EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2023) 2468 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

Brussels, 8 November 2023

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

of the 2468th meeting of the Commission

held in Strasbourg

(Winston Churchill building)

on Tuesday 3 October 2023

(afternoon)

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PV(2023) 2468 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

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Single sitting: Tuesday 3 October 2023 (afternoon)

The sitting opened at 13.06 with Ms von der LEYEN, President, in the chair.

Present:

Ms von der LEYEN	President	
Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Executive Vice-President	
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Executive Vice-President	
Ms JOUROVÁ	Vice-President	
Ms ŠUICA	Vice-President	
Mr SCHINAS	Vice-President	Item 10 (in part)
Mr SCHMIT	Member	
Mr GENTILONI	Member	
Mr BRETON	Member	
Ms FERREIRA	Member	Items 7 (in part) to 10
Ms KYRIAKIDES	Member	Items 1 to 9 (in part)
Mr REYNDERS	Member	
Ms DALLI	Member	Items 7 (in part) to 10
Mr LENARČIČ	Member	
Ms SIMSON	Member	Items 7 (in part) to 10
Mr SINKEVIČIUS	Member	
Ms McGUINNESS	Member	
Ms IVANOVA	Member	

Absent:

Ms VESTAGER	Executive Vice-President
Mr BORRELL i FONTELLES	High Representative / Vice-President
Mr HAHN	Member
Mr WOJCIECHOWSKI	Member
Ms JOHANSSON	Member
Ms VĂLEAN	Member
Mr VÁRHELYI	Member
Ms URPILAINEN	Member

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

Ms LOTSON LÓPEZ	Policy coordinator in Mr BORRELL's cabinet
Mr PINTO ANTUNES	Deputy Head of Cabinet to Mr WOJCIECHOWSKI
Ms WEBBER	Head of Cabinet to Ms JOHANSSON
Ms LUKANIUK	Member of Ms VĂLEAN's cabinet
Ms PETSCH	Member of Mr VÁRHELYI's cabinet
Mr SAVIGNAT	Member of Ms URPILAINEN's cabinet

The following also sat in:

Mr SEIBERT	Head of Cabinet to the PRESIDENT	
Mr CALLEJA CRESPO	Director-General, Legal Service	
Ms SPINANT	Acting Director-General, DG Communication	
Mr MAMER	Head of the Spokesperson's Service and Chief Spokesperson of the Commission	
Ms PETKOVA	Director of Coordination and Administration in the PRESIDENT's cabinet	
Mr WHELAN	Adviser in the PRESIDENT's cabinet	
Ms PODESTA	Deputy Chief Spokesperson of the Commission	
Mr THYGESEN	Chairman, European Fiscal Board	Item 7
Mr CHARLES	Secretariat-General	

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

1. AGENDAS
(OJ(2023) 2468/FINAL; SEC(2023) 2468/FINAL)

The Commission took note of that day's agenda and of the tentative agendas for forthcoming meetings.

2. WEEKLY MEETING OF HEADS OF CABINET
(RCC(2023) 2468)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Heads of Cabinet held on Monday 2 October 2023.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Commission held over approval of the minutes of its 2465th, 2466th and 2467th meetings of 6, 12 and 27 September 2023 for a later date.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS
(RCC(2023) 161)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (IRG) held on Friday 29 September 2023 (RCC(2023) 161).

The Commission approved the lines proposed for the following points:

– **Nature restoration (Regulation) – LUENA report – 2022/0195 (COD)**

  Line set out in SI(2023) 354/2.

– **Amendment of Directives 2005/29/EC and 2011/83/EU as regards empowering consumers for the green transition through better protection**

against unfair practices and better information (Directive) – BORZAN report – 2022/0092 (COD)

Line set out in SI(2023) 355.

– **Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network, amendment of Regulation (EU) 2021/1153 and Regulation (EU) Nº 913/2010 and repeal of Regulation (EU) Nº 1315/2013 (Regulation) – THALER & RIQUET report – 2021/0420 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2023) 358.

