



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2019) 2289 final

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

Strasbourg, 16 April 2019

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

**of the 2289th meeting of the Commission
held in Strasbourg
(Winston Churchill building)
on Tuesday 26 March 2019
(afternoon)**

PV(2019) 2289 final

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

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Single sitting: Tuesday 26 March 2019 (afternoon)

The sitting opened at 13.05 with Mr TIMMERMANS in the chair, the PRESIDENT being absent.

Present:

Mr TIMMERMANS	First Vice-President	
Mr ANSIP	Vice-President	
Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Vice-President	
Mr KATAINEN	Vice-President	
Mr OETTINGER	Member	
Mr HAHN	Member	
Mr MIMICA	Member	
Mr ARIAS CAÑETE	Member	
Mr VELLA	Member	
Mr AVRAMOPOULOS	Member	
Ms THYSSEN	Member	
Mr MOSCOVICI	Member	
Mr STYLIANIDES	Member	
Mr HOGAN	Member	
Ms JOUROVÁ	Member	Item 10 (in part)
Ms VESTAGER	Member	
Sir Julian KING	Member	
Ms GABRIEL	Member	Items 8 (in part) to 10 (in part)

Absent:

Mr JUNCKER	President
Ms MOGHERINI	High Representative / Vice-President
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Vice-President
Ms MALMSTRÖM	Member
Mr ANDRIUKAITIS	Member
Ms BULC	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 RENTSCHLER	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Ms MOGHERINI
Mr VINCIUNAS	Chef de cabinet to Mr ANDRIUKAITIS
Mr FAJARDO	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Ms BULC
Mr BERMIG	Expert in Ms BIENKOWSKA's cabinet
Ms KIRALY	Chef de cabinet to Mr NAVRACSICS
Mr LATOUDIS	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Ms CREȚU
Mr SCHRODER	A member of Mr MOEDAS's staff

The following also sat in:

Mr BALTAZAR	Senior adviser in the PRESIDENT's Office	
Mr ROMERO REQUENA	Director-General, Legal Service	
Ms AHRENKILDE HANSEN	Director-General, DG Communication	
Mr SCHINAS	Head of the Spokesperson's Service and Chief Spokesperson of the Commission	
Mr MOTOC	European Political Strategy Centre	
Ms ARKI	PRESIDENT's Office	
Ms SUTTON	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Mr TIMMERMANS	
Ms CHAPUIS	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Mr ANSIP	Item 8
Mr HAENICKE	A member of Mr OETTINGER's staff	Item 9
Mr HULICIUS	A member of Ms JOUROVÁ's staff	Items 1 to 10 (in part)
Ms VILA NUÑEZ	Secretariat-General	
Ms ANDREEVA	Commission Spokesperson's Service	

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

Mr TIMMERMANS paid tribute to Mr Frans ANDRIESSEN, who had passed away on 22 March. Mr ANDRIESSEN had been Vice-President and a Member of the Commission for many years. Mr TIMMERMANS reminded the College that Mr ANDRIESSEN had served three terms of office – from 1981 to 1985 in charge of competition, from 1985 to 1989 in charge of agriculture, and from 1989 to 1993 in charge of external relations and trade.

Mr TIMMERMANS briefly outlined Mr ANDRIESSEN's political career in the Netherlands, where he had been a Member of Parliament, party leader and Minister of Finance, before becoming a great champion of the European project and dedicating himself to fighting for the Union's values. Mr TIMMERMANS praised his major contribution to the European project – from preparing the implementation of the euro to setting up the current multilateral order, and including the trade negotiations of the Uruguay Round and the modernisation of European agriculture.

Mr TIMMERMANS informed the College that he would be representing the Commission at the funeral of this strongly committed European, which would be held in the Netherlands on Thursday 28 March.

On his own behalf and on behalf of the Commission, Mr TIMMERMANS offered his sincere condolences to Mr ANDRIESSEN's family and friends.

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1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2019) 2289/FINAL; SEC(2019) 2289/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(2019) 2289)**

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 25 March 2019.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2287TH AND 2288TH MEETINGS OF
THE COMMISSION (12 AND 20 MARCH 2019)**

The Commission held over approval of the minutes of its 2287th and 2288th meetings for a later meeting.

