



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2004)1675 final

Brussels, 26 October 2004

MINUTES
of the 1675th meeting of the Commission
held in Brussels
(Breydel)
on Wednesday 20 October 2004
(morning)

These minutes were approved by the Commission at its 1676th meeting, held in Strasbourg on 26 October 2004.

They contain 29 pages.

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Single sitting: Wednesday 20 October (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 BOLKESTEIN		
Mr VERHEUGEN		
Mr PATTEN		
Mr LAMY		Except items 18 and 19
Mr BYRNE		Items 1 to 16
Ms REDING		
Ms SCHREYER		
Ms WALLSTRÖM		
Mr VITORINO		
Mr DIMAS		
Mr BARROT		
Mr ALMUNIA		Items 1 to 17
Mr BALÁZS		
Ms HÜBNER		
Mr KALLAS		Items 1 to 16
Mr BORG		
Ms KALNIETE		
Ms GRYBAUSKAITĖ		
Mr POTOČNIK		
Mr FIGEL		

Mr KYPRIANOU

Mr TELIČKA

Items 1 to 16

Mr MICHEL

Absent:

Mr NIELSON

Mr REHN

The following sat in to represent absent Members of the Commission

Mr HAMBURGER Chef de cabinet to Mr Nielson

Mr HEDBERG A member of Mr Rehn's staff

The following also sat in

Mr PETITE Director-General, Legal Service

Mr MANSERVISI Chef de cabinet to the President

Mr KEMPPINEN Commission Spokesman

Mr DE OLIVEIRA E SOUSA Director-General, Press and Communication

Mr THOMAS Spokesman

Mr PETRUCCI Spokesman

Ms HOUTMAN Deputy Chef de cabinet to the President Item 17

Mr DE LECEA Adviser in the President's Office

Mr KOOPMAN Chef de cabinet to Mr Kinnock

Mr GARCIA PORRAS A member of Ms de Palacio's staff Items 16 and 17

Mr SOUKUP A member of Mr Monti's staff Items 17 to 19

Mr GAMBS A member of Mr Fischler's staff Item 17

Ms MANFREDI A member of Mr Bolkestein's staff

Mr REDONNET A member of Mr Lamy's staff Items 18 and 19

Mr POWER Chef de cabinet to Mr Byrne Items 17 to 23

Mr Ms SCHELLEKENS	A member of Ms Wallström's staff	Item 19
Mr PIRÃO	A member of Mr Vitorino's staff	
Ms LAMELA	Chef de cabinet to Mr Almunia	
Mr SCHMIDT	A member of Mr Kallas's staff	Items 17 to 23
Mr GRAY	A member of Mr Telička's staff	Items 17 to 23
Mr CARVOUNIS	Press and Communication DG	

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

1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2004)1675/3; SEC(2004)1258/2)

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

2. WEEKLY MEETING OF CHEFS DE CABINET

(SEC(2004)1675)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 18 October.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND SPECIAL MINUTES OF 1674th MEETING
(13 October)**

(PV(2004)1674; PV(2004)1674, Part II and /2)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 1674th meeting.

4. PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE

COUNCIL AFFAIRS GROUP (CAG)

(SI(2004)838 and /2)

The Commission took note of the record of the Council Affairs Group meeting held on Friday 15 October.

It paid particular attention to the following:

i) **Follow-up to the work of Economic Policy Committee concerning the reduction of the administrative burden**

(point 3 of the record)

The Commission approved the political line set out in SI(2004)838/2 and the various language elements it contained, with a view to their use within the Council.

ii) **Draft framework decision on the storage of data processed and retained for the purpose of providing electronic public communications services or data available in public communications networks with a view to the prevention, investigation, detection and prosecution of criminal acts, including terrorism**

(point 6 of the record)

The Commission noted that, at this stage, with a view to the discussions to be held by the group of Council experts on 19 and 20 October, the Commission's representatives would not take positions that could contradict the opinion of the Legal Service. It took note of the urgency of holding, under the authority of the PRESIDENT, an in-depth discussion between all the Members' Offices and departments concerned, so as to clarify not only the position to be taken in the Council but also a more general strategy in this matter.

5. WRITTEN PROCEDURES AND EMPOWERMENT

5.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED

(SEC(2004)1259 et seq.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 11 and 15 October.

