



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2019) 2307 final

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

Brussels, 2 October 2019

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

**of the 2307th meeting of the Commission
held in Brussels
(Berlaymont)
on Wednesday 11 September 2019
(morning)**

PV(2019) 2307 final

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

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Single sitting: Wednesday 11 September 2019 (morning)

The sitting opened at 10.12 with Mr JUNCKER, President, in the chair.

Present:

Mr JUNCKER	President	
Mr TIMMERMANS	First Vice-President	
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Vice-President	
Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Vice-President	
Mr KATAINEN	Vice-President	
Mr OETTINGER	Member	
Mr HAHN	Member	Items 8 (in part) to 10
Ms MALMSTRÖM	Member	
Mr MIMICA	Member	
Mr ARIAS CAÑETE	Member	
Mr VELLA	Member	
Mr ANDRIUKAITIS	Member	
Mr AVRAMOPOULOS	Member	
Ms THYSSEN	Member	
Mr STYLIANIDES	Member	Items 1 to 8 (in part)
Mr HOGAN	Member	Items 8 to 10
Ms BULC	Member	
Ms BIENKOWSKA	Member	
Ms JOUROVÁ	Member	
Mr NAVRACSICS	Member	
Ms VESTAGER	Member	
Mr MOEDAS	Member	
Sir Julian KING	Member	
Ms GABRIEL	Member	

Absent:

Ms MOGHERINI

High Representative /
Vice-President

Mr MOSCOVICI

Member

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

Ms VANNINI	Adviser in Ms MOGHERINI's Office	Items 8 to 10
Mr FELKE	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Mr MOSCOVICI	

The following also sat in:

Ms MARTÍNEZ ALBEROLA	Chef de cabinet to the PRESIDENT	
Mr ROMERO REQUENA	Director-General, Legal Service	
Ms AHRENKILDE HANSEN	Director-General, DG Communication	
Ms ANDREEVA	Head of the Spokesperson's Service and Chief Spokesperson of the Commission	
Ms METTLER	Head of the European Political Strategy Centre	
Mr LEARDINI	Deputy Secretary-General	
Mr SZOSTAK	Deputy Chef de cabinet to the PRESIDENT	
Mr BALTAZAR	Senior adviser in the PRESIDENT's Office	Items 8 (in part) and 9
Mr THOLONIAT	Adviser in the PRESIDENT's Office	Items 1 to 8
Ms SILLAVEE	PRESIDENT's Office	
Mr SUARDI	Chef de cabinet to Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Items 1 to 8
Mr BRIENS	Chef de cabinet to Mr STYLIANIDES	Items 8 (in part) to 10
Mr THYGESEN	Chairman, European Fiscal Board	Items 1 to 8
Mr LARCH	Secretariat-General	Items 1 to 8
Ms VILA NUÑEZ	Secretariat-General	
Mr BUTI	Director-General, DG Economic and Financial Affairs	Items 1 to 8
Ms BERTAUD	Commission Spokesperson's Service	

Secretary: Ms JUHANSONE, Acting Secretary-General, assisted by Mr AYET
PUIGARNAU, Director in the Secretariat-General.

1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2019) 2307/FINAL; SEC(2019) 2307/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) 2307)

The Commission considered the Acting Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 9 September.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2305TH AND 2306TH MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION (24 JULY AND 4 SEPTEMBER 2019)

The Commission held over approval of the minutes of its 2305th and 2306th meetings for a later meeting.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(RCC(2019) 95)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (IRG) held on Friday 6 September 2019 (RCC(2019) 95).

It paid particular attention to the following points.

4.1. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL

i) Programming of Council business

(SI(2019) 554)

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2019) 554 on the Council meetings between 12 and 25 September 2019.

4.2. RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT

ii) Action taken on the legislative opinions and non-legislative resolutions adopted by Parliament at its July II 2019 part-session

(point 5.6.1 of the IRG record)

The Commission approved, for transmission to Parliament, document SP(2019) 477 on the action taken on the legislative opinions and non-legislative resolutions adopted by Parliament at its July II 2019 part-session.

iii) Participation by Members of the European Parliament in international conferences

(point 5.7 of the IRG record)

- The United Nations climate summit (New York, 23 September 2019) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals summit (New York, 24 and 25 September 2019), and the High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development (New York, 26 September 2019)

The Commission agreed to the request to the PRESIDENT from Mr SASSOLI, President of the European Parliament, concerning the attendance of 15 Members of the European Parliament at the above-mentioned meetings as observers in the EU delegation, with a reminder about the procedure to be followed as set out in SP(2019) 486.

