



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2002)1589 final

Brussels, 14 November 2002

MINUTES
of the 1589th meeting of the Commission
held in Brussels
(Breydel)
on Wednesday 13 November 2002
(morning)

These minutes were approved by the Commission at its 1590th meeting, held in Strasbourg on 19th November 2002.

They contain 28 pages.

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Single sitting: Wednesday 13 November (morning)

The sitting opened at 0915 hours with Mr Prodi, President, in the chair.

Present:

Mr PRODI	President
Mr KINNOCK	Vice-President
Ms de PALACIO	Vice-President
Mr MONTI	
Mr FISCHLER	
Mr LIIKANEN	
Mr BOLKESTEIN	
Mr BUSQUIN	
Mr SOLBES	
Mr NIELSON	
Mr VERHEUGEN	
Mr PATTEN	
Mr LAMY	
Mr BYRNE	
Mr BARNIER	
Ms REDING	
Ms SCHREYER	
Ms WALLSTRÖM	
Mr VITORINO	
Ms DIAMANTOPOULOU	

The following also sat in

Mr PETITE	Director-General, Legal Service
Mr MANSERVISI	Chef de cabinet to the President
Mr FAULL	Commission Spokesman
Mr KOOPMAN	Chef de cabinet to Mr Kinnock
Mr SALMI	Chef de cabinet to Mr Liikanen
Mr JACOB	Chef de cabinet to Mr Busquin
Mr PLANAS	Chef de cabinet to Mr Solbes
Mr THERY	Chef de cabinet to Mr Lamy
Mr ANNERBERG	Chef de cabinet to Ms Wallström
Ms HOUTMAN	Deputy Chef de cabinet to the President
Mr FONSECA	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Mr Vitorino
Mr ABOU	Chief Adviser in the President's Office
Mr SMULDERS	A member of the President's staff
Mr MARTINEZ MONGAY	A member of Mr Solbes's staff
Ms KONTOU	A member of Mr Verheugen's staff
Ms SCHREIBER	A member of Mr Verheugen's staff
Mr PONZANO	Director in the Secretariat-General
Mr CARVOUNIS	Director in the Press and Communication DG
Mr LEVI	Director, Policy Advisers Group
Mr KEMPINEN	Press and Communication DG

Secretary: Mr O'SULLIVAN, Secretary-General, assisted by Mr BROCHART, Unit Head in the Secretariat-General, and Mr KERSTING, Principal Administrator in the Secretariat-General.

**1. WEEKLY MEETING OF CHEFS DE CABINET
(SEC(2002)1589)**

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 11 November.

2. PARLIAMENT

**2.1. NOVEMBER I PART-SESSION
(SP(2002)3576)**

The Commission took note of the record of Parliament's part-session held in Brussels on 6 and 7 November.

**2.2. ACTION TO BE TAKEN ON PARLIAMENT'S OPINIONS
(SP(2002)3610)**

The Commission approved the proposed empowerment decisions relating to action to be taken on the amendments presented by Parliament under the codecision procedure (see list produced by the Secretariat-General in SP(2002)3610).

**2.3. PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS GROUP
(SP(2002)3587)**

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Parliamentary Affairs Group held on Thursday 7 November.

It paid particular attention to the following:

a) Preparations for November II and December I part-sessions

(point 2 of the record)

Specific points to consider: November II

The Commission, in accordance with the rules in force, authorised the Commission Members responsible, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, Ms de PALACIO and any other Members associated, to take a position on Parliament's amendments to its proposals.

Empowerment

Under Article 13 of its Rules of Procedure the Commission empowered Mr BOLKESTEIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, Ms de PALACIO and any other Members associated, to adopt its opinion on the amendments, together with any amended proposals, on the basis of the line set out in SP(2002)3561, once Parliament had given its opinion, and transmit them to the Council in accordance with Article 251(2)(c) of the Treaty, for the following:

- LIPIETZ report, Supervision of credit, insurance and investment firms in a financial conglomerate

1st reading and simple consultation

- McNALLY report, Intelligent energy for Europe programme (2003-06),
COM(2002)162, 02/0082 (COD)

The Commission adopted the line set out in SP(2002)3544, but decided to reject amendment 9 providing for the creation, in the medium term, of a European agency for intelligent energy. This rejection, however, was without prejudice to the possibility of making use of other external

structures for implementing this programme; this was in full compliance with the Commission's right of initiative and in line with its initial proposal.

b) Action taken on Parliament's opinions and resolutions
(point 5 of the record)

The Commission adopted the replies to own-initiative resolutions adopted by Parliament to which the Commission had undertaken to reply (SP(2002)3532), for transmission to Parliament.

