



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2018) 2264 final

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

Brussels, 10 October 2018

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

of the 2264th meeting of the Commission

held in Brussels

(Berlaymont)

on Wednesday 5 September 2018

(morning)

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PV(2018) 2264 final

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

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Single sitting: Wednesday 5 September 2018 (morning)

The sitting opened at 10.13 with Mr JUNCKER, President, in the chair.

Present:

Mr JUNCKER	President	
Mr TIMMERMANS	First Vice-President	
Ms MOGHERINI	High Representative / Vice-President	Items 8 and 9
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	
Mr MIMICA	Member	
Mr ARIAS CAÑETE	Member	
Mr ANDRIUKAITIS	Member	
Mr AVRAMOPOULOS	Member	
Mr MOSCOVICI	Member	Items 1 to 9 (in part)
Mr STYLIANIDES	Member	
Mr HOGAN	Member	
Ms BULC	Member	
Ms BIENKOWSKA	Member	
Ms JOUROVÁ	Member	
Ms CREȚU	Member	
Ms VESTAGER	Member	
Mr MOEDAS	Member	
Sir Julian KING	Member	
Ms GABRIEL	Member	

Absent:

Mr VELLA	Member
Ms THYSSEN	Member
Mr NAVRACSICS	Member

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

Mr MUELLER	Chef de cabinet to Mr VELLA
Ms BERNAERTS	Chef de cabinet to Ms THYSSEN
Ms KIRALY	Chef de cabinet to Mr NAVRACSICS

The following also sat in:

Ms MARTÍNEZ ALBEROLA	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	
Ms METTLER	Head of the European Political Strategy Centre	Item 9
Mr SWIEBODA	European Political Strategy Centre	Items 1 to 8
Ms AHRENKILDE HANSEN	Deputy Secretary-General	
Ms GAUER	Deputy Secretary-General	
Mr SZOSTAK	Deputy Chef de cabinet to the PRESIDENT	
Ms SILLAVEE	PRESIDENT's Office	
Mr HAGER	Chef de cabinet to Mr OETTINGER	Item 6
Ms NIKOLAY	Chef de cabinet to Ms JOUROVÁ	Item 8
Ms VILA NUÑEZ	Secretariat-General	

Secretary: Mr SELMAYR, Secretary-General, assisted by Ms ALLOUIS-LE LOSTEC, Head of Unit in the Secretariat-General.

(5 September 2018)

At the President's invitation, Mr TIMMERMANS paid a heartfelt tribute to Mr Alex BØJE who died suddenly on 11 August at the age of 42. He highlighted his extreme professionalism in carrying out his duties at Mr TIMMERMANS's side as a member of his security team, and also his exceptional human qualities.

The PRESIDENT also honoured the memory of Mr Alex BØJE, whom he knew personally, and shared the deep sadness he felt at the tragic loss of a remarkable man and a true professional.

On behalf of the Commission and in their own name, the PRESIDENT and Mr TIMMERMANS presented their deepest condolences to Mr Alex BØJE's family and friends.

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1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2018) 2264/FINAL; SEC(2018) 2264/FINAL)

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 item 6.1 (on an administrative decision) to that day's agenda.

2. WEEKLY MEETING OF CHEFS DE CABINET

(RCC(2018) 2264)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 3 September 2018.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2262ND AND 2263RD MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION (11 AND 18 JULY 2018)
(PV(2018) 2262)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 2262nd meeting and decided to hold over approval of the minutes of its 2263rd meeting for a later meeting.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS
(RCC(2018) 123/2)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (IRG) held on Friday 31 August 2018 (RCC(2018) 123/2).

It paid particular attention to the following points.

4.1. HORIZONTAL ITEM

- i) Agreement between the Parliament, the Council and the Commission on the European election recess period in 2019 for the transmission of delegated acts and draft RPS (regulatory procedure with scrutiny) measures**

The Commission approved the line set out in SPI(2018) 33.

4.2. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

ii) Trilogues

(point 3.1 of the IRG record)

- Amendment of Decision 1313/2013/EU on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism (Decision) – GARDINI report – 2017/0309 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2018) 426/2.