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

iv) Participation by Members of the European Economic and Social Committee in international conferences

(point 6.3 of the IRG record)

- 25th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (Santiago de Chile, 2 to 13 December 2019)

The Commission agreed to the request to the PRESIDENT from Mr Luca JAHIER, President of the European Economic and Social Committee, concerning the attendance of four Members of that Committee at the above-mentioned meeting as observers in the EU delegation, with a reminder about the procedure to be followed as set out in SR(2019) 25.

- United Nations climate summit (New York, 23 September 2019)

The Commission agreed to the request to the PRESIDENT from Mr Luca JAHIER, President of the European Economic and Social Committee, concerning the attendance of three Members of that Committee at the above-mentioned meeting as observers in the EU delegation, with a reminder about the procedure to be followed as set out in SR(2019) 24.

v) Follow-up to Committee of the Regions opinions – April 2019 plenary session

(point 6.4.1 of the IRG record)

The Commission approved document SR(2019) 18/2 on the action taken by the Commission on the opinions adopted by the Committee of the Regions at its April 2019 session, for transmission to that Committee.

vi) Participation by Members of the Committee of the Regions in international conferences

(point 6.4.2 of the IRG record)

- The United Nations climate summit (New York, 23 September 2019) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals summit (New York, 24 and 25 September 2019)

The Commission agreed to the request to the PRESIDENT from Mr Karl-Heinz LAMBERTZ, President of the Committee of the Regions, concerning the attendance of his First Vice-President at the above-mentioned meetings as an observer in the EU delegation, with a reminder about the procedure to be followed as set out in SR(2019) 19.

5. MONITORING THE APPLICATION OF EUROPEAN UNION LAW

INFRINGEMENTS – URGENT INDIVIDUAL CASE (SEC(2019) 316)

The Commission adopted the decision in SEC(2019) 316.

6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

6.1. APPROVED WRITTEN PROCEDURES (SEC(2019) 304 ET SEQ)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 2 and 6 September 2019.

6.2. EMPOWERMENT (SEC(2019) 305 ET SEQ)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 2 and 6 September 2019.

6.3. DELEGATIONS / SUBDELEGATIONS
(SEC(2019) 306 ET SEQ)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedure between 2 and 6 September 2019 archived in Decide.

6.4. SIGNIFICANT WRITTEN PROCEDURES
(SEC(2019)307)

The Commission took note of the significant written procedures for which the time limit expired between 9 and 13 September 2019.

**6.5. COMMISSION DECISION GRANTING A DELEGATION OF POWERS
RELATING TO THE ADOPTION OF CERTAIN MEASURES IN TRADE
PROCEEDINGS UNDER ARTICLE 207 OF THE TREATY ON THE
FUNCTIONING OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**
(C(2019) 6506)

The Commission adopted the decision in C(2019) 6506 and decided, in particular, to grant a delegation to the Hearing Officer with a view to adopting, on behalf of the Commission and under its responsibility, certain measures under Article 207 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, subject to the conditions set out in Articles 7, 8, 12 and 13 of Decision (EU) 2019/339 of the President of the European Commission relating to the function and terms of reference of the Hearing Officer in certain trade proceedings, and in Articles 2 and 5 of this Decision.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS
(SEC(2019) 308)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
(PERS(2019) 84)

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**7.1. DG TRADE – AMENDMENT OF THE ORGANISATION CHART, TRANSFER IN THE INTEREST OF THE SERVICE OF AN AD15 OFFICIAL UNDER ARTICLE 7 OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS, AND SECONDMENT IN THE INTEREST OF THE SERVICE OF AN AD14 OFFICIAL
(SEC(2019) 317)**

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

- to create a temporary post of principal adviser in the Directorate-General for Trade, reporting directly to the Deputy Director-General responsible for Directorates E, F, G and H; this post would be abolished upon departure of the job holder;
- to authorise the transfer in the interest of the service, under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations, of Mr Ignacio GARCIA BERCERO, currently an AD15 official and Director of the Directorate ‘Neighbouring countries, USA and Canada’, in the Directorate-General for Trade, to this newly created post;
- to accept the secondment in the interest of the service of Mr Rupert SCHLEGELMILCH, currently an AD14 official in the European External Action Service (EEAS), to the Commission;
- to appoint Mr Rupert SCHLEGELMILCH to the post of Director of the ‘Neighbouring countries, USA and Canada’ Directorate;
- to approve the new organisation chart set out in SEC(2019) 317.

These decisions would take effect on 1 October 2019.

