



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2025) 2532 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

Strasbourg, 9 September 2025

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

of the 2532nd meeting of the Commission

held in Strasbourg

(Winston Churchill building)

on Tuesday 8 July 2025

(afternoon)

PV(2025) 2532 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

EN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Attendance list	6-7
1. AGENDAS (OJ(2025) 2532/FINAL; SEC(2025) 2532/FINAL)	8
2. WEEKLY MEETING OF HEADS OF CABINET (RCC(2025) 2532).....	8
3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (PV(2025) 2527; PV(2025) 2527, PART II; PV(2025) 2528; PV(2025) 2528, PART II)	8
4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS (RCC(2025) 184)	8
5. COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL ACTION (RCC(2025) 224).....	11
6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS.....	12
6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED (SEC(2025) 190 ET SEQ.).....	12
6.2. EMPOWERMENT (SEC(2025) 191 ET SEQ.)	12
6.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS (SEC(2025) 192 ET SEQ.)	12
6.4. WRITTEN PROCEDURES SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED (SEC(2025) 193 AND /2).....	12
6.5. COMMISSION DECISION GRANTING AN EMPOWERMENT RELATING TO THE ADOPTION OF CERTAIN DECISIONS ON THE CONTROL OF CONCENTRATIONS BETWEEN UNDERTAKINGS (C(2025) 5311)	12
6.6. COMMISSION DECISION GRANTING AN EMPOWERMENT TO THE MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMPETITION TO ADOPT DECISIONS AND MEASURES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RULES ON COMPETITION (C(2025) 5310).....	13
7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS (SEC(2025) 194).....	13
7.1. PUBLICATIONS OFFICE – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR AT GRADE	

AD14/15 (PERS(2025) 66 AND /2)	13
7.2. LEGAL SERVICE – AD-HOC RELEASE OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION TO THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION.....	14
7.3. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL ADVISER (PERS(2025) 67).....	15
8. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – 2025 RULE OF LAW REPORT – THE RULE OF LAW SITUATION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION (COM(2025) 900 AND /2; SWD(2025) 901 AND /2; SWD(2025) 902 TO /3; SWD(2025) 903 AND /2; SWD(2025) 904 AND /2; SWD(2025) 905 AND /2; SWD(2025) 906 AND /2; SWD(2025) 907 AND /2; SWD(2025) 908 TO /3; SWD(2025) 909 TO /3; SWD(2025) 910 AND /2; SWD(2025) 911 TO /3; SWD(2025) 912 TO /3; SWD(2025) 913 TO /3; SWD(2025) 914 AND /2; SWD(2025) 915 AND /2; SWD(2025) 916 AND /2; SWD(2025) 917 TO /3; SWD(2025) 918 AND /2; SWD(2025) 919 AND /2; SWD(2025) 920 AND /2; SWD(2025) 921 TO /3; SWD(2025) 922 AND /2; SWD(2025) 923 AND /2; SWD(2025) 924 AND /2; SWD(2025) 925 TO /3; SWD(2025) 926 AND /2; SWD(2025) 927 AND /2; SWD(2025) 928 AND /2; SWD(2025) 929; SWD(2025) 930; SWD(2025) 931; RCC(2025) 62).....	16
9. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS: A EUROPEAN CHEMICALS INDUSTRY ACTION PLAN (COM(2025) 530 TO /3; RCC(2025) 63).....	20
10. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN	

PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING REGULATION (EU) 2024/2865 AS REGARDS DATES OF APPLICATION AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS (COM(2025) 526; SWD(2025) 531; RCC(2025) 63).....	20
11. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING REGULATIONS (EC) NO 1272/2008, (EC) NO 1223/2009 AND (EU) 2019/1009 AS REGARDS SIMPLIFICATION OF CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR CHEMICAL PRODUCTS (COM(2025) 531; SWD(2025) 531; RCC(2025) 63).....	20
12. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – EU STOCKPILING STRATEGY: BOOSTING THE EU’S MATERIAL PREPAREDNESS FOR CRISES (COM(2025) 528 AND /2; RCC(2025) 60).....	23
13. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – PREPARING THE EU FOR THE NEXT HEALTH CRISIS: A MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES STRATEGY (COM(2025) 529 AND /2; RCC(2025) 63).....	23
14. OTHER BUSINESS.....	27
14.1. EU-US TRADE RELATIONS.....	27
14.2. COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION ON THE REQUEST FOR REGISTRATION, PURSUANT TO REGULATION (EU) 2019/788 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL, OF THE EUROPEAN	

CITIZENS' INITIATIVE ENTITLED 'FOOD IS A HUMAN RIGHT FOR ALL!