- European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) and repeal of Council Regulation (EC) 2062/94 (Regulation) – HOC report – 2016/0254 (COD) / European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound) and repeal of Council Regulation (EEC) 1365/75 (Regulation) – CALVET CHAMBON report – 2016/0256 (COD) / Creation of a European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) and repeal of Regulation (EEC) 337/75 (Regulation) – SANDER report – 2016/0257 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2018) 435/2.

iii) European Parliament dossiers – September 2018 part-session

(point 3.2 of the IRG record)

Ordinary legislative procedure – First reading

- 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 SP(2018) 495 and /2 and took note of the compromise text attached to SP(2018) 495.

- Amendment of Regulation (EU) 2017/825 to increase the financial envelope of the Structural Reform Support Programme and adapt its general objective (Regulation) – TOMAŠIĆ report – 2017/0334 (COD)

The Commission took note of SP(2018) 496, further to note SI(2018) 412, which it had already approved on 18 July 2018.

- Amendment of Council Decision 2003/17/EC as regards the equivalence of field inspections carried out in Brazil on fodder plant seed-producing crops and cereal seed-producing crops and on the equivalence of fodder plant seed and cereal seed produced in Brazil, and as regards the

equivalence of field inspections carried out in Moldova on cereal seed-producing crops, vegetable seed-producing crops and oil and fibre plant seed-producing crops and on the equivalence of cereal seed, vegetable seed and oil and fibre plant seed produced in Moldova (Decision) – SIEKIERSKI report – 2017/0297 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2018) 497 and took note of the compromise text annexed thereto.

- Setting-out of the conditions and procedure by which the Commission may request undertakings and associations of undertakings to provide information in relation to the internal market and related areas (Regulation) – MAYDELL report – 2017/0087 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2018) 498.

- Countering money laundering by criminal law (Directive) – CORRAO report – 2016/0414 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2018) 502 and took note of the compromise text annexed thereto.

Special legislative procedure

- Amendment of Directive 2006/112/EC on the common system of value added tax as regards the special scheme for small enterprises (Council Directive) – VANDENKENDELAERE report – 2018/0006 (CNS)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2018) 499.

Non-legislative procedure

- Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (2019-2020) complementing the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (Council Regulation) – HARMS report – 2017/0312 (NLE)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2018) 500.

iv) Council dossiers

(point 3.3 of the IRG record)

- Establishment of Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination (Regulation) – NICA report – 2018/0224 (COD) / Establishment of the specific programme implementing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (Decision) – EHLEER report – 2018/0225 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2018) 427/2.

- Reflection paper on possible elements of a Roadmap for seamless cooperation between Anti Money Laundering and Prudential Supervisors in the European Union

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2018) 439 and /2.

4.3. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL

v) Programming of Council business

(SI(2018) 440)

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2018) 440 on the Council meetings between 3 and 12 September 2018.

vi) Non-legislative dossiers

(point 4.1 of the IRG record)

- Council Decision (EU) 2018/881 of 18 June 2018 requesting the Commission to submit a study on the Union's options for addressing the findings of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee in case ACCC/C/2008/32

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2018) 428.

- Global Compacts on Refugees and Migrants

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2018) 432 and /2.

- Draft Document ‘Common messages in the context of the Framework on a Joint European Union Diplomatic Response to Malicious Cyber Activities (the ‘cyber diplomacy toolbox’)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2018) 429.

- Joint Proposal for a Council Decision on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, and provisional application of the Framework Agreement on Partnership and Cooperation between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Government of Malaysia, of the other part – 2018/0269 (NLE)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2018) 430.

- High-level ‘Our Ocean’ Conference organized by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia on 29 and 30 October 2018 in Bali – List of commitments to be presented on behalf of the European Union

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2018) 437 and /2.

- Recommendation for a Council Decision to authorise the Commission to open negotiations on behalf of the European Union for the conclusion of a Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and protocol with the Republic of The Gambia – COM(2018) 541

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2018) 438.

4.4. RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT

vii) Participation by Members of Parliament in international conferences

(point 5.7 of the IRG record)

- Twenty-first extraordinary meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) (Dubrovnik, 12 to 19 November 2018)

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 as observers in the EU delegation, with a reminder about the procedure to be followed as set out in SP(2018) 501.

5. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

5.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED

(SEC(2018) 363 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 16 July and 31 August 2018.

5.2. EMPOWERMENT

(SEC(2018) 364 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 16 July and 31 August 2018.

