



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2016) 2184 final

- *English language version of the French text which is authentic* -

Brussels, 9 November 2016

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

of the 2184th meeting of the Commission

held in Strasbourg

(Winston Churchill building)

on Tuesday 4 October 2016

(afternoon)

—

PV(2016) 2184 final

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Single sitting: Tuesday 4 October 2016 (afternoon)

The sitting opened at 14.08 with Mr JUNCKER, President, in the chair.

Present:

Mr JUNCKER	President	
Mr TIMMERMANS	First Vice-President	Items 1 to 8 (in part)
Mr ANSIP	Vice-President	
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Vice-President	Item 8 (in part)
Mr KATAINEN	Vice-President	
Mr OETTINGER	Member	
Mr HAHN	Member	
Ms MALMSTRÖM	Member	
Mr ARIAS CAÑETE	Member	Items 6 (in part) to 8 (in part)
Mr VELLA	Member	Items 1 to 8 (in part)
Mr AVRAMOPOULOS	Member	Items 1 to 8 (in part)
Ms THYSEN	Member	
Mr MOSCOVICI	Member	Items 1 to 8 (in part)
Mr STYLIANIDES	Member	
Mr HOGAN	Member	Items 1 to 8 (in part)
Ms BULC	Member	Items 1 to 8 (in part)
Ms BIENKOWSKA	Member	Items 1 to 8 (in part)
Ms JOUROVÁ	Member	Items 1 to 7 (in part)
Mr NAVRACSICS	Member	
Ms CREȚU	Member	
Ms VESTAGER	Member	
Mr MOEDAS	Member	
Sir Julian KING	Member	Items 1 to 8 (in part)

Absent:

Ms MOGHERINI	High Representative / Vice-President
Ms GEORGIEVA	Vice-President
Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Vice-President
Mr MIMICA	Member
Mr ANDRIUKAITIS	Member

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

Mr PETROCELLI	A member of Ms MOGHERINI's staff	Items 1 to 8
Mr CEYSSENS	A member of Mr DOMBROVSKIS' staff	Items 1 to 8
Ms ARNOULD	A member of Mr MIMICA's staff	Items 1 to 8
Mr VINČIŪNAS	Chef de cabinet to Mr ANDRIUKAITIS	Items 1 to 8

The following also sat in:

Mr SELMAYR	Chef de cabinet to the PRESIDENT	
Mr ROMERO REQUENA	Director-General, Legal Service	
Mr PESONEN	Director-General, DG Communication	Items 1 to 8
Ms ANDREEVA	Commission Spokesperson's Service	Items 1 to 8
Ms METTLER	Head of the European Political Strategy Centre	Items 1 to 8
Ms MARTÍNEZ ALBEROLA	Deputy Chef de cabinet to the PRESIDENT	Items 1 to 8
Mr THOLONIAT	Adviser in the PRESIDENT's Office	Items 1 to 8
Ms SILLAVEE	PRESIDENT's Office	Items 1 to 8
Mr SZAPIRO	A member of Mr ŠEFČOVIČ's staff	Items 1 to 8 (in part)
Mr ROMAkkANIEMI	Chef de cabinet to Mr KATAINEN	Item 8
Ms LOBILLO BORRERO	Chef de cabinet to Mr ARIAS CAÑETE	Items 1 to 6 (in part)
Mr O'CONNELL	A member of Ms JOUROVÁ's staff	Items 7 (in part) and 8

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

1. AGENDA

(OJ(2016) 2184/FINAL)

The Commission took note of that day's agenda. It also noted the addition to the agenda of that day's meeting of item 9 on an administrative decision.

2. WEEKLY MEETING OF CHEFS DE CABINET

(RCC(2016) 2184)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 3 October.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2182ND AND 2183RD COMMISSION MEETINGS (21 AND 28 SEPTEMBER)

(PV(2016) 2182)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 2182nd meeting and decided to hold over approval of the minutes of its 2183rd meeting for the following week.

4. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

4.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED

(SEC(2016) 397 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 26 and 30 September.

4.2. EMPOWERMENT

(SEC(2016) 398 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 26 and 30 September.

4.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS

(SEC(2016) 399 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedure between 26 and 30 September, as archived in Decide.