**7.2. DG INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT –
AMENDMENT OF THE ORGANISATION CHART AND INTERNAL
AND INTERINSTITUTIONAL PUBLICATION OF THE VACANCY
NOTICE FOR AN AD14/15 PRINCIPAL ADVISER POST
(PERS(2019) 85; SEC(2019) 318)**

On a proposal from Mr OETTINGER, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and after consulting Mr MIMICA and also Ms MOGHERINI, the Commission decided:

- to create a temporary post of principal adviser responsible for ‘Trade and Development’ in the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development, reporting directly to the Deputy Director-General responsible for Directorates D, E, F and G;
- to authorise the internal and interinstitutional publication of the vacancy notice for that newly created post as set out in PERS(2019) 85, in accordance with Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) and 29(1)(b) of the Staff Regulations;
- to approve the new organisation chart set out in SEC(2019) 318.

These decisions would take effect on 16 September 2019.

**7.3. DG INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT –
APPOINTMENT OF AD14/15 PRINCIPAL ADVISER
(PERS(2018) 82 TO /3)**

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Principal Adviser, ‘Investment Strategy for Development and Innovative Financing’, in the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (PERS(2018) 82).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 17 December 2018 and 7 February 2019 (PERS(2018) 82/2 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 MIMICA and also Ms MOGHERINI, it decided to appoint Ms Arianna VANNINI to the post.

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

7.4. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – COMPOSITION OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS

On a proposal from Mr OETTINGER, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, the Commission decided that, in the event that the post of Secretary-General of the Commission was vacant, the Director-General for Human Resources and Security would chair the Consultative Committee on Appointments (CCA) in line with the composition set out in Article 3(1) and (2) of Commission Decision C(2007) 380 laying down the Rules of Procedure for the Consultative Committee on Appointments, unless the Member of the Commission responsible for Human Resources and Security appointed, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, another Director-General in active employment to chair the Committee.

This decision would take effect immediately.

7.5. DG MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT – EXTENSION OF THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE AD15 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR RAILWAYS

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

- to propose to the Management Board of the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA) that Josef DOPPELBAUER's term of office as Executive Director be extended for five years, starting from 1 January 2020, in accordance with Article 68(4) of Regulation (EU) 2016/796 on the European Union Agency for Railways and repealing Regulation (EC) 881/2004;
- to instruct Ms BULC, the Member of the Commission responsible for Transport, to notify the Management Board of the European Union Agency for Railways of this decision.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN FISCAL BOARD ON THE ASSESSMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION'S FISCAL RULES

The PRESIDENT warmly welcomed Mr Niels THYGESEN, Chairman of the independent European Fiscal Board, who was attending the Commission's meeting in order to present the Board's assessment of the European Union's fiscal rules, in particular the legislative acts relating to economic governance and fiscal surveillance ('six-pack' and 'two-pack'). This assessment had been requested by the PRESIDENT.

Mr THYGESEN thanked the PRESIDENT for the welcome extended to him and for the privilege of meeting the College again to inform it of the conclusions of the assessment in question. These conclusions related to the main objectives of the fiscal rules, namely (i) ensuring the long-term sustainability of public finances, (ii) promoting economic stability through counter-cyclical action and (iii) improving the quality of public finances in the Member States.

Mr DOMBROVSKIS thanked Mr THYGESEN for presenting the Board's report,

which he said would feed into the current debates on EU economic and budgetary governance and the review of the existing rules to be published by the Commission by the end of the year, in accordance with the provisions laid down in the legislation, the timetable for which would have to be set.

The PRESIDENT thanked Mr THYGESEN for the excellent work carried out by the independent European Fiscal Board chaired by him. He noted that according to the Board's assessment, the Commission had managed to avoid the austerity trap while at the same time ensuring strict compliance with the fiscal rules in the context of implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact.

The Commission took note of this information and of the report to be made public that day.

**9. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL ON THE 2019 CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT HOSTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL IN NEW YORK
(COM(2019) 412 AND /2; RCC(2019) 97)**

Mr ŠEFČOVIČ presented the Commission's Communication ahead of the world climate summit to be hosted by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, on 23 September in New York, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

He began by noting that the summit would not be a forum for negotiating new objectives in terms of combating climate change (in line with the Paris Agreement), but rather was aimed at rallying the Heads of State and Government attending the summit. The objective was thus to raise the profile of those countries that wished to strengthen their commitments to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and of coalitions of stakeholders, undertakings and local authorities signing up to new commitments.

Although the current stage of the European Union's institutional cycle was not conducive to announcing new initiatives, which would in all likelihood be unveiled by the next Commission, the EU, which would be represented at the Summit by the President of the European Council, Donald TUSK, had a very good case to make.

