



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

**PV(2025) 2539 final**

*- English translation of the French version which is authentic -*

Brussels, 4 November 2025

# TEXTE EN

## MINUTES

**of the 2539<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Commission**

**held in Brussels**

**(Berlaymont)**

**on Tuesday 30 September 2025**

**(morning)**

\_\_\_\_\_

**PV(2025) 2539 final**

*- English translation of the French version which is authentic -*

**EN**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                                                                                                                                                             |            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Attendance list</b>                                                                                                                                      | <b>4-5</b> |
| 1. SECURITY COLLEGE .....                                                                                                                                   | 6          |
| 2. AGENDAS (OJ(2025) 2539/FINAL; SEC(2025) 2539/FINAL) .....                                                                                                | 6          |
| 3. WEEKLY MEETING OF HEADS OF CABINET (RCC(2025) 2539).....                                                                                                 | 6          |
| 4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (PV(2025) 2533; PV(2025) 2533, PART II;<br>PV(2025) 2534; PV(2025) 2534, PART II; PV(2025) 2535; PV(2025) 2535,<br>PART II)..... | 6          |
| 5. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS (RCC(2025) 194) .....                                                                                                       | 7          |
| 6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF<br>POWERS.....                                                                                         | 10         |
| 6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED (SEC(2025) 242 ET SEQ.).....                                                                                               | 10         |
| 6.2. EMPOWERMENT (SEC(2025) 243 ET SEQ.) .....                                                                                                              | 10         |
| 6.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS (SEC(2025) 244 ET SEQ.) .....                                                                                     | 10         |
| 6.4. WRITTEN PROCEDURES SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED (SEC(2025) 245 AND /2).....                                                                                 | 10         |
| 6.5. AMENDMENT OF DECISION C(2018) 6668 AS REGARDS ITS PERIOD OF<br>APPLICATION (C(2025) 6575) .....                                                        | 11         |
| 7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS (SEC(2025) 246/2 AND<br>/3) .....                                                                                   | 11         |
| 7.1. EUROSTAT – APPOINTMENT OF A DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL AT GRADE AD15<br>(PERS(2024) 92 TO /3).....                                                        | 12         |
| 7.2. DG TRANSLATION – APPOINTMENT OF A DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL AT GRADE<br>AD15 (PERS(2024) 75 TO /3) .....                                                 | 12         |

PV(2025) 2539 final

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 7.3. EUROSTAT – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR AT GRADE AD14 (PERS(2024) 67 TO /3)                                                                                                                                                                   | 13 |
| 7.4. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL – EUROPEAN COMMISSION DECISIONS ON POST TERM-OF-OFFICE ACTIVITIES OF FORMER MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION (C(2025) 9025; C(2025) 9026).....                                                                                | 13 |
| 8. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS ON A FINANCIAL LITERACY STRATEGY FOR THE EU (COM(2025) 681 AND /2; RCC(2025) 92)..... | 14 |
| 9. COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION ON INCREASING THE AVAILABILITY OF SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS WITH SIMPLIFIED AND ADVANTAGEOUS TAX TREATMENT (C(2025) 6800 AND /2; SWD(2025) 6800; RCC(2025) 92) .....                                         | 14 |
| 10. OTHER BUSINESS.....                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 17 |
| 10.1. LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN EXTERNAL RELATIONS .....                                                                                                                                                                                           | 17 |
| 10.2. COUNTERING DISINFORMATION.....                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 19 |
| 10.3. FREE TRADE AGREEMENT WITH INDONESIA.....                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 19 |

**Single sitting: Tuesday 30 September 2025 (morning)**

The sitting opened at 9.07 with Ms von der LEYEN, President, in the chair.

**Present:**

|                  |                                      |                         |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Ms von der LEYEN | President                            |                         |
| Ms RIBERA        | Executive Vice-President             |                         |
| Mr SÉJOURNÉ      | Executive Vice-President             | Items 1 to 10 (in part) |
| Ms KALLAS        | High Representative / Vice-President |                         |
| Ms MÎNZATU       | Executive Vice-President             | Items 1 (in part) to 10 |
| Mr FITTO         | Executive Vice-President             |                         |
| Mr ŠEFČOVIČ      | Member                               | Items 1 (in part) to 10 |
| Mr DOMBROVSKIS   | Member                               |                         |
| Ms ŠUICA         | Member                               |                         |
| Mr VÁRHELYI      | Member                               | Items 1 to 10 (in part) |
| Mr HOEKSTRA      | Member                               |                         |
| Mr KUBILIUS      | Member                               |                         |
| Mr SÍKELA        | Member                               |                         |
| Ms ALBUQUERQUE   | Member                               |                         |
| Ms LAHBIB        | Member                               |                         |
| Mr BRUNNER       | Member                               | Items 1 (in part) to 10 |
| Mr SERAFIN       | Member                               |                         |
| Mr JØRGENSEN     | Member                               |                         |
| Mr McGRATH       | Member                               |                         |
| Mr HANSEN        | Member                               |                         |

