



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2005)1707 final

Brussels, 29 June 2005

MINUTES
of the 1707th meeting of the Commission
held in Brussels
(Berlaymont)
on Wednesday 22 June 2005
(morning)

These minutes were approved by the Commission at its 1708th meeting, held in Brussels on 29 June 2005.

They contain 25 pages.

CONTENTS

Attendance list 5-7

1. AGENDAS (OJ(2005)1707/3; SEC(2005)813/2).....	8
2. WEEKLY MEETING OF CHEFS DE CABINET (SEC(2005)1707)	8
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND SPECIAL MINUTES OF 1706H MEETING (15 JUNE).....	8
4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS (SEC(2005)803).....	8
RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT	9
5. MONITORING THE APPLICATION OF COMMUNITY LAW	11
STATE AID - RECAPITULATIVE LIST (SEC(2005)842/3)	11
6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES AND EMPOWERMENT	11
6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED (SEC(2005)814 et seq.)	11
6.2. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES (SEC(2005)815)	11
6.3. EMPOWERMENT (SEC(2005)816 et seq.)	12
6.4. DELEGATION AND SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS	12
7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS (SEC(2005)817/2)	12
7.1. DG TAXUD - A*14 / A*15 POST OF CHIEF ADVISER (PERS(2004)144 to /3)	12
7.2. IAS - A*14 POST OF CHIEF ADVISER (EU-10) (PERS(2004)235 to /4)	13
8. COMMISSION REPORT ON THE BUDGETARY SITUATION IN PORTUGAL PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 104(3) OF THE EC TREATY (SEC(2005)836 TO /4; SEC(2005)837; SEC(2005)838 AND /2).....	13

9. COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION FOR A COUNCIL OPINION, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 5(3) OF COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) NO 1466/97 OF 7 JULY 1997, ON THE UPDATED STABILITY PROGRAMME OF PORTUGAL (2005-09) (SEC(2005)834 TO /4; SEC(2005)837).....	14
10. COMMISSION DECISION RELATING TO A PROCEEDING UNDER ARTICLE 82 OF THE EC TREATY AND ARTICLE 54 OF THE EEA AGREEMENT (CASE COMP/A.39.116/B2 – COCA COLA) (C(2005)1829 TO /5)	14
11. GREEN PAPER ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY, OR DOING MORE WITH LESS (COM(2005)265 TO /4; SEC(2005)831).....	15
12. PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION ON THE COMMON ORGANISATION OF THE MARKETS IN THE SUGAR SECTOR	16
13. PROPOSAL FOR A PARLIAMENT AND COUNCIL REGULATION ESTABLISHING ACCOMPANYING MEASURES FOR SUGAR PROTOCOL COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY THE REFORM OF THE EU SUGAR REGIME (COM(2005)266 TO /3; SEC(2005)828; SEC(2005)829).....	19
14. RELATIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES.....	20
14.1. EU–CANADA SUMMIT (NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, 19 JUNE).....	20
14.2. EU–US SUMMIT (WASHINGTON, 20 JUNE)	20
14.3. VISIT BY MR ALMUNIA AND MS HÜBNER TO UKRAINE (KIEV, 16 AND 17 JUNE) (SEC(2005)883).....	21
14.4. MEETING OF EURO-MEDITERRANEAN FINANCE MINISTERS (RABAT- SKHIRAT, 19 AND 20 JUNE 2005) (SEC(2005)882).....	21
15. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS (CONTINUED FROM ITEM 4) (SEC(2005)803)	21

<i>15.1. RELATIONS WITH THE COUNCIL</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>15.2. OTHER BUSINESS.....</i>	<i>22</i>

Single sitting: Wednesday 22 June (morning)

The sitting opened at 0910 hours with Mr Barroso, President, in the chair.