5.2. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES
(SEC(2004)1260)

The Commission took note of written procedures initiated between 11 and 15 October for the adoption of decisions with political implications.

5.3. EMPOWERMENT
(SEC(2004)1261 et seq.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 11 and 15 October.

**5.4. EMPOWERMENT OF A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION TO
APPROVE THE INTERMEDIARY BODIES PROPOSED BY THE
MEMBER STATES FOR THE INDIRECT CENTRALISED
MANAGEMENT OF THEIR DOMESTIC EUROPE DIRECT
INFORMATION RELAYS**
(SEC(2004)1279 and /2)

The Commission approved the empowerment decision in SEC(2004)1279.

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 11 and 15 October, as archived on the "Greffé 2000" (Registry) website.

**6. e-COMMISSION: INTEROPERABILITY - INTEGRATED INFORMATION
FOR INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT
(SEC(2004)1265 to /4; SEC(2004)1288)**

The Commission adopted the conclusions set out at item 8 of SEC(2004)1265/4.

**7. COMMUNICATION TO THE COMMISSION ON THE IMPROVEMENT
OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY GOVERNANCE IN THE
COMMISSION
(SEC(2004)1267 to /3; SEC(2004)1288)**

The Commission adopted the conclusions set out at item 8 of SEC(2004)1267/3.

**8. COMMUNICATION TO THE COMMISSION ON STRUCTURAL
INDICATORS
(SEC(2004)1285 and /2; SEC(2004)1286)**

The Commission:

- approved the communication in SEC(2004)1285;
- took note of the Commission staff paper in SEC(2004)1286 for transmission to the Council, and authorised the Economic and Financial Affairs DG to distribute it outside the Commission as necessary.

**9. ARTICLE 86(3) DECISION (CASE COMP/38.745 - BDKEP/GERMANY -
RESTRICTIONS IN THE MAIL PREPARATION SECTOR)
(C(2004)4001 to /3; SEC(2004)1273)**

The Commission:

- adopted, in the authentic language (German), the draft decision in C(2004)4001/3 establishing that Article 51(1), second sentence, item 5, of the German postal law, as interpreted in its legislative context by the national regulator concerned, was contrary to Article 86(1), read in conjunction with Article 82, of the EC Treaty, and asking the German Government to inform the Commission, within two months from the date of notification of the decision, of the measures it had taken to bring this infringement to an end;
- decided that a summary of the decision would be published in all the official languages in the L series of the Official Journal (with any business secrets removed). The decision would also be made available on the internet.

**10. REVISION OF COMMISSION REGULATION (EC, EURATOM)
No 2342/2002 OF 23 DECEMBER 2002 LAYING DOWN DETAILED RULES
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COUNCIL REGULATION (EC,
EURATOM) No 1605/2002 ON THE FINANCIAL REGULATION
APPLICABLE TO THE GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITIES
(COM(2004)684/2; SEC(2004)1310 and /2; SEC(2004)1295)**

The Commission approved the draft Regulation in SEC(2004)1310/2.

It noted that the other Community institutions would be consulted on the draft before it was tabled for definitive adoption.

**11. COMMISSION DECISION ON A PROCEEDING UNDER ARTICLE 81 OF
THE EC TREATY (CASE COMP/C.38.238/B2 - RAW TOBACCO, SPAIN)
(C(2004)4030 to /9; SEC(2004)1318)**

The Commission:

- took note of the opinion of the Advisory Committee on Restrictive Practices and Dominant Positions of 11 and 18 October as set out in C(2002)4030/3 and /7;
- took note of the final report of the Hearing Officer of 11 October in C(2004)4030/4;
- adopted, in the authentic languages (English, Spanish and Italian), the decision in C(2004)4030/8 and /9 noting that *Compañía Española de Tabaco en Rama, S.A.*, *World Wide Tobacco España, S.A.*, *Tabacos Españoles, s.l.*, *Agroexpansión, S.A.*, *Deltafina SpA*, *Dimon Incorporated*, *Standard Commercial Corporation*, *Standard Commercial Tobacco Co. Inc.*, *Trans-Continental Leaf Tobacco Corporation Ltd*, *Asociación Agraria de Jóvenes Agricultores*, *Unión de Pequeños Agricultores*, *Coordinadora de Organizaciones de Agricultores y Ganaderos* and *Confederación de Cooperativas de Organizaciones Agrarias de España* had infringed Article 81 of the EC Treaty and imposing fines on them totalling €20 034 000 as regards the first nine companies and €4 000 as regards the other four;
- decided that the most important parts of the decision would be published in all the official languages in the L series of the Official Journal (with business secrets removed). The decision would also be made available on the internet.

