



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2026) 2568 final

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Brussels, 24 June 2026

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

of the 2568th meeting of the Commission

held in Brussels

(Berlaymont)

on Wednesday 27 May 2026

(morning)

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Single sitting: Wednesday 27 May 2026 (morning)

The sitting opened at 9.03 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 KALLAS	High Representative / Vice-President	
Ms MÎNZATU	Executive Vice-President	
Mr FITTO	Executive Vice-President	
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Member	
Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Member	
Ms ŠUICA	Member	
Mr VÁRHELYI	Member	
Mr HOEKSTRA	Member	
Mr KUBILIUS	Member	
Ms KOS	Member	
Mr SÍKELA	Member	
Mr KADIS	Member	
Ms ALBUQUERQUE	Member	
Ms LAHBIB	Member	Items 1 to 10 (in part)
Ms ROSWALL	Member	
Mr SERAFIN	Member	
Mr JØRGENSEN	Member	
Mr McGRATH	Member	
Mr TZITZIKOSTAS	Member	
Mr HANSEN	Member	
Mr MICALLEF	Member	

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Absent:

Mr BRUNNER Member

Ms ZAHARIEVA Member

The following also sat in:

Mr SEIBERT Head of Cabinet to the PRESIDENT

Mr DE GREGORIO 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 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 Items 8 and 10

Ms HENMAN Adviser in the PRESIDENT's cabinet

Mr PIERGIOVANNI Adviser in the PRESIDENT's cabinet Item 9

Ms LODRANT Member of the PRESIDENT's cabinet Item 8

Ms SEMLALI Policy Assistant in the PRESIDENT's cabinet

Mr CHARLES Head of Unit in the Secretariat-General

Mr TAQUET-GRAZIANI Head of Unit in the Secretariat-General

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

1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2026) 2568/FINAL; SEC(2026) 2568/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(2026) 2568)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Heads of Cabinet held on 26 May 2026.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Commission held over approval of the minutes of its 2563rd, 2564th, 2565th, 2566th and 2567th meetings of 22 and 28 April and 6, 13 and 19 May 2026 for a later date.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(RCC(2026) 174)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (GRI) held on Friday 22 May 2026 (RCC(2026) 174).

The Commission approved the lines proposed for the following points:

- **Jurisdiction, applicable law, recognition and enforcement of measures and cooperation in matters relating to the protection of adults (Regulation) – TOOM report – 2023/0169 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2026) 150.

- **Adjustment of customs duties on the import of certain goods originating in the United States of America and opening of tariff quotas for imports of certain goods originating in the United States of America (Regulation) – LANGE report – 2025/0261 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2026) 160.

- **Non-application of customs duties on imports of certain goods (Regulation) – LANGE report – 2025/0260 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2026) 164.

The Commission took note of the following points:

- **Estimated revenue projections for own resources based on crypto-assets, digital services, and online gambling**

Information set out in SPI(2026) 53.

- **Amendment of Regulation (EC) No 261/2004 establishing common rules on compensation and assistance to passengers in the event of denied boarding and of cancellation or long delay of flights and Regulation (EC) No 2027/97 on air carrier liability in respect of the carriage of passengers and their baggage by air (Regulation) – NOVAKOV (ex-ARIAS ECHEVERRÍA & ex-BACH) report – 2013/0072 (COD)**

Information set out in SI(2026) 54/3, further to SI(2026) 54/2, of which the Commission had taken note on 18 March 2026.

- **Cross-cutting security trends**

Information set out in SI(2026) 156.

**5. COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL ACTION
(RCC(2026) 218)**

The Commission took note of the operational conclusions in RCC(2026) 218 of the meeting of the Group for External Coordination (EXCO) held on Tuesday 19 May 2026.

6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

**6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED
(SEC(2026) 143 ET SEQ.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 18 and 24 May 2026.

**6.2. EMPOWERMENT
(SEC(2026) 144 ET SEQ.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 18 and 24 May 2026.

**6.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS
(SEC(2026) 145 ET SEQ.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedures between 18 and 24 May 2026, as archived in Decide.

