



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2018) 2266 final

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

Brussels, 10 October 2018

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

of the 2266th meeting of the Commission

held in Brussels

(Berlaymont)

on Wednesday 19 September 2018

(morning)

—

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

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Single sitting: Wednesday 19 September 2018 (morning)

The sitting opened at 10.45 with Mr JUNCKER, President, in the chair. The discussion of item 12 was chaired in part by Mr ANSIP.

Present:

Mr JUNCKER	President	Items 1 to 12 (in part)
Mr TIMMERMANS	First Vice-President	Items 1 to 8
Ms MOGHERINI	High Representative / Vice-President	Items 1 to 12 (in part)
Mr ANSIP	Vice-President	
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Vice-President	Items 1 to 11
Mr KATAINEN	Vice-President	
Mr OETTINGER	Member	Items 1 to 12 (in part)
Ms MALMSTRÖM	Member	
Mr MIMICA	Member	
Mr ARIAS CAÑETE	Member	
Mr ANDRIUKAITIS	Member	Items 1 to 12 (in part)
Ms THYSEN	Member	
Mr STYLIANIDES	Member	
Mr HOGAN	Member	
Ms BULC	Member	
Ms JOUROVÁ	Member	
Ms VESTAGER	Member	Items 1 to 9
Sir Julian KING	Member	
Ms GABRIEL	Member	Items 1 to 12 (in part)

Absent:

Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Vice-President
Mr HAHN	Member
Mr VELLA	Member
Mr AVRAMOPOULOS	Member
Mr MOSCOVICI	Member
Ms BIENKOWSKA	Member
Mr NAVRACSICS	Member
Ms CREȚU	Member
Mr MOEDAS	Member

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

Mr WYNANDS	Chef de cabinet to Mr DOMBROVSKIS	
Mr KARNITSCHNIG	Chef de cabinet to Mr HAHN	
Mr MUELLER	Chef de cabinet to Mr VELLA	
Ms SCHMITT	Chef de cabinet to Mr AVRAMOPOULOS	
Mr BAILLY	Chef de cabinet to Mr MOSCOVICI	Items 1 to 12 (in part)
Mr HEDBERG	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Ms BIENKOWSKA	
Ms KIRALY	Chef de cabinet to Mr NAVRACSICS	
Ms RUS	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Ms CREȚU	
Ms DEL BRENNA	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Mr MOEDAS	

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	
Mr SWIEBODA	European Political Strategy Centre	
Ms AHRENKILDE HANSEN	Deputy Secretary-General	
Ms GAUER	Deputy Secretary-General	
Mr SZOSTAK	Deputy Chef de cabinet to the PRESIDENT	Items 1 to 12 (in part)
Ms DEJMEK HACK	Adviser in the PRESIDENT's Office	Item 12
Ms ARKI	PRESIDENT's Office	Items 1 to 12 (in part)
Mr SMULDERS	Chef de cabinet to Mr TIMMERMANS	Items 1 to 8
Mr ROMANOWSKI	A member of Mr ŠEFČOVIČ's staff	Item 12
Mr GROSS	A member of Mr OETTINGER's staff	Items 1 to 11

Mr SCHØNBERG	Principal Adviser in Ms VESTAGER's office	Items 10 to 12
Ms VILA NUÑEZ	Secretariat-General	
Ms ANDREEVA	Commission Spokesperson's Service	
Mr BARNIER	Chief negotiator and Head of the Article 50 Task Force	

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

1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2018) 2266/FINAL; SEC(2018) 2266)

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

2. WEEKLY MEETING OF CHEFS DE CABINET

(RCC(2018) 2266)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 17 September 2018.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2264TH AND 2265TH MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION (5 AND 11 SEPTEMBER)

The Commission held over approval of the minutes of its 2264th and 2265th meetings for a later meeting.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(RCC(2018) 131)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (IRG) held on Friday 14 September 2018 (RCC(2018) 131).

It paid particular attention to the following points.

4.1. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

i) 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) 453.

- Quality of water intended for human consumption (Directive – recast) – DANTIN report – 2017/0332 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2018) 443/3.

- Amendment of Regulation (EU) 2018/120 as regards certain fishing opportunities for European seabass (Council Regulation) – 2018/0321 (NLE)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2018) 455.