GUARANTEEING HEALTHY, JUST AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS'

(C(2025)4607) 28

Single sitting: Tuesday 8 July 2025 (afternoon)

The sitting opened at 13.02 with Ms von der LEYEN, President, in the chair.

Present:

Ms von der LEYEN	President	
Ms RIBERA	Executive Vice-President	
Ms VIRKKUNEN	Executive Vice-President	
Mr SÉJOURNÉ	Executive Vice-President	
Ms MÎNZATU	Executive Vice-President	
Mr FITTO	Executive Vice-President	
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Member	
Ms ŠUICA	Member	Items 1 to 14.1
Mr VÁRHELYI	Member	
Mr HOEKSTRA	Member	Items 8 to 14
Mr KUBILIUS	Member	
Ms KOS	Member	
Mr SÍKELA	Member	
Mr KADIS	Member	
Ms LAHBIB	Member	
Ms ROSWALL	Member	
Mr SERAFIN	Member	
Mr JØRGENSEN	Member	Items 1 to 12/13 (in part)
Ms ZAHARIEVA	Member	
Mr McGRATH	Member	
Mr TZITZIKOSTAS	Member	Items 1 to 12/13 (in part) and 14
Mr HANSEN	Member	
Mr MICALLEF	Member	Items 8 to 14

Absent:

Ms KALLAS	High Representative / Vice-President
Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Member
Ms ALBUQUERQUE	Member
Mr BRUNNER	Member

The following also sat in:

Mr SEIBERT	Head of Cabinet to the PRESIDENT	
Mr CALLEJA CRESPO	Director-General, Legal Service	
Ms SPINANT	Director-General, DG Communication	
Ms PINHO	Head of the Spokesperson's Service and Chief Spokesperson of the Commission	
Ms PETKOVA	Director of Coordination and Administration in the PRESIDENT's cabinet	
Ms HILI	Senior Adviser in the PRESIDENT's cabinet	Item 8
Ms REILLY	Policy coordinator / member of the PRESIDENT's cabinet	
Ms STEFURIUC	Member of the PRESIDENT's cabinet	Item 8
Mr TAQUET-GRAZIANI	Acting Head of Unit in the Secretariat-General	
Mr CHARLES	Secretariat-General	

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

1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2025) 2532/FINAL; SEC(2025) 2532/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(2025) 2532)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Heads of Cabinet held on Monday 7 July 2025.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

(PV(2025) 2527; PV(2025) 2527, PART II; PV(2025) 2528; PV(2025) 2528, PART II)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 2527th and 2528th meetings of 28 May and 4 June 2025, and held over approval of the minutes of its 2529th, 2530th and 2531st meetings of 17 and 25 June and 2 July 2025 for a later date.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(RCC(2025) 184)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (GRI) held on Friday 4 July 2025 (RCC(2025) 184).

The Commission approved the lines proposed for the following points:

- **Amendment of Directive 2005/44/EC on harmonised river information services (RIS) on inland waterways in the Community (Directive) –**

BERENDSEN report – 2024/0011 (COD)

Line set out in SI(2025) 212.

- **Amendment of Regulation (EU) No 806/2014 as regards early intervention measures, conditions for resolution and financing of resolution action (Regulation) – TINAGLI report – 2023/0111 (COD) / Amendment of Directive 2014/59/EU as regards early intervention measures, conditions for resolution and financing of resolution action (Directive) – NIEDERMAYER report – 2023/0112 (COD) / Amendment of Directive 2014/49/EU as regards the scope of deposit protection, use of deposit guarantee schemes funds, cross-border cooperation and transparency (Directive) – PETER-HANSEN report – 2023/0115 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 206.

- **Amendment of Directive 2013/11/EU on alternative dispute resolution for consumer disputes, as well as Directives (EU) 2015/2302, (EU) 2019/2161 and (EU) 2020/1828 (Directive) – BALLARÍN CEREZA report – 2023/0376 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 225.