Present:

Mr BARROSO	President
Ms WALLSTRÖM	Vice-President
Mr VERHEUGEN	Vice-President
Mr BARROT	Vice-President
Mr KALLAS	Vice-President
Mr FRATTINI	Vice-President
Ms REDING	
Mr DIMAS	
Mr ALMUNIA	
Ms HÜBNER	
Mr BORG	
Ms GRYBAUSKAITĖ	
Mr POTOČNIK	
Mr FIGEL'	
Mr KYPRIANOU	
Mr REHN	
Mr MICHEL	
Mr KOVÁCS	
Ms KROES	
Ms FISCHER BOEL	
Mr McCREEVY	
Mr ŠPIDLA	
Mr MANDELSON	
Mr PIEBALGS	

Absent:

Ms FERRERO-WALDNER

Mr CHILD

**Chef de cabinet to
Ms Ferrero-Waldner**

Mr PETITE	Director-General, Legal Service	
Mr VALE DE ALMEIDA	Chef de cabinet to the President	
Ms LE BAIL	Commission Spokeswoman	
Ms CORUGEDO STENEBERG	Press and Communication DG	
Mr MANN	Spokesman	Item 12
Mr ITALIANER	Deputy Chef de cabinet to the President	
Mr THEBAULT	Chief Adviser in the President's Office	Item 12
Mr ELLIS	A member of the President's staff	Item 11
Ms LAMELA	Chef de cabinet to Mr Almunia	Items 1 to 10
Mr QUEST	Chef de cabinet to Ms Grybauskaitė	Item 15
Ms SPANOU	A member of Mr Kyprianou's staff	Item 15
Mr BRAKELAND	A member of Mr Michel's staff	Items 12 to 15
Mr SZÜCS	Chef de cabinet to Mr Kovács	Item 15
Mr SØRENSEN	Chef de cabinet to Ms Fischer Boel	Items 12 to 15
Mr BORCHARDT	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Ms Fischer Boel	Item 12
Mr MOAVERO-MILANESI	Deputy Secretary-General	Items 1 to 10
Mr LEARDINI	Secretariat-General	Item 15
Mr SERVOZ	Secretariat-General	Item 15
Mr SLEATH	Secretariat-General	Item 15

PV(2005)1707 final

1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2005)1707/3; SEC(2005)813/2)

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(2005)1707)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 20 June.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND SPECIAL MINUTES OF 1706h MEETING
(15 June)**

(PV(2005)1706; PV(2005)1706, Part II)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 1706th meeting.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(SEC(2005)803)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group held on 17 June (SEC(2005)803).

It paid particular attention to the following:

RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT**i) Preparations for June II part-session - legislation**

(point 1.2.1 of the record)

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

It paid particular attention to the following:

Codecision procedure - 1st reading

- FLORENZ report - placing on the market and use of dangerous substances and preparations (CMR) - COM(2004)638, 04/0225(COD)

The Commission adopted the line set out in SP(2005)2429.

- DUCHON report - protection of the financial interests of the Community - COM(2004)509, 04/0172 (COD)

The Commission adopted the line set out in SP(2005)2549.

- CASHMAN report - Community Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders - COM(2004)391, 04/0127 (COD)

The Commission adopted the line set out in SP(2005)2556.

- GAHLER report - Access to Community external assistance - COM(2004)313, 04/0099 (COD)

The Commission adopted the line set out in SP(2005)2551, decided to deliver the statement contained in SP(2005)2551/2 to Parliament and authorised the Member responsible for development and humanitarian aid to continue contacts with Parliament and the Council with a view to reaching agreement at first reading.

Other dossiers

- KARAS report - Surveillance of budgetary positions and the surveillance and coordination of economic policies - COM(2005)154, 05/0064(SYN) (cooperation procedure, Article 252, 2nd reading)

The Commission adopted the line set out in SP(2005)2550 and authorised the Member responsible for economic and financial affairs to facilitate early agreement at second reading by accepting any compromise amendment that would be in line with its position on Parliament's amendments at first reading and the Council common position that it had supported.

- GAUZÈS report - Quality of statistical data in the context of the excessive deficit procedure - COM(2005)71, 05/0013 (CNS)

The Commission adopted the line set out in SP(2005)2490.