3. WORK OF THE CONVENTION

PLENARY SESSION OF 7 AND 8 NOVEMBER
(SEC(2002)1232 and /2)

The Commission took note of the record of the plenary session of the Convention held on 7 and 8 November.

4. MONITORING THE APPLICATION OF COMMUNITY LAW: STATE AID AND INFRINGEMENTS
(SEC(2002)1173/2; SEC(2002)1211)

4.1. STATE AID - RECAPITULATIVE LIST
(SEC(2002)1173/2)

The Commission adopted the decisions in SEC(2002)1173/2.

In the context of the specific case NN 116/1998 (*Fiscal measures applicable to seafarers on board Danish vessels*, C(2002)4370 to /3), the Commission agreed that the new Community guidelines in preparation for aid to sea transport would have to clarify the ambiguity in the scope of the tax advantages considered compatible.

**4.2. INFRINGEMENTS - CASES POSTPONED BECAUSE OF
UNAVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS - REGULARISATION
(SEC(2002)1211)**

The Commission adopted the decisions in SEC(2002)1211.

5. WRITTEN PROCEDURES AND EMPOWERMENT

**5.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED
(SEC(2002)1179 to /5)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted by written procedure between 4 and 8 November.

**5.2. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES
(SEC(2002)1180)**

The Commission took note of the following written procedure initiated between 4 and 8 November for the adoption of decisions with political implications:

Time limit: 15.11.2002

E/2002/2179 - COM(2002)629 DG EAC

Commission communication on European benchmarks in education and training: follow-up to the Lisbon European Council

5.3. EMPOWERMENT

(SEC(2002)1181 to /5)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the empowerment procedure between 4 and 8 November.

**5.4. AD HOC EMPOWERMENT OF THE MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR
HEALTH AND CONSUMER PROTECTION TO SIGN AN
OUT-OF-COURT SETTLEMENT IN CASE T-350/01 PENDING
BEFORE THE COURT OF FIRST INSTANCE**

(SEC(2002)1187)

The Commission approved the empowerment decision set out in section 2 of SEC(2002)1187.

5.5. DELEGATION AND SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation procedure between 4 and 8 November, as archived on the "Greffé 2000" (Registry) website.

**6. PRELIMINARY DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY AND AMENDING BUDGET
No 6 TO THE 2002 BUDGET**

(SEC(2002)1220 to /4)

The Commission adopted preliminary draft supplementary and amending budget No 6/2002 as set out in SEC(2002)1220/2 and /4, for transmission to Parliament and the Council.

7. JOINT EMPLOYMENT REPORT 2002

(COM(2002)621 to /4; SEC(2002)1204; SEC(2002)1218)

The Commission approved the communication in COM(2002)621/4 for transmission, accompanied by the staff working paper in SEC(2002)1204, to the Council and, for information, to Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.

**8. SIXTH COMMISSION REPORT ON THE SITUATION IN WORLD
SHIPBUILDING**

(COM(2002)622 to /3)

The Commission adopted the sixth report as set out in COM(2002)622/3 for transmission to the Council, Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

***COMMISSION WITHDRAWAL OF A PROCEEDING UNDER ARTICLE 228
OF THE TREATY***

The Commission decided to withdraw Case C-274/02 concerning the French authorities' failure to comply with the Court judgment on France's failure to fulfil its obligations under Community decisions on the lifting of the embargo on British beef, since France had recently adopted measures to implement the judgment.

It asked the Legal Service to draw up an analysis of the possibilities of reviewing the Commission communication concerning the implementation of Article 228 of the Treaty, in the light of experience gained, in order to suggest adaptations, particularly with a view to securing better implementation of judgments declaring a Member State to have failed to fulfil its obligations, and to making full use of the possibilities of penalty payments and fines.