- **Harmonising certain aspects of insolvency law (Directive) – RADEV (ex-ARIMONT) report – 2022/0408 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 214.

- **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(2025) 228.

- **Amendment of Regulations (EU) 2021/1058 and (EU) 2021/1056 as regards specific measures to address strategic challenges in the context of the mid-term review (Regulation) – BENEIA report – 2025/0084 (COD) / Amendment of Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 establishing the European Social Fund + (ESF+) as regards specific measures to address strategic challenges (Regulation) – MAIJ report – 2025/0085 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 226.

- **Commission Delegated Regulation of 10 June 2025 amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/1675 to add Algeria, Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Laos, Lebanon, Monaco, Namibia, Nepal and Venezuela to the list of high-risk third countries which have provided a written high-level political commitment to address the identified deficiencies and have developed an action plan with the FATF*, and to remove Barbados, Gibraltar, Jamaica, Panama, the Philippines, Senegal, Uganda and the United Arab Emirates from that list – C(2025) 3815**

Line set out in SP(2025) 263.

- **Herning Declaration on attractive and inclusive vocational education and**

* Financial Action Task Force.

training for increased competitiveness and quality jobs 2026-2030

Line set out in SI(2025) 224.

- **Suspension of certain provisions of Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council with respect to Bangladesh (Council Implementing Decision) – 2021/0232 (NLE) / Suspension of certain provisions of Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council with respect to Iraq (Council Implementing Decision) – 2021/0234 (NLE)**

Line set out in SPI(2025) 32.

The Commission took note of the following point:

- **Liechtenstein – Fourth review of the sectoral adaptations to the European Economic Area (EEA) – Agreement on the free movement of persons**

Information set out in SPI(2025) 36.

**5. COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL ACTION
(RCC(2025) 224)**

The Commission took note of the operational conclusions in RCC(2025) 224 of the meeting of the Group for External Coordination (EXCO) held on Wednesday 2 July 2025.

6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED

(SEC(2025) 190 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 30 June and 6 July 2025.

6.2. EMPOWERMENT

(SEC(2025) 191 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 30 June and 6 July 2025.

6.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS

(SEC(2025) 192 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedures between 30 June and 6 July 2025 archived in Decide.

6.4. WRITTEN PROCEDURES SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED

(SEC(2025) 193 AND /2)

The Commission took note of the written procedures specifically identified for which the time limit expired between 7 and 11 July 2025, and of the finalisation written procedures.

6.5. COMMISSION DECISION GRANTING AN EMPOWERMENT RELATING TO THE ADOPTION OF CERTAIN DECISIONS ON THE CONTROL OF CONCENTRATIONS BETWEEN UNDERTAKINGS

(C(2025) 5311)

The Commission decided to empower the Member of the Commission

responsible for competition to adopt certain decisions pursuant to Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 and Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/914 on the control of concentrations between undertakings.

The Commission adopted the decision in C(2025) 5311.

6.6. COMMISSION DECISION GRANTING AN EMPOWERMENT TO THE MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMPETITION TO ADOPT DECISIONS AND MEASURES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RULES ON COMPETITION (C(2025) 5310)

The Commission decided to empower the Member of the Commission responsible for competition to adopt decisions and measures on the implementation of the rules on competition, pursuant to Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2003, Regulation (EC) No 773/2004, and Article 8(2) and (3) of Protocol 23 to the Agreement on the European Economic Area.

The Commission adopted the decision in C(2025) 5310.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS (SEC(2025) 194)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (PERS(2025) 65)

7.1. PUBLICATIONS OFFICE – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR AT GRADE AD14/15 (PERS(2025) 66 AND /2)

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

information and knowledge management services and artificial intelligence exploitation' Directorate at the Publications Office of the European Union (PERS(2025) 66).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 2 May and 5 June 2025 (PERS(2025) 66/2).

The Commission proceeded to compare the applicants' qualifications for the post. On a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, it then decided to appoint Mr Achim LADWIG to the post.

