EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

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Brussels, 26 April 2017

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

of the 2207th meeting of the Commission

held in Strasbourg

(Winston Churchill building)

on Wednesday 4 April 2017

(afternoon)

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Single sitting: Tuesday 4 April 2017 (afternoon)

The sitting opened at 13.10 with Mr JUNCKER, President, in the chair. Item 6 was concluded under the chairmanship of Mr ANSIP.

Present:

Mr JUNCKER	President	Items 1 to 6 (in part)
Mr TIMMERMANS	First Vice-President	Items 1 to 6 (in part)
Mr ANSIP	Vice-President	
Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Vice-President	
Mr KATAINEN	Vice-President	
Mr OETTINGER	Member	
Mr HAHN	Member	Items 1 to 6 (in part)
Ms MALMSTRÖM	Member	
Mr MIMICA	Member	
Mr ARIAS CAÑETE	Member	
Mr VELLA	Member	
Mr ANDRIUKAITIS	Member	
Mr AVRAMOPOULOS	Member	
Ms THYSSEN	Member	
Mr MOSCOVICI	Member	
Mr STYLIANIDES	Member	
Mr HOGAN	Member	
Ms BULC	Member	
Ms JOUROVÁ	Member	
Mr NAVRACSICS	Member	
Ms CREȚU	Member	
Ms VESTAGER	Member	
Mr MOEDAS	Member	Items 1 to 6 (in part)
Sir Julian KING	Member	

Absent:

Ms MOGHERINI	High Representative / Vice-President
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Vice-President
Ms BIEŃKOWSKA	Member

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

Mr BERMIG	Expert from Ms BIEŃKOWSKA's cabinet	Items 1 to 5

The following also sat in:

Mr SELMAYR	Chef de cabinet to the PRESIDENT
Mr ROMERO REQUENA	Director-General, Legal Service
Mr SCHINAS	Head of the Spokesperson's Service and Chief Spokesperson of the Commission
Ms MARTÍNEZ ALBEROLA	Deputy Chef de cabinet to the PRESIDENT

Secretary: Mr ITALIANER, Secretary-General, assisted by Ms COLLOMP, Senior Expert in the Secretariat-General.

1. AGENDAS
(OJ(2017) 2207/FINAL; SEC(2017) 166/FINAL)

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(2017) 2207)

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

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES AND SPECIAL MINUTES OF THE 2205TH MEETING OF THE COMMISSION (22 MARCH) AND THE MINUTES OF THE 2206TH MEETING (29 MARCH)
(PV(2017) 2205; PV(2017) 2205, 2ND PART)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 2205th meeting, and decided to hold over for one week approval of the minutes of its 2206th meeting.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS
(RCC(2017) 32)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (IRG) held on Friday 31 March (RCC(2017) 32).

It paid particular attention to the following points.

4.1. HORIZONTAL ITEM

i) Draft European Council guidelines following the United Kingdom's notification of its withdrawal from the European Union under Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2017) 136.

4.2. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

ii) Trilogues
(point 3.1 of the IRG record)

– Amendment of Directive 2003/87/EC to enhance cost-effective emission reductions and low-carbon investments (ETS) (Directive) – DUNCAN report – 2015/0148 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2017) 121/2.

– Amendment of Directive (EU) 2015/849 on the prevention of the use of the financial system for the purposes of money laundering and terrorist financing, and of Directive 2009/101/EC (Directive) – KARIŅŠ & SARGENTINI report – 2016/0208 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2017) 131.

– Amendment of Regulation (EC, Euratom) 480/2009 establishing a Guarantee Fund for external actions (Regulation) – GARDIAZABAL RUBIAL report – 2016/0274 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2017) 127/2.

– Amendment of Decision 466/2014/EU granting an EU guarantee to the European Investment Bank against losses under financing operations supporting investment projects outside the Union (Decision) – GARDIAZABAL RUBIAL report – 2016/0275 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2017) 128/2 and /3.

– Follow-up to the Marrakech Treaty – Permitted uses of works and other subject-matter protected by copyright and related rights for the benefit of persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled, and amendment of Directive 2001/29/EC on the harmonisation of certain aspects of copyright and related rights in the information society (Directive) / Cross-border exchange between the Union and third countries of accessible format copies of certain works and other subject-matter protected by copyright and related rights for the benefit of persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled (Regulation) – ANDERSSON reports – 2016/0278 (COD) / 2016/0279 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2017) 122.

