



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2022) 2432 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

Brussels, 9 November 2022

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

of the 2432nd meeting of the Commission

held in Strasbourg

(Winston Churchill building)

on Tuesday 4 October 2022

(afternoon)

PV(2022) 2432 final

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Single sitting: Tuesday 4 October 2022 (afternoon)

The sitting opened at 13.09 with Ms VESTAGER in the chair.

Present:

Ms VESTAGER	Executive Vice-President
Mr BORRELL i FONTELLES	High Representative / Vice-President
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Vice-President
Ms JOUROVÁ	Vice-President
Ms ŠUICA	Vice-President
Mr SCHINAS	Vice-President
Mr HAHN	Member
Mr SCHMIT	Member
Mr WOJCIECHOWSKI	Member
Mr BRETON	Member
Ms FERREIRA	Member
Ms KYRIAKIDES	Member
Mr REYNDERS	Member
Ms JOHANSSON	Member
Ms VÁLEAN	Member
Ms URPILAINEN	Member
Ms SIMSON	Member

Absent:

Ms von der LEYEN	President
Mr TIMMERMANS	Executive Vice-President
Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Executive Vice-President
Ms GABRIEL	Member

Mr GENTILONI	Member
Ms DALLI	Member
Mr LENARČIČ	Member
Mr VÁRHELYI	Member
Mr SINKEVIČIUS	Member
Ms McGUINNESS	Member

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

Mr SAMSOM	Chef de cabinet to Mr TIMMERMANS
Ms ZEGNERE	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Mr DOMBROVSKIS
Ms KOLEVA	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Ms GABRIEL
Ms MARGERIT	A member of Mr GENTILONI's staff
Mr VELLA	Chef de cabinet to Ms DALLI
Mr HORVÁTH	Expert in Mr VÁRHELYI's Office
Mr ŠATŮNAS	Chef de cabinet to Mr SINKEVIČIUS
Ms REILLY	Chef de cabinet to Ms McGUINNESS

The following also sat in:

Mr CALLEJA CRESPO	Director-General, Legal Service
Ms AHRENKILDE HANSEN	Director-General, DG Communication
Ms SPINANT	Deputy Chief Spokesperson of the Commission
Ms BUKA	Secretariat-General

Secretary: Ms JUHANSONE, Secretary-General, assisted by Ms DEPREZ, Director in the Secretariat-General.

1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2022) 2432/FINAL; SEC(2022) 2432/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(2022) 2432)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 3 October 2022.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Commission held over approval of the minutes of its 2428th, 2429th, 2430th and 2431st meetings of 7, 13, 18 and 28 September 2022 for a later date.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(RCC(2022) 180)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (IRG) held by videoconference on Friday 30 September 2022 (RCC(2022) 180).

The Commission approved the lines proposed for the following points:

- **Amendment of Regulation (EU) No 549/2013 and repeal of 11 legal acts in the field of national accounts (Regulation) – TINAGLI report – 2021/0407 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2022) 322.

- **‘Fit for 55’ – Establishment of a carbon border adjustment mechanism (Regulation) – CHAHIM report – 2021/0214 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2022) 324.

- **‘Fit for 55’ – Emissions Trading System**
 - **Amendment of Directive 2003/87/EC establishing a system for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading within the Union, Decision (EU) 2015/1814 concerning the establishment and operation of a market stability reserve for the Union greenhouse gas emission trading scheme, and Regulation (EU) 2015/757 (Directive) – LIESE report – 2021/0211 (COD)**
 - **Amendment of Decision (EU) 2015/1814 as regards the amount of allowances to be placed in the market stability reserve for the Union greenhouse gas emission trading scheme until 2030 (Decision) – ENGERER report – 2021/0202 (COD)**

Lines set out in SI(2022) 327/4.

- **‘Fit for 55’ – Establishment of a Social Climate Fund (Regulation) – CASA & DE LANGE report – 2021/0206 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2022) 328/3.

- **‘Fit for 55’ – Amendment of Regulation (EU) 2018/842 on binding annual greenhouse gas emission reductions by Member States from 2021 to 2030 contributing to climate action to meet commitments under the Paris Agreement (Regulation) – POLFJÄRD report – 2021/0200 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2022) 329.

- **Amendment of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 as regards the decisions of European standardisation organisations concerning European standards and European standardisation deliverables (Regulation) – HAHN report – 2022/0021(COD)**

Line set out in SI(2022) 334/2.