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

7.2. LEGAL SERVICE – AD-HOC RELEASE OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION TO THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

The Commission took note of the information in point 2 of PERS(2025) 65 and, on a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, decided:

- to send the Court of Justice of the European Union the following inspection reports in the field of maritime security: 19/16/SE/PF, 19/17/SE/PF, 19/43/SE/PF, 20/01/SE/NA/REG, 20/02/SE/NA/DIR, 22/52/SE/DIR/Stockholm, 22/53/SE/PF, 22/61/SE/PF, 22/79/SE/PF, 22/80/SE/PF, 22/81/SE/PF, 22/82/SE/NA/REG, 22/83/SE/NA/DIR, 25/01/SE/NA/REG, 25/02/SE/NA/DIR. These reports had been adopted by the Commission as C(2019) 4054, C(2020) 1323, C(2022) 9325, C(2025) 1667, C(2025) 1545 and C(2025) 1668, and sent to the point of contact for maritime security in Sweden (the Swedish Transport Agency) as documents classified 'RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED', within the framework of the procedure for exceptional ad-hoc release laid down in

Article 57 of Commission Decision (EU/Euratom) 2015/444 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information;

- to ask the Directorate-General for Human Resources and Security and the Legal Service to examine with the Court of Justice of the European Union the possibility of concluding an administrative agreement for the exchange of EU classified information.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

7.3. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL ADVISER

(PERS(2025) 67)

The Commission took note of the information in point 3 of PERS(2025) 65 and, on a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, decided:

- to appoint Ms Catherine DAY as Chair of the High-Level Reflection Group on the future of the European Commission's civil service;
- to appoint Ms Catherine DAY as Special Adviser under the direct authority of Mr SERAFIN. Her contract as a Special Adviser would be unpaid and would last until 31 December 2026, with a maximum of 45 working days, including 25 mission days. This contract could be renewed;
- 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. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – 2025 RULE OF LAW REPORT – THE RULE OF LAW SITUATION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

(COM(2025) 900 AND /2; SWD(2025) 901 AND /2; SWD(2025) 902 TO /3; SWD(2025) 903 AND /2; SWD(2025) 904 AND /2; SWD(2025) 905 AND /2; SWD(2025) 906 AND /2; SWD(2025) 907 AND /2; SWD(2025) 908 TO /3; SWD(2025) 909 TO /3; SWD(2025) 910 AND /2; SWD(2025) 911 TO /3; SWD(2025) 912 TO /3; SWD(2025) 913 TO /3; SWD(2025) 914 AND /2; SWD(2025) 915 AND /2; SWD(2025) 916 AND /2; SWD(2025) 917 TO /3; SWD(2025) 918 AND /2; SWD(2025) 919 AND /2; SWD(2025) 920 AND /2; SWD(2025) 921 TO /3; SWD(2025) 922 AND /2; SWD(2025) 923 AND /2; SWD(2025) 924 AND /2; SWD(2025) 925 TO /3; SWD(2025) 926 AND /2; SWD(2025) 927 AND /2; SWD(2025) 928 AND /2; SWD(2025) 929; SWD(2025) 930; SWD(2025) 931; RCC(2025) 62)

The PRESIDENT introduced the 2025 Rule of Law Report, stressing that it was based on a rigorous evidence-gathering exercise. She highlighted aspects directly linked to the proper functioning of the single market, which had been incorporated into the report for the first time. Lastly, she welcomed the key role now played by this annual report introduced during the previous term of office and the recognition it enjoyed throughout the EU.

Ms VIRKKUNEN pointed out that this was the sixth Rule of Law Report and the first in the current term of office. Protecting the rule of law remained one of the Commission's main priorities in a context of increasing polarisation and external pressure on European democracies. She stressed that the report was based on a collaborative process that had proved its worth during the previous term of office, and welcomed the tangible results achieved thanks to close and far-reaching cooperation with the Member States.

The report confirmed the positive trend observed in the progress of reforms, with 57% of the recommendations issued in the previous report having been partially or fully implemented. However, challenges remained, especially with regard to media freedom and pluralism. Ms VIRKKUNEN underlined in that regard the threats to journalists in some countries, as well as the growing risk of manipulation and interference in the digital sphere. She hoped that the new European Media Freedom Act would enable progress to be made on that front.