Absent:

|                 |                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Ms VIRKKUNEN    | Executive Vice-President |
| Ms KOS          | Member                   |
| Mr KADIS        | Member                   |
| Ms ROSWALL      | Member                   |
| Ms ZAHARIEVA    | Member                   |
| Mr TZITZIKOSTAS | Member                   |
| Mr MICALLEF     | Member                   |

The following also sat in:

|                    |                                                                             |                         |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mr SEIBERT         | Head of Cabinet to the PRESIDENT                                            |                         |
| Mr LADENBURGER     | Deputy Director-General, Legal Service                                      |                         |
| Ms SPINANT         | Director-General, DG Communication                                          |                         |
| Ms PINHO           | Head of the Spokesperson's Service and Chief Spokesperson of the Commission |                         |
| Mr SALMI           | Deputy Director-General, DG Human Resources and Security                    | Item 1                  |
| Mr ADAM            | Deputy Head of Cabinet to the PRESIDENT                                     |                         |
| Ms PETKOVA         | Director of Coordination and Administration in the PRESIDENT's cabinet      |                         |
| Mr MORDUE          | Diplomatic Adviser in the PRESIDENT's cabinet                               | Item 1                  |
| Mr LUNAU           | Adviser in the PRESIDENT's cabinet                                          | Item 1                  |
| Ms REILLY          | Member of the PRESIDENT's cabinet                                           | Items 2 to 10 (in part) |
| Mr TAQUET-GRAZIANI | Acting Head of Unit in the Secretariat-General                              |                         |

The following sat in at the Security College:

|                |                                                                            |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mr RUTTE       | Secretary General of NATO                                                  |
| Mr VAN LEEUWEN | Chief of Staff and Director of the Office of the Secretary General of NATO |

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

## **1. SECURITY COLLEGE**

The Commission held the fifth meeting of its Security College, with the participation of NATO Secretary General Mr Mark Rutte. The meeting was dedicated to an exchange of views and information on security and defence in Europe.

## **2. AGENDAS**

**(OJ(2025) 2539/FINAL; SEC(2025) 2539/FINAL)**

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

## **3. WEEKLY MEETING OF HEADS OF CABINET**

**(RCC(2025) 2539)**

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Heads of Cabinet held on Monday 29 September 2025.

## **4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**(PV(2025) 2533; PV(2025) 2533, PART II; PV(2025) 2534; PV(2025) 2534, PART II; PV(2025) 2535; PV(2025) 2535, PART II)**

The Commission approved the minutes of its 2533<sup>rd</sup>, 2534<sup>th</sup> and 2535<sup>th</sup> meetings of 16 and 28 July and 20 August 2025, and held over approval of the minutes of its 2536<sup>th</sup>, 2537<sup>th</sup>, and 2538<sup>th</sup> meetings of 3, 9 and 17 September 2025 for a later date.

## 5. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

**(RCC(2025) 194)**

The Commission took note of the outcome of the written exchange of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (GRI) for the week from 22 to 26 September 2025 (RCC(2025) 194).

The Commission approved the lines proposed for the following points:

- **Objection pursuant to Rule 115(2) and (3) of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament to a draft Commission Implementing Decision authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified maize DP51291 pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council – 2025/2807 (RSP)**

Line set out in SP(2025) 333.

- **Selection procedure for the appointment of a Trans-European Energy Network Coordinator focusing on the Central and South-East European energy interconnectivity**

Line set out in SPI(2025) 73.

- **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) 74.

- **EU position for negotiations with the United Kingdom and Canada to agree**

PV(2025) 2539 final

**on the conditions for the participation of entities established in these third countries and of products originating in their territory in acquisitions under Council Regulation (EU) 2025/1106 ('the SAFE instrument')**

Line set out in SI(2025) 291/2.

The Commission took note of the following points:

- **Annual Progress Report on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement – Commissioner ŠEFČOVIČ**

Information set out in SPI(2025) 68.