- **Amendment of Council Regulation (EEC) No 95/93 as regards temporary relief from the slot utilisation rules at EU airports due to the COVID-19 pandemic (Regulation) – RIQUET report – 2022/0214 (COD)**

Line set out in SP(2022) 540.

- **Emergency intervention to address high energy prices – (Council Regulation) – 2022/0289 (NLE)**

Line set out in SI(2022) 337.

- **Oral question O-000024/2022 – COVID-19 – Sustaining EU Preparedness and Response – Looking ahead**

Line set out in SP(2022) 556/2.

- **Oral question O-000035/2022 – An EU Approach for Space Traffic Management – An EU Contribution Addressing a Global Challenge**

Line set out in SP(2022) 561.

- **Commission Implementing Decision on the adoption of the work programme for 2023-2024 within the framework of the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe – The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation and on its financing**

Line set out in SPI(2022) 53.

- **Amendment of Regulation (EU) 2021/241 as regards REPowerEU chapters in recovery and resilience plans and amendment of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, Regulation (EU) 2021/2115, Directive 2003/87/EC and Decision (EU) 2015/1814 (Regulation) – MUREŞAN, GARDIAZABAL RUBIAL & PÎSLARU report – 2022/0164 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2022) 331/3.

The Commission approved the line proposed for the following point, for transmission to the European Parliament:

- **Commission replies to the non-legislative resolutions adopted by the European Parliament at its part-session of June I 2022**

Line set out in SP(2022) 554/3.

The Commission took note of the following points:

- **‘Fit for 55’ – Recast of the Energy Efficiency Directive (Directive) – FUGLSANG report – 2021/0203 (COD)**

Information set out in SI(2022) 325.

- **‘Fit for 55’ – Amendment of Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Directive 98/70/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the promotion of energy from renewable sources, and repeal of Council Directive (EU) 2015/652 (Directive) – PIEPER report – 2021/0218 (COD)**

Information set out in SI(2022) 326.

- **Transparency and targeting of political advertising (Regulation) – GOZI report – 2021/0381 (COD)**

Information set out in SI(2022) 330.

- **Question Time with the Commission – Tackling depopulation through cohesion policy instruments**

Information set out in SP(2022) 555/2.

5. COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL ACTION (RCC(2022) 35 AND /2)

The Commission took note of the operational conclusions in RCC(2022) 35/2 of the meeting of the Group for External Coordination (EXCO) held on Wednesday 28 September 2022.

6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED (SEC(2022) 336 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 26 September and 2 October 2022.

6.2. EMPOWERMENT (SEC(2022) 337 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 26 September and 2 October 2022.

6.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS
(SEC(2022) 338 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedures between 26 September and 2 October 2022 archived in Decide.

6.4. SIGNIFICANT WRITTEN PROCEDURES
(SEC(2022) 339 AND /2)

The Commission took note of the significant written procedures for which the time limit expired between 3 and 7 October 2022.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS
(SEC(2022) 340)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
(PERS(2022) 61)

DG ENERGY – APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR AT GRADE AD14/15
DIRECTOR
(PERS(2022) 62 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 'Energy Policy: Strategy and Coordination' Directorate in DG Energy (PERS(2022) 62).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 7 and 8 September 2022 (PERS(2022) 62/2 and /3).

The Commission then examined the applicants' qualifications for the post. It also considered their ability, efficiency and conduct in the service. On a proposal from

Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and after consulting Ms SIMSON, it then decided to appoint Mr Pierre SCHELLEKENS to the post.

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

**8. JOINT COMMUNICATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL – YOUTH ACTION PLAN IN EU EXTERNAL ACTION 2022-2027 – PROMOTING MEANINGFUL YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT IN EU EXTERNAL ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, EQUALITY AND PEACE
(JOIN(2022) 53 TO /3; RCC(2022) 184)**

Ms VESTAGER asked Mr BORRELL, Ms ŠUICA and Ms URPILAINEN to present the first Youth Action Plan in EU external action, proposed for adoption that day as part of the European Year of Youth 2022.

Mr BORRELL began by reminding the College that the Council, in its June 2020 conclusions, had asked the Commission, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and the Member States to draw up an action plan to ensure that the EU's external action contributed to meaningful global youth engagement at all levels and in all regions.

He highlighted the important role of young people in building a better, greener, more inclusive and digital future. The Union had a responsibility to put young people at the centre of EU external action for sustainable development, equality and peace, and to empower them to develop solutions for a better future. To this end, Team Europe would help establish an inclusive process of youth participation.