– **Measures for a high level of public sector interoperability across the Union (Interoperable Europe Act) (Regulation) – IJABS report – 2022/0379 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2023) 361.

– **Amendment of Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control) and Council Directive 1999/31/EC of 26 April 1999 on the landfill of waste (Directive) – KANEV report – 2022/0104 (COD) / Reporting of environmental data from industrial installations and establishment of an Industrial Emissions Portal (Regulation) – KANEV report – 2022/0105 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2023) 360.

– **Establishment of a framework for the recovery and resolution of insurance and reinsurance undertakings and amendment of Directives 2002/47/EC, 2004/25/EC, 2009/138/EC, (EU) 2017/1132 and Regulations (EU) Nº 1094/2010 and (EU) Nº 648/2012 (Directive) – FERBER report – 2021/0296 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2023) 347.

– **Amendment of Directive 2009/138/EC as regards proportionality, quality of supervision, reporting, long-term guarantee measures, macro-prudential tools, sustainability risks, group and cross-border supervision (Directive) – FERBER report – 2021/0295 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2023) 362.

– **Fees and charges payable to the European Medicines Agency, amendment of Regulation (EU) 2017/745 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repeal of Council Regulation (EC) Nº 297/95 and Regulation (EU) 658/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council (Regulation) – BUŞOI report – 2022/0417 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2023) 369.

– **Objections pursuant to Article 112(2) and (3) of the European Parliament's Rules of Procedure on genetically modified maize:**

  o **Draft Commission implementing decision authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified maize MON 89034 × 1507 × MIR162 × NK603 × DAS-40278-9 and nine sub-combinations, pursuant to Regulation (EC) Nº 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council – D090638/03 – 2023/2809 (RSP)**

  o **Draft Commission implementing decision renewing the authorisation for placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified maize MIR162 pursuant to Regulation (EC) Nº 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council and amending Commission Implementing Decisions (EU) 2016/1685, 2019/1305 and 2019/2087 as regards the reference material – D090639/03 – 2023/2810 (RSP)**

Line set out in SP(2023) 496.

– **Status of third-country nationals who are long-term residents (recast – Directive) – BOESELAGER report – 2022/0134 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2023) 356.

– **EU position regarding the EU claim for coastal State status in the context of coastal States consultations on management measures for Norwegian spring-spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring in the North-East Atlantic**

Line set out in SI(2023) 341.

– **Standing authorisation for Commission statements on restrictive measures**

Line set out in SI(2023) 349.

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 June 2023 and July 2023 part-sessions**

Line set out in SP(2023) 484/3.

The Commission approved the line proposed for the following point, for transmission to the European Economic and Social Committee:

– **Follow-up to opinions of the European Economic and Social Committee – Plenary session of June 2023**

Line set out in SC(2023) 29/2.

The Commission took note of the following points:

– **Amendment of Regulation (EC) Nº 1272/2008 of the European Parliament**

and of the Council on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures (Regulation) – SPYRAKI report – 2022/0432 (COD)

Information set out in SP(2023) 463.

– **Urban wastewater treatment (recast - Directive) – TORVALDS report – 2022/0345 (COD)**

Information set out in SP(2023) 464.

– **Protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to asbestos at work (Directive) – TRILLET-LENOIR report – 2022/0298 (COD)**

Compromise text in SP(2023) 465, further to note SI(2023) 268, which the Commission had already approved on 11 July 2023.

– **Amendment of Regulation (EU) 2019/1242 as regards strengthening the CO_2 emission performance standards for new heavy-duty vehicles and integrating reporting obligations, and repeal of Regulation (EU) 2018/956 (Regulation) – JADOT report – 2023/0042 (COD)**

Information set out in SI(2023) 359/2.

5. COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL ACTION (RCC(2023) 33)

The Commission took note of the operational conclusions in RCC(2023) 33 of the meeting of the Group for External Coordination (EXCO) held on Wednesday 27 September 2023.

6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED (SEC(2023) 315 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 25 September and 1 October 2023.