10. AGENDAS

(OJ(2002)1589/3; SEC(2002)1178)

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

Following an in-depth discussion on the planning of the work of the Convention in general and the Commission's contribution to it in particular, the Commission decided to hold a special meeting to discuss its contribution on Thursday 5 December.

This would enable the PRESIDENT to present the contribution, on the day of its approval, to the Convention and to Parliament, both of which would be holding plenary sessions in Brussels. This decision did not affect the holding of the Commission's ordinary meeting on Tuesday 3 December. The special meeting originally planned for on Monday 18 November was cancelled.

11. COUNCIL MEETINGS

(SI(2002)1294)

GENERAL AFFAIRS AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

(BRUSSELS, 18 AND 19 NOVEMBER)

In preparation both for the Council meeting (General affairs and external relations) and the Copenhagen European Council, the Commission held an exchange of views on the transitional period between the accession date of the new Member States, in all likelihood in 2004, and the start of a new Commission. It considered in particular the possibility of shortening this period as far as possible, in the interests of current as well as future Member States and of the Commission itself, and the legal and political consequences this might have. It pointed to the importance of involving the Council bodies and Parliament in this debate and the need to make a major effort to explain the problem to all interested parties, including the candidate countries. It decided to return to these questions after initial contacts and presentation in the other institutions.

12. APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MINUTES OF 1587th MEETING (30 October) AND MINUTES AND SPECIAL MINUTES OF 1588th MEETING

(6 November)

(PV(2002)1587, Part II and /2; PV(2002)1588 and /2; PV(2002)1588, Part II)

12.1. SPECIAL MINUTES OF 1587TH MEETING (30 October)

(PV(2002)1587, Part II and /2)

The Commission approved the special minutes of its 1587th meeting as set out in PV(2002)1587, Part II.

12.2. MINUTES AND SPECIAL MINUTES OF 1588th MEETING

(6 November)

(PV(2002)1588 and /2; PV(2002)1588, Part II)

The Commission approved the minutes and special minutes of its 1588th meeting as set out in PV(2002)1588 and /2 and PV(2002)1588, Part II.

13. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

(SEC(2002)1182/2)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

13.1. MOBILITY AT SENIOR MANAGEMENT LEVEL (A2 POSTS)

(SEC(2002)1233/2)

Mr KINNOCK tabled a communication laying down the framework for implementing mobility for A2 officials, on the basis of the general principles agreed by the Commission in its administrative reform. The individual measures proposed under this framework would be followed by further mobility measures at the end of the year. He outlined the lessons to be drawn from this initial exercise for the future, in particular as regards communication.

The Commission approved this communication, as set out in SEC(2002)1233/2, as well as the individual measures set out below. It noted that the indicative information distributed for 2003 did not prejudice the details of the decisions to be made, which would be the subject of contacts between all the parties concerned.

13.2. EDUCATION AND CULTURE DG - CREATION OF A POST OF CHIEF ADVISER AND TRANSFER OF AN A2 OFFICIAL TO THE POST

The Commission, on a proposal from Mr KINNOCK, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Ms REDING, decided:

- to create a post of Chief Adviser, reporting to the Director-General for Education and Culture;
- to transfer to it, with his post and in the interest of the service, Mr Jean-Michel BAER, an A2 official, currently Director of Directorate EAC.C (Culture, audiovisual policy and sport), in line with the policy of mobility for senior officials.

The Chief Adviser's tasks would be specified later.

These decisions would take effect on a date to be fixed later.

The post of Director of Directorate EAC.C (Culture, audiovisual policy and sport), thereby made vacant, would be published according to the normal procedures.

13.3. EDUCATION AND CULTURE DG - CREATION OF A POST OF CHIEF ADVISER AND TRANSFER OF AN A2 OFFICIAL TO THE POST

The Commission, on a proposal from Mr KINNOCK, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Ms REDING, decided:

- to create a post of Chief Adviser, reporting to the Director-General for Education and Culture;
- to transfer to it, with his post and in the interest of the service, Mr Otto DIBELIUS, an A2 official, currently Director of Directorate

EAC.B (Vocational training), in line with the policy of mobility for senior officials.

The Chief Adviser's tasks would be specified later.

These decisions would take effect on 1 January 2003.