4.4. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES

(SEC(2016) 400)

The Commission took note of the sensitive written procedures for which the time limit expired between 3 and 7 October.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

(SEC(2016) 401/2)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

(PERS(2016) 94/2)

5.1. DG TAXATION AND CUSTOMS UNION – APPOINTMENT OF AD14/15

PRINCIPAL ADVISER

(PERS(2016) 50 TO /3)

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Principal Adviser in DG Taxation and Customs Union (PERS(2016) 50).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 27 July and 8 September (PERS(2016) 50/2 and /3).

The Commission proceeded to compare the applicants' qualifications for the post. It also considered their ability, efficiency and conduct in the service. On a proposal from Mr OETTINGER, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and after consulting Mr MOSCOVICI and also Mr DOMBROVSKIS and Mr KATAINEN, it decided to appoint Mr Paulo José SANTOS to the post.

This decision would take effect on 16 October 2016.

5.2. DG REGIONAL AND URBAN POLICY – AMENDMENT OF ORGANISATION CHART

(PERS(2016) 418 TO /3)

On a proposal from Mr OETTINGER, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and after consulting Ms CREȚU and also Mr ANSIP, Mr ŠEFČOVIČ and

Mr KATAINEN, the Commission decided:

- to transfer in the interest of the service, under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations, Mr Eric VON BRESKA, currently Director of the REGIO.DGA2.H Directorate ‘Inclusive Growth, Urban and Territorial Development and Northern Europe’, to the post of Director of the REGIO.DGA1.B Directorate ‘Policy’;
- to abolish the REGIO.DGA2.H Directorate ‘Inclusive Growth, Urban and Territorial Development and Northern Europe’;
- to abolish the post of Deputy Director-General for Policy, Performance and Compliance (REGIO.DGA1) with effect from 1 January 2017;
- to abolish four units before 1 February 2017, as well as an additional unit, to be determined, before 31 December 2017;
- to adopt the new organisation charts set out in SEC(2016) 418 to /3.

Unless indicated otherwise, these decisions would take effect on 16 October 2016.

As a result of the reorganisation, the total number of Directorates in DG Regional and Urban Policy would fall from 8 to 7 and the total number of permanent units would fall from 38 to 33.

5.3. DG INFORMATICS – DEPUTISING FOR THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF DG INFORMATICS

Without prejudice to Article 27(1) of its Rules of Procedure, under which Mr Mario CAMPOLARGO, Deputy Director-General in DG Informatics, deputises for the Director-General of DG Informatics if he should be prevented from performing his duties, the Commission, on a proposal from Mr OETTINGER, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and after consulting

Mr ANSIP and Mr KATAINEN, decided to designate the following officials, in the order below, to deputise for the Director-General of DG Informatics if he should be prevented from performing his duties:

- Mr Kenneth DUCATEL, Director of the ‘IT Security’ Directorate (DIGIT.S);
- Ms Petra KNEUER, Director of the ‘Resources Management and Optimisation’ Directorate (DIGIT.R);
- Mr Philippe VAN DAMME, Director of the ‘Digital Infrastructure Solutions’ Directorate (DIGIT.C).

This decision would take effect immediately.

**6. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – THE YOUTH GUARANTEE AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE THREE YEARS ON
(COM(2016) 646 AND /2; SWD(2016) 323; SWD(2016) 324; RCC(2016) 117)**

Ms THYSSEN submitted for approval the Communication ‘The Youth Guarantee and Youth Employment Initiative three years on’.

She felt that she was very lucky to be responsible for a Union policy that allowed her to meet numerous young Europeans whom this policy benefited directly and for whom the Union’s intervention was often decisive. She cited the example of Elena, a young Greek graduate who, after years of difficulties, had finally received training under the Youth Guarantee, thanks to which she had found permanent employment in a shipping company. She also mentioned the case of Marco, a young Italian who

had been able to set up his innovative company thanks to the digital skills he had acquired under the Youth Employment Initiative. She was pleased that these European programmes had opened up new horizons to these young people by giving them the means of finding employment and living independently. Combating youth unemployment was not just an economic and social necessity, but also a moral duty.

For this reason, Ms THYSSEN stressed that the Communication being tabled was not in her view merely a follow-up exercise, but a political response to a legitimate expectation of European citizens. She cited as proof of this the 14 million young people who had benefited from the programmes under the Youth Guarantee, 9 million of whom had accepted an offer – of employment, training, an apprenticeship or an internship (in 70% of cases, a job offer). The Youth Employment Initiative had provided support to over 1.4 million people.