**12. CONVERGENCE REPORT 2004 (PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
ARTICLE 122(2) OF THE TREATY)**

(COM(2004)690 to /3; SEC(2004)1268/3; SEC(2004)1275)

Mr ALMUNIA briefly introduced the communication he was tabling.

Having noted the explanations supplied, the Commission approved the communication in COM(2004)690/3 for transmission to the Council, together with the staff paper in SEC(2004)1268/3.

13. COUNCIL MEETINGS

(SI(2004)828)

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

(LUXEMBOURG, 21 OCTOBER)

Mr ALMUNIA stated that he intended to inform the Council of the latest developments concerning the data on the Greek public deficit for the previous years. He summarised the checks carried out by Eurostat, following the latest notification by the Greek authorities, as regards the scope and origins of the deviations observed in comparison with the figures communicated at the previous notifications. Against this background, Mr ALMUNIA outlined the action that might be contemplated with a view to strengthening governance in the field of budgetary statistics at EU level.

The Commission took note of this information.

**14. PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION APPLYING A SCHEME OF
GENERALISED TARIFF PREFERENCES
(COM(2004)699 to /4; SEC(2004)1296)**

Mr LAMY introduced the proposal for a Regulation to implement the new generalised preferences system (GSP). This followed the communication of 7 July (COM(2004)461 final), drawing the lessons of the present system, and put into operational practice the principles agreed therein for an initial period of three years. After explaining the philosophy of the reform, Mr LAMY mentioned in particular the crucial need to simplify the system, since its complexity was, in his opinion, one of the underlying reasons for the present under-exploitation of the system. He also pointed to the technical and political conditionality of the new GSP+ scheme. Furthermore, while reminding the meeting of the generosity of the European system for granting tariff preferences compared with that of other large economic areas, Mr LAMY traced the background of the trade dispute concerning the special drugs scheme, on which the WTO disputes settlement panel had recently ruled, and noted that the present proposal was in conformity with WTO rules.

Having taken note of these observations, the Commission held an exchange of views, covering in particular the case of certain countries currently benefiting from the special drugs scheme, which, in the conditions set out in the proposal, would be excluded from the new GSP+ regime.

Following this discussion, the Commission approved the communication in COM(2004)699/4 for transmission to Parliament, the Council and the Economic and Social Committee and, for information, to the Committee of the Regions.

15. OTHER BUSINESS

15.1. SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR SCIENTIFIC ADVISERS

Referring to a case of conflict of interest, now resolved, Mr BYRNE drew the Commission's attention to the need to safeguard the independence and high quality of the scientific advice supplied by the members of the various scientific committees assisting the Commission in its decision-making process. So as to increase the reliability of system, he proposed several measures to strengthen the selection procedures for members of these committees, particularly as regards taking into account factors affecting the public confidence enjoyed by the candidates, the possibility of cancelling an appointment in the event of lack of transparency as to a possible conflict of interest, the inclusion of figures from the scientific world in selection panels, and strengthening the responsibilities of committees as regards warning the Commission about any shortcomings observed and corrective measures to be taken.

The Commission took note of this information.

15.2. CLOSURE OF INVESTIGATION INTO COCA-COLA'S ANTI-COMPETITIVE PRACTICES

Mr MONTI reported on his decision to terminate the investigations carried out by his departments into the Coca-Cola company, following the undertakings that Coca-Cola had given the Commission with the aim of increasing competition on the fizzy soft drinks market in the European Union. He reminded the meeting that the termination decision had been taken under the new rules, in force since 1 May, which stipulated that the undertakings, which were voluntary at this stage, would become binding after a period of

consultation of the operators in the industry concerned and a formal Commission decision, which would probably be taken in spring 2005.

The Commission took note of this information.

16. PARLIAMENT

16.1. OCTOBER I PART-SESSION

(SP(2004)2547)

The Commission took note of the information supplied relating to Parliament's part-session of 13 and 14 October (SP(2004)2547).