- **Annual Progress Report on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement – Commissioner ROSWALL**

Information set out in SPI(2025) 49.

- **Annual Progress Report on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement – Executive Vice-President VIRKKUNEN**

Information set out in SPI(2025) 70/2.

- **Annual Progress Report on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement – Commissioner ŠUICA**

Information set out in SPI(2025) 50.

- **Annual Progress Report on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement – Commissioner ALBUQUERQUE**

Information set out in SPI(2025) 61.

- **Annual Progress Report on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement – Commissioner HANSEN**

Information set out in SPI(2025) 54.

- **Annual Progress Report on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement – Executive Vice-President FITTO**

Information set out in SPI(2025) 69.

- **Annual Progress Report on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement – Commissioner KOS**

Information set out in SPI(2025) 64.

- **Annual Progress Report on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement – Commissioner BRUNNER**

Information set out in SPI(2025) 59/2.

- **Annual Progress Report on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement – Commissioner DOMBROVSKIS**

Information set out in SPI(2025) 67.

- **Annual Progress Report on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement – Commissioner McGRATH**

Information set out in SPI(2025) 56/2.

- **Annual Progress Report on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement – Commissioner TZITZIKOSTAS**

Information set out in SPI(2025) 55.

- **Annual Progress Report on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement – Commissioner SERAFIN**

Information set out in SPI(2025) 58.

- **Annual Progress Report on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement – Commissioner LAHBIB**

Information set out in SPI(2025) 60.

- **Amendment of Regulations (EU) No 1308/2013, (EU) 2021/2115 and (EU) 2021/2116 as regards the strengthening of the position of farmers in the food supply chain – IMART report – 2024/0319 (COD)**

Information set out in SP(2025) 332.

## **6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS**

### **6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED (SEC(2025) 242 ET SEQ.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 15 and 28 September 2025.

### **6.2. EMPOWERMENT (SEC(2025) 243 ET SEQ.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 15 and 28 September 2025.

### **6.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS (SEC(2025) 244 ET SEQ.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedures between 15 and 28 September 2025 archived in Decide.

### **6.4. WRITTEN PROCEDURES SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED (SEC(2025) 245 AND /2)**

The Commission took note of the written procedures specifically identified for which the time limit expired between 29 September and 2 October 2025.

**6.5. AMENDMENT OF DECISION C(2018) 6668 AS REGARDS ITS PERIOD OF APPLICATION  
(C(2025) 6575)**

The Commission adopted the Decision in C(2025) 6575 extending for an indefinite period Decision C(2018) 6668 empowering the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, as Vice-President of the Commission, to adopt, on behalf of the Commission and under its responsibility, Commission Implementing Regulations amending certain annexes to Council Regulations concerning restrictive measures adopted on the basis of Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

The Commission adopted the Decision in C(2025) 6575.

**7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS  
(SEC(2025) 246/2 AND /3)**

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS  
(PERS(2025) 78/2 AND /3)**

During the meeting, Mr SERAFIN presented two additional proposals for an administrative decision which were submitted directly to the College for approval. He indicated that it was proposed to approve the appointment of Mr Athanasios THANOPOULOS as Deputy Director-General responsible for Directorates C, F and G at Eurostat, and the appointment of Ms Ildikó HORVÁTH as Deputy Director-General responsible for Directorates A, B, C, D and Unit DGT.03 in the Directorate-General for Translation.

**7.1. EUROSTAT – APPOINTMENT OF A DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL  
AT GRADE AD15  
(PERS(2024) 92 TO /3)**

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29 (1)(a)(i) and (iii), (1)(b) and (2) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Deputy Director-General with responsibility for Directorates C, F and G at Eurostat (PERS(2024) 92 and /2).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 7 and 22 July 2025 (PERS(2024) 92/3).

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 DOMBROVSKIS, it then decided to appoint Mr Athanasios THANOPOULOS to the post.

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

**7.2. DG TRANSLATION – APPOINTMENT OF A DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL AT GRADE AD15  
(PERS(2024) 75 TO /3)**

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29 (1)(a)(i) and (iii), (1)(b) and (2) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Deputy Director-General with responsibility for Directorates A, B, C and D and Unit DGT.03 at the Directorate-General for Translation (PERS(2024) 75 and /2).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 30 July and 18 September 2025 (PERS(2025) 75/3).

The Commission proceeded to compare the applicants' qualifications for the post. On a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, it then decided to appoint Ms Ildikó HORVÁTH to the post.