**4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS
(RCC(2019) 34)**

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (IRG) held on Friday 22 March 2019 (RCC(2019) 34).

It paid particular attention to the following points.

4.1. HORIZONTAL ITEMS

i) 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework – Trilogues

(point 1.1.1 of the IRG record)

- Establishment of Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, and laying down of 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) – EHLER report – 2018/0225 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 283/3.

- InvestEU Programme (Regulation) – FERNANDES & GUALTIERI report – 2018/0229 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 309.

ii) 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework – March II 2019 part-session of Parliament

(point 1.1.2 of the IRG record)

Ordinary legislative procedure – First reading

- Erasmus: the EU programme for education, training, youth and sport and repeal of Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 (Regulation) – ZVER report – 2018/0191 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2019) 229 and /2.

- European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund (Regulation) – COZZOLINO report – 2018/0197 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2019) 256.

- Common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum and Migration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Border Management and Visa Instrument (Regulation) – NOVAKOV & KREHL report – 2018/0196 (COD)

The Commission took note of SP(2019) 258, further to SP(2019) 74, SI(2019) 120 and SI(2019) 236, which it had already approved on 6 and 12 February and 12 March 2019.

- Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (Regulation) – PANZERI, PREDA, ENGEL & GOERENS report – 2018/0243 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2019) 259 and /2.

Own-initiative report

- European Parliament recommendation for a Council Decision establishing a European Peace Facility – VAUTMANS report – 2018/2237 (INI)

The Commission took note of SP(2019) 281.

iii) 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework – Council

(point 1.1.3 of the IRG record)

- Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) and repeal of Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013 (Regulation) – GERBRANDY report – 2018/0209 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 320.

4.2. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

iv) Trilogues

(point 3.1 of the IRG Record)

- European Border and Coast Guard and repeal of Council Joint Action No 98/700/JHA, Regulation (EU) No 1052/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EU) No 2016/1624 of the European Parliament and of the Council (Regulation) – METSOLA report – 2019/0330 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 324.

- Amendment of Council Directive 93/13/EEC of 5 April 1993, Directive 98/6/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, Directive 2005/29/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Directive 2011/83/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards better enforcement and modernisation of EU consumer protection rules (Directive) – DALTON report – 2018/0090 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 328/2.

- Amendment of Regulation (EU) 1093/2010 establishing a European Supervisory Authority (European Banking Authority); Regulation (EU) 1094/2010 establishing a European Supervisory Authority (European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority); Regulation (EU) 1095/2010 establishing a European Supervisory Authority (European Securities and Markets Authority); Regulation (EU) 345/2013 on European venture capital funds; Regulation (EU) 346/2013 on European social entrepreneurship funds; Regulation (EU) 600/2014 on markets in financial instruments; Regulation (EU) 2015/760 on European long-term investment funds; Regulation (EU) 2016/1011 on indices used as benchmarks in financial instruments and financial contracts or to measure the performance of investment funds; Regulation (EU) 2017/1129 on the prospectus to be published when securities are offered to the public or admitted to trading on a regulated market; and Directive (EU) 2015/849 on the prevention of the use of the financial system for the purposes of money-laundering or terrorist financing (Regulation) – KARAS & BERÈS report – 2017/0230 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 308/2.

- Disclosures relating to sustainable investments and sustainability risks and amendment of Directive (EU) 2016/2341 (Regulation) – TANG report – 2018/0179 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 310.

- Amendment of Regulation (EU) 1095/2010 establishing a European Supervisory Authority (European Securities and Markets Authority) and amendment of Regulation (EU) 648/2012 as regards the procedures and authorities involved for the authorisation of CCPs and requirements for the recognition of third-country CCPs (Regulation) – HÜBNER report – 2017/0136 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 316.

- Amendment of Article 22 of the Statute of the European System of Central Banks and of the European Central Bank (European Central Bank Recommendation for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council) (ECB/2017/18) – HÜBNER & MATO report – 2017/0810 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 317.

- Type-approval requirements for motor vehicles and their trailers, and systems, components and separate technical units intended for such vehicles, as regards their general safety and the protection of vehicle occupants and vulnerable road users, amendment of Regulation (EU) 2018/... and repeal of Regulations (EC) 78/2009, (EC) 79/2009 and (EC) 661/2009 – THUN UND HOHENSTEIN report – 2018/0145 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 314.