5.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS

(SEC(2018) 366 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedure between 16 July and 31 August 2018, as archived in Decide.

5.4. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES

(SEC(2018) 367)

The Commission took note of the sensitive written procedures for which the time limit expired between 3 and 7 September 2018.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

(SEC(2018) 368 AND /2)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

(PERS(2018) 54 AND /2)

6.1. DG HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY – APPOINTMENT OF AD15 DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Mr OETTINGER presented a proposal for an additional decision concerning the appointment of the Director-General of DG Health and Food Safety, succeeding Mr Xavier PRATS MONNE in this function, who had decided to retire on 1 October 2018.

He praised Mr PRATS MONNE's outstanding thirty-five year career, in which he had occupied posts in various Commission departments and cabinets, before being appointed Director-General of the Directorate-General for Education and Culture, then Director-General of DG Health and Food Safety.

He proposed that the College transfer Ms Anne BUCHER, currently Chair of the Commission's Regulatory Scrutiny Board, to this post on 1 October 2018, highlighting her professional experience and recognised skills and expertise.

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Accordingly, on a proposal from Mr OETTINGER, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and after consulting Mr ANDRIUKAITIS and also Mr KATAINEN, the Commission decided to transfer in the interest of the service, under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations, Ms Anne BUCHER, an AD15 official and currently Chair of the Regulatory Scrutiny Board, to the post of Director-General of DG Health and Food Safety.

This decision would take effect on 1 October 2018.

6.2. *DG ENERGY – RESIGNATION OF AN AD15 SENIOR MANAGEMENT OFFICIAL UNDER ARTICLE 48 OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS*

On a proposal from Mr OETTINGER, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and after consulting Mr ARIAS CAÑETE and also Mr ŠEFČOVIČ and Mr KATAINEN, the Commission decided to accept, in accordance with Article 48 of the Staff Regulations, the resignation of Mr Christopher JONES, adviser hors classe in DG Energy, with effect from 1 October 2018.

This decision would take effect immediately.

6.3. *DG ENERGY – AMENDMENT OF ORGANISATION CHART, TRANSFER OF AN AD14 OFFICIAL UNDER ARTICLE 7 OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS AND SECONDMENT IN THE INTEREST OF THE SERVICE UNDER ARTICLES 37 AND 38 OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS*

On a proposal from Mr OETTINGER, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Mr ARIAS CAÑETE and also Mr ŠEFČOVIČ and Mr KATAINEN, the Commission decided:

- to approve the creation of a temporary principal adviser post in DG Energy;
- to transfer in the interest of the service, under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations, Ms Mechthild WOERSDOERFER, an AD14 official

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currently Director of the ‘Renewables, Research and Innovation, Energy Efficiency’ Directorate in DG Energy, to the newly-created temporary post of principal advisor; this post would be abolished upon the departure of the job holder;

- to second Ms WOERSDOERFER in the interest of the service, under Articles 37 and 38 of the Staff Regulations, to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris for a period of three years.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development had undertaken to pay the salary for this post, which Ms WOERSDOERFER would occupy for the duration of her secondment.

These decisions would take effect on 1 October 2018.

6.4. *DG HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY – EXTENSION OF THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY (EFSA)*

On a proposal from Mr OETTINGER, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and after consulting Mr ANDRIUKAITIS and also Mr KATAINEN, the Commission decided:

- to propose to the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority that it extend the term of office of its Executive Director, Mr Bernhard URL, reclassified at grade AD15, for a period of five years with effect from 1 June 2019, in accordance with Article 26 of Council Regulation (EC) 178/2002 of 28 January 2002 establishing the Authority;
- to ask Mr ANDRIUKAITIS, the Member of the Commission responsible for health and food safety, to communicate this decision to the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

7. COMMISSION DECISION ON THE ADMISSIBILITY OF THE PROPOSED CITIZENS' INITIATIVE ENTITLED 'END THE CAGE AGE' (C(2018) 5829)

Mr TIMMERMANS presented the draft decision being tabled for the approval of the College on the registration of the European Citizens' Initiative entitled 'End the Cage Age'. This initiative called upon the Commission, in essence, to end inhumane treatment of farm animals kept in cages and to propose legislation to prohibit the use of: cages for laying hens, rabbits, pullets, broiler breeders, layer breeders, quail, ducks and geese; farrowing crates for sows; sow stalls, where not already prohibited, and individual calf pens, where not already prohibited.

