



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2019) 2313 final

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

Brussels, 26 November 2019

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

of the 2313th meeting of the Commission

held in Brussels

(Berlaymont)

on Wednesday 30 October 2019

(morning)

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

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Single sitting: Wednesday 30 October 2019 (morning)

The sitting opened at 10.19 with Mr JUNCKER, President, in the chair.

Present:

Mr JUNCKER	President	
Mr TIMMERMANS	First Vice-President	
Ms MOGHERINI	High Representative / Vice-President	Items 8/9 (in part)
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 VELLA	Member	
Mr ANDRIUKAITIS	Member	
Mr AVRAMOPOULOS	Member	
Ms THYSEN	Member	
Mr MOSCOVICI	Member	
Mr STYLIANIDES	Member	
Mr HOGAN	Member	
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	

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	
Ms HILI	Adviser in the PRESIDENT's Office	Items 8 and 9
Mr REMY	PRESIDENT's Office	
Mr GRASSI	Chef de cabinet to Ms MOGHERINI	Items 1 to 8/9 (in part)
Ms SCHMITT	Chef de cabinet to Mr AVRAMOPOULOS	Items 8 and 9
Mr MORRISON	Chef de cabinet to Sir Julian KING	Items 8 and 9
Mr CAINZOS	Secretariat-General	Items 1 to 8/9 (in part)
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) 2313/FINAL; SEC(2019) 2313/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 items 7.8 to 7.19 (on administrative decisions) to that day's agenda.

2. WEEKLY MEETING OF CHEFS DE CABINET

(RCC(2019) 2313)

The Commission considered the Acting Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 28 October 2019.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2305TH, 2310TH, 2311TH AND 2312TH MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION (24 JULY AND 9, 16 AND 22 OCTOBER 2019)

(PV(2019) 2310; PV(2019) 2310, 2ND PART)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 2310th meeting, and decided to hold over approval of the minutes of its 2305th, 2311th and 2312th meetings until a later meeting.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(RCC(2019) 113)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (IRG) held on Friday 25 October 2019 (RCC(2019) 113).

It paid particular attention to the following points.

4.1. HORIZONTAL MATTERS

i) Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 – Trilogues

(point 1.1.1 of the IRG record)

- 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 approved the line set out in SI(2019) 628/2.

- Exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting for the period 2021-2027 (Pericles IV Programme) (Regulation) – DALY report – 2018/194 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 632/2.

ii) Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 – Council

(point 1.1.3 of the IRG record)

- Internal Security Fund (Regulation) – HOHLMEIER report – 2018/0250 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 599.

- Establishment, as part of the Integrated Border Management Fund, of the instrument for financial support for border management and visa (Regulation) – FAJON report – 2018/0249 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 600.

- Proposal presented to the Council by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, with the support of the

Commission, for a Council Decision establishing a European Peace Facility – HR(2018) 94

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 619.

4.2. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

iii) Trilogues

(point 3.1 of the IRG record)

- Amendment of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 883/2013 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) as regards cooperation with the European Public Prosecutor's Office and the effectiveness of OLAF investigations (Regulation) – MARINESCU report – 2018/0170 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 633/2.

- Minimum requirements for water reuse (Regulation) – BONAFÈ report – 2018/0169 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 635.

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

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 640.

- Electronic freight transport information (Regulation) – DELI report – 2018/0140 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 634.

iv) Council dossiers

(point 3.3 of the IRG record)

- 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 SI(2019) 636.

- Amendment of Directive 2006/112/EC as regards introducing certain requirements for payment service providers (Council Directive) – PEREIRA report – 2018/0412 (CNS) / Amendment of Regulation (EU) 904/2010 as regards measures to strengthen administrative cooperation in order to combat VAT fraud (Council Directive) – PEREIRA report – 2018/0413 (CNS)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 637.

4.3. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL

v) Programming of Council business

(SI(2019) 649)

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2019) 649 on the Council meetings between 31 October and 13 November 2019.

vi) Non-legislative dossiers

(point 4.1 of the IRG record)

- Accession of Nicaragua to the Convention of 15 November 1965 on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters and to the Convention of 23 November 2007 on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 638.

- Draft Statement of the Chair of the ASEM (Asia-Europe) Foreign Ministers' Meeting (Madrid, 15 and 16 December 2019)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 639 and /2.

