



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2017) 2231 final

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

Brussels, 6 December 2017

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

of the 2231st meeting of the Commission

held in Brussels

(Berlaymont)

on Wednesday 8 November 2017

(morning)

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PV(2017) 2231 final

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Single sitting: Wednesday 8 November 2017 (morning)

The sitting opened at 9.14 with Mr JUNCKER, President, in the chair.

Present:

Mr JUNCKER	President	
Mr TIMMERMANS	First Vice-President	
Ms MOGHERINI	High Representative / Vice-President	
Mr ANSIP	Vice-President	
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Vice-President	
Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Vice-President	
Mr KATAINEN	Vice-President	
Mr OETTINGER	Member	
Mr HAHN	Member	
Ms MALMSTRÖM	Member	Items 5 (in part) to 14
Mr ARIAS CAÑETE	Member	
Mr VELLA	Member	
Mr ANDRIUKAITIS	Member	
Mr AVRAMOPOULOS	Member	
Ms THYSEN	Member	
Mr STYLIANIDES	Member	
Ms BULC	Member	
Ms BIENKOWSKA	Member	
Ms JOUROVÁ	Member	Items 6 (in part) to 14
Mr NAVRACSICS	Member	
Ms CREȚU	Member	
Ms VESTAGER	Member	
Ms GABRIEL	Member	

Absent:

Mr MIMICA	Member
Mr MOSCOVICI	Member
Mr HOGAN	Member
Mr MOEDAS	Member
Sir Julian KING	Member

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

Mr BEHRNDT	Chef de cabinet to Mr MIMICA
Mr BAILLY	Chef de cabinet to Mr MOSCOVICI
Ms SIRACUSA	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Mr HOGAN
Mr VICENTE	Chef de cabinet to Mr MOEDAS
Mr SIEGL	Deputy chef de cabinet to Sir Julian KING

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	
Mr SCHINAS	Head of the Spokesperson's Service and Chief Spokesperson of the Commission	
Mr SWIEBODA	European Political Strategy Centre	
Ms MICHOU	Deputy Secretary-General	Items 6 to 14
Ms MARTÍNEZ ALBEROLA	Deputy Chef de cabinet to the PRESIDENT	
Mr BALTAZAR	Chief adviser in the PRESIDENT's Office	Items 6 to 14
Ms DEJMEK-HACK	Adviser in the PRESIDENT's Office	Items 1 to 5 (in part)
Mr SZOSTAK	Adviser in the PRESIDENT's Office	Items 1 to 5 (in part) and 6
Ms ARKI	PRESIDENT's Office	
Mr NOCIAR	Chef de cabinet to Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Items 6 to 14
Ms LOBILLO BORRERO	Chef de cabinet to Mr ARIAS CAÑETE	Items 6 to 14
Ms BARTOLINI	A member of Mr ARIAS CAÑETE's staff	Items 6 to 14
Mr ZAKONJSEK	Chef de cabinet to Ms BULC	Items 6 to 14
Ms NIKOLAY	Chef de cabinet to Ms JOUROVÁ	Items 1 to 6 (in part)

Mr BARNIER	Chief negotiator and Head of the Article 50 Task Force	Items 1 to 5 (in part)
Ms ANDREEVA	Commission Spokesperson's Service	
Mr DELBEKE	Director-General, DG Climate Action	Items 6 to 14

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

1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2017) 2231/FINAL)

The Commission took note of that day's agenda.

2. WEEKLY MEETING OF CHEFS DE CABINET

(RCC(2017) 2231)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 6 November.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2222ND, 2223RD, 2225TH, 2226TH, 2227TH, 2228TH, 2229TH AND 2230TH MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION (26 JULY, 6, 20 AND 27 SEPTEMBER, 3, 11, 18 AND 24 OCTOBER)

(PV(2017) 2222 AND /2; PV(2017) 2222, 2ND AND /2; PV(2017) 2223 AND /2; PV(2017) 2223, 2ND PART AND /2; PV(2017) 2225)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 2222nd, 2223rd and 2225th meetings and decided to hold over approval of the minutes of its 2226th, 2227th, 2228th, 2229th and 2230th meetings for a later meeting.

4. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

4.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED

(SEC(2017) 458 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 23 October and 3 November.