16.2. ACTION TO BE TAKEN ON PARLIAMENT'S OPINIONS

(SP(2004)2533)

The Commission took note of the summary of Parliament's legislative opinions at the October I part-session (SP(2004)2533).

16.3. PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS GROUP

(SP(2004)2568)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Parliamentary Affairs Group held on 14 October (SP(2004)2568).

It paid particular attention to the following:

Withdrawal of Commission proposals

Ms de PALACIO reported on the situation of three proposals on oil stocks submitted to the two arms of the legislative authority in 2002. Given that these proposals were blocked both in Parliament and in the Council, and that

Parliament's rejection had also been confirmed following the latest European elections, Ms de PALACIO felt the Commission should withdraw the proposals so as to comply with the framework agreement governing relations between the Commission and Parliament.

Following a brief debate concerning in particular the reasons for the rejection of the proposals by the legislative authority and how best the Commission could relaunch the debate while honouring its obligations to Parliament, the Commission agreed to withdraw the proposals in question. It noted that this withdrawal was a political gesture based on clear and sound arguments, and showed that the Commission had taken and continued to take seriously its responsibilities in this dossier, which was a matter of the first importance.

17. MONITORING THE APPLICATION OF COMMUNITY LAW

17.1. STATE AID

(SEC(2004)1319/2)

The Commission adopted the decisions in SEC(2004)1319/2, subject to the following clarifications:

C 32/2003 FRANCE

ex-NN 122/2000

SERNAM 2 - Revision of restructuring aid

(C(2004)3940 to /4)

Decision: Final partly positive and partly negative conditional
decision

Questioned on this matter, Ms de PALACIO indicated that the decision was aimed at preserving the profitability of the company.

N 386/2004 FRANCE SNCF – aid for railfreight restructuring

(C(2004)3955 to /4)

Proposal: Held over

Following an in-depth exchange of views, particularly on the legal, economic and social situation of the sector concerned, similar situations in other Member States, the possibility and the effects of initiating proceedings under Article 88(2) of the Treaty, the degree of autonomy of the firm concerned, the guarantees granted to it by a Member State, the commitments and the contributions of the firm and its profitability after the restructuring process as well as the consistency between the decisions taken in various sectors as regards state aid, the Commission decided to hold this item over to a later date, to be defined in the light of the results of the additional analysis on the dossier that would be carried out in cooperation between the Members' Offices and departments most concerned.

17.2. INFRINGEMENTS

(SEC(2004)1290; SEC(2004)1309; SEC(2004)1313)

The Commission adopted the decisions in SEC(2004)1313, subject to the following clarifications:

2003/2133 GERMANY ONE-WAY PACKAGING SYSTEM

Proposal: Referral (implementation delayed for 3 months) +
authorisation of contacts.

The Commission held a brief exchange of views on this case. It took note of the clarifications as to developments in the dossier and particularly the fact that the problems posed by the *Insellösungen* compared with the provisions of Community law had not been solved. It also noted the information concerning the legislative amendments planned by the German authorities to ensure

compliance with Community law and the need to enable contacts with the German authorities to be continued over the coming months.

In these circumstances, the Commission decided, on a proposal from Mr BOLKESTEIN, to refer the case to the Court of Justice subject to a deadline for implementation of this decision of three months. During this period, it authorised departments to continue their contacts with the competent authorities. It noted that if necessary, and particularly if new factors came to light, the Commission would consider this case afresh.

2003/4358 AUSTRIA HYDROFLUOROCARBONS

2003/4441 DENMARK HYDROFLUOROCARBONS

**2003/4716 AUSTRIA OBSTACLE TO THE FREE MOVEMENT
OF GOODS - HFC**

Proposal: Letter of formal notice + press release

**1999/4452 SWEDEN DISCRIMINATORY TAXATION ON
WINE COMPARED TO BEER**

Proposal: Referral

**17.3. CASES POSTPONED (DOCUMENTS UNAVAILABLE)
(SEC(2004)1291)**

The Commission adopted the decisions in SEC(2004)1291.