- International Solidarity Conference on the Venezuela Refugee and Migrant Crisis (Brussels, 28 and 29 October 2019)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 643/2 and /3.

- Stablecoins (non-paper)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 641 and /2.

- Outstanding issues in the package of legal documents for the revision of the Treaty establishing the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) as regards the common backstop to the Single Resolution Fund

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 646/2.

- Reform of the European Stability Mechanism (*MES/ESM*)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 644 and /2.

- Launch of an EU-China Dialogue on Drugs

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 647 and /2.

vii) Latest developments in the Council

(point 4.4 of the IRG record)

- Guidelines on engagement with Turkey following recent European Council and Council conclusions

The Commission took note of SI(2019) 645/2.

4.4. RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT

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

(SP(2019) 577)

The Commission took note of SP(2019) 577, drawn up following the October II 2019 part-session of Parliament.

ix) Results of Parliament's October II 2019 part-session

(point 5.8.1 of the IRG record)

The Commission took note of the information on the proceedings of the part-session of Parliament held in Strasbourg from 21 to 24 October 2019, as set out in SP(2019) 606.

x) Preparation of the 38th Joint Parliamentary Assembly of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the European Union (ACP-EU) (Kigali, 17 to 21 November 2019) – Replies to the questions

(point 5.10 of the IRG record)

The Commission approved the replies to the oral questions from the Joint Parliamentary Assembly set out in SP(2019) 598, for transmission to that Assembly.

xi) Preparation of the 38th Joint Parliamentary Assembly of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the European Union (ACP-EU) (Kigali, 17 to 21 November 2019) – Follow-up to the resolutions adopted at the 37th Parliamentary Joint Assembly (Bucharest, 18 to 20 March 2019)

(point 5.11 of the IRG record)

The Commission approved the replies to the resolutions adopted by the Joint Parliamentary Assembly set out in SP(2019) 599, for transmission to that Assembly.

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

xii) Reply to the Contribution of the 61st Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (Bucharest, 23 to 25 June 2019)

(point 6.1.3 of the IRG record)

The Commission approved documents SNP(2019) 13 to /3 on the reply to the contribution to the 61st Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs (COSAC), and decided to send the reply annexed to document SNP(2019) 13/2 to the COSAC Presidency.

xiii) Follow-up to opinions of the Committee of the Regions – Plenary session of June 2019

(point 6.4.1 of the IRG record)

The Commission approved document SR(2019) 22/2 on the action taken by the Commission on the opinions adopted by the Committee of the Regions at its session of June 2019, for transmission to the Committee of the Regions.

5. MONITORING THE APPLICATION OF EUROPEAN UNION LAW

INFRINGEMENT – URGENT INDIVIDUAL CASE

(SEC(2019) 372)

The Commission adopted the decision in SEC(2019) 372.

6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED

(SEC(2019) 365 ET SEQ)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 21 and 25 October 2019.

6.2. EMPOWERMENT

(SEC(2019) 366 ET SEQ)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 21 and 25 October 2019.

6.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS

(SEC(2019) 367 ET SEQ)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedure between 21 and 25 October 2019 archived in Decide.

6.4. SIGNIFICANT WRITTEN PROCEDURES

(SEC(2019) 368/2)

The Commission took note of the significant written procedures for which the time limit expired between 28 and 31 October 2019.

6.5. GRANTING OF AN EMPOWERMENT AND A DELEGATION OF POWERS TO ADOPT CERTAIN DECISIONS UNDER REGULATION (EU) 2017/2403 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ON THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF EXTERNAL FISHING FLEETS

(C(2019) 7900 AND /2)

The Commission:

- adopted the Decision in C(2019) 7900/2;
- decided to empower the Member of the Commission with responsibility for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, to adopt, on behalf of the Commission and under its responsibility, subject to the conditions laid down in Articles 3, 4 and 7 of the Decision, decisions refusing to issue authorisations and suspending or withdrawing any authorisation issued to a United Kingdom fishing vessel in accordance with Article 38(2) of Regulation (EU) 2017/2403;
- decided to delegate to the Director-General responsible for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries the power to adopt, on behalf of the Commission and under its responsibility, subject to the conditions laid down in Articles 3, 5, 6 and 7 of the Decision, the measures set out in Article 2 of the Decision.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

(SEC(2019) 369 AND /2)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

(PERS(2019) 100 AND /2)

At the invitation of the PRESIDENT, Mr OETTINGER submitted to the College for approval twelve additional administrative decisions, set out in points 7.8 to 7.19 below.