**6.4. WRITTEN PROCEDURES SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED
(SEC(2026) 146 AND /2)**

The Commission took note of the written procedures specifically identified for which the time limit expired between 26 and 29 May 2026.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS
(SEC(2026) 147)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
(PERS(2026) 46)

**7.1. DG MIGRATION AND HOME AFFAIRS – TRANSFER OF AN AD14
OFFICIAL IN THE INTEREST OF THE SERVICE UNDER ARTICLE 7
OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS**

On a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Mr HANSEN and Mr BRUNNER, the Commission decided to transfer in the interest of the service, under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations, Ms Marie BOURJOU, currently Director of the ‘Assurance and Audit’ Directorate at the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, to the post of Director of the ‘Borders, Migration and Security in Member States I’ Directorate at the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

This decision would take effect on 1 September 2026.

**7.2. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – APPROVAL OF A LIST
OF CANDIDATES FOR THE POST OF HEAD OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION DELEGATION TO BRAZIL AT GRADE AD14/15**
(PERS(2026) 47)

On a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, the Commission decided to approve the list of candidates for the post of Head of the European Union Delegation to Brazil, at grade AD14/15, in

PERS(2026) 47.

The competent authority of the European External Action Service (EEAS) would make the final appointment on the basis of this list.

This decision would take effect immediately.

8. JOINT COMMUNICATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL – DEFENDING VALUES, DRIVING REFORM, DELIVERING IMPACT: THE EU’S HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN A SHIFTING GLOBAL ORDER

(JOIN(2026) 25 TO /4; SWD(2026) 312 AND /2; SWD(2026) 313 AND /2; SWD(2026) 314 AND /2; RCC(2026) 30)

The PRESIDENT introduced the Joint Communication on humanitarian action by pointing out that the EU and its Member States were the world's largest and most reliable donors of humanitarian aid in the world. She noted that the global humanitarian system was under unprecedented pressure, not only because of the proliferation of protracted conflicts and the increasing frequency of extreme weather events, but also because of the significant reduction in available funding. In this context, the EU needed to adapt its approach to ensure that its actions were as effective as possible while remaining aligned with its values.

Ms KALLAS confirmed that the global humanitarian system was close to breaking point, as it was facing a serious crisis of underfunding, access restrictions and a growing disregard for international humanitarian law. Almost 240 million people were now dependent on humanitarian aid, and the consequences of the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East were putting millions more at risk. She added that up to 45 million people could be affected by famine due to fertiliser shortages. The Joint Communication presented that day was an opportunity to publicly reaffirm the EU’s important role in providing humanitarian assistance. It also confirmed the

EU's commitment to upholding humanitarian law and the rules-based global order, demonstrating to the world that the EU remained a reliable and credible partner. Through its new humanitarian diplomacy, the EU would be mobilising all available tools to safeguard aid delivery, secure humanitarian access, protect civilians and ensure compliance with international humanitarian law.

Ms LAHBIB confirmed that the humanitarian system was facing unprecedented geopolitical challenges and an exponential increase in needs. She described a rapidly deteriorating global context, marked by a sharp increase in conflicts that were lasting longer, a worsening of climate change and natural disasters, attacks on humanitarian workers and the politicisation of humanitarian aid. Around 130 armed conflicts were raging around the world, a figure that had doubled in 15 years, and almost 240 million people depended on humanitarian aid to survive – 8 times more than 20 years ago. She added that almost 20% of the world's children, around half a billion, were living in or fleeing conflict zones. This situation called for the EU to demonstrate its values and solidarity, with humanitarian action also being in the EU's strategic and security interests. The current instability was undermining decades of development progress and was affecting the EU more and more directly, including through disruptions in supply chains, the displacement and migration of people, and their potential subsequent radicalisation.