- Amendment of Regulation (EC) 883/2004 on the coordination of social security systems and Regulation (EC) 987/2009 laying down the procedure for implementing Regulation (EC) 883/2004 (Regulation) – BALAS report – 2016/0397 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 315.

- Establishing a common framework for European statistics relating to persons and households, based on data at individual level collected from samples (Regulation) – MESZERICS report – 2016/0264 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 323.

v) European Parliament Dossiers – March II 2019 part-session

(point 3.2 of the IRG Record)

Ordinary legislative procedure – First reading

- Establishment of a framework for interoperability between EU information systems (borders and visa) and amendment of Council Decision 2004/512/EC, Regulation (EC) 767/2008, Council Decision 2008/633/JHA, Regulation (EU) 2016/399 and Regulation (EU) 2017/2226 (Regulation) – LENAERS report – 2017/0351 (COD) / Establishment of a framework for interoperability between EU information systems (police and judicial cooperation, asylum and migration) (Regulation) – MELO report – 2017/0352 (COD)

The Commission took note of SP(2019) 263, further to note SI(2019) 124, which it had already approved on 12 February 2019.

- Amendment of Regulation (EC) 539/2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement (Kosovo)¹ – (Regulation) FAJON report – 2016/0139 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2019) 265.

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.

(26 March 2019)

- Risk-preparedness in the electricity sector and repeal of Directive 2005/89/EC (Regulation) – ZANONATO report – 2016/0377 (COD) / European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (Regulation – recast) – PETERSEN report – 2016/0378 (COD) / Internal market for electricity (Regulation – recast) – KARIŇŠ report – 2016/0379 (COD) / Common rules for the internal market in electricity (Regulation – recast) – KARIŇŠ report – 2016/0380 (COD)

The Commission took note of SP(2019) 203, further to notes SI(2019) 10, SI(2019) 11/2 and SI(2019) 12, which it had already approved on 15 January 2019, and of note SI(2018) 670, which it had already approved on 5 December 2018.

- European Maritime Single Window environment and repeal of Directive 2010/65/EU (Regulation) – CLUNE report – 2018/0139 (COD)

The Commission took note of SP(2019) 270, further to note SI(2019) 169, which it had already approved on 27 February 2019.

- Amendment of Directive 92/106/EEC on the establishment of common rules for certain types of combined transport of goods between Member States (Directive) – AIUTO report – 2017/0290 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2019) 272.

- ‘Mobility Package I’ – Amendment of Directive 2006/22/EC as regards enforcement requirements and laying down specific rules with respect to Directive 96/71/EC and Directive 2014/67/EU for posting drivers in the road transport sector (Directive) – KYLLÖNEN report – 2017/0121 (COD) / Amendment of Regulation (EC) No 561/2006 as regards minimum requirements on maximum daily and weekly driving times, minimum breaks and daily and weekly rest periods and Regulation (EU) 165/2014 as regards positioning by means of tachographs (Regulation) – VAN DE CAMP report – 2017/0122 (COD)

/ Amendment of Regulation (EC) No 1071/2009 on access to the occupation of road transport operator and Regulation (EC) No 1072/2009 on access to the international road haulage market with a view to adapting them to developments in the sector (Regulation) – ERTUG report – 2017/0123 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2019) 275.

- 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 amendment of Regulation (EC) No 715/2007 (Regulation – recast) – DALLI report – 2017/0293 (COD)

The Commission took note of SP(2019) 260, further to note SI(2019) 22, which it had already approved on 15 January 2019.

- Reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment (Directive) – RIES report – 2018/0172 (COD)

The Commission took note of SP(2019) 276, further to note SI(2019) 49, which it had already approved on 23 January 2019.

- Preventive restructuring frameworks, second chance and measures to increase the efficiency of restructuring, insolvency and discharge procedures and amendment of Directive 2012/30/EU (Directive) – NIEBLER report – 2016/0359 (COD)

The Commission took note of SP(2019) 277, further to note SI(2018) 766, which it had already approved on 19 December 2018.