6.2. EMPOWERMENT (SEC(2023) 316 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 25 September and 1 October 2023.

6.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS (SEC(2023) 317 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedures between 25 September and 1 October 2023, as archived in D*e*cide.

6.4. SIGNIFICANT WRITTEN PROCEDURES (SEC(2023) 318 AND /2)

The Commission took note of the significant written procedures for which the time limit expired between 2 and 6 October 2023.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

PRESENTATION OF THE 2023 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EUROPEAN FISCAL BOARD

The PRESIDENT asked Mr Niels THYGESEN, Chair of the European Fiscal Board, to present the findings of the independent advisory body's seventh annual report.

Mr THYGESEN began by thanking the College for inviting him to present the Board's annual report. The report was divided into two parts, one looking back which assessed the economic situation and fiscal policies in 2022, and the other looking forward with a particular focus on reform of the EU's fiscal framework.

With regard to the macroeconomic situation, he highlighted the resilience of the European economy in 2022. The annual real gross domestic product (GDP) of the EU and the euro area had recovered to pre-pandemic levels, despite a slowdown in the economic recovery in the second half of the year. The surge in the prices of energy and other raw materials following the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine had led to an increase in overall annual inflation in the euro area, to a record level of 8.5% in 2022.

However, higher-than-expected nominal GDP growth had generated exceptional revenues, contributing to a significant reduction in government debt ratios. At first glance, 2022 had thus seen a marked reduction in overall deficits compared to initial estimates and to the previous year, largely due to unexpected inflation and the phasing out of pandemic-related support measures.

The EU's 2022 fiscal surveillance cycle had been marked by a series of specific circumstances which had weakened its effectiveness. Mr THYGESEN highlighted in particular the continuation of the general escape clause of the Stability and Growth Pact in 2022 and 2023, and the focus on supporting demand at the expense of the viability of public finances. In its final assessment, the Commission had thus substantially increased the reference rate for expenditure growth by taking into account actual rather than expected inflation, without, however, clearly communicating these changes.

In addition, no overall conclusions had been drawn on the compliance of Member States with the criteria of the Stability and Growth Pact in 2022, and no procedural steps had been taken, despite the excessive debts and deficits recorded in

several countries. He therefore considered it urgent to return to a rules-based fiscal framework, after an effective suspension of four years.

Mr THYGESEN then turned to the forward-looking part of the report, pointing out that, since 2017, the European Fiscal Board had recommended improvements regarding the Stability and Growth Pact. He stressed in particular the importance of fiscal sustainability, especially after the recent economic shocks. The Board therefore supported the main strands of the reform proposed by the Commission, and was particularly supportive of the development of adjustment strategies specific to each Member State, based on their own budgetary situation. It also welcomed the strengthening of national ownership of fiscal adjustment strategies and the proposed adoption of an expenditure path as a single operational objective to guide the adjustment process.

However, the Board had certain reservations concerning two aspects of the Commission's proposal, namely: (i) the merger of fiscal and structural surveillance into a single plan, which, in its view, risked reducing the effectiveness of fiscal surveillance; and (ii) the provision of strategic public goods at European level, which, in its view, would be delivered more effectively through joint action within the framework of a central fiscal capacity.

Mr THYGESEN acknowledged the legitimate concerns raised during the discussions on the Commission's proposal. However, he drew attention to the risks associated with the introduction of additional common criteria for annual fiscal adjustment, considering that this could overshadow the medium-term challenges. To consolidate the EU's fiscal rules without multiplying these criteria, he suggested several alternatives, such as clarifying the functioning of the control account, limiting the scope for extending the adjustment period, and strengthening the supervisory capacity of the fiscal councils, both at national and at European level.

He concluded by stressing the urgent need to reach an agreement on the economic governance reform, as further postponement would be detrimental. He also

emphasised the importance of ensuring consistency between the decisions taken and their effective implementation.

The PRESIDENT thanked Mr THYGESEN for his detailed presentation. She confirmed the urgency of the reform, considering that the current system, with no room for manoeuvre, was no longer a viable solution.