Ms LAHBIB then referred to the three key pillars of the Communication. Under the first pillar dedicated to protection, the EU would take practical steps to ensure the safe and unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance, including by strengthening humanitarian diplomacy as part of a collaborative Team Europe effort. All available tools would be used to this end, including political dialogues, coordination in multilateral fora, and mediation and peace stabilisation. The EU would also step up measures and funding for the safety of humanitarian workers, spanning from the prevention of security incidents to care for victims. The humanitarian response would pay particular attention to empowering local actors and communities, as well as the most vulnerable groups.

Under the second pillar dedicated to performance, the EU would maximise the cost-effectiveness of humanitarian action, from procurement to delivery on the ground, overhauling supply chains to create synergies and avoid duplication. Funding arrangements would also be reviewed in order to promote aid effectiveness and predictability and better protect the dignity of beneficiaries.

Finally, under the third pillar dedicated to partnerships, Ms LAHBIB stressed that emergency aid, long-term development and peace actions must go hand in hand to address the root causes of crises and thus reduce people's dependence on humanitarian aid. Closer collaboration between the EU and international financial institutions, the private sector and philanthropic organisations would be used to find innovative and more effective pooling options to provide funding to fragile areas and help those most in need.

She concluded her presentation by noting that this comprehensive approach was based on tried and tested principles and aimed to achieve tangible results in an increasingly complex geopolitical environment.

During the discussion that followed, the Commission raised the following main points:

- the scale of current humanitarian needs and the growing gap between available resources and funding needs, with calls to further strengthen partnerships with Member States and trusted partners;
- the importance of improving the allocation and effectiveness of existing resources, while ensuring that the EU maintained its leading humanitarian role at global level, not only in terms of funding but also in determining the aid to be provided;
- the need to ensure compliance with international humanitarian law, including through practical measures to facilitate humanitarian access and the protection of civilians;

- the growing impact of climate change and environmental degradation on humanitarian needs, and the importance of integrating climate change adaptation into the EU's approach to humanitarian aid;
- the importance of maintaining citizens' trust in humanitarian stakeholders and of countering disinformation, which could undermine humanitarian operations and public support;
- the need to ensure that the EU's contribution to humanitarian aid was clearly recognised, including by increasing its visibility on the ground.

The PRESIDENT concluded the discussion by confirming the need to increase the visibility of EU funding in order to better reflect its significant contribution to humanitarian action.

Following these presentations, the Commission approved the Joint Communication in JOIN(2026) 25/4, for transmission to the European Parliament and the Council and, for information, to the national parliaments, together with the joint staff working document and the two staff working documents distributed as SWD(2026) 312/2, SWD(2026) 313/2 and SWD(2026) 314/2 respectively, the contents of which were noted.

**9. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ON THE PROCEDURE FOR AUTHORISATION OF SYSTEMS PROVIDING MOBILE SATELLITE SERVICES USING THE HARMONISED 2 GHZ FREQUENCY BAND AND REPEALING DECISION NO 626/2008/EC
(COM(2026) 311 TO /3; RCC(2026) 31)**

The PRESIDENT began by saying that, despite the technical dimension of that day's proposal, major issues relating to the EU's sovereignty and security were at

stake. Spectrum for mobile satellite services was a strategic asset for innovative commercial use, and for security and defence. The current licenses would expire in 2027, creating an opportunity for the EU to boost its new-generation satellite connectivity capacity in order to ensure reliable communication services for citizens, governments and defence, especially when terrestrial networks were down.

The PRESIDENT noted that recent crises had underlined the vital importance of such capacity and the risks of overreliance on providers from outside Europe. Over the years, European providers had been unable to consolidate their position, and the sector had gradually become concentrated around companies based outside the EU. In this context, she believed that it was vital for the EU to equip itself with the means to restore its capacity for action. She stressed that, given the timeframe and the volume of investment required, any European solution could only be credible if it was underpinned by a solid industrial base and enhanced coordination between European stakeholders.

