



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2024) 2495 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

Brussels, 24 July 2024

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

of the 2495th meeting of the Commission

held in Brussels

(Berlaymont)

on Wednesday 12 June 2024

(morning)

PV(2024) 2495 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Attendance list	4-5
1. AGENDAS (OJ(2024) 2495/FINAL; SEC(2024) 2495/FINAL)	6
2. WEEKLY MEETING OF HEADS OF CABINET (RCC(2024) 2495).....	6
3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (PV(2024) 2489; PV(2024) 2489, PART II; PV(2024) 2490; PV(2024) 2491; PV(2024) 2491, PART II; PV(2024) 2492).....	6
4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS (RCC(2024) 109)	6
5. COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL ACTION (RCC(2024) 23; RCC(2024) 24).....	9
6. MONITORING THE APPLICATION OF EUROPEAN UNION LAW	9
STATE AID AND OTHER COMPETITION RULES	9
7. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS.....	9
7.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED (SEC(2024) 156 ET SEQ.).....	9
7.2. EMPOWERMENT (SEC(2024) 157 ET SEQ.)	9
7.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS (SEC(2024) 158 ET SEQ.)	9
7.4. SIGNIFICANT WRITTEN PROCEDURES (SEC(2024) 159 AND /2)	10
7.5. COMMISSION DECISION GRANTING A DELEGATION OF POWERS RELATING TO THE TRANSMISSION OF REFERENCE TRAJECTORIES, TECHNICAL INFORMATION, THE PUBLIC DEBT PROJECTION FRAMEWORK AND ITS RESULTS, AND THE COMMISSION'S MACROECONOMIC FORECAST AND ASSUMPTIONS UNDER REGULATION (EU) 2024/1263 (C(2024) 3812).....	10

8. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS (SEC(2024) 160)	10
ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (PERS(2024) 45).....	10
8.1. DG INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMEs – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR AT GRADE AD14/15 (PERS(2023) 37 TO /4).....	11
8.2. DG MARE – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR AT GRADE AD14/15 (PERS(2023) 2 TO /4).....	11
8.3. DG RESEARCH AND INNOVATION – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR AT GRADE AD14/15 (PERS(2024) 46 TO /3)	12
8.4. DG ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS – EXTENSION OF THE SECONDMENT IN THE INTEREST OF THE SERVICE, UNDER ARTICLES 37 AND 38 OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS, OF AN AD14 OFFICIAL.....	12
8.5. ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE COMMISSION MEDIATION SERVICE FOR 2023 (SEC(2024) 178)	13
9. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – COMMON IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE PACT ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM (COM(2024) 251 TO /3; SWD(2024) 251 TO /3).....	13
10. OTHER BUSINESS.....	17
10.1. LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN EXTERNAL RELATIONS.....	17
10.2. INVESTIGATION INTO THE VALUE CHAINS OF BATTERY ELECTRIC VEHICLES.....	20

Single sitting: Wednesday 12 June 2024 (morning)

The sitting opened at 9.08 with Ms VESTAGER in the chair.

Present:

Ms VESTAGER	Executive Vice-President	
Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Executive Vice-President	
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Executive Vice-President	
Mr BORRELL i FONTELLES	High Representative / Vice-President	
Ms JOUROVÁ	Vice-President	
Mr SCHINAS	Vice-President	
Mr HAHN	Member	
Mr SCHMIT	Member	
Mr GENTILONI	Member	
Mr WOJCIECHOWSKI	Member	
Mr BRETON	Member	Items 1 to 10.1 (in part)
Ms FERREIRA	Member	
Ms KYRIAKIDES	Member	
Ms JOHANSSON	Member	
Mr VÁRHELYI	Member	
Ms URPILAINEN	Member	
Ms SIMSON	Member	
Mr SINKEVIČIUS	Member	
Ms McGUINNESS	Member	
Mr HOEKSTRA	Member	

Absent:

Ms von der LEYEN	President
Ms ŠUICA	Vice-President
Mr REYNDEERS	Member
Ms DALLI	Member
Mr LENARČIČ	Member
Ms VÁLEAN	Member
Ms IVANOVA	Member

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

Mr SCICLUNA	Head of Cabinet to Ms ŠUICA
Ms GERHARDS	Deputy Head of Cabinet to Ms DALLI
Ms PAJNKIHAR	Member of Mr LENARČIČ's cabinet
Mr FÁBREGAS	Deputy Head of Cabinet to Ms VÁLEAN
Ms ALEXANDROVA	Deputy Head of Cabinet to Ms IVANOVA