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

– the quality of the report of the European Fiscal Board, which provided a useful input to the ongoing debate on the review of the EU economic governance framework;

– a reminder of the major challenges the EU had faced in 2022, the high degree of uncertainty as to their impact on the European economy, and the emergency measures that had had to be taken in this context, in particular to ensure security of energy supply and cushion the impact of the surge in prices following Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine;

– the significant contribution of joint schemes such as SURE and NextGenerationEU to the European economic recovery, which had stabilised the financial situation, helped maintain a tight labour market, including in deeply indebted States, and limited regional divergences;

– endorsement of the finding that, in hindsight, Member States' fiscal policies in 2022 had proved to be too expansionary;

– in particular, regret at the misuse of the general escape clause for measures that structurally increased the deficit rather than only for temporary and targeted emergency measures, as recommended by the Commission;

– given the current difficulties in dispensing with those measures, their implications for public finances and thus for the opportunities for investment and reforms needed for the future of the Union;

– in this context, the Commission's clear recommendations to adopt a more prudent fiscal policy in 2023, including the requirement to make quantitative adjustments despite the continued application of the general escape clause, the importance of opening excessive deficit procedures in spring 2024 for Member States with deficits above 3% of GDP, and a reminder that the reform of the fiscal framework proposed by the Commission included a strengthening of the criteria for activating and prolonging the general escape clause;

– despite the usefulness of certain rules of the Stability and Growth Pact, a reminder of the slow growth and increased indebtedness in the EU over the past 20 years, and of the more realistic path to reducing debt set out in the proposed new fiscal rules;

– the constructive engagement of the Member States in the reform of the fiscal framework despite their very different starting points, and the intention of the Spanish Presidency to reach an agreement at the November Economic and Financial Affairs Council;

– the remaining controversial issues concerning (i) institutional balance, (ii) common safeguards, (iii) fiscal space for investment and incentives for reforms, and (iv) credible implementation and ownership;

– the need for swift progress by the co-legislators to close this file before the end of the mandate of the European Parliament, so as to ensure budgetary predictability and prevent the risks associated with a delay, in particular the nervousness of the financial markets;

– the current difficulty of establishing a central EU fiscal capacity, as recommended by the international financial institutions, due to the existing

divisions on the subject, but the importance nevertheless of avoiding fragmentation of the internal market and of reflecting further on this issue in the coming years;

– the importance of simultaneously looking at the combined impact on economic growth of various elements under discussion, such as State aid, the revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework, the reform of economic governance and monetary policy;

– the importance of not prioritising short-term thinking and of focusing on structural fiscal policies rather than cyclical ones.

In response to the points raised, Mr THYGESEN welcomed the excellent basis for discussion provided by the Commission's proposal on the reform of the EU's economic governance. He hoped that the proposed compromises on the common criteria for fiscal adjustment would be sufficient for the co-legislators. He noted that one lesson from previous years was the importance of focusing on the longer term. In this regard, he considered that the substantial public expenditure planned in certain areas such as energy or defence would not necessarily have an impact on growth and would therefore not ensure fiscal sustainability in the medium term. Lastly, he welcomed the opportunity to present the conclusions of the European Fiscal Board to the Economic and Financial Committee of the Council and to the November Economic and Financial Affairs Council.

The Commission took note of this information.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS (SEC(2023) 319 AND /2)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
(PERS(2023) 89 AND /2)

In the absence of Mr HAHN, the Secretary-General presented three additional proposals for administrative decisions which were tabled directly to the College for approval.