4.2. EMPOWERMENT
(SEC(2017) 459 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 23 October and 3 November.

4.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS
(SEC(2017) 460 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedure between 23 October and 3 November, as archived in Decide.

4.4. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES
(SEC(2017) 461 AND /2)

The Commission took note of the sensitive written procedures for which the time limit expired between 6 and 10 November and of the finalisation written procedure initiated following the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet on Monday 6 November.

**4.5. GENERAL EMPOWERMENT TO ADOPT IMPLEMENTING RULES,
STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES RELATING TO THE SECURITY OF
COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS IN THE
EUROPEAN COMMISSION**
(C(2017) 7428)

The Commission adopted the decision in C(2017) 7428.

It decided to empower the Member of the Commission responsible for information technology and the Member of the Commission responsible for security matters to adopt, on behalf of the Commission and under its responsibility, the implementing rules, standards and guidelines provided for in Article 13 of Decision 2017/46, relating to the security of communication

and information systems in the European Commission, as set out in C(2017) 7428.

4.6. DELEGATION OF POWERS RELATING TO THE REVIEW OF LEGALITY OF ACTS ADOPTED BY EXECUTIVE AGENCIES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HORIZON 2020 [ARTICLE 22 OF COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) 58/2003] (C(2017) 7439)

The Commission adopted the Decision set out in C(2017) 7439.

It decided to delegate to the directors-general responsible for (i) Research and Innovation, (ii) Communication Networks, Content and Technology, (iii) Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, (iv) Energy, (v) Education and Culture, (vi) Mobility and Transport, (vii) Agriculture and Rural Development, and (viii) Migration and Home Affairs, the power to adopt, on behalf of the Commission and under its responsibility, and in the areas of their respective competences, decisions relating to the legality of acts adopted by executive agencies, pursuant to Article 22 of Council Regulation (EC) 58/2003, as set out in C(2017) 7439.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

5.1. STATE OF PLAY CONCERNING THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE UNITED KINGDOM FROM THE UNION UNDER ARTICLE 50 OF THE TREATY ON EUROPEAN UNION WITH A VIEW TO THE SIXTH ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS

At the PRESIDENT's invitation, Mr BARNIER reported on the negotiations on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union, following the European Council meeting on 20 October which had adopted a position on the state of progress of the negotiations, and prior to the sixth round of talks,

which would take place that week.

The PRESIDENT thanked Mr BARNIER for the information he had given the College and for the manner in which he was conducting the negotiations on behalf of the Union.

5.2. LATEST DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING THE RENEWAL OF APPROVAL OF THE ACTIVE SUBSTANCE GLYPHOSATE

At the PRESIDENT's request, Mr ANDRIUKAITIS returned to the latest developments concerning the renewal of approval of the active substance glyphosate, on which the Commission was to adopt a decision by 15 December. There had been numerous exchanges on the elements of this decision, both within the Commission and with the Member States and the European Parliament, with a view to obtaining the broadest possible support while guaranteeing a high level of protection of human health and of the environment, in accordance with EU legislation.

He explained that following these exchanges the Commission would propose to the Member States that the approval of glyphosate be renewed for five years, and a draft decision to this effect would be voted on at the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed, on 9 November. This committee was made up of representatives of all the Member States.

Mr ANDRIUKAITIS felt that the proposed five-year renewal period was reasonable and noted that it was supported by the European Parliament. Should there be no majority in the Standing Committee, the Commission could put the question of the duration of the renewed approval of glyphosate to the vote of an appeal committee and then take a decision.

While he supported Mr ANDRIUKAITIS, the PRESIDENT felt it was also essential to send a political message to citizens who wanted more

transparency in the process of approval of substances such as glyphosate and were calling for more independence in the research work and functioning of the European Food Safety Authority. On 12 December the Commission was therefore going to announce a review of the general food law on these various points, and the commencement of work on the legislation on plant protection products, once the ongoing fitness check under the Regulatory Fitness and Performance (REFIT) programme had been completed. In conclusion, he announced that the review of general food law, which regulated the European Food Safety Authority, should be proposed in spring 2018.

The PRESIDENT thanked Mr ANDRIUKAITIS and noted the Commission's agreement on the approach described.

6. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS (RCC(2017) 135)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (IRG) held on Tuesday 31 October (RCC(2017) 135).

It paid particular attention to the following points.

6.1. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

i) Trilogues

(point 3.1 of the IRG record)

- European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust) (Regulation) – VOSS report – 2013/0256 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2017) 474/2.

- Protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free

movement of such data, and repeal of Regulation (EC) 45/2001 and Decision 1247/2002/EC (Regulation) – ERNST report – 2017/0002 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2017) 493/3.

- Financial rules applicable to the general budget of the European Union and amendment of Regulation (EC) 2012/2002, Regulations (EU) 1296/2013, (EU) 1301/2013, (EU) 1303/2013, (EU) 1304/2013, (EU) 1305/2013, (EU) 1306/2013, (EU) 1307/2013, (EU) 1308/2013, (EU) 1309/2013, (EU) 1316/2013, (EU) 223/2014, (EU) 283/2014 and (EU) 652/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and Decision 541/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council (Regulation) – GRÄSSLE / ASHWORTH report – 2016/0282 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2017) 508/2.

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

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2017) 495/2.

- 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) 425.

- 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) 426.

- Joint Recommendation for a Council Decision authorising the European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to open negotiations and negotiate a modernised Association Agreement with the Republic of Chile – JOIN(2017) 19

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2017) 514/2.

ii) European Parliament dossiers - Results of November I part-session
(point 3.2 of the IRG record)

Ordinary legislative procedure – First reading

- Recognition of professional qualifications in inland navigation and repeal of Council Directive 96/50/EC and Council Directive 91/672/EEC (Directive) – MEISSNER report – 2016/0050 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2017) 699 and took note of the compromise text annexed thereto.

- Cooperation between national authorities responsible for the enforcement of consumer protection laws (Regulation) – SEHNALOVÁ report – 2016/0148 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2017) 700 and /2 and took note of the compromise text attached to SP(2017) 700.

- Amendment of Regulation (EU) 2016/1036 on protection against dumped imports from countries not members of the European Union and Regulation (EU) 2016/1037 on protection against subsidised imports from countries not members of the European Union (Regulation) – CICU report – 2016/0351 (COD)

The Commission took note of the information in SP(2017) 701, further to note SI(2017) 458, which it had already approved on 11 October.

iii) Council dossier

(point 3.3 of the IRG record)

- Establishment of the legal framework of the European Solidarity Corps and amendment of Regulations (EU) 1288/2013, (EU) 1293/2013, (EU) 1303/2013, (EU) 1305/2013 and (EU) 1306/2013 and Decision 1313/2013/EU (Regulation) – TRÜPEL report – 2017/0102 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2017) 497.

6.2. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL

iv) Programming of Council business

(SI(2017) 506; SI(2017) 510)

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2017) 506 and SI(2017) 510 on the Council meetings between 2 and 22 November.

v) Non-legislative dossier

(point 4.1 of the IRG record)

- 7th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) (Vienna, 6 to 10 November)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2017) 498/3.

**vi) Preparation for Council meeting (Economic and Financial Affairs)
(Brussels, 7 November)**

(point 4.2.3 of the IRG record)

- Modernising VAT for cross-border B2C e-commerce – NIEDERMAYER & IVAN report – 2016/0370 (CNS) / 2016/0371 (CNS) / 2016/0372 (NLE)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2017) 503/2.

6.3. RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT

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

(SP(2017) 675)

The Commission decided to empower the Commission Members responsible for the sectors in question, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr TIMMERMANS 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(2017) 675, drawn up following the October II part-session of Parliament, the contents of which were noted.

viii) Results of Parliament's October II part-session

(SP(2017) 664; SP(2017) 665)

The Commission took note of the information in SP(2017) 664 and SP(2017) 665 on the proceedings of the part-session of Parliament held in Strasbourg from 23 to 26 October.

ix) Participation by Members of Parliament in international conferences

(point 5.7 of the IRG record)

- 25th ordinary meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) (Marrakech, 14 to 22 November)

The Commission agreed to the request to the PRESIDENT from Mr Antonio TAJANI, the President of the European Parliament, concerning the attendance of six Members of the European Parliament at the above-mentioned meeting, from 16 to 19 November as observers in the EU delegation, with a reminder about the procedure to be followed as set out in SP(2017) 704.