She pointed out that the preparation of the Rule of Law Report was not a rigid process, as the challenges were constantly evolving. She therefore welcomed the relevance of the ‘single market’ dimension added that year, pointing out that strong rule of law gave confidence to investors and consumers, and that businesses needed a stable and predictable business environment. The report thus helped to boost the EU’s competitiveness, a dimension that would be further strengthened in the future.

As regards the link with EU funding, she stressed the importance of sending a clear message about the need to respect fundamental values in implementing the European budget, including in the context of the next Multiannual Financial Framework. The EU had a range of instruments at its disposal in that regard, especially the use of infringement procedures and the conditionality regime for the protection of the EU budget.

Ms VIRKKUNEN concluded her presentation by noting that a new annual cycle had already been launched and that the rule of law dialogues would take place in the coming months during country visits. Lastly, she referred to the work undertaken to continue strengthening the democratic toolbox through the preparation of the European Democracy Shield and the Civil Society Strategy, which would help build a more resilient Union of values.

Mr McGRATH stressed first of all that this exercise met the expectations of citizens, businesses and civil society, who trusted the European institutions to ensure fair and uniform application of rights across the EU. Respect for the rule of

law directly affected everyday life by promoting independent and efficient courts, a level playing field in public procurement and respect for journalists' freedom of expression. When these guarantees crumbled, the effects were immediately visible.

Mr McGRATH pointed out that the exercise had been enriched over the years, especially with the inclusion of four candidate countries since the previous year. He highlighted the new inclusion this year of a single market dimension within each of the four pillars. Based on an objective and qualitative assessment, carried out in a spirit of equal treatment, this approach was a good reflection of the Commission's priorities.

As regards the link with the EU budget, he called for further reflection when drawing up the next Multiannual Financial Framework to ensure that the rule of law conditionality remained fully integrated, irrespective of the structure chosen. Member States had to have clear safeguards, and the instruments available should allow for rapid response in the event of non-compliance.

Mr McGRATH then referred to the complementarity of the exercise with other Commission policy initiatives such as the Media Freedom Act, the Directive against strategic lawsuits against public participation ('anti-SLAPP'), the ongoing work on the Democracy Shield, the Civil Society Strategy and the anti-corruption legislative framework. He stressed that, in a context of intense geopolitical upheaval, the preservation of the rule of law could not be taken for granted. On the contrary, it required constant attention and monitoring, as it was a fundamental pillar of the EU's stability and credibility.

He concluded by calling on the Member States and the four candidate countries concerned to take full ownership of the exercise in the context of the dialogue already launched for the next report.

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

- full support for the Rule of Law Report and its objective, comprehensive and factual approach, which was welcomed as a key safeguard for the proper functioning of Europe’s democracies and its economy;
- the role of the rule of law as a precondition for equality, especially by ensuring fair access to courts and a pluralistic media environment, which were essential for building a Union of equality;
- the added value of the report as a tool to encourage private investment, including in sensitive areas such as defence;
- the active involvement of Member States throughout the process and consideration of their contributions in drafting the report;
- the key role of this exercise in preparing for future enlargements, as it laid the foundations for a lasting commitment to the EU’s values and made it possible to monitor the democratic progress of the candidate countries concerned in a structured manner.

Following these presentations, the Commission approved the Communication in COM(2025) 900/2 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 documents distributed as SWD(2025) 901/2, SWD(2025) 902/3, SWD(2025) 903/2, SWD(2025) 904/2, SWD(2025) 905/2, SWD(2025) 906/2, SWD(2025) 907/2, SWD(2025) 908/3, SWD(2025) 909/3, SWD(2025) 910/2, SWD(2025) 911/3, SWD(2025) 912/3, SWD(2025) 913/3, SWD(2025) 914/2, SWD(2025) 915/2, SWD(2025) 916/2, SWD(2025) 917/3, SWD(2025) 918/2, SWD(2025) 919/2, SWD(2025) 920/2, SWD(2025) 921/3, SWD(2025) 922/2, SWD(2025) 923/2, SWD(2025) 924/2, SWD(2025) 925/3, SWD(2025) 926/2, SWD(2025) 927/2, SWD(2025) 928/2, SWD(2025) 929, SWD(2025) 930 and SWD(2025) 931, the contents of which were noted.

