



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2004)1677 final

Brussels, 10 November 2004

MINUTES
of the 1677th meeting of the Commission
held in Brussels
(Breydel)
on Wednesday 3 November 2004
(morning)

These minutes were approved by the Commission at its 1678th meeting, held in Brussels on 10 November 2004.

They contain 9 pages.

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Single sitting: Wednesday 3 November (morning)

The sitting opened at 1015 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 NIELSON	
Mr VERHEUGEN	
Mr PATTEN	
Mr LAMY	
Ms REDING	
Ms SCHREYER	
Mr VITORINO	
Mr DIMAS	
Mr BARROT	
Mr ALMUNIA	
Mr BALÁZS	
Ms HÜBNER	
Mr KALLAS	
Mr BORG	
Ms KALNIETE	
Ms GRYBAUSKAITĒ	
Mr POTOČNIK	
M. FIGEL	
Mr KYPRIANOU	

Mr TELIČKA

Mr MICHEL

Absent:

Mr BYRNE

Ms WALLSTRÖM

Mr REHN

The following sat in to represent absent Members of the Commission

Mr POWER	Chef de cabinet to Mr Byrne
Ms CARPARELLI	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Ms Wallström
Mr FRUTUOSO MELO	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Mr Rehn

The following also sat in

Mr PETITE	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 GOZI	A member of the President's staff
Mr LEVI	GOPA
Mr CARVOUNIS	Press and Communication DG

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

1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2004)1677/3; SEC(2004)1359/2)

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)1677)

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND SPECIAL MINUTES OF 1676th MEETING

(26 October)

(PV(2004)1676 and /2; PV(2004)1676, Part II)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 1676th meeting.

4. PARLIAMENT

4.1. OCTOBER II PART-SESSION

(SP(2004)2708)

The Commission took note of the information supplied relating to Parliament's part-session of 25 to 28 October (SP(2004)2708).

4.2. ACTION TO BE TAKEN ON PARLIAMENT'S OPINIONS
(SP(2004)2705)

After taking note of the summary of the opinions expressed by Parliament at its October II part-session on legislative proposals, the Commission approved the proposal for empowerment on the action to be taken on the amendments presented by Parliament under the codecision procedure (SP(2004)2705).

5. WRITTEN PROCEDURES AND EMPOWERMENT

5.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED
(SEC(2004)1360 et seq.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 25 and 29 October.

5.2. EMPOWERMENT
(SEC(2004)1362 et seq.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 25 and 29 October.

5.3. DELEGATION AND SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation procedure between 25 and 29 October, as archived on the "Grefte 2000" (Registry) website.

6. RELATIONS WITH NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES

US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

The Commission conducted an initial analysis of the results of the US presidential election, as known at the time of its meeting and not yet definitive. It commented on the potential implications of these results and the line to be taken in the light of the current relations between the United States and the European Union.

7. OPERATION OF THE COMMISSION DURING THE INTERIM PERIOD (SEC(2004)1381; SEC(2004)1382)

On the basis of the note from the Legal Service distributed as SEC(2004)1382, the Commission took stock of the political and legal situation arising from the fact that it was remaining in office beyond 31 October. Following this exchange of views, the Commission:

- noted that it was impossible for the time being to say exactly how long the current interim period would last and noted the practical and political difficulties this situation created;
- noting that the general principle of the continuity of the public service, which included the need to manage routine business, required the Commission to remain in office beyond the end of its term, confirmed that it would exercise its powers within the limits it set itself;
- highlighted the importance of ensuring institutional continuity in the various forums where the Commission was represented; in this connection, asked the Commissioners concerned to monitor closely business in the other institutions,

particularly concerning the 2003 discharge procedure and the finalisation of the 2005 budgetary procedure;

- approved the communication from Mr KINNOCK, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, in SEC(2004)1381.

8. COUNCIL MEETINGS

(SI(2004)889)

8.1. GENERAL AFFAIRS AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

(2 NOVEMBER, BRUSSELS)

Mr MICHEL reported on the main results of the Council meeting and the positions he had defended on behalf of the Commission on certain matters, particularly preparations for the forthcoming EU-Russia summit and the need to maintain an all-embracing approach for the four areas (economy, external security, freedom/security/justice and research/culture/education); the timetable and the foreseeable developments in the Union's relations with Iraq; the Middle East and the Commission's cooperation in the measures proposed by the Secretary-General of the Council; the situation in certain regions of Africa; the priorities for readmission policy.

The Commission took note of this information and commented particularly on the advisability and the nature of agreements that could be envisaged with Iraq at this stage.

**8.2. PREPARATIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL
(4 AND 5 NOVEMBER, BRUSSELS)**

The PRESIDENT referred to the various items due to appear on the agenda for the European Council on 4 and 5 November.

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The meeting closed at 1055 hours.