Mr OETTINGER explained that these consisted of nine proposals for appointments to director or principal adviser functions in the Commission's services, a proposal concerning a European Union agency and two proposals relating to the 2019 institutional transition.

With regard to the appointments, he stressed that following the selection procedure it was proposed, after consultation with the Members of the Commission and in agreement with the Vice-Presidents and the PRESIDENT, to appoint five directors, who would perform their duties at DG European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, DG Energy, DG Justice and Consumers, and the Regulatory Scrutiny Board attached to the Secretariat-General.

In addition to these were the proposals to appoint principal advisers at DG Agriculture and Rural Development, DG Financial Stability, Financial Services and the Capital Markets Union, DG Trade, and the Regulatory Scrutiny Board. A list of candidates for the function of Director of the Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union was also submitted to the Commission for approval.

Mr OETTINGER also referred to the proposal on the transition period, which consisted of giving the next Commission president the means to form a transition team comprising 12 administrators and 12 assistants or secretaries, and giving each of the Members of the current Commission who would be starting a new term of office in the next College the means to be able to appoint, subject to certain conditions, an administrator or equivalent to assist them during that transition period.

Lastly, he submitted to the College for approval the proposal to make it possible to grant former Commission Presidents a specific contract as an unpaid special adviser for a five-year period at the end of their term of office. This contract was accompanied by the provision of an office in the Berlaymont, assistance and certain logistical services.

He took the opportunity to announce also that former Members of the Commission, after leaving office, would have a permanent entrance card giving them access to all the Commission buildings and to a meeting room that would be reserved for them in the Berlaymont building and in which certain office equipment would be made available to them.

During the ensuing discussion, Commission Members raised the following points:

- a suggestion whereby the current Commissioners, who would remain enthusiastic ambassadors for the European project, would continue to receive information from the Commission after leaving office, thereby maintaining networks in all the Member States;
- a question as to whether a current Member of the College could invite a former Commissioner to act as an unpaid adviser;
- the advisability of adopting clear provisions in the event of a former Member of the Commission visiting the Berlaymont to carry out lobbying;
- the Commissioners' sincere gratitude to their teams, in particular their heads of cabinet, whose skill and unwavering dedication to the service of the Institution were emphasised;
- the hope that, out of gratitude and loyalty, they would not be left without a post at the end of the term of office and would be helped to find a post either in a new cabinet or in the Commission's services; with this in mind, the suggestion to draw inspiration from the practices in force in certain national administrations in cases of changeovers of administration, to ensure that staff of outgoing cabinets were recommended to the incoming teams;
- the need to ensure that the management functions to which that day's appointments related were performed and to republish the posts if the job-holders subsequently took up cabinet posts again.

Mr OETTINGER pointed out that that day's appointments related to five director posts out of the 260 in the Commission and the 50 or so decisions taken each year at that management level. He added that the Commission must have the power to take such decisions up to the last day of its term of office and, if applicable, during the period of management of current business. In this connection, he confirmed that further proposals for appointments to director or principal adviser posts would be

submitted to the Commission on 13 November. In conclusion, he felt that it was natural that a former Commission president, who had held the highest European post and would often be invited in that capacity to speak about Europe, should have an office and logistical support at his or her disposal.

The PRESIDENT said that he fully supported the assessments and proposals made as part of the selection process of the candidates for director and adviser posts. He added that he was in regular contact with the President-Elect concerning these decisions.

Moreover, he was very sensitive to what had been said about the need to ensure that the heads and members of cabinets of the outgoing Commission, who had displayed unwavering dedication, should have posts in a new cabinet or in the Commission's services, and he would do his best to ensure this. In his view, without them the Members of the Commission could not have effectively carried out their mandates, and they should therefore be treated fairly, with respect and gratitude. It was equally important that the other categories of cabinet staff should also be kept in their posts as far as possible, as he himself had done when he took up office.

He confirmed that former Members of the Commission could visit the Berlaymont during the cooling-off period could to be invited to act as unpaid special advisers to future Members of the Commission.

