOCENCE AND THE RIGHT TO BE PRESENT AT TRIAL IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS.

(COM(2013) 821 AND /2; SWD(2013) 478; SWD(2013) 479; SWD(2013) 500; SEC(2013) 617; RCC(2013) 145)

15. PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ON PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS FOR CHILDREN SUSPECTED OR ACCUSED IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS

(COM(2013) 822 AND /2; SWD(2013) 480; SWD(2013) 481; SWD(2013) 492; SEC(2013) 618; RCC(2013) 145)

16. COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION ON PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS FOR VULNERABLE PERSONS SUSPECTED OR ACCUSED IN CRIMINAL

PROCEEDINGS

(C(2013) 8178 AND /2; RCC(2013) 145)

17. PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ON PROVISIONAL LEGAL AID FOR SUSPECTS OR ACCUSED PERSONS DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY AND LEGAL AID IN EUROPEAN ARREST WARRANT PROCEEDINGS

(COM(2013) 824 AND /2; SWD(2013) 476; SWD(2013) 477; SWD(2013) 499; SEC(2013) 616; RCC(2013) 145)

**18. COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION ON THE RIGHT TO LEGAL AID FOR SUSPECTS OR ACCUSED PERSONS IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS
(C(2013) 8179 AND /2; RCC(2013) 145)**

The Commission:

- approved the Communication in COM(2013) 820/2, 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;
- adopted the proposal for a Directive in COM(2013) 821/2, for transmission to Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the national parliaments, together with the impact assessment, the summary thereof and the implementation plan in staff working documents SWD(2013) 478, SWD(2013) 479 and SWD(2013) 500, respectively, the contents of which were noted;
- also took note of the opinion of the Impact Assessment Board on the above proposal for a Directive, as set out in SEC(2013) 617;
- adopted the proposal for a Directive in COM(2013) 822/2, for transmission to Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the national parliaments, together with the impact assessment, the summary thereof and the implementation plan in staff working

- documents SWD(2013) 480, SWD(2013) 481 and SWD(2013) 492, respectively, the contents of which were noted;
- also took note of the opinion of the Impact Assessment Board on the above proposal for a Directive, as set out in SEC(2013) 618;
 - approved the recommendation in C(2013) 8178/2 for notification to the Member States and transmission to Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the national parliaments;
 - adopted the proposal for a Directive in COM(2013) 824/2, for transmission to Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the national parliaments, together with the impact assessment, the summary thereof and the implementation plan in staff working documents SWD(2013) 476, SWD(2013) 477 and SWD(2013) 499, respectively, the contents of which were noted;
 - also took note of the opinion of the Impact Assessment Board on the above proposal for a Directive, as set out in SEC(2013) 616;
 - adopted the recommendation in C(2013) 8179/2 for notification to the Member States and transmission, for information, to Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the national parliaments.

19. COMMISSION DECISION ON A PROCEEDING UNDER ARTICLE 101 OF THE TREATY ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (CASE AT.39633 – *SHRIMPS*) (C(2013) 8286 TO /12; RCC(2013) 151)

The Commission:

- took note of the opinions of the Advisory Committee on Restrictive Practices and Dominant Positions of 14 and 25 November in C(2013) 8286/4 and /5;

- took note of the final report of the Hearing Officer of 26 November in C(2013) 8286/6;
- adopted, in the authentic languages (German and Dutch), the decision in C(2013) 8286/12 finding that the companies to which the decision was addressed had infringed Article 101 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, requiring them to put an end to the infringements immediately and imposing on some of them fines totalling EUR 28 716 000;
- adopted the annexes to the decision set out in C(2013) 8286/8 to /11 in the authentic languages (German and Dutch);
- decided to notify each of the companies to which the decision was addressed, in the corresponding authentic language, of the decision C(2013) 8286/12 and the annex(es) relating to that particular company, as set out in C(2013) 8286/8 to /11;
- decided also to notify the Hearing Officer's final report to each of the companies to which the decision was addressed;
- 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).

20. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING REGULATION (EC) 539/2001 OF 15 MARCH 2001 LISTING THE THIRD COUNTRIES WHOSE NATIONALS MUST BE IN POSSESSION OF VISAS WHEN CROSSING THE EXTERNAL BORDERS OF MEMBER STATES AND THOSE WHOSE NATIONALS ARE

**EXEMPT FROM THAT REQUIREMENT
(COM(2013) 853 AND /2)**

The Commission adopted the proposal for a Regulation in COM(2013) 853/2, for transmission to Parliament, the Council and the national parliaments.

**21. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS
(SEC(2013) 620)**

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
(PERS(2013) 147)**

***21.1. DG EDUCATION AND CULTURE – APPOINTMENT OF AD15
DIRECTOR-GENERAL***

On a proposal from Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Ms VASSILIOU, the Commission decided to fill the post of Director-General of DG Education and Culture by transferring in the interest of the service under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations Mr Xavier PRATS MONNE, currently Deputy Director-General in DG Education and Culture.

This decision would take effect on 1 August 2014.

***21.2. DG EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND INCLUSION –
APPOINTMENT OF AD15 DIRECTOR-GENERAL***

On a proposal from Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr ANDOR, the Commission decided to fill the post of Director-General of DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion by transferring in the interest of the service under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations Mr Michel SERVOZ, currently Deputy Secretary-General in the Secretariat-General.

This decision would take effect on 1 February 2014.