6.4. OTHER BUSINESS

- x) Proposal to adapt the programmes of the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance for Turkey (IPA II Annual and Multi-Annual Programming 2017 for Turkey)**

(point 7 of the IRG record)

Mr HAHN and Ms MOGHERINI presented to the College the options open to the Commission for responding to the European Council's request, at its meeting in October, to examine the possibility of adapting the programmes of the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance for Turkey.

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2017) 505.

- 7. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE, AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – DELIVERING ON LOW-EMISSION MOBILITY – A EUROPEAN UNION THAT PROTECTS THE PLANET, EMPOWERS ITS CONSUMERS AND DEFENDS ITS INDUSTRY AND WORKERS**

(COM(2017) 675 AND /2; RCC(2017) 136; RCC(2017) 137)

- 8. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL SETTING EMISSION PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR NEW PASSENGER CARS AND FOR NEW LIGHT COMMERCIAL VEHICLES AS PART OF THE UNION'S INTEGRATED APPROACH TO REDUCE CO₂ EMISSIONS FROM LIGHT-DUTY VEHICLES AND AMENDING REGULATION (EC) 715/2007 (RECAST)**

(COM(2017) 676 TO /3; SWD(2017) 650; SWD(2017) 651; SEC(2017) 476; RCC(2017) 136; RCC(2017) 137)

9. PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING DIRECTIVE 2009/33/EC ON THE PROMOTION OF CLEAN AND ENERGY-EFFICIENT ROAD TRANSPORT VEHICLES

(COM(2017) 653 AND /2; SWD(2017) 366; SWD(2017) 367; SEC(2017) 475; RCC(2017) 136; RCC(2017) 137)

10. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING REGULATION (EC) 1073/2009 ON COMMON RULES FOR ACCESS TO THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET FOR COACH AND BUS SERVICES

(COM(2017) 647; SWD(2017) 358; SWD(2017) 359; SWD(2017) 360; SWD(2017) 361; SEC(2017) 472; RCC(2017) 136; RCC(2017) 137)

11. PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING DIRECTIVE 92/106/EEC ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMON RULES FOR CERTAIN TYPES OF COMBINED TRANSPORT OF GOODS BETWEEN MEMBER STATES

(COM(2017) 648; SWD(2017) 362; SWD(2017) 363; SEC(2017) 473; RCC(2017) 136; RCC(2017) 137)

12. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE, AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – TOWARDS THE BROADEST USE OF ALTERNATIVE FUELS – AN ACTION PLAN ON ALTERNATIVE FUELS INFRASTRUCTURE UNDER ARTICLE 10(6) OF DIRECTIVE 2014/94/EU, INCLUDING THE ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORKS UNDER ARTICLE 10(2) OF DIRECTIVE 2014/94/EU

(COM(2017) 652 AND /2; SWD(2017) 365; RCC(2017) 136; RCC(2017) 137)

13. COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION SUPPLEMENTING DIRECTIVE 2014/94/EU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF

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THE COUNCIL AS REGARDS RECHARGING POINTS FOR L-CATEGORY MOTOR VEHICLES, SHORE-SIDE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY FOR INLAND WATERWAY VESSELS AND REFUELLING POINTS FOR LNG FOR WATERBORNE TRANSPORT, AND AMENDING THAT DIRECTIVE AS REGARDS CONNECTORS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES FOR THE REFUELLING OF GASEOUS HYDROGEN (C(2017) 7348; RCC(2017) 136; RCC(2017) 137)

14. PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING DIRECTIVE 2009/73/EC CONCERNING COMMON RULES FOR THE INTERNAL MARKET IN NATURAL GAS (COM(2017) 660; SWD(2017) 368; RCC(2017) 136; RCC(2017) 137)

The PRESIDENT opened the discussion on the set of proposals to promote the Union's transition to clean mobility, submitted for Commission approval, by reminding the meeting that the bulk of these proposals had already been approved and by asking that particular attention be given to the proposal relating to carbon dioxide emissions for new passenger cars and new light commercial vehicles (item 8 of these Minutes).