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

**7.3. *EUROSTAT – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR AT GRADE AD14  
(PERS(2024) 67 TO /3)***

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29 (1)(a)(i) and (iii), (1)(b) and (2) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Director of the ‘Sectoral and Regional Statistics’ Directorate at Eurostat (PERS(2024) 67 and /2).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 19 May and 12 June 2025 (PERS(2024) 67/3).

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 DOMBROVSKIS, it then decided to appoint Mr Paul MORRIN to the post.

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

**7.4. *SECRETARIAT-GENERAL – EUROPEAN COMMISSION DECISIONS  
ON POST TERM-OF-OFFICE ACTIVITIES OF FORMER MEMBERS  
OF THE COMMISSION  
(C(2025) 9025; C(2025) 9026)***

The Commission decided that the professional activities envisaged by Mr Josep BORRELL and Mr Johannes HAHN after leaving office as Members of the Commission were compatible with Article 245(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and with the Code of Conduct for Commissioners, subject to certain conditions and obligations.

The Commission adopted the Decisions set out in C(2025) 9025 and C(2025) 9026.

- 8. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS ON A FINANCIAL LITERACY STRATEGY FOR THE EU (COM(2025) 681 AND /2; RCC(2025) 92)**
- 9. COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION ON INCREASING THE AVAILABILITY OF SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS WITH SIMPLIFIED AND ADVANTAGEOUS TAX TREATMENT (C(2025) 6800 AND /2; SWD(2025) 6800; RCC(2025) 92)**

Mr SÉJOURNÉ introduced the two initiatives to advance the Savings and Investments Union and deliver tangible benefits for all EU citizens. One of the structural economic challenges facing the EU, which had been mentioned in the recent reports by Mr Letta and Mr Draghi, was the existence of large volumes of private savings that were not invested in the real economy. He explained that the solution to this challenge was to encourage Europeans to place their money on the capital markets, and stressed that, in order to achieve this, these investments had to be simple and remunerative and subject to favourable tax treatment. He stressed in particular the need to give savers the opportunity to contribute to investments made in Europe and to deliver on European strategic priorities.

Ms ALBUQUERQUE presented the Recommendation calling on all Member States to create Savings and Investment Accounts (SIAs) and the Financial Literacy Strategy. Both initiatives were part of the work on the Savings and Investments Union and aimed to make investment simpler, more accessible and more profitable for the benefit of all European citizens.

As regards the Savings and Investment Accounts being proposed, the Recommendation took note of best practices implemented in the EU and worldwide, such as the experiences of Sweden, which had had such accounts since the 1970s, and Japan, which had had them since 2014. She added that, in both cases, there were

no sectoral or geographical restrictions on investments made through these accounts and that they were accompanied by tax incentives.

Ms ALBUQUERQUE explained that, building on these best practices, the Commission recommended that Member States set up Savings and Investment Accounts that were easily accessible and offered by all financial intermediaries, be it online or in a bank branch, and that did not require any minimum amount. She stressed that such practices would help to restore citizens' trust in capital markets.

She also emphasised the recommendation to Member States to introduce tax incentives for opening such accounts. In this regard, she pointed out that, although taxation was a national competence, tax incentives reflected policy choices that should be consistent with the EU's priorities. She added that tax incentives could be designed to have a net neutral effect on a Member State's revenue in the medium term.

However, Ms ALBUQUERQUE felt that Savings and Investment Accounts or tax incentives should not be linked with specific sectoral or geographical priorities; citizens should always be able to decide for themselves which financial products or economic sectors they wanted to invest in. In addition, she pointed out that possible sectoral or geographical restrictions would raise definition issues and could lead to additional administrative burdens that would be detrimental to the EU's simplification efforts. She also stressed that these accounts should allow citizens to diversify their portfolio, which could be achieved by creating more attractive national investment projects with high returns.

As regards the Financial Literacy Strategy, Ms ALBUQUERQUE pointed out that many initiatives to this end already existed in the Member States and elsewhere in the world. The first objective of the EU strategy should therefore be to promote the exchange of best practices and to draw lessons from the results achieved. She pointed out that the strategy also aimed to raise awareness and establish a channel of

communication with citizens, which was why public figures would be asked to act as ‘financial literacy ambassadors’ in the Member States.

Ms ALBUQUERQUE also referred to another aspect of the strategy, which involved encouraging the funding of financial literacy initiatives, including in the field of research, through the use of existing EU funding instruments. Finally, she stressed the importance of being able to monitor progress and measure the impact of the strategy in order to ensure the suitability of the efforts made.

