



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2003)1615

Brussels, 11 June 2003

MINUTES
of the 1615th meeting of the Commission
held in Strasbourg
(Winston Churchill Building)
on Tuesday 3 June 2003
(afternoon)

These minutes were approved by the Commission at its 1616th meeting, held in Brussels on 11 and 12 June 2003.

They contain 17 pages.

CONTENTS

Attendance list	4-5
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1. AGENDAS AND QUARTERLY ROLLING PROGRAMME (OJ(2003)1615/3; SEC(2003)644/2; SEC(2003)661).....	7
2. WEEKLY MEETING OF CHEFS DE CABINET (SEC(2003)1615)	7
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND SPECIAL MINUTES OF 1614TH MEETING (27 MAY) (PV(2003)1614; PV(2003)1614, PART II AND /2)	7
4. PARLIAMENT	8
<i>PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS GROUP (SP(2003)1940)</i>	<i>8</i>
5. PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE	10
<i>PREPARATIONS FOR COUNCIL MEETING (TRANSPORT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, ENERGY) (5 AND 6 JUNE) (SI(2003)626; SI (2003)627)</i>	<i>10</i>
6. MONITORING THE APPLICATION OF COMMUNITY LAW	11
<i>STATE AID - CASES POSTPONED (C(2003)1686 to /3; C(2003)1687 to /3)</i>	<i>11</i>
7. WRITTEN PROCEDURES AND EMPOWERMENT	11
7.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED (SEC(2003)645 et seq.)	11
7.2. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES (SEC(2003)646)	12
7.3. EMPOWERMENT (SEC(2003)647 et seq.)	12
7.4. DELEGATION AND SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS	12
7.5. DELEGATION OF POWERS - MANAGEMENT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SIXTH RESEARCH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMMES - DGs RTD, TREN, FISH, ENTR & INFSO (SEC(2003)649)	12

8. WAYS OF PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTHERN PART OF CYPRUS AND BRINGING IT CLOSER TO THE UNION (COM(2003)325 TO /4; SEC(2003)638)	13
9. COMMISSION COMMUNICATION TO PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL TOWARDS MORE ACCESSIBLE, EQUITABLE AND MANAGED ASYLUM SYSTEMS (COM(2003)315 TO /6; SEC(2003)640; C(2003)657)	13
10. COMMISSION COMMUNICATION TO PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMON POLICY ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION, SMUGGLING AND TRAFFICKING OF HUMAN BEINGS, EXTERNAL BORDERS AND THE RETURN OF ILLEGAL RESIDENTS (COM(2003)323 TO /5; SEC(2003)640).....	13
11. COMMUNICATION ON IMMIGRATION, INTEGRATION AND EMPLOYMENT (COM(2003)336 TO /3; SEC(2003)668)	13
12. PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL DECISION ESTABLISHING A PROGRAMME FOR ASSISTANCE TO THIRD COUNTRIES IN THE AREA OF MIGRATION AND ASYLUM.....	14
13. TRENDS IN THE MEMBER STATES (SEC(2003)667).....	15
14. COUNCIL MEETINGS (SI(2003)653)	15
<i>EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL POLICY, HEALTH AND CONSUMERS (LUXEMBOURG, 2 AND 3 JUNE)</i>	<i>15</i>
15. RELATIONS WITH NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES.....	16
<i>VARIOUS POLITICAL MEETINGS: CONFERENCE OF EURO-MED ENERGY MINISTERS (20 - 21 MAY, ATHENS); CONFERENCE OF EURO-MED FOREIGN MINISTERS (26 - 27 MAY, CRETE); EU-CANADA SUMMIT (28 MAY, ATHENS); EU-RUSSIA SUMMIT (31 MAY, ST PETERSBURG); G8 SUMMIT (1 - 3 JUNE, EVIAN).....</i>	<i>16</i>

16. WORK OF THE CONVENTION (SEC(2003)658)	16
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Single sitting: Tuesday 3 June (afternoon)

The sitting opened at 1350 hours with Mr Prodi, President, in the chair.