**17.4. MONITORING THE APPLICATION OF COMMUNITY LAW IN THE
ENLARGED EUROPEAN UNION INCLUDING PROPOSED
TEMPORARY AMENDMENT TO THE EMPOWERMENT PROCEDURE
IN THE AREA OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DIRECTIVES
(SEC(2004)1246)**

The Commission adopted the decision in SEC(2004)1246.

**18. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS
(SEC(2004)1262/3)**

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
(PERS(2004)196/2)**

**18.1. DG/AIDCO - REDEPLOYMENT IN THE INTEREST OF THE SERVICE
OF AN A*16 OFFICIAL TO THE FUNCTION OF DEPUTY
DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

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

- to fill the function of Deputy Director-General in the EuropeAid Cooperation Office by the redeployment, in the interest of the service and with his post, of Mr Hugh RICHARDSON, an A*16 official, currently Deputy Director-General, Research. This decision would take effect on a date to be fixed by agreement with the Commission Members concerned;

- to terminate, with immediate effect, the appointment procedure for the function of Deputy Director-General previously published as COM/126/04.

18.2. DG REGIO – FUNCTION OF DIRECTOR (EU-10)

(PERS(2004)157 to /3)

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(2) of the Staff Regulations (former nomenclature) for the function of Director in the Regional Policy DG, created by Commission decision of 18 February and reserved for a national of one of the new Member States (PERS(2004)157).

The Commission took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 24 August and 10 September (PERS(2004)157/2 and /3).

The Commission proceeded to compare the applicants' qualifications for the post. On a proposal from Mr KINNOCK, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr BARROT, it then decided to appoint Ms Katarina MATHERNOVA to the post.

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

18.3. DG/ADMIN - EARLY RETIREMENT EXERCISE 2004 –

PUBLICATIONS OFFICE LIST

(C(2004)4089)

The Commission, on a proposal from Mr KINNOCK, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, adopted the decision in C(2004)4089, including the list of four officials to be retired.

This decision would take effect immediately.

**18.4. APPLICATION OF ARTICLE 50 OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS
(INITIAL STAGE) WITH RESPECT TO AN A*15 OFFICIAL**

The Commission decided to initiate the procedure laid down in Article 50 of the Staff Regulations in respect of an A*15 official.

18.5. DG TRADE - AMENDMENT OF ORGANISATION CHART

This item was held over for a later meeting.

**18.6. DG/DEV - AMENDMENT OF ORGANISATION CHART - CREATION
OF A FUNCTION OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND
REDEPLOYMENT IN THE INTEREST OF THE SERVICE OF AN A*16
OFFICIAL**

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

- to approve the creation of a function of Deputy Director-General at A*/AD 15/16 in the Development DG;
- to fill this function by the redeployment, in the interest of the service and with his post, of Mr Athanassios THEODORAKIS, an A*16 official, currently Adviser *hors classe* attached to the Director-General, Development;
- to abolish the function of Adviser *hors classe* in the Development DG thereby made vacant.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

**18.7. DG/ECHO - REDEPLOYMENT IN THE INTEREST OF THE SERVICE
OF AN A*16 OFFICIAL TO THE FUNCTION OF
DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

On a proposal from Mr KINNOCK, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, Mr NIELSON, Mr FISCHLER and Mr VITORINO, the Commission decided to fill the function of Director-General of the Directorate-General, Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) created by Commission decision of 3 September, by the redeployment in the interest of the service and with his post of Mr Antonio CAVACO SERVINHO, an A*16 official in the Fisheries DG, currently detached in the interest of the service to Mr VITORINO's Office to perform the duties of Chef de cabinet.

This decision would take effect on 1 December. For November 2004, Mr CAVACO SERVINHO would be detached to Mr MICHEL's Office as Adviser *hors classe*.

The Commission thanked Ms Costanza ADINOLFI, Director in the Directorate-General in question and responsible for performing the duties of Director-General since 3 September, for the excellent quality of her work.