- Rules on the exercise of copyright and related rights applicable to certain online transmissions of broadcasting organisations and retransmissions of television and radio programmes (Regulation) – SVOBODA Report – 2016/0284(COD)

The Commission took note of SP(2019) 278, further to note SI(2019) 58, which it had already approved on 6 February 2019.

- Amendment of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 as regards the resources for the specific allocation for the Youth Employment Initiative (Regulation) – MIHAYLOVA report – 2019/0027 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2019) 279/2.

- Establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment (Regulation) – PIETIKÄINEN & EICKHOUT report – 2018/0178 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2019) 267.

- Framework for the recovery and resolution of central counterparties and amendment of Regulations (EU) No 1095/2010, (EU) No 648/2012, and (EU) 2015/2365 (Regulation) – SWINBURNE report – 2016/0365 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2019) 269.

- Amendment of Directive 2013/34/EU as regards disclosure of income tax information by certain undertakings and branches (Directive) – BAYET & REGNER report – 2016/0107 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2019) 271.

- Amendment of Directive 2014/65/EU on markets in financial instruments (Directive) – NAGTEGAAL report – 2018/0047 (COD) / European crowdfunding service providers for business (Regulation) – FOX report – 2018/0048 (COD)

The Commission took note of SP(2019) 273.

- Amendment of Regulation (EU) 2016/1011 with regard to low carbon benchmarks and positive carbon impact benchmarks (Regulation) – GILL report – 2018/0180 (COD)

The Commission took note of SP(2019) 274, further to note SI(2019) 275, which it had already approved on 12 March 2019.

- Amendment of Directive 2004/37/EC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work (Directive) – AGEA report – 2018/0081 (COD)

The Commission took note of SP(2019) 266, further to note SI(2019) 156, which it had already approved on 20 February 2019.

Delegated and implementing acts

- Amendment of Annex II to Regulation (EU) 516/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (Commission Delegated Regulation) – SIPPEL report – 2018/2996 (DEA) – Objection under Rule 105(3) of the European Parliament’s Rules of Procedure.

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2019) 262.

- Amendment of Annex II to Regulation (EU) 515/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing, as part of the Internal Security Fund, the instrument for financial support for external borders and visa (Commission Delegated Regulation) – SIPPEL report – 2018/2994 (DEA) – Objection under Rule 105(3) of the European Parliament’s Rules of Procedure.

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2019) 264.

- Implementing Decisions authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified soybean MON 87751 / Renewing the authorization for the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified maize 1507 x NK603 (Commission Implementing

Decisions) – Objections under Rule 106 of the European Parliament’s Rules of Procedure.

The Commission took note of SP(2019) 289.

- Implementing Decision partially granting an authorization for certain uses of bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) under Regulation (EC) 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council (DEZA a.s.) (Commission Implementing Decision) – Right of scrutiny of the European Parliament under Article 11 of Regulation (EU) 182/2011 – Objection under Rule 106 of the European Parliament’s Rules of Procedure.

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2019) 290.

- Implementing Decision partially granting an authorization for certain uses of bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) under Regulation (EC) 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council (Grupa Azoty Zakłady Azotowe Kędzierzyn S.A) Commission Implementing Decision) – Right of scrutiny of the European Parliament under Article 11 of Regulation (EU) 182/2011 – Objection under Rule 106 of the European Parliament’s Rules of Procedure.

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2019) 291.

- Implementing Decision partially granting an authorisation for certain uses of chromium trioxide under Regulation (EC) 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council (Lanxess Deutschland GmbH and others) (Commission Implementing Decision) – Right of scrutiny for the European Parliament under Article 11 of Regulation (EU) 182/2011 – Objection under Article 106 of the European Parliament’s Rules of Procedure.

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2019) 292.

vi) Council dossiers

(point 3.3 of the IRG Record)

- Credit servicers, credit purchasers and the recovery of collateral – DE LANGE & GUALTIERI report – 2018/0063 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 289.

- Amendment of Council Framework Decision 2009/315/JHA, as regards the exchange of information on third country nationals and as regards the European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS), and replacement of Council Decision 2009/316/JHA (Directive) – DALTON report – 2016/0002 (COD) / Establishment of a centralised system for the identification of Member States holding conviction information on third country nationals and stateless persons to supplement and support the European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS-TCN system) and amendment of Regulation (EU) No 1077/2011 (Regulation) – DALTON report – 2017/0144 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 307 and /2.