Ms VIRKKUNEN explained that recent technological advances meant that satellite services could now be provided directly to end-user mobile devices, opening up new opportunities for coverage in remote areas, crisis management, emergency services and certain Internet-of-Things uses. The harmonised 2 gigahertz (2 GHz) band was particularly well suited to these services, which were of vital importance for communications resilience and, more widely, for the competitiveness and security of the EU.

She pointed out that, in 2008, the Member States had entrusted the Commission with the organisation of a single EU-wide selection process to grant 2 GHz frequency rights, in order to avoid divergent national decisions and to ensure harmonised conditions across the internal market. The authorisations granted on that basis for an eighteen-year period would expire in May 2027. At the time, European operators had been present on the market, but it was now largely dominated by non-European operators.

The business environment had also changed considerably, in both technological and strategic terms, in particular with the emergence of new direct connectivity services. The Commission was therefore proposing to modernise the rules that would apply after 2027, and to replace the 2008 Decision by a Regulation in order to establish an updated, more robust and more consistent EU-wide approach. Selection at EU level and authorisations allowing services to be offered in all Member States on the same terms remained features of the approach adopted.

Ms VIRKKUNEN added that access to the 2 GHz band would be reorganised by allocating spectrum according to use. One third of the band would be reserved for governmental use, including for critical communications, security and defence. These services should be provided by an EU operator, who would ensure integration with the current and future capabilities of the infrastructure of the Union Secure Connectivity programme (IRIS²) in order to guarantee a high degree of trust and protection. Two thirds of the band would be dedicated to commercial use, and would be divided equally: one part for fostering market entry by new EU operators and diversification of suppliers, with the other part open to EU and non-EU operators under strict conditions.

The proposal introduced more stringent requirements in respect of security, data protection, cybersecurity and independence from any control by a non-EU country. While operators from outside the EU could apply for the commercial part, compliance with the established criteria would act as a stringent filter. The goal was to allow the emergence of European operators able to offer EU-wide high-quality services and to enable them to compete with major world players. A single European operator or consortium could, as far as the rules allowed it, cover several strands in order to make an integrated, robust offer that combined security requirements and commercial uses.

The IRIS² programme was key in this respect, constituting the central pillar of the EU's ambition of ensuring secure connectivity under European control. However, in its current configuration, the IRIS² programme did not permit coverage of all needs

linked to the use of the 2 GHz band, in particular direct-to-device services that met the highest security requirements. In these circumstances, a public-private partnership was the most credible path to attracting the necessary investment, bringing together a European consortium capable of rising to the challenge and ensuring, for the secure component, a high degree of trust, institutional credibility and industrial feasibility.

Ms VIRKKUNEN concluded by stating that developing this kind of capacity within the EU would require significant investment, which could not be committed without a sufficiently stable long-term outlook. An adjusted duration for authorisations was accordingly an important condition to ensure the economic viability of the model and allow for spreading the costs. She added that limited extension of the current authorisations was planned in order to ensure service continuity and organise the transition to the new framework in the best conditions.

During the discussion that followed, the Commission raised the following main points:

- the strategic importance of satellite connectivity for the resilience of communications, crisis management and the continuity of essential services, including when terrestrial networks were unavailable;
- the need for a framework for encouraging, in a sustained manner, the development of a credible European offer, supporting the rise of operators of sufficient size and allowing the emergence of new operators under conditions conducive to innovation and effective competition;
- the importance of viewing this approach as part of wider efforts to reduce critical dependencies and strengthen the EU's capacity to act, through sustained investment and industrial cooperation;
- the need to take account of market realities, particularly as regards the time required to build up a fully operational European offer, and the importance in

this regard of setting out a realistic timetable in order to preserve continuity of service;

- the need to also take into account the diplomatic implications of the proposal and to maintain a constructive dialogue with international partners;
- the advisability of addressing these issues in a spirit of partnership and reciprocity while taking due account of international practices, and a reminder that possessing these capacities also satisfied the need to protect against any risk of pressure or instrumentalisation of dependencies, particularly in times of geopolitical tensions;
- the importance of specifying the conditions applicable to the part of the band dedicated to secure communications and its link with IRIS², and of ensuring that the future arrangements were sufficiently transparent and provided the necessary guarantees for institutional users in terms of governance, supervision and accreditation;
- the attention paid to eligibility criteria and safeguards relating to cybersecurity, data protection and control of risks from external influences, including throughout supply chains.