With regard to possible lobbying by former Members of the Commission, he felt absolutely certain of the probity of the Members of the current College and the fact that they would not commit any abuses. He confirmed that the Commission and its future President would be responsible for taking steps should the need arise.

Lastly, he supported the suggestion that former Members of the Commission should continue to receive information from the Commission on European affairs, and he invited the Director-General for Communication to put an appropriate mechanism in place for this purpose.

**7.1. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL – APPROVAL OF A LIST OF CANDIDATES
FOR THE POST OF EUROPEAN DATA PROTECTION SUPERVISOR
(PERS(2019) 18 TO /4)**

The Commission took note of the information in point 1 of PERS(2019) 100 and, on a proposal from Mr OETTINGER, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, decided:

- to endorse the opinion of the Consultative Committee on Appointments (CCA) and to approve the list of candidates for the post of European Data Protection Supervisor, set out in alphabetical order and contained in PERS(2019) 18/4;
- to consider this list as the Commission proposal;
- to instruct the acting Secretary-General to forward this list to the European Parliament and to the Council.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

**7.2. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – SUSPENSION OF
APPLICATION OF ARTICLE 3(1) OF COMMISSION DECISION
C(2013) 9049 ON POLICIES FOR THE ENGAGEMENT AND USE OF
TEMPORARY AGENTS**

The Commission took note of the information in point 2 of PERS(2019) 100 and, in order to allow the departments sufficient flexibility to cover their staffing needs as provided for in the establishment plan, and on a proposal from Mr OETTINGER, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, decided to suspend the application of Article 3(1) of Commission Decision C(2013) 9049 until 31 December 2020.

This decision would take effect immediately.

7.3. CREATION OF TEMPORARY MANAGEMENT OR ADVISER POSTS FOR OFFICIALS SECONDED TO THE CABINETS

In order to simplify the process of creating temporary posts and of transferring to these posts officials appointed to a management post when they were seconded to the cabinet of a Member of the Commission, to the Spokesperson's Service or to the European Political Strategy Centre (EPSC), the Commission, on a proposal from Mr OETTINGER, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, decided:

- that as soon as the Appointing Authority had taken the decision to second an official appointed to a post of Director-General, Deputy Director-General, Director, Head of Unit or Adviser to the cabinet of a Member of the Commission, to the Spokesperson's Service or to the European Political Strategy Centre, a temporary post of adviser hors classe, principal adviser, seconded head of unit or seconded adviser, respectively, would be created in their Directorate-General of origin;
- that on the date on which their secondment took effect, the officials concerned would be transferred, under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations, to these temporary posts from which they were seconded as part of their posting to the cabinet of a Member of the Commission, to the Spokesperson's Service or to the European Political Strategy Centre;
- that unless another decision was taken at the end of their posting, the officials concerned returned to their Directorate-General of origin in the temporary post from which they were seconded.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

7.4. DG COMMUNICATION – EXTENSION OF THE POSTING OF THE HEAD OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION REGIONAL REPRESENTATION IN BARCELONA

The Commission took note of the information in point 4 of PERS(2019) 100 and, on a proposal from Mr OETTINGER, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, decided to derogate from Article 3 of Commission Decision C(2008) 3983 of 31 July 2008 on establishing rules on the rotation of officials in Representations, and, exceptionally, to further extend the period of posting of Mr Ferrán TARRADELLAS i ESPUNY as Head of the European Commission Regional Representation in Barcelona until 30 April 2020.

This decision would take effect immediately.

**7.5. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – APPROVAL OF A LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR THE POST OF HEAD OF THE EUROPEAN UNION DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK (AT GRADE AD15/16-AD15)
(PERS(2019) 101)**

The Commission noted the procedure set out in point 5 of PERS(2019) 100 and, on a proposal from Mr OETTINGER, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, decided to approve the list of candidates for the post of Head of the European Union Delegation to the United Nations in New York in PERS(2019) 101, which would serve as a basis for the competent authority of the European External Action Service to make a final appointment.

This decision would take effect immediately.

**7.6. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – APPROVAL OF A LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR THE POST OF HEAD OF THE REPRESENTATION IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA (AT GRADE AD9/14-AD12).
(PERS(2019) 102)**

The Commission noted the procedure set out in point 6 of PERS(2019) 100 and, on a proposal from Mr OETTINGER, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, decided to approve the list of candidates for the post of Head of

the Representation in the West Bank and Gaza in PERS(2019) 102, which would serve as a basis for the competent authority of the European External Action Service to make a final appointment.