4.3. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL

vii) Programming of Council business

(SI(2019) 326)

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2019) 326 on the Council meetings between 28 March and 10 April 2019.

viii) Non-legislative dossier

(point 4.1 of the IRG record)

- International Maritime Organisation – Two Union submissions to the 101st session of the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 101) (London, from 5 to 14 June 2019) concerning a summary of the FIRASAFE I and

II studies and their results as a Formal Safety Assessment (FSA) and concerning comments on document MSC 101/2/X – Decision of other bodies – Outcome of MEPC 74

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 325.

ix) Latest developments in the Council

(point 4.4 of the IRG Record)

- Commission Decision on the security framework for the European Defence Industrial Development Programme (EDIDP)

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2019) 294.

4.4. RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT

x) Non-legislative dossiers – Preparation for the March II 2019 part-session

(point 5.1.1 of the IRG record)

- 2017 discharge (53 reports) – AYALA SENDER, SARVAMAA, DLABAJOVÁ, SCHMIDT, KOHN, & VALLI reports

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2019) 280.

xi) Action taken on the non-legislative resolution containing recommendations to the Commission on humanitarian visas adopted by the European Parliament at its December 2018 part-session – LÓPEZ AGUILAR report – 2018/2271 (INI)

(point 5.6.3 of the IRG record)

The Commission approved for transmission to Parliament document SP(2019) 149 on the action taken on the non-legislative resolution containing recommendations to the Commission on humanitarian visas, adopted by the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 225 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, at its December 2018 part-session.

4.5. RELATIONS WITH NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS, THE OTHER INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

xii) Follow-up to opinions of the European Economic and Social Committee – Plenary session of October 2018

(point 6.3.1 of the IRG record)

The Commission approved document SC(2019) 11/2 on the follow-up by the Commission to the opinions adopted by the European Economic and Social Committee during the October 2018 session, for transmission to that Committee.

5. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

5.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED

(SEC(2019) 157 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 18 and 22 March 2019.

5.2. EMPOWERMENT

(SEC(2019) 158 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 18 and 22 March 2019.

5.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS

(SEC(2019) 159 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedure between 18 and 22 March 2019 archived in Decide.

5.4. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES

(SEC(2019) 160 AND /2)

The Commission took note of the sensitive written procedures for which the time limit expired between 25 and 29 March 2019.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

(SEC(2019) 161/2)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

(PERS(2019) 16/2)

**6.1. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – SPECIAL ADVISERS TO
THE COMMISSION FROM 1 APRIL 2019 UNTIL THE END OF
CURRENT COMMISSION MANDATE**

(PERS(2019) 17)

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

- to adopt the list of special advisers to Commission Members from 1 April 2019 until the end of current Commission mandate, unless otherwise stated, set out in PERS(2019) 17;
- by way of derogation from the provisions under point 6, paragraph 2, of Commission Decision C(2007) 6655 of 19 December 2007 on the rules on special advisers to the Commission, to authorise the Member of the Commission responsible for budget and human resources, Mr OETTINGER, to conclude addenda to the existing contracts in the event of duly justified and urgent needs, subject to the availability of sufficient budgetary appropriations;
- to authorise the Director-General of DG Human Resources and Security to

implement this decision by signing contracts of employment on behalf of the authority empowered to conclude contracts of employment.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

6.2. *DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – PUBLICATION OF THE VACANCY NOTICE FOR THE POST OF EUROPEAN DATA PROTECTION SUPERVISOR*
(PERS(2019) 18)

On a proposal from Mr OETTINGER, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, the Commission decided to approve the publication of the vacancy notice in PERS(2019) 18 concerning the post of European Data Protection Supervisor.

This decision would take effect immediately.