***13.4. EDUCATION AND CULTURE DG - REDEPLOYMENT OF AN A2
OFFICIAL TO A POST OF DIRECTOR***

The Commission, on a proposal from Mr KINNOCK, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, Ms REDING and Mr LIIKANEN, decided to transfer, with his post and in the interest of the service, Mr Michel RICHONNIER, an A2 official, currently Director of Directorate INFSO.B (Information society technologies: systems and services for the citizen) in the Information Society DG, to the post of Director of Directorate EAC.B (Vocational training), in line with the policy of mobility for senior officials.

This decision would take effect on 1 January 2003.

***13.5. INFORMATION SOCIETY DG - REDEPLOYMENT OF AN A2
OFFICIAL TO A POST OF DIRECTOR***

The Commission, on a proposal from Mr KINNOCK, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, Mr LIIKANEN and Ms de PALACIO, decided, in line with the policy of mobility for senior officials, to transfer, with his post and in the interest of the service, Mr Pedro DE SAMPAIO NUNES, an A2 official, currently Director of Directorate TREN.C (Conventional energies) in the Energy and Transport DG, to the post of Director of Directorate INFSO.A, which, in the new organisation chart in process of adoption for entry into force on 1 January 2003, was to be named "Information Society strategy and e-Europe".

This decision would take effect on 1 January 2003.

**13.6. ENERGY AND TRANSPORT DG - REDEPLOYMENT OF AN A2
OFFICIAL TO A POST OF DIRECTOR**

The Commission, on a proposal from Mr KINNOCK, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, Ms de PALACIO and Mr LIIKANEN, decided:

- to transfer, with his post and in the interest of the service,
Mr Helmut SCHMITT VON SYDOW, an A2 official, currently Chief Adviser *ad personam* in the Enterprise DG, to the post of Director of Directorate TREN.C (Conventional energies), in line with the policy of mobility for senior officials;
- to abolish the post of Chief Adviser *ad personam* in the Enterprise DG.

These decisions would take effect on 1 January 2003.

**13.7. TRANSLATION SERVICE - REASSIGNMENT OF AN A2 OFFICIAL
TO A POST OF DIRECTOR**

The Commission, on a proposal from Mr KINNOCK, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Ms WALLSTRÖM, decided to transfer, with his post and in the interest of the service, Mr Fernand THURMES, an A2 official, currently Director of Directorate ENV.E (Global and international affairs) in the Environment DG, to the post of Director of Directorate SDT.RL (Resources and language support), in line with the policy of mobility for senior officials.

This decision would take effect on a date to be fixed later.

**13.8. TRANSLATION SERVICE - CREATION OF A POST OF CHIEF
ADVISED AND TRANSFER OF AN A2 OFFICIAL TO THE POST**

The Commission, on a proposal from Mr KINNOCK, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, decided:

- to create a post of Chief Adviser, reporting to the Director-General of the Translation Service;
- to transfer to it, with his post and in the interest of the service, Mr Ranieri BOMBASSEI, an A2 official, currently Director of Directorate SDT.RL (Resources and language support), in line with the policy of mobility for senior officials.

The Chief Adviser's tasks would be specified later.

These decisions would take effect on a date to be fixed later.

**13.9. PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION DG - CREATION OF A POST
OF CHIEF ADVISER AND TRANSFER OF AN A2 OFFICIAL TO THE
POST**

The Commission, on a proposal from Mr KINNOCK, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr SOLBES, decided:

- to create a post of Chief Adviser, reporting to the Director-General for Personnel and Administration, based in Luxembourg;
- to transfer to it, with his post and in the interest of the service, Mr Photius NANOPOULOS, an A2 official, currently Director of Directorate ESTAT.A (Statistical information; research and data analysis; technical cooperation with the candidate, Cards and Tacis countries) in Eurostat, in line with the policy of mobility for senior officials.

The Chief Adviser would be responsible for specific tasks in the field of administrative reform, particularly as regards administrative structures, benchmarking and statistical analysis in relation to the monitoring of the reform process, taking account of the administrative consequences of enlargement.

These decisions would take effect on a date to be fixed later.