This decision would take effect immediately.

**7.7. ACTIVITIES OF A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION AFTER LEAVING OFFICE
(C(2019) 7540)**

The Commission adopted the Decision set out in C(2019) 7540.

The Commission specifically decided that the activity envisaged by Mr KATAINEN after leaving office as a Member of the Commission was compatible with Article 245(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) and with the Code of Conduct for Commissioners, subject to certain specific conditions and obligations.

**7.8. DG EUROPEAN CIVIL PROTECTION AND HUMANITARIAN AID OPERATIONS (ECHO) – APPOINTMENT OF AN AD14/15 DIRECTOR
(PERS(2019) 96 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 ‘Disaster Preparedness and Prevention’ Directorate in DG European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) (PERS(2019) 96).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 2 and 10 October 2019 (PERS(2019) 96/2 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 STYLIANIDES and also Ms MOGHERINI, it decided to appoint Mr Ilkka SALMI to the post.

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

7.9. DG EUROPEAN CIVIL PROTECTION AND HUMANITARIAN AID OPERATIONS (ECHO) – APPOINTMENT OF AN AD14/15 DIRECTOR (PERS(2019) 70 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 ‘Neighbourhood and Middle East’ Directorate in DG European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) (PERS(2019) 70).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 27 June and 4 July 2019 (PERS(2019) 70/2 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 STYLIANIDES and also Ms MOGHERINI, it decided to appoint Mr Andreas PAPACONSTANTINOOU to the post.

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

7.10. DG ENERGY – APPOINTMENT OF AN AD14 DIRECTOR (PERS(2019) 32 TO /4)

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii), Article 29(1)(b) and Article 29(2) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Director of the ‘Energy Policy’ Directorate in DG Energy (PERS(2019) 32 and /2).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 2 and 10 October 2019 (PERS(2019) 32/3 and /4).

The Commission proceeded to compare the applicants’ qualifications for the post. On a proposal from Mr OETTINGER, in agreement with

the PRESIDENT and after consulting Mr ARIAS CAÑETE and also Mr ŠEFČOVIČ and Mr KATAINEN, it decided to appoint Mr Michael HAGER to the post.

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

**7.11. DG JUSTICE AND CONSUMERS – APPOINTMENT OF AD14/15 DIRECTOR
(PERS(2019) 90 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 ‘Consumers’ Directorate in the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (PERS(2019) 90).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 21 August and 17 October 2019 (PERS(2019) 90/2 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 Ms JOUROVÁ, and also Mr TIMMERMANS, Mr DOMBROVSKIS and Mr KATAINEN, it decided to appoint Mr Nils BEHRNDT to the post.

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

**7.12. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL / REGULATORY SCRUTINY BOARD – APPOINTMENT OF AD14/15 DIRECTOR / MEMBER OF THE REGULATORY SCRUTINY BOARD
(PERS(2019) 78 TO /3)**

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) and Article 29(1)(b) of the Staff Regulations for the post of

Director / Member of the Regulatory Scrutiny Board in the Secretariat-General (PERS(2019) 78).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 17 and 18 July 2019 (PERS(2019) 78/2 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 the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Mr TIMMERMANS and Mr OETTINGER, it decided to appoint Ms Mona BJORKLUND HARRATI to the post.

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

**7.13. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL / REGULATORY SCRUTINY BOARD –
APPOINTMENT OF AD14/15 PRINCIPAL ADVISER/ MEMBER OF
THE REGULATORY SCRUTINY BOARD
(PERS(2019) 79 TO /3)**

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) and Article 29(1)(b) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Principal Adviser / Member of the Regulatory Scrutiny Board in the Secretariat-General (PERS(2019) 79).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 17 and 18 July 2019 (PERS(2019) 79/2 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 the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Mr TIMMERMANS and Mr OETTINGER, it decided to appoint Mr Bernard NAUDTS to the post.

This decision would take effect on 1 November 2019.

**7.14. DG AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT – APPOINTMENT
OF AD14 PRINCIPAL ADVISER
(PERS(2019) 31 TO /4)**

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii), Article 29(1)(b) and Article 29(2) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Principal Adviser – CAP interaction with other EU policies in the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (PERS(2019) 31 and /2).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 29 August and 19 September 2019 (PERS(2019) 31/3 and /4).