– Participation of the Union in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) jointly undertaken by several Member States (Decision) – SAKORAFA report – 2016/0325 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2017) 123.

iii) European Parliament dossier – April I part-session
(point 3.2 of the IRG record)

Approval procedure

– Mid-term review/revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2014-2020 (Council Regulation) – OLBRYCHT & THOMAS

report – 2016/0283 (APP) / Mobilisation of the contingency margin (Decision) – OLBRYCHT & THOMAS report – 2016/2233 (BUD)

The Commission took note of the information in SP(2017) 226.

iv) Council dossier
(point 3.3 of the IRG record)

– Implementation of enhanced cooperation in the area of the financial transaction tax (FTT) (Council Directive) – 2013/0045 (CNS)

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2017) 133.

4.3. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL

v) Programming of Council business
(SI(2017) 135)

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2017) 135 on the Council meetings between 6 and 19 April.

vi) Non-legislative dossiers
(point 4.1 of the IRG record)

– Involvement of third countries and regions in a renewed agreement between the European Union and countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific – JOIN(2016) 52

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2017) 84.

– International Maritime Organisation (IMO) – Commission Staff Working Document for the Council Shipping Working Party – Joint European Union submissions – SWD(2017) 122

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2017) 126.

– Brussels Conference 'Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region' (Brussels, 4-5 April 2017)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2017) 130.

– European Union messages for the upcoming 'Belt and Road Forum for International cooperation', (Beijing, May 2017)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2017) 132 and /2.

5. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

5.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED (SEC(2017) 167 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 27 and 31 March.

5.2. EMPOWERMENT (SEC(2017) 168 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 27 and 31 March.

5.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS (SEC(2017) 169 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedure between 27 and 31 March, as archived in D*e*cide.

5.4. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES (SEC(2017) 170 AND /2)

The Commission took note of the sensitive written procedures for which the time limit expired between 3 and 7 April and of the finalisation written procedure initiated following the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet on Monday 3 April.

6. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS TO PREPARE THE TWO DISCUSSION PAPERS, AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE WHITE PAPER ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE, AND CONCERNING THE SOCIAL DIMENSION OF EUROPE AND THE DEEPENING OF THE ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION BY 2025

The PRESIDENT invited the Members of the Commission to take part in a free, open and in-depth discussion with a view to drafting two discussion papers, the first on the development of the social dimension of Europe and the second on the deepening of the Economic and Monetary Union by 2025. These first two discussion papers, out of a series of five altogether, were a follow-up to the White Paper on the Future of Europe adopted by the Commission on 1 March with a view to launching a wide-ranging citizens' debate and initiating a process at the end of which the 27 Member States would decide on the future of their Union. The first important step had been taken in Rome on 25 March with the declaration by the leaders of 27 Member States, and of the European Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission.

Mr DOMBROVSKIS, Ms THYSSEN and Mr MOSCOVICI explained the background to the discussion, pointing out that the aim was to consider possible responses at European level in order (i) to promote economic and social convergence within the Union, which was still insufficient, (ii) to address growing

inequalities in general, (iii) to develop the social dimension, including many areas directly affecting the lives of Europeans (education and training, consumption, health, digitalisation and robotics, research, mobility, etc.) and (iv) to deepen Economic and Monetary Union on the basis of the Five Presidents' report of June 2015, in particular by strengthening its structure, improving the balance between solidarity and responsibility, and increasing the democratic accountability of the institutions responsible for its governance.

During the discussion, the Members of the Commission stressed the need, as regards the European social dimension, to focus on realistic initiatives that would provide a genuine European added value and help bring about viable long-term developments, and, with regard to Economic and Monetary Union, to remind Europeans of its purpose, to explain clearly why it had to be deepened and to discuss fiscal stabilisation within the Euro area and ways of increasing social convergence in the Economic and Monetary Union.

Mr DOMBROVSKIS and Ms THYSSEN concluded the discussion, saying that they would take account, in the discussion papers to be submitted on 26 April and 31 May respectively, of the desire expressed at the meeting to make progress in developing the European social dimension with all available means and in deepening Economic and Monetary Union, in order to regain the trust of the people, to build on the benefits the Union brought them, and to outline perspectives for a fairer and more prosperous future for everyone.

The Commission took note of this information.

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The meeting closed at 15.43.