The following also sat in:

Mr CALLEJA CRESPO	Director-General, Legal Service
Ms PODESTA	Deputy Chief Spokesperson of the Commission
Ms PETKOVA	Director of Coordination and Administration in the PRESIDENT's cabinet
Ms HILI	Adviser in the PRESIDENT's cabinet
Mr TAQUET-GRAZIANI	Acting Head of Unit in the Secretariat-General
Ms BUKA	Secretariat-General

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

1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2024) 2495/FINAL; SEC(2024) 2495/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(2024) 2495)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Heads of Cabinet held on Monday 10 June 2024.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

(PV(2024) 2489; PV(2024) 2489, PART II; PV(2024) 2490; PV(2024) 2491; PV(2024) 2491, PART II; PV(2024) 2492)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 2489th, 2490th, 2491st and 2492nd meetings of 10, 17 and 23 April and of 15 May 2024, and held over approval of the minutes of its 2493rd and 2494th meetings of 22 and 29 May for a later date.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(RCC(2024) 109)

The Commission took note of the written exchanges on the files of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (GRI) for the period from 3 to 7 June 2024, distributed as RCC(2024) 109.

The Commission approved the lines proposed for the following points:

- **Application of Euratom safeguards (Council Decision) – 2023/0465 (NLE)**

Line set out in SI(2024) 263.

- **Amendment of Directives (EU) 2009/65/EC, 2009/138/EC, 2011/61/EU, 2014/65/EU and (EU) 2016/97 as regards the Union retail investor protection rules (Directive) – YON-COURTIN report – 2023/0167 (COD) / Amendment of Regulation (EU) No 1286/2014 as regards the modernisation of the key information document (Regulation) – YON-COURTIN report – 2023/0166 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2024) 269.

- **Amendment and correction of Regulation (EU) 2024/257 fixing for 2024, 2025 and 2026 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters, and Regulation (EU) 2023/194 fixing for 2023 such fishing opportunities (Council Regulation) – 2024/0117 (NLE)**

Line set out in SI(2024) 278.

- **Designation of the European Coordinators for the trans-European transport network**

Line set out in SI(2024) 265/2.

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 April I 2024 part-session (10-11 April)**

Line set out in SP(2024) 405.

The Commission took note of the following points:

- **Detergents and surfactants, amendment of Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 and repeal of Regulation (EC) No 648/2004 (Regulation) – RIPA report – 2023/0124 (COD)**

Information set out in SI(2024) 264/2.

- **Establishment of an EU Talent Pool (Regulation) – AL-SAHLANI report – 2023/0404 (COD)**

Information set out in SI(2024) 266.

- **‘One Substance One Assessment Package’: Amendment of Regulations (EC) No 178/2002, (EC) No 401/2009, (EU) 2017/745 and (EU) 2019/1021 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the re-attribution of scientific and technical tasks and improving cooperation among Union agencies in the area of chemicals (Regulation) – SPYRAKI report – 2023/0455 (COD) / Amendment of Directive 2011/65/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the re-attribution of scientific and technical tasks to the European Chemicals Agency (Directive) – SPYRAKI report – 2023/0454 (COD) / Establishment of a common data platform on chemicals, laying down rules to ensure that the data contained in it are findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable and establishing a monitoring and outlook framework for chemicals (Regulation) – SPYRAKI report – 2023/0453 (COD)**

Information set out in SI(2024) 267/2.

- **The welfare of dogs and cats and their traceability (Regulation) – VRECIIONOVÁ report – 2023/0447 (COD)**

Information set out in SI(2024) 271.

5. COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL ACTION

(RCC(2024) 23; RCC(2024) 24)

The Commission took note of the operational conclusions in RCC(2024) 23 and RCC(2024) 24 of the meetings of the Group for External Coordination (EXCO) on Wednesday 29 May and 5 June 2024.

6. MONITORING THE APPLICATION OF EUROPEAN UNION LAW

STATE AID AND OTHER COMPETITION RULES

The Commission's decision on this agenda item is recorded in the special minutes.

7. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

7.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED

(SEC(2024) 156 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 27 May and 9 June 2024.

7.2. EMPOWERMENT

(SEC(2024) 157 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 27 May and 9 June 2024.

7.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS

(SEC(2024) 158 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedures between 27 May and 9 June 2024 archived in Decide.