Present:

Mr PRODI	President	
Mr KINNOCK	Vice-President	Items 9 to 16
Ms de PALACIO	Vice-President	
Mr MONTI		
Mr FISCHLER		Items 1 to 12
Mr LIIKANEN		
Mr BUSQUIN		
Mr VERHEUGEN		
Mr PATTEN		
Mr LAMY		
Mr BYRNE		
Mr BARNIER		
Ms REDING		
Ms SCHREYER		Items 15 and 16
Ms WALLSTRÖM		
Mr VITORINO		

Absent:

Mr BOLKESTEIN
Mr SOLBES
Mr NIELSON
Ms DIAMANTOPOULOU

The following sat in to represent absent Members of the Commission

Mr NØRLUND	Chef de cabinet to Mr Bolkestein
Mr BEKX	Deputy Chef de Cabinet to Mr Solbes
Mr CURTIS	A member of Mr Nielson's staff
Mr AZEMOPOULOS	A member of Ms Diamantopoulou's staff

The following also sat in

Mr MARENCO	Deputy Director-General, Legal Service	
Mr MANSERVISI	Chef de cabinet to the President	
Mr DE OLIVEIRA E SOUSA	Director-General, Press and Communication	
Mr KEMPPINEN	Commission Spokesman	
Mr SMULDERS	A member of the President's staff	
Ms RYAN	A member of Mr Kinnock's staff	Items 1 to 8
Mr SCHINAS	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Ms de Palacio	
Mr ESTEVA MOSSO	A member of Mr Monti's staff	Item 16
Ms NEVALAINEN	A member of Mr Liikanen's staff	
Mr VERDEAUX	A member of Mr Barnier's staff	
Mr NUNES DE ALMEIDA	A member of Mr Vitorino's staff	
Mr MASSANGIOLI	Secretariat-General	
Mr PONZANO	Secretariat-General	

Secretary: Mr O'SULLIVAN, Secretary-General, assisted by Ms BUGNOT, Director in the Secretariat-General.

**1. AGENDAS AND QUARTERLY ROLLING PROGRAMME
(OJ(2003)1615/3; SEC(2003)644/2; SEC(2003)661)**

The Commission took note of that day's agenda, the tentative agendas for future meetings, and the quarterly rolling programme of items to be entered on the agenda from 11 June to 23 September.

**2. WEEKLY MEETING OF CHEFS DE CABINET
(SEC(2003)1615)**

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 2 June.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND SPECIAL MINUTES OF 1614th MEETING
(27 May)
(PV(2003)1614; PV(2003)1614, Part II and /2)**

The Commission decided:

- to approve the special minutes of its 1614th meeting, and
- to hold over approval of the ordinary minutes of its 1614th meeting.

4. PARLIAMENT

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS GROUP

(SP(2003)1940)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Parliamentary Affairs Group held on 28 May.

It paid particular attention to the following:

Preparations for June I part-session

(point 2 of the record)

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.

It paid particular attention to the following:

Reform of the CAP:

- CUNHA report - Direct support schemes,
COM(2003)23-1 - 03/0006 (CNS)
- OLSSON report - Support for rural development,
COM(2003)23-2 - 03/0007 (CNS)
- SOUCHET report - Common organisation of the market in cereals,
COM(2003)23-3 - 03/0008 (CNS)
- SOUCHET report - Common organisation of the market in dried fodder,
COM(2003)23-5 - 03/0010 (CNS)
- BAUTISTA OJEDA report - Common organisation of the market in rice,
COM(2003)23-4 - 03/0009 (CNS)

- JEGGLE report - Levy in the milk and milk products sector,
COM(2003)23-7 - 03/0012 (CNS)
- JEGGLE report - Common organisation of the market in milk and milk products,
COM(2003)23-6 - 03/0011 (CNS)
- RODRIGUEZ RAMOS report - Multifunctionality and reform of the CAP

The Commission adopted the line set out in SP(2003)1914.

Information note:

- FOURTOU report - Relations with the complainant in respect of infringements of
Community law,
COM(2002)141

The Commission adopted the line set out in SP(2003)1948.

Action taken on Parliament's opinions and resolutions

(point 5 of the record)

The Commission adopted the replies to non-legislative opinions and own-initiative resolutions adopted by Parliament to which the Commission had undertaken to reply (SP(2003)1893/2 and /3), for transmission to Parliament.