6.3. *DG COMMUNICATION – EXTENSION OF THE POSTING OF THE DEPUTY HEAD (CURRENTLY ACTING HEAD) OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION REPRESENTATION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM*

In view of the extension of the period set out in Article 50(3) of the Treaty on European Union, further to European Council Decision (EU) 2019/476 of 22 March 2019 taken in agreement with the United Kingdom, the Commission, on a proposal from Mr OETTINGER, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, decided to extend the posting of Ms Christine DALBY to the post of Deputy Head (currently acting Head) of the European Commission Representation in the United Kingdom.

Should the agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union under Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union be approved by the House of Commons by 29 March 2019 at the latest, the term of office of the Deputy Head (currently acting Head) of the European Commission Representation in the United Kingdom would be extended to 22 May 2019.

Should the agreement not be approved by the House of Commons by 29 March at the latest, her term of office would be extended to 12 April 2019.

This decision would take effect immediately.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

COMMISSION DECISION ON THE ADMISSIBILITY OF THE PROPOSED CITIZENS' INITIATIVE ENTITLED '#NEWRIGHTSNOW – STRENGTHENING THE RIGHTS OF 'UBERISED' WORKERS' (C(2019) 2312)

Mr TIMMERMANS presented the draft decision being tabled for approval by the College on registration of the proposed European citizen's initiative entitled '#NewRightsNow – Strengthening the rights of 'uberised' workers', which in substance asked the Commission to strengthen the rights of 'uberised' workers, in particular by obliging digital platforms to pay a guaranteed minimum income to self-employed people who regularly work for them in order to safeguard and stabilise their income and tackle job insecurity.

He reminded the meeting that in accordance with the conditions for admissibility provided for in Regulation (EU) 211/2011 on the European citizens' initiative, the proposed actions must, in order to be registered, manifestly fall within the Commission's powers to submit proposals for legal acts 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, in particular Article 53(1) and Article 62 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

In conclusion, he pointed out that the College's task that day was to decide only 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 from citizens from at least seven Member States were collected, 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 European citizens' initiative entitled '#NewRightsNow – Strengthening the rights of 'uberised' workers'. It therefore decided to register the initiative, in accordance with document C(2019) 2312, and authorised Mr TIMMERMANS to sign the decision on its behalf, to notify the organisers of the initiative thereof in the authentic language (French), and to publish it, for information, in the Official Journal of the European Union.

8. COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION ON CYBERSECURITY OF 5G NETWORKS

(C(2019) 2335 TO /3; RCC(2019) 37)

Mr ANSIP presented to the College the draft Commission recommendation on the cybersecurity of fifth generation networks that was being tabled for approval. He explained that fifth generation (5G) networks would form the future backbone of societies and economies, connecting billions of objects and systems, including in strategic sectors such as energy, transport, banking and health, as well as industrial control systems carrying sensitive information and supporting safety systems. He stressed the importance of this last aspect of developing 5G networks and noted that while development of such networks was a matter for the Member States, protecting them required a common approach in order to guarantee the security of national networks in the context of their integration at Union level. For that reason the Heads of State or Government had expressed their support for a concerted approach to the security of 5G networks at the European Council meeting on 22 March and the

European Parliament had adopted a resolution along the same lines on 12 March.

He said that the Commission recommendation responded to the requests from the European Parliament and the Council by setting out an action plan with the twofold objective of defining a coordinated approach based on a series of concrete measures to assess the cybersecurity risks to 5G networks, and of stepping up preventive efforts. Between now and 31 December 2019, the Commission and the Member States would have to agree on the measures to be taken to mitigate the cybersecurity risks detected at national and European level. He ended by stressing that the proposed approach was not aimed at any third country or producer in particular, but sought to establish a future European cybersecurity certification framework that would apply to digital products, processes and services.

Sir Julian KING emphasised the strategic nature of digital infrastructure, which had become vital for government, business, the security of personal data and the functioning of the democratic institutions of the Union and its Member States. He explained that, although the Member States had different ways of safeguarding their networks, it was nevertheless indispensable to have a common approach at EU level, in the context of ‘a Europe that protects’, in order to guarantee the integrity of 5G networks, which were set to provide the digital plumbing of the interconnected lives of citizens.

Initially, national risk assessments would be carried out, which would play a key role in establishing coordinated assessment at Union level. On the basis of this assessment, the Union institutions and the Member States would agree on a set of mitigating measures to be adopted at national level, which could include certification requirements, tests, controls and the identification of products or suppliers deemed potentially insecure.