7.4. SIGNIFICANT WRITTEN PROCEDURES
(SEC(2024) 159 AND /2)

The Commission took note of the significant written procedures for which the time limit expired between 10 and 14 June 2024.

**7.5. COMMISSION DECISION GRANTING A DELEGATION OF POWERS
RELATING TO THE TRANSMISSION OF REFERENCE
TRAJECTORIES, TECHNICAL INFORMATION, THE PUBLIC DEBT
PROJECTION FRAMEWORK AND ITS RESULTS, AND THE
COMMISSION'S MACROECONOMIC FORECAST AND
ASSUMPTIONS UNDER REGULATION (EU) 2024/1263**
(C(2024) 3812)

The Commission decided to grant a delegation of powers to the Director-General for Economic and Financial Affairs relating to the transmission of reference trajectories, technical information, the public debt projection framework and its results, and the Commission's macroeconomic forecast and assumptions under Regulation (EU) 2024/1263, subject to the conditions laid down in Articles 2 to 5 of the Decision.

The Commission adopted the Decision in C(2024) 3812.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS
(SEC(2024) 160)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
(PERS(2024) 45)

8.1. DG INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMEs – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR AT GRADE AD14/15 (PERS(2023) 37 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 ‘Planning, Finance and Digital Solutions’ Directorate in DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (PERS(2023) 37 and /2).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 14 March and 16 May 2024 (PERS(2023) 37/3 and /4).

The Commission proceeded to compare the applicants’ qualifications for the post. On a proposal from Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Mr BRETON, it then decided to appoint Ms Anna ATHANASOPOULOU to the post.

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

8.2. DG MARE – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR AT GRADE AD14/15 (PERS(2023) 2 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 ‘International Ocean Governance & Sustainable Fisheries’ Directorate in DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (PERS(2023) 2 and /2).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 28 July and 14 September 2023 (PERS(2023) 2/3 and /4).

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

after consulting Mr SINKEVIČIUS, it then decided to appoint Mr Fernando ANDRESEN GUIMARAES to the post.

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

**8.3. DG RESEARCH AND INNOVATION – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR AT GRADE AD14/15
(PERS(2024) 46 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 ‘Common Support Centre’ Directorate in DG Research and Innovation (PERS(2024) 46).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 10 and 18 April 2024 (PERS(2024) 46/2 and /3).

The Commission proceeded to compare the applicants’ qualifications for the post. On a proposal from Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Ms IVANOVA, it then decided to appoint Ms Pauline ROUCH to the post.

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

8.4. DG ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS – EXTENSION OF THE SECONDMENT IN THE INTEREST OF THE SERVICE, UNDER ARTICLES 37 AND 38 OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS, OF AN AD14 OFFICIAL

On a proposal from Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Mr DOMBROVSKIS et Mr GENTILONI, the Commission decided:

- to approve the extension of the secondment in the interest of the service, under Articles 37 and 38 of the Staff Regulations, of Mr José LEANDRO

to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in London, as Director representing the European Union, for a period of 12 months which may be extended;

- to confirm that, during the period of his secondment, Mr José LEANDRO would benefit from the conditions set out in Annex X to the Staff Regulations.

These decisions would take effect on 1st July 2024.

8.5. ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE COMMISSION MEDIATION SERVICE FOR 2023
(SEC(2024) 178)

The Commission took note of the 2023 General Activity Report of the Mediation Service of the European Commission distributed as SEC(2024) 178.

9. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – COMMON IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE PACT ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM
(COM(2024) 251 TO /3; SWD(2024) 251 TO /3)

Mr SCHINAS presented the Communication proposed for approval by the College that day on implementing the Pact on Migration and Asylum, the adoption of which by the co-legislators had been a tremendous political achievement by this Commission.

It was now important to give concrete expression to the decisions taken by implementing the Pact throughout the European Union. In this regard, work on the

ten thematic building blocks would need to be conducted over the next two years, with a solidarity component in 2025 and a deadline of 11 June 2026 set for implementation of the whole Pact.

Mr SCHINAS also emphasised that national plans would have to be produced swiftly in coordination with the Commission, mentioning in this regard that teams were already in place to address the most operational aspects with the Member States. Budgetary support was needed for this implementation at national level, with funds from the revised Multiannual Financial Framework, on the understanding that some expenditure still had to be covered.

Lastly, he indicated that the Communication would be presented to the Justice and Home Affairs Council on Thursday 13 June and highlighted the two fronts requiring particular attention: the effective involvement of the Member States and the external dimension, which were priorities for the Pact to be fully successful.