Mr BORRELL noted that the proposed action plan would enable the EU to communicate on concrete measures that had a real impact on young people, particularly in the context of the Global Gateway Strategy, in which the EU offered

its partners investments that worked for people and the planet. Finally, he stressed the importance of the plan's peace and security dimensions in this context, as well as its emphasis on women and on the fight against violence and extremism.

Ms ŠUIČA thanked all the departments concerned for the excellent work done and stressed the good cooperation between all the cabinets responsible. She explained that this was the first-ever policy framework for a strategic partnership with young people around the world, building on the global dimension of the first EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child.

The action plan responded to the call for greater participation and inclusion of the younger generation, and it aimed to effectively support young people in developing their potential and to create a much needed civic space for them. It was also a response to the call made by the Conference on the Future of Europe for greater involvement of young people in policy-making and it proposed to follow the example of the Conference's European Citizens' Panels, one third of whose members were young people, to create a space for intergenerational dialogue.

Ms ŠUIČA stressed that, at a time when the world was undergoing a demographic transition, the Youth Action Plan would be an important contribution to meeting the growing need for intergenerational solidarity, an important point made by the PRESIDENT in her recent State of the Union address. Intergenerational justice and fairness were now also at the heart of discussions in multilateral fora, such as the United Nations.

She noted that the action plan focused on the critical transition from childhood to adulthood, which often determined the direction of a young person's life. Tangible commitments had already been made by the EU to eliminate child labour and to step up its support for children affected by armed conflict.

Ms ŠUIČA welcomed the fact that, as part of the UN-EU Spotlight Initiative, the EU had managed to propose practical steps to remove barriers to education, in

particular for girls, as well as measures to prevent and eradicate the practice of female genital mutilation and end forced and early marriage.

She added that the EU was also tackling the digital divide and was committed to do more to include young people in the ongoing global digital transition, building on the EU Strategy for a Better Internet for Kids (BIK +), adopted by the Commission in May 2022.

She highlighted the demographic changes in developing countries and the significant increase in the number of young people in their populations. The EU was proposing to its partner countries ways to take advantage of this demographic dividend by offering young people real prospects for the future. Investing in people-centred economic development and innovation could also help turn young people into an asset and curb the brain drain in the countries concerned. In this context, she stressed that the action plan was also linked to stability and prosperity, as well as to the EU's wider peace and security priorities.

In conclusion, Ms ŠUICA pointed out that the resilience and strength of any society was determined by the extent to which it was ready to invest in its children and young people. In her view, this was where a paradigm shift was urgently needed, including in the mindset of policymakers, who needed to recognise the wealth and potential of children and young people in building a more resilient, inclusive and sustainable future.

Ms URPILAINEN began by pointing out that, from the moment she had been appointed as a Member of the Commission, she had sought to make young people a priority for action in the policies for which she was responsible. In the difficult geopolitical context of today's world, it was important for the European Union to send a positive signal to its partner countries and their populations.

She was happy and proud to be presenting the Youth Action Plan in EU external action, which she considered a real priority. Referring to the State of the Union

address, in which the PRESIDENT had spoken of a ‘generation of dreamers but also of makers’, Ms URPILAINEN felt that the proposed action plan would give young people a real voice and the tools they needed to develop solutions for a better future.

Ms URPILAINEN pointed out that the action plan had been preceded by a broad consultation of young people and youth organisations and that it was the first such plan to have been developed jointly with the Youth Sounding Board for international partnerships, a discussion forum established in 2021 that brought together 25 young people from all over the world.

Describing the action plan in more detail, she explained that it proposed a strategic partnership with young people around the world, and that it was built around three pillars.

First, the ‘Partnership to Engage’ would strengthen the voice of young people and promote meaningful engagement in policy and decision-making in the European Union and its partner countries, as well as at regional and multilateral levels. For example, given the very low number of parliamentarians under the age of 30 across the world, the Youth and Women in Democracy Initiative aimed to support the political, democratic and civic participation of young people in the countries involved.

Secondly, the ‘Partnership to Empower’ would help tackle inequalities and provide young people with skills and resources in the four key areas of education, access to economic opportunities, sustainable development and mental and physical health. For example, to address the complexity of accessing EU funding, which was one of the main requests of young people, the new Youth Empowerment Fund would provide small-scale funding for youth-led local initiatives focused on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Thirdly, the ‘Partnership to Connect’ would promote opportunities for young people to move, connect, network and exchange, which was also in line with the

people-to-people dimension of the Global Gateway Strategy. An Africa-Europe Youth Academy would be established to support learning opportunities and create networks of young leaders in Africa linked to the European Union.