The Commission proceeded to compare the applicants' qualifications for the post. On a proposal from Mr OETTINGER, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Mr HOGAN and also Mr ŠEFČOVIČ and Mr KATAINEN, the Commission decided to appoint Ms Cristina LOBILLO BORRERO to the post.

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

**7.15. DG FINANCIAL STABILITY, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND CAPITAL
MARKETS UNION – APPOINTMENT OF AD14 PRINCIPAL ADVISER
(PERS(2019) 33 TO /4)**

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii), Article 29(1)(b) and Article 29(2) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Principal Adviser in the Directorate-General for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union (PERS(2019) 33 and /2).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 17 September and 17 October 2019 (PERS(2019) 33/3 and /4).

The Commission proceeded to compare the applicants' qualifications for the post. On a proposal from Mr OETTINGER, in agreement with the

PRESIDENT, and after consulting Mr DOMBROVSKIS, the Commission decided to appoint Ms Paulina DEJMEK HACK to the post.

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

**7.16. DG TRADE – APPOINTMENT OF AD14 PRINCIPAL ADVISER
(PERS(2019) 34 TO /4)**

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii), Article 29(1)(b) and Article 29(2) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Principal Adviser on coherence in trade relations in DG Trade (PERS(2019) 34 and /2).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 23 September and 3 October 2019 (PERS(2019) 34/3 and /4).

The Commission proceeded to compare the applicants' qualifications for the post. On a proposal from Mr OETTINGER, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Ms MALMSTRÖM and also Ms MOGHERINI and Mr KATAINEN, the Commission decided to appoint Mr Léon DELVAUX to the post.

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

**7.17. DG TRANSLATION – APPROVAL OF A LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR
AN AD14 POST OF DIRECTOR OF THE TRANSLATION CENTRE
FOR THE BODIES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(PERS(2019) 95 TO /3)**

The Commission noted the information in point 10 of PERS(2019) 100/2 and, on a proposal from Mr OETTINGER, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, decided:

- to approve the list of one candidate in PERS(2019) 100/2 for the post of Director of the Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union;

- to consider this list as the Commission proposal;
- to instruct Mr OETTINGER to communicate this list to the Management Board of the Translation Centre.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

7.18. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL / DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – AMENDMENT OF COMMISSION DECISION ON THE STATUS OF THE CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT / PRESIDENT-ELECT AND THE COMMISSIONERS-DESIGNATE

The Commission noted the information in point 11 of PERS(2019) 100/2 and, on a proposal from Mr OETTINGER, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, decided:

- to replace paragraph 2 of section 3 of Commission Decision C(2019) 5110 of 18 June 2019 with the following text:

‘During this period, each of the Commissioners-designate shall be supported by one administrator or equivalent and one assistant or secretary. The candidate for President/President-elect shall be supported by up to twelve administrators or equivalent and up to twelve assistants or secretaries.’

- to add the following paragraph to section 3 of Commission Decision C(2019) 5110 of 18 June 2019:

‘In exceptional and duly justified circumstances, the President may decide that those Commissioners-designate who are already Members of the Commission be supported for the transition to the new College, apart from their existing Cabinet, by one administrator or equivalent. This staff shall be subject to the administrative and travel provisions set out in this point.’

These decisions would take effect immediately.

**7.19. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL – UNPAID SPECIAL ADVISER
CONTRACTS FOR FORMER PRESIDENTS OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMISSION**

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

- that former Commission Presidents could be granted a five-year contract as an unpaid special adviser, with the specific title of ‘former President’, following the end of their term of office;
- that the former Presidents’ contracts would be concluded by the Member of the Commission responsible for Human Resources (in accordance with table XII in Annex I to Commission Decision C(2013) 3288, as amended by Commission Decision C(2016) 1881 final of 4 April 2016), in agreement with the President; for administrative reasons, they would be attached to the cabinet of the Member of the Commission responsible for Human Resources;
- that, provided that they were under contract as an unpaid special adviser:
 - their mission expenses for official trips made in their capacity as former Presidents would be reimbursed in accordance with the rules that currently applied to Members of the Commission;
 - the Secretary-General, under the authority of the President, would coordinate the Commission services in order to give former Presidents acting in this capacity the necessary assistance, information and logistical support.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