Other matters

(point 8 of the record)

Commission opinion on the Statute for MEPs:

The Commission approved the opinion on the Statute for MEPs (SEC(2003)1342/3) for urgent transmission to Parliament before the definitive adoption of the Statute in plenary.

5. PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE

***PREPARATIONS FOR COUNCIL MEETING (TRANSPORT,
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, ENERGY)***

(5 AND 6 JUNE)

(SI(2003)626; SI (2003)627)

- Telecommunications

Regulation establishing the European Network and Information Security Agency

With a view to the Council meeting (Transport, Telecommunications, Energy) on 5 and 6 June, the Commission decided to table a statement noting that the current Presidency compromise contained elements that the Commission could not support, since taken together they would water down its initial proposal. The statement would also clarify that the Commission reserved the right, in the light of the opinion to be given by Parliament and any other factors, to take whatever action was appropriate before a definitive decision was taken on this matter.

- Transport

External relations in the field of air transport

The Commission authorised Ms de PALACIO, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, to accept the package covering external relations in the field of air transport and to confirm the two statements concerning the question of airports operating at capacity and the future of the existing bilateral agreements, while noting that the Commission considered the *ad hoc* procedure for the "United States mandate" to be too restrictive.

Allocation of slots at Community airports

The Commission authorised Ms de PALACIO, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, to split the proposal so as to preserve the effectiveness of the stand-alone Regulation by bringing it into force as soon as possible, while reminding the Council of the need to reach political agreement speedily on the remainder of the proposal concerning the technical revision of the Regulation in relation to take-off and landing slots.

6. MONITORING THE APPLICATION OF COMMUNITY LAW

STATE AID - CASES POSTPONED

(C(2003)1686 to /3; C(2003)1687 to /3)

The Commission adopted the decisions in C(2003)1686/3 and C(2003)1687/3 relating respectively to Cases C 87/2001 (ex NN 108/1999) - United Kingdom and C 88/2001 (ex NN 109/1999) - United Kingdom.

7. WRITTEN PROCEDURES AND EMPOWERMENT

7.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED

(SEC(2003)645 et seq.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 26 and 28 May.

7.2. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES

(SEC(2003)646)

The Commission took note of written procedures initiated between 26 and 28 May for the adoption of decisions with political implications.

7.3. EMPOWERMENT

(SEC(2003)647 et seq.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 26 and 28 May.

7.4. DELEGATION AND SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation procedure between 26 and 28 May, as archived on the "Greffé 2000" (Registry) website.

**7.5. DELEGATION OF POWERS - MANAGEMENT OF THE ACTIVITIES
OF THE SIXTH RESEARCH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMMES - DGs
RTD, TREN, FISH, ENTR & INFSO**

(SEC(2003)649)

The Commission decided to delegate powers (empowerment and delegation of powers) for the management of the activities of the sixth framework programmes for research under the Research, Energy and Transport, Fisheries, Enterprise and Information Society DGs, as set out in SEC(2003)649.

**8. WAYS OF PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE
NORTHERN PART OF CYPRUS AND BRINGING IT CLOSER TO THE
UNION**

(COM(2003)325 to /4; SEC(2003)638)

Having taken note of the information supplied during the meeting by
Mr VERHEUGEN concerning the general political backdrop to this question, the
Commission approved the communication in COM(2003)325/4 for transmission to
Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of
the Regions.

**9. COMMISSION COMMUNICATION TO PARLIAMENT AND THE
COUNCIL TOWARDS MORE ACCESSIBLE, EQUITABLE AND
MANAGED ASYLUM SYSTEMS**

(COM(2003)315 to /6; SEC(2003)640; C(2003)657)

**10. COMMISSION COMMUNICATION TO PARLIAMENT AND THE
COUNCIL ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMON POLICY ON
ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION, SMUGGLING AND TRAFFICKING OF
HUMAN BEINGS, EXTERNAL BORDERS AND THE RETURN OF
ILLEGAL RESIDENTS**

(COM(2003)323 to /5; SEC(2003)640)

**11. COMMUNICATION ON IMMIGRATION, INTEGRATION AND
EMPLOYMENT**

(COM(2003)336 to /3; SEC(2003)668)

Mr VITORINO set forth the main points and the underlying purpose of the three communications tabled for Commission adoption. Drawn up in response to various requests by the European Council, they formed an overall package for the Thessaloniki European Council, at which (along with the Convention) they would constitute a major feature of the discussions. Mr VITORINO concluded by praising the hard work put in by the Justice and Home Affairs DG.