**18.8. DG/TREN – RAILWAY AGENCY - ADOPTION OF SHORTLIST OF
CANDIDATES FOR THE FUNCTION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
(PERS(2004)200)**

The Commission took note of the opinion of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 13 October (PERS(2004)200) and decided, on a proposal from Mr KINNOCK, in agreement with the PRESIDENT:

- to approve the shortlist of three candidates recommended by Ms de PALACIO in PERS(2004)196/2;

- to consider this list as a Commission proposal under Article 31 of Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) No 881/2004 of 29 April 2004;
- to ask Ms de PALACIO to communicate this decision to the Management Board of the European Railway Agency.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

OTHER MATTERS

18.9. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF COMMISSION DEPARTMENTS

The Commission took note of the urgent need to regroup certain departments in the light of the requirements for frequent contact within or between them, as well as the explanations supplied by Mr KINNOCK on striking the right balance between the benefits secured by such regroupings and the costs incurred by the resulting removals. It noted in particular that the interdependent removals that would follow the inauguration of the Berlaymont building would be based on the objective of locating each department as efficiently as possible, preferably in a single building, so as to secure geographical proximity between departments frequently working together and to keep costs down to an acceptable level. Mr KINNOCK reminded the meeting that the Development DG and the Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) were regarded as having the first priority in returning to the centre. These departments would therefore be relocated in the Schuman area by the end of the first half of 2005 at the latest. Synergies between the Development DG and the other departments responsible for external relations would be reflected in the choice of location for that DG.

18.10. INAUGURATION OF THE BERLAYMONT BUILDING

Mr KINNOCK, reminding the meeting that the present meeting was the last the Commission would be holding in the Breydel building, invited all

Commission Members to the inauguration ceremony for the Berlaymont building, to be held on Thursday 21 October.

19. NATIONAL ALLOCATION PLANS FOR GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION ALLOWANCE AUTHORISATIONS: COMMISSION COMMUNICATION TO PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL AND COMMISSION DECISIONS CONCERNING THE PLANS NOTIFIED BY BELGIUM, ESTONIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, LATVIA, LUXEMBOURG, PORTUGAL AND SLOVAKIA

(COM(2004)681 to /4; C(2004)3982 to /17; SEC(2004)1274)

Ms WALLSTRÖM tabled the results of the examination of a second package of national greenhouse gas allocation plans, as presented by eight Member States.

After noting that the plans in the present package had been assessed according to the same principles as for the first one (PV(2004)1665), Ms WALLSTRÖM pointed out among other things that the decision by President PUTIN to propose to the Duma to ratify the Kyoto Protocol had already produced significant political effects, notably an exchange of authorisations for large quantities of CO₂. She also reported on recent contacts with the competent authorities of some of the Member States concerned, and noted that a third package of decisions should be tabled soon.

After taking note of this information, the Commission:

- approved the communication in COM(2004)681/4 for transmission to Parliament and the Council;
- adopted, in the authentic language in each case, the decisions on the allocation plans of eight Member States, as set out in C(2004)3982, /3, /6, /10, /12, /15, 16 and /17.

- 20. PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TO TERRORIST ATTACKS**
- 21. PREVENTION OF AND FIGHT AGAINST TERRORIST FINANCING THROUGH MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION, TO STRENGTHEN TRANSPARENCY AND ENHANCE THE TRACEABILITY OF FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS**
- 22. PREPAREDNESS AND CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM**
- 23. CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM**
(COM(2004)698 to /4; COM(2004)700 A /3; COM(2004)701 and /2, COM(2004)702 to /3, SEC(2004)1297, SEC(2004)1316)

Mr VITORINO presented the four communications before the Commission, which constituted the Commission's response to requests from the June European Council. He reminded the meeting of the priority accorded by the European Council to combating terrorism, following the attacks in Madrid on 11 March, and pointed to the political importance for the Commission of taking this up. Mr VITORINO explained the scope of the overall package made up of the four communications, the first of which explained the general approach being suggested while the other three tackled individual aspects of the problem.

Ms SCHREYER endorsed Mr VITORINO's remarks on the political importance of combating terrorism, making reference to the priority recognised for this theme both by the Council and by Parliament when drawing up the 2005 budget.

The Commission, after taking note of this information:

- approved the communications in COM(2004)698/4, COM(2004)700/3, COM(2004)701/2 and COM(2004)702/3, subject to replacing the second sentence of the second paragraph of item 4.2 of the communication COM(2004)701/2 (page 10) by the following sentence: "*A new central entry point will be created and built upon the existing structures available within the Commission.*";
- decided to transmit the four communications to the Council and Parliament;
- approved the working document in SEC(2004)1316 for transmission to the Council.

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

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The meeting closed at 1240 hours.