8.1. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY / SECRETARIAT-GENERAL – EXTENSION OF THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN FISCAL BOARD PERS(2023) 91)

The Commission took note of the information set out in point 1 of PERS(2023) 89/2 and, on a proposal from Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and after consulting Mr DOMBROVSKIS, decided:

– to extend the terms of office of Mr Niels THYGESEN as Chairman of the European Fiscal Board and of Mr Roel BEETSMA, Mr Massimo BORDIGNON and Mr Mateusz SZCZUREK as Members of the Board for a period of one year from 20 October 2023 (PERS(2023) 91), subject to the successful outcome of the procedure laid down in Article 123(2) of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union. During this period, they would have the status of Special Advisers to Mr DOMBROVSKIS, the Executive Vice-President for an Economy that Works for People;

– to instruct the Director-General of DG Budget to immediately inform the budgetary authority of the intention to renew the contracts of these special advisers;

– to authorise Mr HAHN, Member of the Commission responsible for Human Resources, to amend the contracts of these special advisers in the event of urgent and duly justified needs, subject to the availability of sufficient budgetary resources;

– to authorise the Director-General of DG Human Resources and Security to implement this decision by signing the contracts on behalf of the authority empowered to conclude contracts of employment. The contract would be definitively concluded only after the budgetary authority had responded positively to the notification, and would have retroactive effect from 20 October 2023;

– to similarly extend the term of office of the Head of the Secretariat of the European Fiscal Board for a period of one year from 20 October 2023.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

8.2. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY / SECRETARIAT-GENERAL – APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN FISCAL BOARD
PERS(2023) 92)

The Commission took note of the information set out in point 2 of PERS(2023) 89/2 and, on a proposal from Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and after consulting Mr DOMPBROVSKIS, decided:

- to appoint Mr Xavier DEBRUN as a member of the European Fiscal Board – by way of derogation from Article 3(4) of Commission Decision (EU) 2015/1937 of 21 October 2015, as amended by Commission Decision (EU) 2022/7281 – for a period starting at the end of the procedure for informing the budgetary authority and continuing until 19 October 2024. During his term of office, he would have the status of special adviser to Mr DOMBROVSKIS;

- to instruct the Director-General of DG Budget to immediately inform the budgetary authority of the intention to conclude the contract of this special adviser;

- to authorise Mr HAHN, the Member of the Commission responsible, to amend Mr Xavier DEBRUN's contract in the event of duly justified needs, subject to the availability of sufficient budgetary resources;

- to authorise the Director-General of DG Human Resources and Security to implement this decision by signing the contract on behalf of the authority empowered to conclude contracts of employment. The contract would be definitively concluded only after the budgetary authority had responded positively to the notification.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

8.3. IDEA – INSPIRE, DEBATE, ENGAGE AND ACCELERATE ACTION – APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL ADVISER RESPONSIBLE FOR DRAWING UP A REPORT ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPEAN COMPETITIVENESS

The Commission took note of the information in point 3 of PERS(2023) 89:2 and, on a proposal from Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, decided:

- to appoint Mr Mario DRAGHI as an unpaid special adviser reporting directly to the PRESIDENT and administratively attached to IDEA – Inspire, Debate, Engage and Accelerate Action. The contract would be drawn up for a period running from 3 October 2023 to 31 July 2024, with a maximum of 300 working days, which could be mission days;

- to make a team available to Mr DRAGHI to support him in his work for the duration of his term of office comprising a secretary, a policy assistant, three editors and five experts, who would be seconded to IDEA or recruited by it. Where appropriate, he would also be assisted in the drafting of reports by other experts in competitiveness from Commission departments dealing with competitiveness in Europe, in particular the

Secretariat-General, DG Economic and Financial Affairs, DG Single Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, DG Trade, DG Competition, DG Energy, and DG Communication Networks, Content and Technologies;

- to make offices available to Mr DRAGHI and his core team, within the space allocated to IDEA;

- to authorise Mr HAHN, the Member of the Commission responsible, by derogation from the second paragraph of point 6 of Commission Decision C(2007) 6655, to amend Mr Mario DRAGHI's contract in the event of urgent and duly justified needs, subject to the availability of sufficient budgetary resources;

- to authorise the Director-General of DG Human Resources and Security to implement this decision by signing the contract on behalf of the authority empowered to conclude contracts of employment.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

8.4. DG INFORMATICS – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR AT GRADE AD14/15
(PERS(2023) 7 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 'Digital Transformation' Directorate at DG Informatics (PERS(2023) 7 and /2).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 28 June and 30 September 2023 (PERS(2023) 7/3 and /4).