- Safeguarding of competition in air transport, and repeal of Regulation (EC) 868/2004 (Regulation) – PIEPER report – 2017/0116 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2018) 458.

- Amendment of Regulation (EC) 1008/2008 on common rules for the operation of air services in the Community (Regulation) – TARPARDDEL report – 2016/0411 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2018) 459.

4.2. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL

ii) Programming of Council business

(SI(2018) 467)

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2018) 467 on the Council meetings between 20 September and 3 October 2018.

iii) Non-legislative dossiers

(point 4.1 of the IRG record)

- International Maritime Organisation (IMO) – Commission Staff Working Documents for the Council Shipping Working Party – Union submission – SWD(2018) 399

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2018) 462.

- Recommendation for a Council Decision in order to authorise the Commission to open negotiations on comprehensive air transport agreements between the European Union and the Sultanate of Oman – COM(2015) 607

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2018) 464.

4.3. RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT

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

(SP(2018) 544)

The Commission decided to empower the Members of the Commission 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(2018) 544, drawn up following the September 2018 part-session of Parliament, the contents of which were noted.

- v) Action taken on the legislative opinions and non-legislative resolutions adopted by Parliament at its July 2018 part-session**
(point 5.6.1 of the IRG record)

The Commission approved document SP(2018) 547 on the action taken on the legislative opinions and non-legislative resolutions adopted by Parliament at its July 2018 part-session, for transmission to Parliament.

- vi) Results of Parliament's September 2018 part-session**
(SP(2018) 522; (SP(2018) 523)

The Commission took note of the information in SP(2018) 522 and SP(2018) 523 on the proceedings of the part-session of Parliament held in Strasbourg from 10 to 13 September 2018.

4.4. MISCELLANEOUS

- vii) Joint Press Communiqué on the European Union - United Nations Renewed Partnership Development to be released during the 73rd United Nations General Assembly**
(point 7.2 of the IRG record)

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2018) 456.

- viii) Joint Commission and European Stability Mechanism (ESM) work on the general principles for contingency buffers in financial assistance programmes**
(point 7.3 of the IRG record)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2018) 465.

5. JOINT COMMUNICATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE, THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS AND THE EUROPEAN

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**INVESTMENT BANK – CONNECTING EUROPE AND ASIA – BUILDING
BLOCKS FOR AN EU STRATEGY
(JOIN(2018) 31 TO /3; RCC(2018) 132)**

The Commission approved the Joint Communication in JOIN(2018) 31/3 for transmission to Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment Bank, and, for information, to the national parliaments.

6. MONITORING THE APPLICATION OF EUROPEAN UNION LAW

***INFRINGEMENTS – URGENT INDIVIDUAL CASE
(SEC(2018) 420)***

**2017/2121 – POLAND – Breach of European Union law by the new law on the
Supreme Court**

**Decision: referral to the Court of Justice of the European Union under
Article 258 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union**

The PRESIDENT asked Mr TIMMERMANS to report on the situation regarding the rule of law in Poland, in particular the breach of European Union law by the new law on the Supreme Court, in the context of the infringement procedure against Poland that was launched on 2 July 2018.

Following the presentation, the PRESIDENT took note of the College's agreement in principle on the Decision proposed by Mr TIMMERMANS, set out in the fiche annexed to SEC(2018) 420.

On a proposal from the PRESIDENT, the Commission agreed that the Decision currently set out in the fiche annexed to SEC(2018) 420 would be adopted by the finalisation written procedure, the deadline for which was set at 10.00 on Monday 24 September 2018 (PE/2018/6482).

7. **COMMISSION DECISION ON THE PROPOSED CITIZENS' INITIATIVE ENTITLED 'EAT ORIGINAL! UNMASK YOUR FOOD' (C(2018) 6054)**
8. **COMMISSION DECISION ON THE PROPOSED CITIZENS' INITIATIVE ENTITLED 'STOP FRAUD AND ABUSE OF EU FUNDS - BY BETTER CONTROL OF DECISIONS, IMPLEMENTATION AND PENALTIES' (C(2018) 6077)**

M. TIMMERMANS presented the draft decisions submitted to the College for approval concerning the registration of two proposed European Citizens' Initiatives. The first initiative, entitled 'Eat ORIGINAL! Unmask your food' invited the Commission, in substance, to impose a mandatory declaration of origin for all food products in order to prevent frauds, protect public health and guarantee consumers' right to information. The second, entitled 'STOP FRAUD and abuse of EU FUNDS - by better control of decisions, implementation and penalties' proposed that European Institutions should be entitled to apply enhanced (including ex-ante) control and stricter sanctions in those EU Member States which were not members of the European Prosecutor's Office.