Mr SCHINAS ended his presentation by thanking the Commissioners and all the cabinets and departments which had worked tirelessly to make the Pact on Migration and Asylum a European success.

Ms JOHANSSON pointed out that the Pact had come into force the previous day on 11 June. It was important now to focus on its implementation by the Member States, which would all face the same difficulties and challenges. Above all, the Communication took a pragmatic, simple and operational approach, containing clear definitions of milestones for each of the ten thematic building blocks, and actions to be taken by the Member States, the Commission and the European agencies.

She welcomed the fact that the approval of this Communication came almost three months ahead of the scheduled deadlines, which would give Member States more time to prepare themselves. Moreover, the Commission departments concerned had adapted their structure by designating one contact point per Member State. Although implementation could be relatively long and costly, she expressed confidence that the border procedures, the digitalisation of return systems and the decisions to grant

or refuse asylum would ultimately be successful. Furthermore, several Member States had already begun their preparations.

Ms JOHANSSON reiterated the importance of effective return procedures and noted a clear improvement, as reflected in the figures: thanks to the involvement of Frontex, the number of returns had increased by 26% in 2023 compared to 2022 and provisionally by 25% in 2024 compared to 2023.

Lastly, she referred to the external aspect, which, although not strictly an integral part of the Pact, was nevertheless an important element in managing migration. Voluntary returns of migrants had increased, thanks to cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and assistance from other countries such as the United States and Canada, which were helping to relocate the persons concerned.

Ms JOHANSSON ended by stating that in the next two years the Pact would need to be transformed into reality on the ground and that, in this context, the implementation plan approved that day gave each stakeholder the tools and resources necessary for its success.

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

- the progress made on migration policy under this Commission, notably thanks to the Pact on Migration and Asylum, which was a major step forward;
- the need for a realistic approach to EU border protection, including in the context of strategic partnerships with third countries, and for priority to be given to compliance with international law and protection of human rights, especially with regard to refugees and vulnerable people;
- in that context, the importance for the Commission of ensuring appropriate monitoring of the situation in transit countries with which the EU had concluded

such partnerships, including of the use of European funding for those third countries;

- a reminder, however, that the EU had to conclude such partnership agreements to reassert control of arrivals at its external borders;
- the fruitful cooperation between the Commission and the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the valuable work those organisations were doing on the ground;
- the observation that the transit countries concerned were in effect becoming countries of destination and that responsibility for implementing the partnership agreements ultimately lay with the governments of those countries;
- the importance of taking into account the diversity of migratory flows, some of which were exploited by hostile third countries to put pressure on the EU.

In response to some comments, Ms JOHANSSON referred to the consideration to be given to partnership agreements with third countries and legal pathways, in order to make it easier for migrants to return to their country of origin, including when asylum applications were rejected. She stressed that, in the context of strategic partnerships, European funding was intended for rescuing migrants and protecting borders. These partnership agreements in no way covered the treatment of individual migrants, which was part of the responsibilities and powers of those third countries.

She also felt that the EU needed to be realistic and, using the means at its disposal, manage migration as effectively as possible and avoid displacement of migrants. She was proud of the partnership agreements concluded by the Commission with third countries, as they addressed the migration challenge in a pragmatic manner in line with EU's humanist values.

Ms VESTAGER concluded by congratulating the Commissioners concerned for

their efforts and the success of the Pact. She underlined the priority to be given to respect for human rights and EU values, including in the context of partnership agreements with third countries.

Following these presentations, the Commission approved the Communication in COM(2024) 251/3 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, and, for information, to the national parliaments, together with the staff working document distributed as SWD(2024) 251/3, the contents of which were noted.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10.1. LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Mr BORRELL reported on the latest developments in external relations, starting with the situation in the Middle East. He began by referring to the United Nations Security Council's adoption on 10 June of Resolution 2735, which endorsed the proposal for a three-phase ceasefire put forward by the United States and unanimously supported by the EU.

He felt this initiative would help create a framework for stronger cooperation with the EU's Arab partners, with a view to stabilising the region and facilitating a two-state solution. However, it was still uncertain whether the two parties involved in the conflict would agree. In particular, recent political developments within the Israeli government, escalating tensions at the Israeli-Lebanese border and the high number of Palestinian civilian casualties during the operation to free four Israeli hostages could influence the fate of the agreement.