While the Youth Guarantee had brought a real improvement to the lives of many young Europeans, she pointed out that a lot remained to be done, above all to combat youth unemployment, which, although it had fallen more than for the rest of the adult population, remained abnormally high in the EU, at 18.6%. It was also necessary to direct more efforts to the most vulnerable young people, on the one hand, and, on the other, to respond to criticisms of the quality of the offers and the services proposed. Lastly, she noted that the EU's youth initiatives were developed on the ground, at national, regional and local level, and were perceived as such, which meant that the EU's role was not always visible or highlighted. This was an aspect of these European programmes that must be improved.

She felt that the PRESIDENT's state of the union address on 14 September, the roadmap drawn up at the informal summit at Bratislava and the support of several Member States for the extension of certain EU programmes, particularly the continued roll-out of the Youth Employment Initiative, showed that the Union fully shared the commitment to the young generations. The Communication she was tabling that day and the proposal to reinforce the Youth Employment Initiative by

increasing its budget by €1 billion translated that commitment into tangible action.

Winding up, Ms THYSSEN asked the Members of the Commission to inform the public as widely as possible on the action being taken by the Union to promote youth employment, using the documentation provided for that purpose. This included country-specific information sheets, measuring the effects of the Youth Guarantee and Youth Employment Initiative in each Member State.

Taking the floor, Mr TIMMERMANS observed that while nobody denied the success and the European dimension of the Erasmus programme, it was sometimes perceived as elitist, since it was aimed chiefly at young people in higher education. He therefore considered that the Youth Guarantee and Youth Employment Initiative provided an opportunity to make the EU's efforts to help all young Europeans more widely known and change the public perception of these initiatives. From this standpoint, it was important for the Communication to be adapted to the different target groups and for particular care to be taken in presenting it, even if it meant considering re-naming these programmes to increase their visibility.

The PRESIDENT concluded by warmly thanking Ms THYSSEN for her excellent work.

The Commission approved the Communication in COM(2016) 646/2, for transmission to Parliament, the European Council, 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(2016) 323 and SWD(2016) 324, the contents of which were noted.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

LAUNCHING OF THE EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD (INFO(2016) 92)

As he had announced at the previous Commission meeting, Mr AVRAMOPOULOS informed the Commission of the progress made in launching the European Border and Coast Guard.

This week had been decisive, since the Regulation establishing this agency came into force on Thursday 6 October. He welcomed the rapidity with which the Regulation had been adopted and the efforts the Commission had made to implement it in record time.

On 6 October 2016 there was to be a highly symbolic ceremony to launch the European Border and Coast Guard at the Bulgarian-Turkish border. It would be attended by representatives of all the Member States, many of them at ministerial level, in the presence of top officials of the Bulgarian government. He reported on the contacts he had made to ensure that the event would be attended by representatives of the Slovak presidency of the Council and of the European Parliament. Turkey was also invited, although its representation at ministerial level had not yet been confirmed. In any case, he felt it was good to send a common message of increased cooperation in the region in order to better protect the borders.

At this ceremony, the Executive Director of the Agency would present the equipment of the groups of border and coast guards deployed and a press conference would be organised with the main European media.

Mr AVRAMOPOULOS highlighted the efforts made by the Commission to show citizens that the new, stronger agency would provide support from day one to the Member States most directly affected by the influx of migrants and refugees, in the spirit of the Regulation and of European migration policy.

Lastly, as regards the appeal launched by the agency to the Member States to make human and material resources available, he noted that not all the needs had yet been met and that they must be covered by mid-October, even if only for joint operations in Bulgaria. For the remainder of the year, the needs would be re-assessed.

M. AVRAMOPOULOS wound up his presentation by welcoming the progress achieved to make the European border and coast guards a reality on the ground, at the service of all the Member States.

The Commission took note of this information and of the note distributed as INFO(2016) 92.

8. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS (RCC(2016) 115)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (IRG) held on Friday 30 September (RCC(2016) 115).

It paid particular attention to the following points.

8.1. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

i) Trilogue

(point 3.1 of the IRG record)

- Framework on market access to port services and financial transparency of ports (Regulation) – FLECKENSTEIN report – 2013/0157 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2016) 364.

ii) Council dossiers

(point 3.3 of the IRG record)

- Establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (Council Regulation) – MATERA report – 2013/0255 (APP), and
- QO O-000093/2016 – European Public Prosecutor's Office and Eurojust

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2016) 360/3.