22. POLICY DISCUSSION ON CLONING OF ANIMALS IN FOOD PRODUCTION

(SEC(2013) 633; RCC(2013) 147)

The PRESIDENT opened the debate on the cloning of animals for food production, which was a sensitive issue on several counts, by explaining that the Members' task was to set out clear guidelines for the approach the Commission would adopt and the initiatives it could propose in this field before the end of its term of office. He reminded them that the Commission had made a commitment to act, both at Mr BORG's hearing in the European Parliament during the appointment procedure and in its work programme for 2012 and 2013.

Among the various factors to be considered during the debate, the PRESIDENT stressed the importance of the technical, legal and economic issues and the scenarios for responding to the demands of consumers, the various organisations concerned and the European Parliament, set out in the background note presented under the authority of the Member of the Commission responsible. He also mentioned the political backdrop to the debate and specifically the election of a new European Parliament in June 2014 which meant that the co-legislators would not have enough time to adopt the Commission's future proposal before the end of the current legislature.

At international level, he pointed out that this proposal might coincide with the negotiations between the Commission, acting on behalf of the Union, and the United States on a historic trade agreement, and some of the measures it might contain would be of particular concern to the US. The cost and technical feasibility of the obligations that would be imposed on economic operators by a Commission proposal would also have to be taken into consideration.

Finally, he felt that the Commission must take into account the legal consequences of the proposal it would have to defend, in terms not only of its merits, proportionality and legal basis, but also of its scope and the different treatment

reserved for the different food products obtained from cloned animals.

After this introduction, Mr BORG said that the issues must be grouped into two parts. In the first he included suspension of the use of the cloning technique for food production purposes in the EU (option 1), suspension of the marketing and import of live clones (option 2), and suspension of the marketing of food from clones (option 3). In the second part he placed the question of whether, in addition to these suspension measures, the EU should label food obtained from the offspring of cloned animals, possibly limiting the scope of such an obligation (option 4).

He briefly reviewed the history of interinstitutional negotiations on the issue of the cloning of animals for food purposes and explained that options 1 to 3 corresponded to both the demands of the co-legislators and the commitment made by the Commission in 2012 and 2013 to produce two separate proposals for novel foods and cloning.

Mr BORG then turned to the suggestion of labelling fresh bovine meat from the offspring of cloned animals, the aim being to enable consumers to make an informed choice as to whether or not to consume such products, even if there were no safety risk. He argued that this measure was all the more justified as the Union would be suspending the use of cloning techniques in its territory.

He then pointed out that the proposal to restrict labelling to fresh bovine meat from the offspring of cloned animals reflected a desire for compromise as, in the interinstitutional discussions in 2011 and 2012, the Member States had initially been in favour of prior authorisation for the marketing of all products derived from cloned animals, including milk. He therefore considered that the option he was proposing was balanced, reasonable and proportionate.

In the course of the ensuing debate, the Commission concentrated on: (i) the sensitive nature of the issue of cloning and the ethical considerations surrounding it beyond the scientific arguments; (ii) the importance of a careful analysis of both the political and technical aspects; (iii) overall approval of the aim of presenting a legislative initiative on suspension of the use of the cloning technique for food

production purposes in the EU (option 1), and suspension of the marketing and import of live cloned animals (option 2); (iv) support from some Members also for the suspension of the marketing of food from clones (option 3); (v) support in principle for the labelling of fresh bovine meat from the offspring of cloned animals in order to inform consumers, but also the need for a more detailed feasibility study on the practical arrangements and cost/effectiveness of such a measure for European traders in order to justify any decisions taken on this matter; and (vi) the international dimension, in particular the implications for current agreements between the Union and certain non-EU countries and with regard to the rules of the World Trade Organisation.

In reply to these comments, Mr BORG said that the Commission had undertaken not only to present a legislative proposal, but also to draft a separate, specific legislative proposal on cloning for food production purposes. As regards labelling, he recalled the arguments justifying the option of limiting to fresh bovine meat the proposal which the Commission might present before the end of 2013, starting with the cost of the measure and the small volumes of imports concerned in the Union.

The PRESIDENT wound up the debate by saying that the objective was to allow the Commission, a policy-making body, to establish as broad a consensus as possible on a proposal which it was required to present and for which it would assume political responsibility, in the Union and on the international market. Most of the Commission Members approved the principle of submitting a legislative proposal comprising the first three options presented by Mr BORG.

The PRESIDENT noted, however, that the Commission Members felt that the very complex option of labelling fresh bovine meat from offspring of cloned animals required more time so that a comprehensive impact analysis and feasibility study could be carried out, without prejudging the outcome of this analysis or the final decision to be adopted.

The Commission took note of the results and conclusions of the policy debate and of the background note disseminated under the authority of Mr BORG in document SEC(2013) 633.

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

23. RELATIONS WITH NON-EU COUNTRIES

INTERIM AGREEMENT BETWEEN TEHRAN AND THE NEGOTIATING GROUP COUNTRIES CONCERNING IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAMME

Baroness ASHTON reported on the interim agreement on Iran's nuclear programme concluded on 23 November for a period of six months between Iran and the 'P5 + 1' countries – the United States, China, Russia, United Kingdom, France and Germany. She outlined the main aspects of the agreement, in particular the halting by Iran of uranium enrichment above 5% and the installation of new centrifuges. In return, the six other parties to the negotiations would partly lift their sanctions against Iran once the monitoring committee responsible for the application of the agreement, the establishment of which she herself would oversee in conjunction with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), had begun its inspections. She was pleased with the significant progress made, to which all the countries in the negotiating group had contributed constructively, but noted that the aim now was to make use of the coming six months to achieve the conclusion of a full agreement.

The PRESIDENT and Commission Members welcomed this initial result and thanked Baroness ASHTON for her commitment and for the important role she had played in the negotiations.

The Commission took note of this information.

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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 was ended at 11.06.