Mr ŠEFČOVIČ presented the set of proposals, explaining that it followed on from the first series of legislative and non-legislative initiatives approved in May 2017. The transition to a low-carbon economy was one of the major political priorities of the current Commission.

He began by explaining the structure of the set of proposals presented that day, setting out the main elements, including (i) new carbon dioxide emissions standards for passenger cars and light commercial vehicles, (ii) increased support for the deployment of infrastructure for alternative fuels, (iii) a proposal aimed at using public procurement rules to make the vehicle fleets of public authorities cleaner, (iv) measures promoting the transition from road freight to more environmentally friendly modes of transport, such as transport by rail or inland waterways, and (v) promotion of the use of public transport, in particular by the removal of certain

restrictions on national markets for bus and coach services.

Mr ŠEFČOVIČ then highlighted the global nature of these measures, to be considered together with the previous initiatives taken in the context of the Energy Union and in the light of the decarbonisation of the economy by 2050. The measures in question would implement the commitments made by the Union in signing the Paris Agreement on climate change, whilst bringing benefits to consumers and restoring their confidence in the European car industry. Although the set of proposals was aimed at ensuring the competitiveness and technological supremacy of the Union, care should also be taken not to lose sight of social fairness in the changes that would take place within this industry.

The proposals laid down not only new rules but also incentives, designed to support the competitiveness of the car industry, promote innovation in the field of clean technology, and speed up the adoption of new clean cars by the market. In this context, he noted that consumer acceptance would depend in particular on the development of infrastructure for alternative fuels, pointing out that the package put forward tools to speed up the deployment of charging stations and technological advances in the battery sector.

Mr ARIAS CAÑETE presented the compromise proposed with regard to the schedule for reducing the emissions of passenger cars and light commercial vehicles (item 8 of these Minutes). Although in general emissions in the Union had fallen by 23% compared with 1990, emissions from road transport had in fact increased by around 20%, and transport currently accounted for 22% of total emissions. The proposal on carbon dioxide emissions presented that day would bring about several benefits for consumers, in particular by ensuring better air quality and increasing the number of affordable clean vehicles available in Europe. The staggered objectives for 2025 and 2030 would make it possible to get the necessary investments under way without delay, and at the same time ensure long-term stability in the sector.

Mr ARIAS CAÑETE dwelt at greater length on the two main new features introduced by this proposal. The first was an innovative incentive scheme to speed

up the transition to clean vehicles, based on the targets of a 15% reduction in average emissions in 2025 and a 30% reduction in 2030 compared with 2021; this would determine the number of clean vehicles that each car manufacturer would ideally have to place on the market in 2025 and 2030 to reach 3 million or 6 million clean vehicles, respectively. Each manufacturer producing more clean vehicles would receive credits that it could use towards achieving its overall emission targets, i.e. a 15% reduction in 2025 and a 30% reduction in 2030. The second new feature was stricter monitoring of the application of the rules and more stringent checks to ensure that car manufacturers were actually meeting their targets.

Mr ARIAS CAÑETE further reminded the meeting that the set of proposals made provision for an action plan with EUR 800 million to support infrastructure projects, including for electric vehicles, and drew attention to the flagship initiative in the battery sector, which had a budget of EUR 200 million up to 2020. He concluded by thanking the Commissioners linked to this dossier and their departments for their constructive contributions, which had made it possible to present an ambitious and balanced compromise proposal.

Ms BULC highlighted the inclusive approach that had governed the development of the set of proposals by taking into consideration mobility supply and demand in the Union and covering a wide range of policies – from infrastructure to the modernisation of public authorities' vehicle fleets, reducing emissions to restoring consumer confidence, developing alternative fuels to increasing the public transport services available. She stressed the fact that the package had been the subject of extensive consultations and in-depth studies.

Ms BIENKOWSKA welcomed the results of this teamwork and underlined the need to continue to be very ambitious in order to promote the competitiveness of European industry, particularly in the field of energy and clean transport.