In response to certain points raised during the discussion, Ms VIRKKUNEN stressed that the proposal should not be viewed as solely technical, since it directly affected the EU's ability to equip itself with sustainable connectivity infrastructure and services that met sensitive needs. The 2027 deadline called for swift decisions, as the development of European capabilities required visibility and could not be based on short-term investments. With this in mind, she pointed out that the very purpose of the limited extension of the current authorisations was to ensure continuity of service during the transitional period and enable the future arrangements to be put in place under controlled conditions.

Ms VIRKKUNEN stressed the scale of the investment required, which amounted to tens of billions of euros, in particular for the part dedicated to secure communications. This part could not rely on an economic model based solely on commercial revenue, but instead required a joint mobilisation of public and private stakeholders. In that regard, she noted that, as in other strategic technology sectors, no Member State was in a position to make such an effort on its own. She said that the Commission intended to facilitate dialogue between the EU, the Member States and interested companies to help them form a consortium capable of providing those services.

She reminded the College that the proposal was based on strict eligibility criteria and that the calls for applications would specify the applicable technical, security and quality requirements. She confirmed that the chosen approach also left room for commercial offers, including by non-European operators, provided they fully satisfied the requirements. Lastly, she noted that the aim was to strengthen European security and resilience, in cooperation with trusted partners.

The PRESIDENT wound up the discussion by reminding the College of the international context. She noted that other major powers tightly regulated access to their own frequencies, and she considered that the proposed approach was therefore balanced, as it combined a managed opening of the market with securing, as a priority, the EU's security and resilience. Finally, she called for work with the stakeholders concerned to continue with a view to having the expected capacities available in the coming years for the benefit of the EU as a whole.

Following the presentation, the Commission adopted the proposal for a Regulation in COM(2026) 311/3 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the national parliaments.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10.1. UPDATE ON THE EBOLA OUTBREAK

Ms LAHBIB provided an updated assessment of the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda, with 900 suspected cases reported and more than 100 presumed deaths to date. She stressed that it was difficult to obtain realistic estimates and contain the spread of the virus in the affected region, given the political instability and the considerable pressure being put on medical teams by the local population. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the risk associated with the Ebola epidemic linked to the Bundibugyo virus was very high at national level in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, high at regional level, and low at global level, including for the European Union. Moreover, some of the difficulties in managing the situation were caused by the fact that the virus was not easy to detect since its symptoms were similar to those of other common viral conditions.

She then reviewed the measures taken at European level to help contain the epidemic. The previous week, the Commission had made an additional EUR 15 million available to support the response to the spread of the virus, on top of the more than EUR 87 million in humanitarian aid for the region that had been announced in April. In addition, 100 tonnes of medical aid had been delivered to the region at the beginning of the week. The Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) and the Commission's Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) were on alert to potentially send experts to the region and provide additional assistance.

Mr VÁRHELYI said that the EU Health Security Committee (HSC) was working actively with the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and the WHO to coordinate the response. This strain of the Ebola virus was rare and poorly documented, and no specific vaccine or

treatment was currently available. The European Medicines Agency (EMA) was currently working on an mRNA vaccine against this specific strain, which could be developed in around 45 days thanks to the fast-track approval procedure.

He noted that the WHO recommended carrying out screening at borders and on major domestic roads to prevent anyone suspected of being infected from getting through. The United States had already imposed entry restrictions on anyone travelling from the affected areas, with the exception of US citizens and residents. The Commission was not currently suggesting that the Member States should impose restrictions of this nature, but there was a need for greater vigilance.