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 actions must, in order to be registered, manifestly fall within the Commission's powers to submit proposals for a legal acts for the purpose of implementing the Treaties, and fulfil the other conditions set out in Article 4(2) of that Regulation.

With regard to the first initiative, the requests of the proponents of the European citizens' initiative fell within the Commission's powers to propose a legal act to approximate the provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in Member States which have as their object the establishment and functioning of the internal market, in accordance with Article 114 of the Treaty on the Functioning of

the European Union.

With regard to the second initiative, Mr TIMMERMANS proposed, as already decided by the Commission in the case of other citizens' initiatives, to register it, specifying that the signatures would be collected for admissible legal acts, namely proposals that were in line with the competences set out in the Treaties. In this case, he noted that the proposals in question, while enhancing the protection of the EU's financial interests, did not differentiate between Member States solely according to their participation or non-participation in the enhanced cooperation on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office.

In conclusion, he reminded the meeting that the College's task that day was to decide only on the legal admissibility of the two proposals and not at this stage to analyse their substance or political expediency. If, in the space of a year, one million signatures were collected from citizens of at least seven Member States for one or both of the initiatives, the Commission would have three months to decide whether or not to consent to the requests, duly justifying its decision.

The Commission confirmed that in accordance with Article 4(2) of Regulation (EU) 211/2011, the conditions for admissibility of the proposed citizens' initiative entitled 'Eat ORIGINAL! Unmask your food' and 'STOP FRAUD and abuse of EU FUNDS - by better control of decisions, implementation and penalties' were fulfilled, subject to the clarifications above concerning the second initiative. The Commission therefore decided to register them, in accordance with documents C(2018) 6054 and C(2018) 6077, and authorised Mr TIMMERMANS to sign the decision on its behalf, to notify the organisers of the initiatives thereof in the authentic language (English), and to publish them, for information, in the Official Journal of the European Union.

9. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

9.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED

(SEC(2018) 391 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 10 and 14 September 2018.

9.2. EMPOWERMENT

(SEC(2018) 392 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 10 and 14 September 2018.

9.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS

(SEC(2018) 393 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedure between 10 and 14 September 2018, as archived in Decide.

9.4. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES

(SEC(2018) 394)

The Commission took note of the sensitive written procedures for which the time limit expired between 17 and 21 September 2018.

State aid case on tax rulings SA.38945 (2015/C) (ex 2015/NN) (ex 2014/CP) granted by Luxembourg to McDonald's Europe Franchising – C(2018) 6076 – PE/2018/6376

Ms VESTAGER drew the College's attention to a state aid case mentioned among the sensitive written procedures, which related to the tax rulings granted by Luxembourg to the enterprise McDonald's Europe Franchising, a

subsidiary of the US group McDonald's. This decision had been adopted by written procedure on Wednesday 19 September (PE/2018/6376).

Ms VESTAGER briefly explained the facts, reminding the meeting that the Commission had opened an investigation in December 2015 to establish, in the light of EU state aid rules, the cause of the double non-taxation of the profit of this subsidiary, McDonald's Franchising. The aim was to establish whether this situation was due to misapplication by Luxembourg of its national laws and of the Luxembourg-US Double Taxation Treaty, in favour of McDonald's. Her services' in-depth investigation has shown that the reason for double non-taxation in this case was a mismatch between Luxembourg and US tax laws, and not a special treatment by Luxembourg in 2009 of McDonald's Franchising in the form of two tax rulings. Therefore, Luxembourg had not broken EU State aid rules. However, she welcomed the legislative proposals that had been presented by the Luxembourg Government in June to address the issue that had arisen in this case and avoid such situations occurring again in the future.

The Commission took note of this information.

**9.5. COMMISSION DECISION REPEALING CERTAIN OBSOLETE DECISIONS GRANTING DELEGATIONS AND EMPOWERMENTS
(C(2018) 6073)**

The Commission adopted the decision in C(2018) 6073 repealing, for reasons of legal certainty and clarity, 28 obsolete decisions granting delegations and empowerments.

10. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS
(SEC(2018) 395)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
(PERS(2018) 55)

Mr OETTINGER commented on the conclusions of the report on female representation in management functions in the European Commission (item 10.8 of these minutes), highlighting the objective the Commission had set itself of achieving at least 40% of female representation in middle and senior management functions by the end of its term of office in November 2019.

To put things into perspective, he stressed that at the beginning of the current term of office in November 2014, women held 30% of the management posts at the Commission and that today they held 39% owing to progress made in both middle and senior management.

He started by giving details of the relative figures for senior management between November 2014 and the present day. He said that the percentage of posts in this category held by women had risen from 27% to 37% with an increase from 14% to 28% for women in Director-General posts, from 8% to 45% for women in Deputy Director-General posts and from 32% to 37% for women in Director posts.

With regard to middle management, he said that the Commission, from 31% in November 2014, had now achieved the objective of 40%.

Mr OETTINGER therefore felt that the Commission's policy and the measures taken during its current term of office had borne fruit. He called for these efforts to be kept up so that by the end of the Commission's term of office the objective of 40% might be spread equally across all management categories. He asked the Members of the Commission to take this into account in the Directorates-General under their authority.

The PRESIDENT welcomed this positive development, which he personally had

wished for, and hoped that the number of women in the next College would also increase significantly.

**10.1. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – PROMOTION OF
SENIOR MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS – 2017 EXERCISE
(PERS(2018) 57)**

The Commission noted the procedure followed, as set out in point 6 of PERS(2018) 55, and, on a proposal from Mr OETTINGER, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, decided:

- to promote to grade AD16 Mr Carlos ALEGRIA, Ms Anne BUCHER, Mr Olivier GUERSENT, Mr Henrik HOLOLEI, Mr Johannes LAITENBERGER, Ms Paraskevi MICHOU, Ms Monique PARIAT, Mr Timo PESONEN and Ms Irmfried SCHWIMANN, presented in alphabetical order, exercising the basic function of Director-General, with effect from 1 January 2018;
- to promote to grade AD15 Ms Delilah AL KHUDHAIRY, Mr Antonio CARNEIRO, Ms Helene CLARK, Ms Fabrizia DE ROSA, Mr Didier HERBERT, Ms Petra KNEUER, Mr Pascal LEARDINI, Mr Christian LEVASSEUR, Mr Guillaume LORIOT, Mr Richard LYAL, Mr James MORRISON, Mr Valere MOUTARLIER, Ms Despina SPANOU, Mr Anthony WHELAN, Mr Matthias WILL and Ms Mechthild WOERSDOERFER, presented in alphabetical order, exercising the basic function of Director, with effect from 1 January 2018.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

**10.2. DG BUDGET – APPOINTMENT OF AD14/15 DIRECTOR
(PERS(2018) 49 TO /3)**

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Director of the ‘Expenditure’ Directorate in DG Budget (PERS(2018) 49).

The Commission took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 10 and 19 July 2018 (PERS(2018) 49/2 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, it then decided to appoint Mr Johan UREEL to the post.

This decision would take effect on 1 October 2018.

**10.3. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – APPOINTMENT OF
AD14 DIRECTOR
(PERS(2018) 21 TO /4)**

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii), (1)(b) and (2) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Director of the ‘Security’ Directorate in DG Human Resources and Security (PERS(2018) 21 and /2).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 21 and 28 June 2018 (PERS(2018) 21/3 and /4).

The Commission proceeded to compare the applicants’ qualifications for the post. On a proposal from Mr OETTINGER, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, it then decided to appoint Mr Bernd ADOLPH to the post.

This decision would take effect on a date to be determined.

**10.4. JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE – APPOINTMENT OF AD14/15
DIRECTOR
(PERS(2017) 100 TO /3)**

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Director of the 'Resources' Directorate in the Joint Research Centre (PERS(2017) 100).

The Commission took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 22 and 30 November 2018 (PERS(2017) 100/2 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 NAVRACSICS and also Mr ANSIP, Mr DOMBROVSKIS and Mr KATAINEN, it decided to appoint Mr Philippe DUPONTEIL to the post.

This decision would take effect on a date to be determined.