13.10.EUROSTAT - REASSIGNMENT OF AN A2 OFFICIAL TO A POST OF DIRECTOR

The Commission, on a proposal from Mr KINNOCK, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr SOLBES, decided to transfer, with his post and in the interest of the service, Mr Pedro DIAZ MUNOZ, an A2 official, currently Director of Directorate ESTAT.D (Business statistics), to the post of Director of Directorate ESTAT.A (Statistical information; research and data analysis; technical cooperation with the candidate, Cards and Tacis countries), in line with the policy of mobility for senior officials.

This decision would take effect on a date to be fixed later.

13.11.EUROSTAT - REASSIGNMENT OF AN A2 OFFICIAL TO A POST OF DIRECTOR

The Commission, on a proposal from Mr KINNOCK, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr SOLBES, decided to transfer, with his post and in the interest of the service, Mr Lothar JENSEN, an A2 official, currently Director of Directorate ESTAT.E (Social statistics), to the post of Director of Directorate ESTAT.D (Business statistics), in line with the policy of mobility for senior officials.

This decision would take effect on a date to be fixed later.

13.12.EUROSTAT - REASSIGNMENT OF AN A2 OFFICIAL TO A POST OF DIRECTOR

The Commission, on a proposal from Mr KINNOCK, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, Mr SOLBES and Ms DIAMANTOPOULOU, decided to transfer, with her post and in the interest of the service, Ms Gabrielle CLOTUCHE, an A2 official, currently Director of Directorate EMPL.E (Social protection and social integration) in the Employment and Social Affairs DG, to the post of Director of Directorate ESTAT.E (Social statistics), in line with the policy of mobility for senior officials.

This decision would take effect on a date to be fixed later.

13.13.EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS DG - REDEPLOYMENT OF AN A2 OFFICIAL TO A POST OF DIRECTOR

The Commission, on a proposal from Mr KINNOCK, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Ms DIAMANTOPOULOU, decided:

- to transfer, with his post and in the interest of the service, Mr Jérôme VIGNON, an A2 official, currently Chief Adviser in the Secretariat-General, to the post of Director of Directorate EMPL.E (Social protection and social integration), in line with the policy of mobility for senior officials;
- to abolish the post of Chief Adviser in the Secretariat-General.

This decision would take effect on a date to be fixed later.

***13.14.DEVELOPMENT DG - CREATION OF A POST OF CHIEF ADVISER
AND TRANSFER OF AN A2 OFFICIAL TO THE POST***

The Commission, on a proposal from Mr KINNOCK, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr NIELSON, decided:

- to create a post of Chief Adviser, reporting to the Director-General for Development;
- to transfer to it, with his post and in the interest of the service, Mr Friedrich HAMBURGER, an A2 official, currently Director of Directorate DEV.D (Western and Central Africa, Caribbean and OCT), in line with the policy of mobility for senior officials.

The Chief Adviser's tasks would be specified later.

These decisions would take effect on a date to be fixed later.

***13.15.DEVELOPMENT DG - REDEPLOYMENT OF AN A2 OFFICIAL TO A
POST OF DIRECTOR***

The Commission, on a proposal from Mr KINNOCK, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr NIELSON, decided to transfer, with his post and in the interest of the service, Mr Sipke BROUWER, an A2 official, currently Director of Directorate ADMIN.C (Buildings policy and management; management of services (Brussels)), to the post of Director of Directorate DEV.D (Western and Central Africa, Caribbean and OCT), in line with the policy of mobility for senior officials.

This decision would take effect on a date to be fixed later.

**14. ECONOMIC FORECASTS FOR INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATES, THE
EURO AREA AND EU-15 - AUTUMN 2002
(SEC(2002)1238)**

**15. ECONOMIC FORECASTS FOR THE CANDIDATE COUNTRIES -
AUTUMN 2002
(SEC(2002)1239)**

Mr SOLBES presented the main points of the economic forecasts drawn up by his departments for the current Member States and the applicant countries.

The Commission took note of these forecasts.