In the course of the brief discussion that followed, the Commission mainly focused on whether the EU and its Member States should impose entry or travel restrictions, and on the geographical scope of any such restrictions.

Mr VÁRHELYI clarified that the countries that would potentially be affected by travel restrictions were currently the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and Rwanda.

Ms LAHBIB explained that the borders between the countries concerned had not been closed, but that traffic had been reduced. She stressed that, if borders were closed, this could lead to illegal crossings and that the main objective at this stage was to identify people carrying the disease to prevent it from spreading, and to keep the local population informed.

The PRESIDENT stressed the importance of ensuring that the situation and the scale of the risk were monitored by the relevant experts on a day-by-day basis, so that, if necessary, consideration could be given to introducing restrictions on entering the EU. She called on the Commissioners concerned to closely monitor developments in this regard and to keep the College informed of any developments. The experience of the COVID-19 pandemic

had led to the creation of structures such as the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA), meaning that it was now possible to monitor developments and take decisions in good time.

The Commission took note of this information.

10.2. LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Ms KALLAS began by referring to Russia's war against Ukraine and the recent Russian attacks targeting the Ukrainian population, which were evidence of the escalation in aggression and confirmed the impact of EU sanctions. The issue of European security in this context would be discussed at the informal meeting of foreign affairs ministers taking place that same day in Cyprus.

With regard to the US-Iran war, she referred to contacts with partners in the region and the still uncertain prospects of an agreement on unblocking the Strait of Hormuz and re-establishing freedom of navigation.

As regards the Western Balkans, Ms KALLAS reported on the ongoing discussions on the replacement for the International High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in particular the desire expressed by the United States for a successor to be named by 28 May with a view to their being appointed at the meeting of the Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council (PIC-SB) on 3 and 4 June. In that connection, she stressed the importance of fielding a single European candidate, reflecting the significant amount of financial support provided by the EU and the country's aspirations of joining the EU. She also briefly referred to the demonstrations held in Serbia in recent days calling for early elections.

During the discussion that followed, the Commission raised the following main points:

- the need to rapidly strengthen the partnership with Greenland and update the EU's arctic strategy;
- the numerous challenges facing Greenland as a result of climate change, but also the new opportunities created by its rapidly melting ice cap, for example in terms of critical raw material resources;
- the importance of the PRESIDENT's visit to Lithuania on 26 May against the backdrop of increasing incursions into the three Baltic States by Ukrainian drones diverted by Russia;
- the detrimental impact of these incursions and the resulting state of alert, which was affecting residents' daily lives, the continuity of schooling, as well as investment and tourism, and was causing skilled workers to leave the countries in question;
- the need, therefore, for concrete initiatives to protect the EU's eastern flank and the advisability of holding a specific meeting on this subject;
- the terrible recent attacks on Kyiv, but also the fact that Russia was stepping up hybrid attacks and disinformation to sow disquiet in the Member States in order to weaken public support for helping Ukraine;
- the worsening domestic situation in Russia, where an economic slowdown was being caused by sanctions and the financial burden of the war, internet use was restricted and President Putin's popularity was waning;
- the importance of fielding a single European candidate, not only for the post of International High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also for the post of Director-General of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The PRESIDENT stressed that the ongoing crisis on the EU's eastern flank was not a Baltic problem but a European one. At the same time, she noted that

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it was important for the Baltic States to use all the funds available thanks to the ramping up of the EastInvest Facility and the ability to reallocate cohesion policy funds to defence. She also stressed the major, and mutually beneficial, importance of the alliance between the EU and Ukraine with a view to developing drone production in Europe.

On the question of European candidates for high-level posts in multilateral organisations, Ms KALLAS pointed out that the matter would be discussed at the forthcoming Foreign Affairs Council, and reiterated the importance of fielding only one candidate to safeguard the EU's credibility. She asked the Members of the College to identify and flag up any similar cases that might arise in their respective areas of responsibility.

The Commission took note of this information.

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The meeting closed at 10.50.