He reminded the meeting that in accordance with the conditions for admissibility provided for in Regulation (EU) 211/2011 on the citizens' initiative, the proposed action must, in order to be registered, manifestly fall within the Commission's powers to submit a proposal for a legal act for the purpose of implementing the Treaties, and fulfil the other conditions set out in Article 4(2) of that Regulation.

The requests of the proponents of the European citizens' initiative fell within the Commission's powers to propose legal acts for the purpose of implementing the Treaties, under the provisions necessary for the pursuit of the objectives of the common agricultural policy, including the prohibition of caging in the context of agricultural production, on the basis of Article 43(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

In conclusion, Mr TIMMERMANS pointed out that the College's task that day was only to decide on the legal admissibility of the proposal and not at this stage to analyse its substance or political expediency. If, in the space of a year, one million signatures were collected from citizens of at least seven Member States, the Commission would have three months to decide whether or not to consent to the

requests, duly justifying its decision.

The Commission confirmed that the admissibility criteria under Article 4(2) of Regulation (EU) 211/2011 were fulfilled for the proposed citizens' initiative entitled 'End the Cage Age'. The Commission therefore decided to register the initiative, in accordance with document C(2018) 5829, and authorised Mr TIMMERMANS to sign the decision on its behalf, to notify the organisers of the initiative thereof in the authentic language (English), and to publish it, for information, in the Official Journal of the European Union.

8. DRAFT COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION PURSUANT TO REGULATION (EU) 2016/679 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ON THE ADEQUATE PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA BY JAPAN

In order to launch the adoption procedure as part of the comitology process, Ms JOUROVÁ presented to the Commission a draft decision stating that Japan's internal legislation and its international commitments offered a level of protection of personal data comparable to that guaranteed in the European Union. Japan would adopt a reciprocal adequacy decision in respect of the EU.

This decision would enable the safe release of flows of personal data between the European Economic Area and an important trade partner (Japan) for the benefit of citizens, economic operators and trade. Moreover, given the importance of flows of personal data in the economy, this recognition of reciprocal adequacy clearly provided added value for the historic economic partnership agreement concluded by the Union with Japan in the summer of 2017.

Ms JOUROVÁ thanked all those committed to resolving the differences, which were few in number but involved matters of principle, between the two sets of rules concerned, thus helping to bring the negotiations to a successful conclusion.

In extending the EU's international strategy on flows of data and the success of the adequacy decision in relation to Japan discussed at the meeting, Ms JOUROVÁ announced the opening and continuation of adequacy negotiations with Brazil and South Korea.

She also informed the Commission that the second annual review of the Agreement aimed at protecting the personal data of every Union citizen transferred to the United States for commercial purposes, known as the 'EU-US Privacy Shield', would take place on 18 October 2018 in the presence of the US Secretary for Trade, Mr Wilbur Ross.

In conclusion, Ms JOUROVÁ proposed that the Commission endorse the draft adequacy decision with regard to Japan and initiate the procedure necessary for its adoption, which included the submission of the decision to the Member States and the European Data Protection Board. The European Parliament would be kept informed.

The PRESIDENT stressed the importance of this decision and hailed Ms JOUROVÁ's work on this complex file.

The Commission took note of this information and, at the PRESIDENT's invitation, adopted in principle the draft Commission implementing decision in order to continue the procedural steps.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

PREPARATION OF THE STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS (STRASBOURG, 12 SEPTEMBER)

As part of the preparations for the State of the Union address which he would deliver to the European Parliament on 12 September, the PRESIDENT asked the Members of the Commission to pass on any additional ideas, particularly relating to external affairs and the external dimension of the euro.

On the former point, Ms MOGHERINI felt that the main message to get across would be to explain that the European Union was ready to play a leading role in world affairs. In support of this assertion it could cite the results achieved recently in the trade talks with the United States, its constructive management of relations with the Western Balkans region, its efforts on energy security, its pioneering role in global climate policy, and the arrangements it had put in place to manage the external aspect of the migration crisis. She said that much of the international community had high expectations of the Union, looking to it to defend the multilateral order, and this called for a positive response.