**16. PRELIMINARY DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY AND AMENDING BUDGET
No 5/2002 AND PROPOSAL FOR A DECISION ON THE MOBILISATION
OF THE SOLIDARITY FUND
(SEC(2002)1221 to /6; SEC(2002)1231 and /2)**

The Commission decided:

- to adopt the preliminary draft supplementary and amending budget in SEC(2002)1221/5, for transmission to Parliament and the Council;
- to adopt the proposal for a decision on the mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund in SEC(2002)1231/2, for transmission to Parliament and the Council;
- to authorise Ms SCHREYER, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, Mr VERHEUGEN and Mr BARNIER, to finalise the explanatory memorandum

to the preliminary draft supplementary and amending budget before its transmission to Parliament and the Council;

- to empower Mr BARNIER, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, Mr VERHEUGEN and Ms SCHREYER, to adopt, on behalf of the Commission, the decision to grant appropriations from the European Union Solidarity Fund to Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic and France, after allocation of the necessary budgetary appropriations by the budgetary authority;
- to empower Mr BARNIER, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, Mr VERHEUGEN, Ms SCHREYER and Ms WALLSTRÖM, to negotiate and conclude, on behalf of the Commission, conventions for the implementation of the grant decision laid down in Article 5 of the Regulation establishing the European Union Solidarity Fund.

The Commission welcomed the speed with which the decisions had been taken in this matter, thereby meeting an urgent need that had dramatically arisen in certain Member States and one candidate country.

The Commission noted that, in future mobilisations of the Solidarity Fund, the Agriculture and Environment DGs would be fully involved in the whole process of preparing for decisions.

17. ROADMAPS FOR BULGARIA AND ROMANIA **(COM(2002)624 to /3; SEC(2002)1219)**

Mr VERHEUGEN tabled a communication concerning preparations for the accession of Bulgaria and Romania. This was in response to a request by the Brussels European Council to prepare decisions for the Copenhagen European Council to take concerning the accession process for these two countries. As regards

the financing of the pre-accession, further decentralisation of the management of the funds granted under Phare and ISPA was strongly encouraged in the roadmaps, but not obligatory. Funds would be allocated between the three pre-accession instruments (Phare, ISPA and SAPARD) in a flexible manner, in the light of the specific needs and capacity for absorption of each of the two countries.

The Commission held an exchange of views on the total volume of the pre-accession funds to be allocated to Bulgaria and Romania by the end of 2006.

Following this discussion, the Commission adopted the communication in COM(2002)624/3 for transmission to Parliament and the Council.

18. COUNCIL MEETINGS (continued from item 11)

(SI(2002)1294)

EDUCATION, YOUTH AND CULTURE

(BRUSSELS, 11 AND 12 NOVEMBER)

(SI(2002)1318)

Ms REDING reported on the Council's very favourable and unanimous welcome for the proposal establishing the *Erasmus World* programme.

19. RELATIONS WITH NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES

19.1. EU-RUSSIA SUMMIT

(BRUSSELS, 11 NOVEMBER)

The PRESIDENT and Mr PATTEN outlined the main results of the summit between the EU and Russia on 11 November in Brussels. They welcomed in

particular the agreement reached on arrangements for transit between Kaliningrad and the remainder of Russia after the accession of Lithuania and Poland. The Danish Presidency had played a key role in securing this agreement, and there had been excellent coordination between Commission departments.

Concerning the situation in Chechnya, they repeated their concern about the difficulties of access for the humanitarian organisations and the safety of NGO staff. Mr NIELSON emphasised the need to maintain the efforts currently being made in this area, as long as the humanitarian organisations had the will and the courage to continue their work. He mentioned some approaches that could help improve the situation.

19.2. PROPOSED PEACE PLAN FOR CYPRUS

Mr VERHEUGEN summarised the peace plan presented that week by the United Nations to the two communities in Cyprus. He outlined the various steps that could enable the whole island to accede to the EU, as wished by the EU. The Council meeting (General affairs and external relations) on 18 and 19 November (see also item 11 above) would not be discussing this plan in detail, but would no doubt be expressing its full support.

The Commission held a brief exchange of views on the effects of the proposed peace plan as regards the application to Cyprus of the fundamental principles of the Union and the existing body of Community law and practice.

19.3. POLITICAL SITUATION IN TURKEY

Mr VERHEUGEN reported on the political situation in Turkey following the general election on 3 November, and the various reactions of the international community. He reminded the meeting of the line agreed by the Commission

on 9 October on the question of Turkey's possible accession, and of the need to stick to that position.

Following an exchange of views, the Commission noted that its own role was vital in relations between the EU and Turkey and would continue to be so.

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The meeting closed at 1245 hours.