9. **COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS: A EUROPEAN CHEMICALS INDUSTRY ACTION PLAN (COM(2025) 530 TO /3; RCC(2025) 63)**
10. **PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING REGULATION (EU) 2024/2865 AS REGARDS DATES OF APPLICATION AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS (COM(2025) 526; SWD(2025) 531; RCC(2025) 63)**
11. **PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING REGULATIONS (EC) NO 1272/2008, (EC) NO 1223/2009 AND (EU) 2019/1009 AS REGARDS SIMPLIFICATION OF CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR CHEMICAL PRODUCTS (COM(2025) 531; SWD(2025) 531; RCC(2025) 63)**

The PRESIDENT introduced the action plan for the European chemical industry, emphasising that it was intended to boost the competitiveness and modernisation of this crucial EU sector. She underlined the Strategic Dialogue held with the sector, in line with this Commission's preferred approach, and welcomed the concerns expressed during this dialogue, which were reflected in a coherent set of measures, including a sixth omnibus package to simplify EU chemicals legislation.

Mr SÉJOURNÉ recalled the fundamental role of the chemical industry, which he described as an 'industry of industries' due to its role in almost all industrial value chains. He stressed that this industry was active in key sectors such as textiles, defence, digital and emerging technologies, and that it was currently facing a particularly worrying situation. Specifically, it had experienced a sharp drop in turnover since 2023 and the closure of around 20 sites, with no new industrial sites

having been opened for more than a decade. The sector was under increasing pressure, caught between global overcapacity and high energy costs.

Referring to the Commission's efforts to promote EU industrial competitiveness since the beginning of its term of office, Mr SÉJOURNÉ pointed out that the action plan presented that day was part of the same line of action. The plan aimed to modernise and decarbonise existing infrastructure, steer production towards next-generation molecules in order to maintain the EU's competitiveness and support innovation in a context of significant change.

Mr SÉJOURNÉ explained that among the levers identified to achieve these objectives were the creation of the Critical Chemicals Alliance in order to identify strategic sites and secure key production capacity in Europe, actions to promote more affordable energy, easier access to finance and less red tape. He also drew attention to the need for the EU to take a position on cutting-edge technologies such as photochemistry, electrochemistry and advanced materials, in line with the objectives for a circular economy.

With regard to the regulatory framework, he stressed the importance of providing greater clarity and proportionality. In this context, he welcomed the adoption of this sixth simplification omnibus, which would reduce compliance costs and the administrative burden for the chemical industry while ensuring strong protection of human health and the environment. This included simplifying labelling rules for hazardous chemicals, clarifying EU rules on cosmetic products and facilitating the registration of fertilising products. These measures were expected to save the industry at least EUR 363 million annually.

Mr SÉJOURNÉ concluded by calling for collective mobilisation to provide clear opportunities for an industry that was indispensable for the EU's sovereignty, competitiveness and green transition.

Ms ROSWALL mentioned the regular exchanges with representatives of the chemical industry and noted the scale of the challenges facing the chemical sector,

particularly in a turbulent geopolitical context marked by highly volatile energy prices. However, she wanted to highlight the strengths of the sector, in particular its capacity for innovation and its willingness to move proactively towards more circular models. In her view, this dynamic gave EU industry a competitive advantage.

Ms ROSWALL welcomed how the action plan focused on the bioeconomy, which she acknowledged as a promising area in terms of both sustainability and value creation. She also pointed out that the revision of the REACH Regulation was expected by the end of the year, with the aim of simplifying procedures and reducing compliance costs while still maintaining a high level of protection of human health and the environment.

On the issue of ‘forever chemicals’ (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS), she noted that these substances were widespread in the environment, water resources, and even in the human body, which was a source of growing concern in the EU. The Commission was acting simultaneously on two fronts. For consumer uses, work was ongoing to ban the presence of these substances in products such as clothing or food packaging, in close coordination with the European Chemicals Agency. For some industrial uses, such as defence, health and critical technologies, viable alternatives did not yet exist. However, she stressed the need to strictly regulate these uses and to speed up substitution efforts, including to protect exposed workers.

In conclusion, Ms ROSWALL argued that this transition went beyond the scope of the chemical industry as all industrial value chains were concerned. The measures presented that day lay the foundations for an ambitious transformation process, in line with the EU’s strategic priorities.