She briefly reviewed current foreign policy priorities, starting with the Western Balkans and the ongoing talks between Serbia and Kosovo¹ aimed at normalising their relations, and referring also to defence, the impact of American trade sanctions on EU businesses operating in Iran, and finally the management of regional crises and in particular the cases of Syria, Libya and Ukraine.

Mr HAHN also felt that the Union should develop its capacity to play a global role and take the initiative, in other words its ‘*Weltpolitikfähigkeit*’, to use the PRESIDENT’s words. On the institutional level he saw the move from unanimous voting to qualified majority voting as a way of achieving this by streamlining the decision-making process in the common foreign and security policy. He was also in favour of the possibility of using ‘passerelle’ or bridging clauses for this purpose in as many areas as possible. In the field of defence he recommended focusing efforts on forming European industrial consortia along the lines of Airbus. As regards the Western Balkans, finally, he advocated an approach in which the settlement of bilateral disputes between the countries involved contributed to the overall stability of the region. He concluded by referring to the importance of symbols in

¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1244/1999 and the International Court of Justice Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

communication, citing the example of the inauguration the day before – on 4 September – of the first European School set up under the Eastern Partnership in Tbilisi, Georgia, something in which he took great pride on behalf of the Union.

The PRESIDENT then invited Mr DOMBROVSKIS and Mr MOSCOVICI to present a few points on the international role of the euro, with a view to his State of the Union address.

Mr DOMBROVSKIS considered that the role and use of the euro at international level could be enhanced in the long term thanks to a number of policy tools. He pointed first to the significant contribution towards that objective made by all the measures taken to enhance the resilience of the euro area and to create an integrated financial market that was sufficiently large and had adequate liquidity, by completing the Banking Union and the Capital Markets Union.

It was still possible to go further, however, based on a clearly defined comprehensive strategy supported by the Member States, that brought into play economic policy instruments, external relations and other areas of action.

Technically there was nothing to stop the European currency being used more widely for payments currently denominated in dollars, or for loans issued by Union credit agencies. The euro could also serve more widely as a reserve currency in the form of government bonds or sovereign bond-backed securities, if the Member States that had adopted it were in favour of this.

Mr MOSCOVICI also thought that developing the international role of the euro was a political rather than a technical question. The Commission and the European Central Bank had so far taken a fairly neutral stance on this issue, as had the Economic and Financial Affairs Council which, in 2016, had seen no reason to plan particular measures to strengthen the international role of the euro. However, the United States' questioning of the multilateral system might prompt many players on the international markets to favour alternatives to the dollar in the light of current US sanctions against Iran.

He said that the move towards the status of an international currency was a long-term process and in the case of the euro would require a consensus between the European Central Bank and the Member States of the euro area. In the shorter term he stressed the importance of completing the Banking Union and the Capital Markets Union in order to guarantee the euro's resilience in the event of a crisis and to ensure that this international currency played a protective role in the event of international monetary and financial risks.

Mr ARIAS CAÑETE added that the European Union was the largest energy importer in the world and 90% of its energy bill was paid in dollars, the exception being Norwegian gas. While not denying the pre-eminence of the dollar, he noted that the use of the euro in trade was mentioned increasingly often at international level. If the national central banks were to coordinate their positions, he felt that the Commission could present a recommendation on the role of the euro in the financial markets and international trade.

The PRESIDENT then asked Ms BIENKOWSKA to provide an update on the Galileo project, which he regarded as one of the great achievements of the present Commission and which he wanted to mention in his State of the Union address.

Ms BIENKOWSKA highlighted the undeniable success of Galileo, an industrial project that was 100% European and now had 400 million users worldwide. It also had great strategic importance, particularly in the context of the Union's common defence policy. She was pleased that, since 2015, the Commission had met all its contractual obligations on time and within the prescribed budget, contrary to certain pessimistic forecasts. The aim of Galileo was to guarantee Europe's security and technological independence, and to stimulate its economy by making the data collected by its satellites available to EU companies and citizens free of charge. She also noted in passing that participation in the Galileo project was the subject of intense debate in the negotiations on the agreement on the UK's withdrawal from the Union.

The PRESIDENT thanked all of the participants for their presentations and asked

them to send him brief notes on the subjects the College had discussed that day.

The Commission took note of this information.

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The meeting closed at 11.20.