10.5. DG FINANCIAL STABILITY, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND CAPITAL MARKETS UNION — END OF SECONDMENT AND REINSTATEMENT TO A POST OF CHIEF ADVISER OF AD14 OFFICIAL

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

- to agree to the request from Mr Mario NAVA, currently seconded in the interest of the service, under Articles 37 and 38 of the Staff Regulations, to the *Commissione Nazionale per le Società e la Borsa*, to terminate the secondment and return to the Commission;
- to reinstate Mr Mario NAVA as Principal Adviser in the Directorate General for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

**10.6. DG EUROSTAT – INTERNAL AND INTERINSTITUTIONAL PUBLICATION (AT GRADE AD14/15) AND EXTERNAL PUBLICATION (AT GRADE AD14) OF VACANCY NOTICES FOR A DIRECTOR POST
(PERS(2018) 56)**

On a proposal from Mr OETTINGER, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and after consulting Ms THYSSEN and also Mr DOMBROVSKIS and Mr KATAINEN, the Commission decided to authorise the internal, interinstitutional and external publication, under Article 29(1) (a)(i) and (iii), (1)(b) and (2) of the Staff Regulations, of the vacancy notices in PERS(2018) 56 for the post of Director of the 'Government Finance Statistics (GFS) and Quality' Directorate in DG Eurostat.

This decision would take effect immediately.

**10.7. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL ADVISER
(PERS(2018) 58)**

On a proposal from Mr OETTINGER, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, the Commission decided:

- to approve the additional appointment, until 31 March 2019, of a special unpaid adviser, as set out in PERS(2018) 58;
- to authorise the Director-General of DG Human Resources and Security to implement this decision by signing the contract of employment on behalf of the authority empowered to conclude contracts of employment.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

**10.8. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – FEMALE REPRESENTATION IN MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONS IN THE COMMISSION – CURRENT SITUATION IN RELATION TO THE SET TARGET OF AT LEAST 40%
(SEC(2018) 406)**

The Commission took note of the information in SEC(2018) 406.

**10.9. ACHIEVEMENT OF THE TARGETS FOR RECRUITMENT OF CROATIAN NATIONALS
(SEC(2018) 407)**

The Commission took note of the information in SEC(2018) 407.

**10.10. EUROPEAN POLITICAL STRATEGY CENTRE – UPDATING OF THE DECISION OF THE PRESIDENT C(2018) 1164 OF 21 FEBRUARY 2018
(C(2018) 6088)**

The Commission took note of the Decision of the PRESIDENT in C(2018) 6088, amending Decision C(2018) 1164 of 21 February 2018.

**11. MONITORING THE APPLICATION OF EUROPEAN UNION LAW
(CONTINUED)**

**INFRINGEMENTS – URGENT INDIVIDUAL CASE
(SEC(2018) 421)**

2018/2008 – UNITED KINGDOM – *Loss of traditional and VAT own resources due to undervaluation of imports*

Decision: reasoned opinion under Article 258 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

The PRESIDENT asked Mr OETTINGER to present to the College a proposal for a Commission decision on sending a reasoned opinion to the UK authorities under

Article 258 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union in relation to an infringement of EU customs and VAT legislation, and EU own resources legislation. The United Kingdom would have two months to reply to the Commission.

At the end of the presentation, the PRESIDENT noted the College's agreement in principle on the proposal for a decision presented by Mr OETTINGER.

On a proposal from the PRESIDENT, the Commission agreed that the decision currently set out in SEC(2018) 421 would be adopted by the finalisation written procedure, the deadline for which was set at 10.00 on Monday 24 September (PE/2018/6481).

12. STATE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH A VIEW TO CONCLUDING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM SETTING OUT THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ITS WITHDRAWAL FROM THE UNION UNDER ARTICLE 50 OF THE TREATY ON EUROPEAN UNION

Following the meeting of the General Affairs Council (Article 50), and a few hours before the opening of the informal meeting of European leaders in Salzburg on 19 and 20 September, the PRESIDENT invited Mr BARNIER to report to the College on the latest developments in the negotiations that the Commission was carrying out on behalf of the Union with the United Kingdom with a view to its withdrawal under Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union, and on the state of play of the work regarding the future relationship between the Union and the United Kingdom.

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 closed at 12.29.