Ms GABRIEL felt that the proposed recommendation sent a very clear signal regarding the need to protect 5G networks, which would support vital societal and economic functions as well as the democratic process, in particular the holding of elections at national and European level. She noted that the Union already had a

sound regulatory framework that clearly demarcated the responsibilities exercised at national level.

As soon as the recommendation had been approved, the Commission departments would begin to work together with the Cooperation Group on information network security, set up by Directive (EU) 2016/1148 concerning measures for a high common level of security of network and information systems across the Union, and with the European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA), in order to define the future European cybersecurity certification framework provided for by the Regulation on cybersecurity recently approved by the European Parliament.

The Commission adopted the recommendation set out in C(2019) 2335/3, for notification to the Member States, transmission, for information, to Parliament and the Council, and publication in all the official languages in the Official Journal of the European Union.

**9. COMMUNICATION TO THE COMMISSION – THE SYNERGIES AND EFFICIENCIES INITIATIVE – STOCK-TAKING AND WAY FORWARD
(C(2019) 2329 TO /3; RCC(2019) 38)**

Mr OETTINGER presented to the College the Communication on the implementation of the Synergies and Efficiencies Initiative, which had been applied within the Commission since 2016, and the next steps to be taken in this connection.

He began by pointing out that the Commission had adopted a Communication on Synergies and Efficiencies in April 2016, against a backdrop of staff reductions and an increase in the tasks assigned to the Commission. He went on to explain that the text being submitted to the College for approval that day was a progress report on the implementation of the measures set out in the 2016 Communication, the main objective of which was to centralise the support functions and enable staff to be redeployed on the basis of the Commission's political priorities.

In general terms, Mr OETTINGER said that although it had not been possible to achieve all the goals, the implementation of the Synergies and Efficiencies policy had made it possible to optimise working methods and use of resources, with no fewer than 600 posts redeployed out of a total of 33 000. The centralisation of the support functions had enabled the Commission to offer more professional services better aligned with policy goals.

The targets that had not been fully reached included, for example, the lack of substantial improvement in satisfaction levels as regards the modernisation of human resources management. In this context, the increase in workload due to staff reductions was reflected in an average increase of 10% in working hours recorded by staff with respect to the standard set by the Commission, with consequent risks to effectiveness, staff well-being and the attractiveness of the Commission as an employer.

Mr OETTINGER therefore felt it was important to monitor the implementation of the modernisation of the Commission based on the progress made to date, and to set new ambitious and realistic objectives for the coming years. He referred in particular to the efficiencies that could be achieved by digitalising working methods, especially in the area of publications management and financial management.

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

- the importance of regular modernisation of working methods and tools and of the contribution thereof to the quality of the Commission staff's working environment;
- the need to give priority to career development so that each staff member could plan out a career based on their profile, while finding the necessary motivation in tangible promotion prospects;
- for some, questions about the obligatory mobility imposed on Commission staff, which often resulted in a loss of knowledge and expertise that were, however,

essential in certain specialised services, which should therefore be excluded from obligatory mobility.

Mr OETTINGER pointed out that the Staff Regulations of EU Officials, the Commission's Rules of Procedure and the Multiannual Financial Framework together made up the binding framework to be taken into account when modernising the functioning and internal management of the Commission, particularly personnel management. However, he felt that reforming the Staff Regulations of EU Officials would involve as many risks as new possibilities, since it might give certain Member States an opportunity to view this reform in terms of cost reduction rather than modernisation of the EU institutions. Moreover, he noted that the Commission's attractiveness as an employer had decreased significantly in certain Member States and that priority should be given to remedying this situation. Finally, he called on the Members of the College to decide on a case-by-case basis, with the Director-General responsible, on the adjustments that could be implemented, where necessary, within the services in terms of obligatory mobility.

The Commission adopted the Communication in C(2019) 2329/3.

10. OTHER BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE UNITED KINGDOM FROM THE UNION UNDER ARTICLE 50 OF THE TREATY ON EUROPEAN UNION

Ahead of the series of indicative votes to be held in the House of Commons the following day, the Members of the College briefly discussed the latest developments concerning the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union under Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union.

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The meeting closed at 13.46.