The PRESIDENT concluded the presentations by pointing out that, although the issue of PFAS had been attracting increasing attention throughout the EU, it remained essential to base any decision, notably in the context of the revision of the

REACH Regulation, on scientific data resulting from the work carried out at international level, in order to closely assess all the impacts, both in terms of benefits and risks.

Following these presentations, the Commission:

- approved the Communication in COM(2025) 530/3 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;
- adopted the proposal for a Regulation in COM(2025) 526 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the national parliaments, and, for information, to the Committee of the Regions, together with the staff working document SWD(2025) 531, the contents of which were noted;
- adopted the proposal for a Regulation in COM(2025) 531 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the national parliaments, and, for information, to the Committee of the Regions, together with the staff working document SWD(2025) 531, the contents of which were noted.

12. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – EU STOCKPILING STRATEGY: BOOSTING THE EU’S MATERIAL PREPAREDNESS FOR CRISES

(COM(2025) 528 AND /2; RCC(2025) 60)

13. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF
THE REGIONS – PREPARING THE EU FOR THE NEXT HEALTH CRISIS:
A MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES STRATEGY
(COM(2025) 529 AND /2; RCC(2025) 63)**

The PRESIDENT invited Ms MÎNZATU and Ms LAHBIB to present to the College the first two initiatives of the Preparedness Union Strategy – the Stockpiling Strategy and the Medical Countermeasures Strategy.

Ms MÎNZATU began by commending the collective effort that had resulted in these strategies, which sought to boost crisis readiness and health security. Drawing on the lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic and other emergency situations that had arisen within the EU, she pointed out that, although crisis readiness was still primarily a national competence, European coordination was essential to strengthen collective resilience. This meant not only consolidating existing tools, but also building a robust system, based on solidarity and a rapid response capacity to increasingly complex and concurrent threats.

As regards the Stockpiling Strategy, Ms MÎNZATU stressed the importance of a structured approach to answer the following key questions: What to stockpile? Where? When? And for what kinds of threats? She underlined the need for strategic reserves at EU level to complement national reserves, and emphasised the importance of the Multiannual Financial Framework for guaranteeing the necessary resources. She also called for strengthened partnerships between Member States, industry and the EU institutions, in particular through an EU stockpiling network and joint coordination platforms.

On medical countermeasures, she stressed the importance of closely aligning the strategy with the EU's Industrial Strategy. It was a question of promoting research, innovation, European production and a fair distribution of these essential products, while at the same time consolidating the early warning and rapid response mechanisms and boosting trust in the EU pharmaceutical ecosystem.

Ms LAHBIB pointed out that the Stockpiling and Medical Countermeasures Strategies were the first tangible outcomes of the Preparedness Union Strategy adopted by the Commission in March 2025 to strengthen the EU's readiness.

The Stockpiling Strategy was the first ever comprehensive EU approach to stockpiling, aimed at ensuring timely access – in all circumstances – to essential goods: water, food, gas, oil, medicine and other vital resources needed to keep society functioning. Rather than drawing up a set list of goods to be stockpiled, the strategy proposed mapping existing shortages, assessing the different options available and avoiding duplication. By improving information exchange and cooperation between Member States and the EU institutions, the strategy sought to boost mutual trust and optimise the distribution of essential goods during crises.

Ms LAHBIB then set out several key areas for action, in particular the setting up of an EU stockpiling network, which would bring together competent national authorities and act as a platform for sharing good practice, coordinating national reserves and preparing joint recommendations for improving joint preparedness. It was important to identify shortages and redundancies in existing stocks and boost the EU's reserve capacity where there was clear EU added value, particularly through existing instruments such as rescEU.

Improving transport and logistics infrastructure was another key component of the strategy, to ensure rapid and reliable distribution in crises, as was cross-sectoral cooperation, including between civil and military and public and private stakeholders. Ms LAHBIB also mentioned the role played by foresight and strategic planning tools, and international partnerships, to secure the supply of critical goods.

She then made clear that the Medical Countermeasures Strategy was the first sectoral initiative under the Stockpiling Strategy. It took an end-to-end approach, covering the entire life cycle, from threat identification and prioritisation through to research, development, manufacturing, joint procurement, stockpiling and access to life-saving medical tools.