- Fixing for 2017 of the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Baltic Sea (Council Regulation) – 2016/0260 (NLE)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2016) 362/2.

- Amendment of Council Regulation (EC) 1225/2009 on protection against dumped imports from countries not members of the European Community and Council Regulation (EC) 597/2009 on protection against subsidised imports from countries not members of the European Community (Regulation) – FJELLNER report – 2013/0103 (COD)

Mr KATAINEN and Ms MALMSTRÖM referred in detail to the state of play and the scheduled timetable for the initiatives to be taken by the Commission on the consequences of the expiry on 11 December of certain provisions of the Protocol of Accession of China to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and on the modernisation of the trade defence instruments, including the issue of the lesser duty rule.

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2016) 372/2 and /3.

8.2. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL

iii) Programming of Council business

(SI(2016) 371)

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2016) 371 on the Council meetings between 6 and 19 October.

iv) Non-legislative dossiers

(point 4.1 of the IRG record)

- 35th meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Marine Antarctic Living Resources (CCAMLR) (Hobart, 17 to 28 October 2016)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2016) 363.

- Ratification, on behalf of the European Union, of the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Council Decision) – LA VIA report – 2016/0184 (NLE)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2016) 367.

- Position to be adopted on behalf of the European Union at the International Maritime Organization during the 70th and 71st sessions of the Marine Environment Protection Committee on the approval and adoption of amendments to MARPOL Annex VI concerning the designation and taking effect of the Baltic Sea and North Sea as Nitrogen Oxide Emissions Control Area (NECA) (Council Decision) – 2016/0296 (NLE)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2016) 370.

8.3. RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT

v) Non-legislative dossiers

(point 5.1 of the IRG record)

- Committee of Inquiry into Emission Measurements in the Automotive Sector (EMIS) – Commission's replies to the additional written questions from the Committee of Inquiry to Mr Günther VERHEUGEN, former Vice-President of the European Commission

The Commission took note of SP(2016) 606 and the replies to the additional questions set out in its annex.

- Committee of Inquiry into Emission Measurements in the Automotive Sector (EMIS) – Commission's replies to the additional written questions from the Committee of Inquiry to Ms BIENKOWSKA

The Commission took note of SP(2016) 628 and the replies to the additional questions set out in its annex.

- Committee of Inquiry into Emission Measurements in the Automotive Sector (EMIS) – Commission's replies to the additional written questions from the Committee of Inquiry to Mr Antonio TAJANI, former Vice-President of the European Commission

The Commission took note of SP(2016) 629 and the replies to the additional questions set out in its annex.

vi) Action taken on the non-legislative resolutions adopted by Parliament at its June I part-session

(point 5.6.1 of the IRG record)

The Commission approved, for transmission to Parliament, document SP(2016) 612 on the action taken on the non-legislative resolutions adopted by Parliament at its June I part-session.

vii) Action taken on the non-legislative resolution for an open, efficient and independent European Union administration, adopted by Parliament at its June I part-session

(point 5.6.2 of the IRG record)

The Commission approved, for transmission to Parliament, document SP(2016) 613 on the action taken on the non-legislative resolution for an open, efficient and independent European Union administration, adopted by Parliament at its June I part-session.

viii) Action taken on the non-legislative resolutions adopted by Parliament at its June II part-session

(point 5.6.3 of the IRG record)

The Commission approved, for transmission to Parliament, documents SP(2016) 614 and /2 on the action taken on the non-legislative resolutions adopted by Parliament at its June II part-session.

ix) Structured dialogue between the Commission and Parliament on the application of macroeconomic conditionality as part of the Structural Funds – Spain and Portugal

(point 5.1.2 of the IRG record)

Mr KATAINEN and Ms CREȚU presented to the Commission the outcome of the previous day's debate between Parliament and the Commission on the application of macroeconomic conditionality to Spain and Portugal as part of the Structural Funds.

The Commission took note of this information.

8.4. OTHER BUSINESS

- x) Medical devices and amendment of Directive 2001/83/EC, Regulation (EC) 178/2002 and Regulation (EC) 1223/2009 (Regulation) – WILLMOTT report – 2012/0266 (COD) / In vitro diagnostic medical devices (Regulation) – LIESE report – 2012/0267 (COD)**

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2016) 636.

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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 15.15.