Ms URPILAINEN concluded her presentation by reminding the College of the success of the Erasmus+ programme, which remained the source of so many European initiatives, and stressed that other countries, such as China and the United States, were taking similar initiatives. Thanking the other Members of the College for their support, she said that she would now focus on monitoring and steering the implementation of this action plan.

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

- the observation that, despite the tight budgetary situation, European educational activities for young people were working very well, as illustrated, for example, by the first European School in Tbilisi, Georgia, which opened in 2018 as part of the Eastern Partnership;
- the importance of understanding that funding measures and programmes for young people was an investment in the future and, with that in mind, the case for the EU to create centres of excellence abroad, which would help to train tomorrow's world leaders;
- the need for a structure to be put in place to foster stronger connections between young people in Africa and Europe and the desire to run pilot projects to that end;
- emphasis of the fact that millions of children around the world did not attend school owing to a lack of appropriate structures as well as material and human resources, and the need for all countries, including those in the EU, to have well-trained and motivated teachers.

Ms VESTAGER wrapped up the discussion by noting that the College would return to the topics of education and learning at a later date and that, as announced by the PRESIDENT in her State of the Union address, 2023 would be the European Year of Skills.

Following these presentations, the Commission approved the Joint Communication in JOIN(2022) 53/3, subject to a final clean-up of the text, for transmission to the European Parliament and the Council, and, for information, to the national parliaments.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Ms VESTAGER asked Mr BORRELL to brief the College on the latest developments in external relations.

Mr BORRELL began by noting that the 12th meeting of the EU-Israel Association Council had been held the previous day in Brussels. This was the first meeting of the Association Council after a ten-year break. In his view, it was important to revive these meetings with one of the EU's most important partners in the southern neighbourhood in order to provide the high-level political platform needed for constructive dialogue.

The meeting had provided an opportunity for the EU to highlight the key areas of cooperation – such as energy, climate change, education and the fight against anti-Semitism – and to reaffirm its willingness to continue to deepen cooperation with Israel.

Next, Mr BORRELL noted that general elections had been held in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 2 October. According to a preliminary assessment, the elections had

been organised in an efficient and orderly manner. Although the full results were not yet known, it appeared that nationalist parties had won the election.

He noted that the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr Christian SCHMIDT, had decided, on the day of the elections, to require significant changes to the national Constitution and to the country's electoral law, with the aim of preventing long delays in the process of forming authorities. Domestic political reaction had been relatively moderate, while civil society had been more critical.

He then referred to the latest developments in West Africa, in particular the new coup d'état that had recently taken place in Burkina Faso. The young soldiers who had seized power appeared to be more inclined to cooperate with Russia, which was a cause for concern.

Lastly, he referred to the latest developments in Ukraine. He noted that, in a televised speech on Friday 30 September, the Russian President had confirmed Russia's annexation of four partially occupied regions of Ukraine. In his speech, Mr PUTIN had used very aggressive rhetoric when referring to the West.

Mr BORRELL said that Ukraine and the countries supporting it had strongly and formally condemned the sham referendums organised by Russia, as well as the subsequent unlawful annexation of the four Ukrainian regions in question.

Over the course of the previous week, developments on the battlefield had not gone Russia's way and Ukrainian armed forces had continued their counter-offensive on the ground, leading to the liberation of the Ukrainian city of Lyman. He noted that, given the context, a disproportionate response by Russia, and even targeted use of nuclear weapons, could not be ruled out.

Lastly, Mr BORRELL referred briefly to a number of sources of tension on the international scene, including high energy prices that were having a significant

impact on developing countries, the latest developments in relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia, the Iranian regime's brutal crackdown on protesters and the end of the negotiations on the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. He also referred to the Nicaraguan authorities' unilateral decision to expel from the country or to reject ambassadors from several Western countries, including the EU ambassador.

Following this presentation, Ms VĂLEAN briefly informed the College of the successful diplomatic efforts undertaken the previous week in Montreal (Canada) to remove Russia's seat on the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Council.

Ms VESTAGER concluded by stating that a US national had been elected as Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union and that a Lithuanian national had been elected as Deputy Secretary-General. She noted that these appointments would further isolate Russia internationally.

The Commission took note of this information.

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The meeting closed at 14.10.