The Commission held an in-depth discussion on the three communications, noting their complementary and balanced nature. On the communication *Towards more accessible, equitable and managed asylum systems*, the Commission took note of the cautious line taken, which outlined the Commission's position on the foundations and objectives of a possible new approach and listed numerous legal, financial and practical questions that would need to be settled before a definitive answer could be given.

After its discussions, the Commission approved the communications in COM(2003)315/6, COM(2003)323/5 and COM(2003)336/3 for transmission to the Council and Parliament. COM(2003)336/3 would be also transmitted to the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.

12. PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL DECISION ESTABLISHING A PROGRAMME FOR ASSISTANCE TO THIRD COUNTRIES IN THE AREA OF MIGRATION AND ASYLUM

The Commission noted that political agreement had been reached by Mr PATTEN and Mr VITORINO on this matter and that at its next meeting a formal proposal would be tabled for presentation to the Thessaloniki European Council jointly with the three communications adopted under items 9, 10 and 11 of these minutes.

13. TRENDS IN THE MEMBER STATES

(SEC(2003)667)

Mr VITORINO briefly outlined the main issues covered by the media in May 2003, dominated by enlargement and the work of the Convention. He also drew attention to the results of an opinion poll of 176 journalists from the 15 Member States on their attitudes and expectations as regards information and training concerning EU matters.

The Commission took note of this information and of the note distributed by the PRESIDENT and Mr VITORINO.

14. COUNCIL MEETINGS

(SI(2003)653)

***EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL POLICY, HEALTH AND CONSUMERS
(LUXEMBOURG, 2 AND 3 JUNE)***

Mr BYRNE reported on the Council meeting as far as the dossiers covered by his portfolio were concerned. On the SARS epidemic, the Council had expressed satisfaction over the information collated by the Commission. Agreement had also been reached that would enable the WHO Convention on Tobacco Control to be signed.

Mr LIIKANEN drew attention to the positive outcome of the Council meeting, which had reached political agreement on the proposals for a Regulation and a Directive on the authorisation of medicinal products for human use. This was a major reform in support of a harmonised pharmaceutical products market in Europe,

though problems remained with respect to the Management Board of the European Medicinal Products Agency.

15. RELATIONS WITH NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES

VARIOUS POLITICAL MEETINGS:

CONFERENCE OF EURO-MED ENERGY MINISTERS (20 - 21 MAY, ATHENS);

CONFERENCE OF EURO-MED FOREIGN MINISTERS (26 - 27 MAY, CRETE);

EU-CANADA SUMMIT (28 MAY, ATHENS);

EU-RUSSIA SUMMIT (31 MAY, ST PETERSBURG);

G8 SUMMIT (1 - 3 JUNE, EVIAN)

The Commission took note of the information communicated by the PRESIDENT, Mr PATTEN and Ms de PALACIO concerning various meetings in which they had taken part. It held a wide-ranging exchange of views on the state of relations with the USA and Russia and the future outlook. It agreed to hold in due course an in-depth discussion on the Union's external relations on the basis of material to be prepared by the PRESIDENT and the Commission Members concerned.

16. WORK OF THE CONVENTION

(SEC(2003)658)

The Commission took note of the information communicated by Mr BARNIER and Mr VITORINO on the work of the Convention following the meetings of the Presidium on 28 and 31 May and the plenary session on 30 and 31 May. Following

an in-depth discussion, the Commission defined the line to be taken by its representatives at their meeting on Wednesday with the President and the two Vice-Presidents of the Convention and with a view to the meeting of the Presidium and the plenary session of the Convention on 5 and 6 June.

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

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The meeting closed at 1750 hours.