The European Union planned to deliver a positive message to the Summit, highlighting the fact that it was keeping its commitments through the practical and systematic application of the programme it had set itself to tackle global warming. It would present the outcome of the substantial work done within the context of the Energy Union, *inter alia*, the progress made along the path towards climate neutrality by 2050 and the legally binding framework established to ensure that the objectives set for 2030 were met.

Mr ŠEFČOVIČ concluded by pointing out that the Communication submitted to the College for approval that day was a means of stating publicly what the European Union's contribution to the 2019 Climate Action Summit would be, bearing in mind the significance for public opinion of this major challenge.

Mr ARIAS CAÑETE noted that, in its November 2018 report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) found that the parties to the Paris Agreement were not on track to meet the targets for greenhouse gas emission reductions. That was why the Secretary-General of the United Nations wanted to bring them together and call on them to raise their level of ambition. As far as Europe was concerned, he emphasised that the Commission had played a coordinating role so that the European Union would deliver a common political message at the summit.

As for the Communication itself, he highlighted three points in particular. First, the European Union and its Member States would be ready in 2020 to announce a long-term climate strategy based on ambitious measures in all policy areas, binding legislation and sound budgetary planning. Second, not only had the European Union adopted legislation translating its commitments under the Paris Agreement into acts, but it had also devised and put in place the tools necessary to implement its

legislation. And third, the European Union was still the leading donor of development aid and climate protection funding worldwide. The European Union and its Member States provided over 40% of such funding worldwide, a contribution which had more than doubled since 2013 and exceeded EUR 20 billion per year.

Despite such undisputable progress, Mr ARIAS CAÑETE acknowledged that there was still some way to go and that the European Union had to keep up the good work. He also pointed to the results of the Special Eurobarometer survey on climate change published on the same day which showed that 92% of European citizens supported the steps aimed at achieving the goal of climate neutrality by 2050.

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

- the challenge that attainment of the initial target of a 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, followed by climate neutrality by 2050, posed for the European Union's Member States and regions;
- the corresponding investment requirements;
- the need for an alignment of objectives for 2050 at international level;
- regret that the Communication only emphasised public investment in greenhouse gas emission reduction and overlooked the role of private funding; references to the work carried out in the context of the international platform for financing the sustainable development goals, the aim of which was to encourage private funding, and also the European Union regulation on sustainable finance.

Mr ARIAS CAÑETE replied to some of these points. He pointed out that proposals submitted by the Commission were always the subject of in-depth impact assessments. The goal of climate neutrality would be more difficult to meet for certain Member States and certain regions than for others, and further impact assessments would be carried out as the necessary adjustments were made. As for

investment requirements, the Commission had provided for EUR 180 billion, a figure which had since risen to EUR 250 billion following the trilogues between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on the corresponding legislative proposals.

To conclude, Mr ARIAS CAÑETE emphasised the considerable work undertaken by his staff and the staff of Mr ŠEFČOVIČ throughout their terms of office. He thanked them warmly and felt privileged to have been able to benefit from their outstanding expertise and commitment in achieving progress on an issue which was important to him.

Following these presentations, the Commission approved the Communication in COM(2019) 412/2, subject to a final general clean-up of the text, for transmission to Parliament and the Council, and, for information, to the national parliaments.

10. OTHER BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

10.1. WORKING CONDITIONS WITHIN THE COMMISSION

At the request of the PRESIDENT, Mr OETTINGER spoke briefly about the differences in employment status between Commission staff, which were sometimes reflected in differences in salary.

He reminded the College that, at the time of the reforms of the Staff Regulations in 2004 and 2013, the Council had requested significant concessions, which had resulted in a restriction on the increase in the number of statutory staff and an increase in the number of contract staff, to whom different working conditions and salary scales applied. He explained that this change gave rise to situations in which the remuneration received by a statutory staff member and a contract staff member doing the same job could vary significantly. He said that he was in contact with the representatives of the Commission's drivers, that he had put forward a proposal to raise their

remuneration based on the average remuneration paid by the European Union's other institutions and that a decision was to be taken in mid-October.

The PRESIDENT called on Mr OETTINGER to pursue his efforts and consultations.

The Commission noted this information.

10.2. GLOBAL VACCINATION SUMMIT (BRUSSELS, 12 SEPTEMBER 2019)

Mr ANDRIUKAITIS took the opportunity at the end of the meeting to thank the PRESIDENT for agreeing to take part in the Global Vaccination Summit organised by the Commission in Brussels on 12 September in partnership with the World Health Organization. He stressed the leading role of the European Union in producing global responses to the health challenges facing the world as a whole, responses aimed, in this instance, at strengthening confidence in vaccination and fostering innovation in the field.

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The meeting closed at 11.30.