8. **TWENTIETH PROGRESS REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL – TOWARDS AN EFFECTIVE AND GENUINE SECURITY UNION**
(COM(2019) 552 TO /3; RCC(2019) 114)
9. **RECOMMENDATION FOR A COUNCIL DECISION AUTHORISING THE OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND NEW ZEALAND ON THE EXCHANGE OF PERSONAL DATA BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION (EUROPOL) AND THE NEW ZEALAND AUTHORITIES COMPETENT FOR FIGHTING SERIOUS CRIME AND TERRORISM**
(COM(2019) 551; RCC(2019) 114)

At the PRESIDENT's request, Sir Julian KING presented to the College the Commission's twentieth Progress Report towards an effective and genuine Security Union.

Sir Julian KING said that this report showed again and above all that, in recent years, the Union had considerably increased its efforts in the area of security and that Member States were increasingly acknowledging its role. Remarking upon the global nature of today's challenges – cybersecurity, terrorism, disinformation and the protection of infrastructure – he observed that the Member States were more disposed to enhance cooperation between their competent authorities, whereas security had previously been a national competence. He therefore welcomed the tangible results obtained in various fields thanks to the role played by Union security policy, which was wisely based on pooled resources.

Although the Union was now better equipped to deal with threats, it could not consider itself to be safe from the risks identified. The recent terrorist attacks, the rise of extremist movements in several Member States, the situation in Syria and the

thousands of foreign ISIS combatants still in detention were all potential risks and destabilising factors facing the next Commission in the years to come.

Sir Julian KING took the opportunity to emphasise the need to work effectively with Parliament and the Council to ensure the rapid adoption of outstanding legislative matters which could help enhance collective security, such as the proposals on electronic evidence and cybersecurity and the changes to be made to the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) and the *Eurodac* System.

Mr AVRAMOPOULOS pointed out that the security of European citizens had been an absolute priority for the current Commission from the moment it took office. He explained that the report was the fruit of excellent teamwork and a sign that real progress had been made in a highly complex field. Despite the difficulties encountered, the process followed to build an effective and genuine security union had led to a shift in attitude and the pooling of certain resources had made possible a joint approach to tackling threats. He felt it was essential to keep up this momentum, since recent news had shown that the threats posed by extremists of all kinds were still a major risk.

He also referred to the partnership established with industry since 2015 as part of the EU Internet Forum, an initiative which, among other things, had led to the creation, within Europol, of the EU Internet Referral Unit (EU IRU), charged with flagging content on the internet, and the setting up of a database to remove illicit content permanently and irreversibly. He added that an EU Crisis Protocol had been established on 7 October 2019 to allow governments and online platforms to react quickly and in a coordinated way to stop the spread of terrorist content online.

Lastly, Mr AVRAMOPOULOS emphasised the importance of the Council recommendation which was submitted to the College that day for approval, concerning the opening of negotiations for an agreement between the European Union and New Zealand on the exchange of personal data between the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) and the New Zealand

authorities competent for fighting serious crime and terrorism . He explained that such an agreement would allow Europol's operational capacity in the field of cooperation against organised crime and cybercrime to be strengthened.

In conclusion, he referred to the two bilateral anti-terrorism agreements he had recently signed, on behalf of the Commission, with Albania and North Macedonia, and announced that he would that day sign a third agreement of the same kind with Kosovo¹, as part of the joint action plan agreed with the Western Balkan countries.

Sir Julian KING confirmed the importance of a future agreement with New Zealand to demonstrate that, despite the geographical distance, that country and the Union shared many similar values. He hoped that the Council would rapidly authorise the opening of negotiations.

He also emphasised the major challenge posed by disinformation from the standpoint of security, citing the example of fake social media accounts, which were often created by foreign powers. He highlighted the negative impact of this phenomenon in various recent electoral campaign in Europe, especially on younger voters. Cooperation in the exchange of information was crucial and was being deepened, demonstrating a better understanding of the vital issues of our time.

Following these presentations, the Commission:

- approved the report in COM(2019) 552/3, for transmission to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council, and, for information, to the national parliaments;
- adopted the recommendation for a Council Decision in COM(2019) 551, for transmission to the Council, and, for information, to the European Parliament and the national parliaments.

¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 (1999) and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

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The meeting closed at 11.20.