In the course of the discussion that followed, the Commission raised the following main points:

- the suggestion by some of examining the idea of pushing back from 2025 to 2026 the deadline set for the proposal on carbon dioxide emissions to achieve the intermediate target of a 15% reduction in emissions, given that (i) a linear reduction would place a heavier burden on manufacturers during the first years of the period covered by the proposal, (ii) from past experience, the deployment of new technologies gave rise to an increase in impact concentrated more towards the end of the period, and (iii) the industry would need time to adapt to the new standards planned, as some manufacturers had still not reached the targets set by previous regulations;
- the importance, for the others, of maintaining the existing balance of the proposal, which was felt to be ambitious, realistic and in line with the priority objectives for Commission proposals, namely (i) improving air quality in the interests of citizens' health, (ii) respecting the commitments of the Paris Agreement on climate change and living up to the EU's ambition to remain the leading player in this field, (iii) promoting a socially fair transition towards cleaner mobility solutions, (iv) maintaining the competitiveness and position of the European car industry, and (v) helping to restore consumer confidence in this sector;
- mention of the extensive preparatory work that had gone into the proposal on emissions standards and the difficulty of changing one element without running the risk of compromising the general balance;
- in this connection, the argument that a less ambitious target for the emissions standards applied to the transport sector should be offset in other sectors in order to meet domestic and international commitments entered into by the Union in terms of reducing carbon emissions;
- an insistence on the need to pay maximum attention to ensuring that the social consequences of the transition to cleaner transport were counterbalanced by

measures that included targeted policies on modernisation and the retraining of workers;

- mention of a number of additional initiatives which would help the car industry achieve the targets by speeding up the investment needed for a successful transition, in particular the action plan on sustainable financing and the extension and reinforcement of the European Fund for Strategic Investments;
- a reminder of the instruments and elements of flexibility already provided for in the set of proposals tabled that day in order to help car manufacturers to adapt to the new measures;
- the need to avoid the danger that a lowering of ambitions might in the medium term damage the competitiveness of the European car industry, as had happened in certain other sectors confronted by major technological change.

The PRESIDENT thanked Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, Mr ARIAS CAÑETE, Ms BULC and Ms BIENKOWSKA for their excellent work. He took note of the Commission's agreement on the compromise they had proposed, and pointed out the importance of the legislative procedure with the European Parliament and the Council that must be followed before the Commission's proposals on clean mobility could enter into force.

At the end of this discussion, the Commission:

- approved the Communication in COM(2017) 675/2 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 Regulation in COM(2017) 676/3 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the national parliaments, together with the impact assessment and the summary thereof in staff working documents SWD(2017) 650 and SWD(2017) 651, the contents of which were noted;

- also took note of the opinion of the Regulatory Scrutiny Board, distributed as SEC(2017) 476;
- adopted the proposal for a Directive in COM(2017) 653/2 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the national parliaments, together with the impact assessment and the summary thereof in staff working documents SWD(2017) 366 and SWD(2017) 367, the contents of which were noted;
- also took note of the opinion of the Regulatory Scrutiny Board, distributed as SEC(2017) 475;
- adopted the proposal for a Regulation in COM(2017) 647 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 final report and executive summary in staff working documents SWD(2017) 358, SWD(2017) 359, SWD(2017) 361 and SWD(2017) 360 respectively, the contents of which were noted;
- also took note of the opinion of the Regulatory Scrutiny Board, distributed as SEC(2017) 472;
- adopted the proposal for a Directive in COM(2017) 648 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the national parliaments, together with the impact assessment and the summary thereof in staff working documents SWD(2017) 362 and SWD(2017) 363, the contents of which were noted;
- also took note of the opinion of the Regulatory Scrutiny Board, distributed as SEC(2017) 473;
- approved the Communication in COM(2017) 652/2 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,

together with the staff working document distributed as SWD(2017) 365, the contents of which were noted;

- adopted in principle the Delegated Regulation in C(2017) 7348 and, acting under Article 13 of its Rules of Procedure, empowered Ms BULC, the Member responsible for transport, formally to adopt it, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, in all languages as soon as the texts became available, with a view to its transmission to the European Parliament and the Council and its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union* at the end of the period for objection laid down in the rules;
- adopted the proposal for a Directive set out in COM(2017) 660 for transmission to Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the national parliaments, together with the staff working document distributed as SWD(2017) 368, the contents of which were noted.

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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 10.45.