She concluded by emphasising the need for targeted actions aimed at different groups in society that addressed their specific needs. Even though financial literacy education needed to begin in school, it was important to also include initiatives aimed at adults, for example in the workplace. She stressed that the proposed strategy would need to be accompanied by a positive narrative and appropriate communication.

Mr HOEKSTRA pointed out that EU citizens had one of the highest savings rates in the world, but that they often did not make the most of their savings. In this regard, he believed that the Recommendation presented that day showed Member States how Savings and Investment Accounts could work best on the basis of past experience. He explained that the countries that had already introduced this type of account had also introduced a combination of different tax advantages, namely tax deductions, tax exemptions, tax deferrals and flat tax rates. These schemes allowed for a higher return on investment, thus boosting consumption. He added that with attractive tax incentives, Europeans would be encouraged to choose higher-return investments, which would help provide the EU with growth capital and make it more competitive.

He concluded by emphasising that the initiatives presented that day could contribute to the move towards a genuine Capital Markets Union.

Following these presentations, the Commission:

- approved the Communication in COM(2025) 681/2 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;
- adopted the Recommendation set out in C(2025) 6800 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the national parliaments, together with the staff working document distributed as SWD(2025) 6800, the contents of which were noted.

## **10. OTHER BUSINESS**

### ***10.1. LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN EXTERNAL RELATIONS***

Ms KALLAS briefed the College on the latest developments in the EU's external relations. First, she discussed the outcome of the high-level week of the UN General Assembly held in New York in September 2025, stressing how important it was for the EU to defend multilateralism and gain more recognition of its contribution in international fora.

On Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, she said that Russian strikes largely continued to target civilian infrastructure and called for robust military and political support for Ukraine to remain in place.

She also referred to the pro-European election result in Moldova, despite Russia's interference in the process, as well as the upcoming elections in the region, and pointed to the role played by the EU in tackling disinformation and cyberattacks.

As regards the Middle East and developments in Gaza in particular, Ms KALLAS stressed the need for the EU to remain fully engaged. Lastly,

she referred to the triggering of the ‘snapback’ mechanism re-establishing sanctions against Iran, while stressing the importance of keeping diplomatic channels open.

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

- the importance of strengthening the EU’s ties with the Indo-Pacific region and of demonstrating its long-term commitment to that region, in particular through the Global Gateway Strategy;
- the major contribution that the EU made to multilateralism and the need to increase its visibility and representation in the United Nations system, particularly with respect to the process for appointing candidates to high-level posts;
- the EU’s role as a driving force for promoting human rights around the world;
- the difficulties experienced by some partners when cooperating with the EU on humanitarian aid owing to procedures that were viewed as being too complex;
- lastly, Greenland’s economic and geopolitical potential, and the importance of ensuring that the EU stepped up its cooperation with the autonomous Danish territory.

The PRESIDENT concluded by reminding the College that the EU was one of the main advocates of multilateralism on the international stage as well as the UN’s largest financial contributor, accounting for almost one fifth of the UN’s regular budget, one third of voluntary contributions and 42% of official development assistance. In the light of these figures, she stressed the importance of raising the profile of the EU’s role in terms of both

representation in the United Nations and intervention on the ground. She also considered it essential to continue efforts to make European procedures more accessible and efficient in order to increase the impact of the EU's action on the international stage.

The Commission took note of this information.

## **10.2. COUNTERING DISINFORMATION**

At the request of the PRESIDENT, the College was briefed on the measures taken to counter information manipulation and interference by foreign actors in recent elections.

The Commission took note of this information.

## **10.3. FREE TRADE AGREEMENT WITH INDONESIA**

Mr ŠEFČOVIČ informed the College of the conclusion, on 23 September 2025, of the negotiations with Indonesia on a historic free trade agreement. Under the agreement, 98% of tariffs would be removed, generating significant savings for European exporters and creating new opportunities, particularly in the agri-food, automotive, chemicals and machinery industries. The agreement also gave the EU access to critical raw materials, which were vital for the green and digital transition.

He highlighted the geopolitical importance of this partnership with the largest economy in Southeast Asia, as it consolidated the EU's presence in the Indo-Pacific region and reaffirmed its commitment to open and rules-based trade. Lastly, he pointed out that the agreement was due to enter into force in January 2027 and noted that other partners in the region were keen to conclude similar agreements.

The Commission took note of this information.

\*

\* \*

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

\*

\* \*

The meeting closed at 11.39.