The Commission proceeded to compare the applicants' qualifications for the post. On a proposal from Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, it then decided to appoint Mr Carl-Christian BUHR to the post.

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

8.5. LEGAL SERVICE – APPOINTMENT OF A PRINCIPAL LEGAL ADVISER AT GRADE AD14/15
(PERS(2023) 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 Principal Legal Adviser in the ECS (European civil service law) team in the Legal Service (PERS(2023) 90).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 28 July and 7 September 2023 (PERS(2023) 90/2 and /3).

The Commission proceeded to compare the applicants' qualifications for the post. On a proposal from Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, it then decided to appoint Ms Florence CLOTUCHE-DUVIEUSART to the post.

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

9. COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION ON CRITICAL TECHNOLOGY AREAS FOR THE EU'S ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR FURTHER RISK ASSESSMENT WITH MEMBER STATES
(C(2023) 6689 TO / 3; RCC(2023) 167)

Ms JOUROVÁ began by pointing out that the Recommendation presented that day stemmed from the Commission Communication on a European economic security strategy approved in June 2023. The Communication had identified four types of

risks, including risks related to technology security and technology leakage.

In the Communication, the Commission had announced that the EU would draw up a list of technologies critical to economic security and that a risk evaluation would be carried out jointly with the Member States for the most sensitive risks. A list of ten technology areas had therefore been drawn up by the Commission on the basis of the three criteria set out in the strategy: the enabling and transformative nature of the technologies, the risk of civil military fusion, and the risk of their misuse for human rights violations.

In addition, four technology areas had been deemed the most sensitive and the most likely to pose an immediate risk: advanced semiconductors, artificial intelligence, quantum technology and biotechnology. The Recommendation therefore proposed that a collective risk assessment of the four areas be launched immediately, as well as discussions with Member States on the next steps. By spring 2024, the Commission would determine whether – based on the feedback from the Member States – it was necessary to carry out further collective risk assessments and if so, when.

In conclusion, Ms JOUROVÁ noted that the above approach responded to the urgent need for common awareness and for a common position within the EU on questions of technological security, which had major geopolitical importance. This approach would be implemented carefully and gradually, in order not to deter investors and to avoid any pushback from the Member States.

Mr BRETON pointed out that the approach taken by the European economic security strategy was founded on promoting the economic basis of the EU as the first building block of its security, on creating the partnerships needed for this security, and on protecting the EU against risks.

He thanked the members of the College and the different Commission departments concerned for the work that they had carried out together and for the collective vision that it had produced, while stressing that the EU had been looking at these

issues for several years. As with other major global actors, the EU now had to act and take appropriate measures. Indeed, future actions in this area would allow the EU to have a structured dialogue with its strategic partners while at the same time respond to its own economic security needs.

Mr BRETON briefly mentioned the chapters covering the 17 technologies concerned and noted that the Commission should now hold talks with the Member States to flesh out the concept of economic security. Assessments would then have to be started on the four main priority chapters identified.

He also welcomed the work carried out by Mr DOMBROVSKIS and his departments on strengthening the toolbox in terms of outbound investment, export controls and improving foreign direct investment (FDI) screening.

In conclusion, Mr BRETON emphasised how economic security was a new concept, which had to be put into practice using Europe's analytical expertise and through dialogue with the Member States, avoiding fragmentation. The EU had to adapt to tackle new geopolitical realities and to protect its security interests while remaining open.

Following these presentations, the Commission adopted the Commission Recommendation in C(2023) 6689/3, for transmission to the European Parliament and the Council and for publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.

10. OTHER BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Mr DOMBROVSKIS briefed the College on his mission to China from 23 to 26 September. The main aim of this mission had been to co-chair – alongside Deputy Prime Minister He Lifeng – the EU-China High Level Economic and Trade Dialogue held on 25 September in Beijing.

The Commission took note of this information.

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The Commission's other discussions on certain agenda items are recorded in the special minutes.

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The meeting closed at 14.33.