The strategy set out several targeted initiatives intended to strengthen the EU's ability to respond effectively to health emergencies, starting with the deployment of new early warning systems, including an EU wastewater surveillance system. To support innovation, diagnostic and therapeutic hubs would be set up, complemented by an accelerator to help develop new antibiotics, antivirals and vaccines. A rapid and agile manufacturing partnership would quickly scale up manufacturing capacity for the medical countermeasures needed in a crisis.

Lastly, Ms LAHBIB indicated that, in order to make society more resilient, the strategy included measures to promote digital health literacy and counter disinformation. It also promoted increased cooperation between the public and private sectors, between civil and military systems, and with international partners, to guarantee quick and fair access to medical countermeasures.

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

- strong support for the initiatives proposed, which were welcomed for their contribution to EU's preparedness, including in the field of defence;
- the positive response to the explicit mention of stockpiling for defence purposes, which would be reinforced in the framework of the future European Defence Industry Programme (EDIP);
- a question about the feasibility of obtaining a clearer overview of national strategic reserves, in a context where some Member States could be reluctant to share information on their capabilities;
- a proposal to expand the list of goods whose stockpiling was considered of strategic importance, with a call to strengthen mutual trust and monitoring mechanisms to ensure that Member States' commitments were effectively implemented.

In response to some of the points raised, Ms LAHBIB stressed that the Commission was currently mapping the existing sectoral stockpiling frameworks, as set out in the annex to the strategy. The aim of this exercise was to make an inventory of existing requirements, better identify critical goods to be stockpiled and strengthen the overview at EU level.

She recognised that some Member States remained reluctant to share sensitive information for fear of revealing their vulnerabilities. In this context, she stressed the need for increased transparency to ensure joint preparedness. She concluded by reminding the College that the COVID-19 pandemic had highlighted the interdependence of the Member States in the face of crises, stressing that genuine resilience could only be achieved through concrete solidarity and enhanced coordination at EU level.

Following this presentation, the Commission, on a proposal from the PRESIDENT, confirmed that the Communications set out in COM(2025) 528/2 and COM(2025) 529/2 would be formally adopted by finalisation written procedure, the deadline for which was set at Wednesday 9 July 2025 (PE/2025/4528 and PE/2025/4548).

14. OTHER BUSINESS

14.1. EU-US TRADE RELATIONS

Mr ŠEFČOVIČ briefed the College on the latest developments in the trade negotiations between the European Union and the United States.

The Commission took note of this information.

14.2. COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION ON THE REQUEST FOR REGISTRATION, PURSUANT TO REGULATION (EU) 2019/788 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL, OF THE EUROPEAN CITIZENS' INITIATIVE ENTITLED 'FOOD IS A HUMAN RIGHT FOR ALL! GUARANTEEING HEALTHY, JUST AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS' (C(2025)4607)

Mr ŠEFČOVIČ presented to the College the proposal for registration of the European citizens' initiative entitled, in the authentic language (English), 'Food is a Human Right for All! Guaranteeing healthy, just and sustainable food systems'.

According to the organisers, industrial food systems contributed to increasing food insecurity, intensified climate change, led to increased pollution and biodiversity loss, undermined workers' rights and caused significant animal suffering. The citizens' initiative called for legislative action in 14 specific areas, including the creation of an EU Food Council, the promotion of peasant agroecology and increased support for small producers.

Mr ŠEFČOVIČ noted that the organisers had worked closely with the Commission to ensure that no part of this citizens' initiative manifestly exceeded the scope of the Commission's powers to submit a proposal for a legal act of the Union for the purpose of implementing the Treaties. Consequently, this initiative could be considered admissible, and he therefore proposed to register it.

He concluded his presentation by pointing out that the organisers would now have to start collecting the required number of signatures, i.e. at least one million in seven Member States. The Commission would take a decision on the substance of the initiative only after those signatures had been collected.

At the end of this presentation, the Commission confirmed that the European citizens' initiative entitled, in the authentic language (English), 'Food is a Human Right for All! Guaranteeing healthy, just and sustainable food systems', met the conditions for registration. In accordance with C(2025) 4607, it therefore decided to inform the organisers and authorised Mr ŠEFČOVIČ to sign the reply on behalf of the College, to send it to the organisers, and to publish it, for information, in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

*

* *

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

*

* *

The meeting closed at 14.20.