As regards humanitarian support for Gaza, Mr BORRELL noted that the World Food Programme had suspended distribution of aid via the US-built pier on account of security concerns. He then referred to the conference held

in Jordan on 11 June, which had aimed to increase humanitarian support to the Palestinian population, and to a second disbursement of EU financial assistance to the Palestinian Authority. He also welcomed the fact that EU Member States had restored financial contributions to UNRWA following the reassuring conclusions of the Colonna report, and called for increased EU support to the Agency to ensure continuity of essential services for Palestinian refugees.

Mr BORRELL then drew the College's attention to Ukraine's recent successes in resisting the Russian offensive north of Kharkiv. In that context, he highlighted that Ukraine was now able to draw on international military support to attack military targets outside its territory. He stressed the need to further increase support to the country in the coming weeks to counter a possible fresh Russian offensive, noting that the EU was currently working on six pieces of legislation to increase that support. He also expressed concern at the dire energy situation in Ukraine, which had lost 70% of its energy production capacity, potentially posing major challenges for the coming winter months. He warned of a possible total collapse unless Ukraine's air defence capacity was significantly strengthened.

Mr BORRELL also mentioned the international summit on peace in Ukraine scheduled for 15 and 16 June in Switzerland, with more than 80 countries having confirmed their attendance. Despite Russian and Chinese attempts to organise a competing event in Saint Petersburg, he remained optimistic about what could be achieved at this diplomatic summit. Finally, he reported on the progress made in talks with Ukraine on a draft text on security commitments, which it was hoped would be finalised before the NATO summit in early July.

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

- the challenges posed by the circumvention of sanctions imposed by the European Union on Russia, involving third countries as well as European actors taking advantage of the situation;
- the realisation in this regard of the lack of a unified system of European sanctions, and the need to consider the possibility of introducing a mechanism along the lines of the more targeted approach adopted by the United States;
- the importance of continuing discussions on the effectiveness of sanctions within the College, involving, where appropriate, Mr David O’SULLIVAN, Special Envoy for the Implementation of EU Sanctions;
- the seriousness of the energy situation in Ukraine due to Russia’s targeted destruction of energy infrastructure, which was significantly affecting both industrial production and citizens’ living conditions, and the potentially dramatic consequences for next winter;
- the continuing operation, nonetheless, of some nuclear power plants, wind farms and hydropower plants in Ukraine, supported by the commitment of European operators to maintain the country’s energy stability and accompanied by the deployment of a special unit dedicated to repairing and replacing damaged infrastructure;
- the challenge for European transmission system operators to meet the needs of the Ukrainian government, due in part to infrastructure modernisation requirements and the funding this would require;
- the need to prioritise Ukraine’s defence capability in order to avoid investing in equipment that might quickly be destroyed;
- grave concerns about the situation in the Middle East, especially in Gaza, with an alarming number of deaths and people seriously injured, including

many children, the growing risk of an escalation of the crisis and the lack of clear solutions for peace.

In response to certain points raised during the discussion, Mr BORRELL acknowledged that the circumvention of sanctions was a considerable challenge, as it involved several third countries and European companies knowingly exporting products to these countries for re-export to Russia.

He also stressed the need to step up efforts to find a lasting political solution to the crisis in the Middle East, underlining the importance of effective implementation of the UN-backed ceasefire. He emphasised the importance of mobilising international efforts to end the hostilities and improve the humanitarian situation affecting hundreds of thousands of people. Finally, he announced that he would present a detailed report on the situation in Gaza and the West Bank at the next Foreign Affairs Council meeting.

Ms VESTAGER concluded by noting that the dramatic situation in Gaza gave rise to strong reactions in the EU and prompted the mobilisation of young people in all the Member States. Regarding Ukraine's energy needs in the wake of the destruction by Russia, she stressed the need to support operators in their efforts to modernise infrastructure, including, where appropriate, budgetary reinforcement. She highlighted the pressing challenges to be addressed, which required immediate action, and noted that she would suggest that the PRESIDENT address the issue of the circumvention of sanctions at a forthcoming meeting of the College.

The Commission took note of this information.

10.2. INVESTIGATION INTO THE VALUE CHAINS OF BATTERY ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Mr DOMBROVSKIS reported on the ex officio anti-subsidy investigation concerning imports from China of battery electric vehicles designed for the

transport of people. He said the investigation had been formally launched on 4 October 2023, and that it was now entering its pre-notification phase. The companies concerned would be informed of the countervailing duty rates that the Commission intended to impose, following the provisional conclusion that the Chinese battery electric vehicle value chain had indeed benefited from unfair subsidies.

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 10:36.