- ii) *Commission Communication on the action taken on opinions and resolutions adopted by Parliament at the May I and II part-sessions***
(point 3.6.2 of the record)

The Commission adopted SP(2005)2482/2 on the action taken on Parliament's opinions and resolutions adopted at its May I and II part-sessions, for transmission to Parliament.

- iii) *Approval of the action taken by the Commission on non-legislative resolutions - April I and II part-sessions***
(point 3.6.3 of the record)

The Commission adopted and decided to transmit to Parliament the replies to the non-legislative resolutions adopted by Parliament at the April I and II part-sessions on which it had undertaken to take action (SP(2005)2323).

iv) *Participation of Members of Parliament in international conferences:*

International conference on the future of Iraq (Brussels, 22 June)

(point 3.8 of the record)

The Commission accepted a request, made by Mr BORRELL, President of Parliament, that one or two Members of Parliament be allowed to take part in the conference in question.

5. MONITORING THE APPLICATION OF COMMUNITY LAW

STATE AID - RECAPITULATIVE LIST

(SEC(2005)842/3)

The Commission adopted the decisions in the recapitulative list of 21 June (SEC(2005)842/3).

6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES AND EMPOWERMENT

6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED

(SEC(2005)814 et seq.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 13 and 17 June.

6.2. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES

(SEC(2005)815)

The Commission took note of written procedures initiated between 13 and 17 June for the adoption of decisions with political implications.

6.3. EMPOWERMENT

(SEC(2005)816 et seq.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 13 and 17 June.

6.4. DELEGATION AND SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation procedure between 13 and 17 June, as archived on the "Greffé 2000" (Registry) website.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

(SEC(2005)817/2)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

(PERS(2005)88)

7.1. DG TAXUD - A*14 / A*15 POST OF CHIEF ADVISER

(PERS(2004)144 to /3)

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a) and 29(2) of the Staff Regulations for the function of Chief Adviser in the Taxation and Customs Union DG (PERS(2004)144).

The Commission took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 17 December 2004 and 17 March 2005 (PERS(2004)144/2 and /3).

The Commission proceeded to compare the applicants' qualifications for the post. It also considered their ability, efficiency and conduct in the service. On a proposal from Mr KALLAS, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr KOVÁCS, it then decided to appoint Mr Matthias MORS to the post.

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

7.2. IAS - A*14 POST OF CHIEF ADVISER (EU-10)
(PERS(2004)235 to /4)

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(2) of the Staff Regulations for the function of Chief Adviser in the Internal Audit Service (PERS(2004)235 and /3) reserved for a national of one of the new Member States.

The Commission took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 21 April and 19 May (PERS(2004)235/2 to /4).

The Commission proceeded to compare the candidates' qualifications for the post. On a proposal from Mr KALLAS, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, it then decided to appoint Ms Agnieszka KAZMIERCZAK to the post.

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

**8. COMMISSION REPORT ON THE BUDGETARY SITUATION IN
PORTUGAL PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 104(3) OF
THE EC TREATY**
(SEC(2005)836 to /4; SEC(2005)837; SEC(2005)838 and /2)

The Commission approved the report in SEC(2005) 836/4 and noted that the document would be transmitted to the Economic and Financial Committee, accompanied by the staff paper distributed as SEC(2005) 838/2.

**9. COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION FOR A COUNCIL OPINION,
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 5(3) OF COUNCIL REGULATION (EC)
No 1466/97 OF 7 JULY 1997, ON THE UPDATED STABILITY
PROGRAMME OF PORTUGAL (2005-09)
(SEC(2005)834 to /4; SEC(2005)837)**

The Commission approved the recommendation in SEC(2005)834/4. It noted that the document was to be sent to the Council, for examination by the Economic and Financial Committee.

**10. COMMISSION DECISION RELATING TO A PROCEEDING UNDER
ARTICLE 82 OF THE EC TREATY AND ARTICLE 54 OF THE EEA
AGREEMENT (CASE COMP/A.39.116/B2 – COCA COLA)
(C(2005)1829 to /5)**

The Commission:

- took note of the opinion of the Advisory Committee on Restrictive Practices and Dominant Positions of 20 May in C(2005)1829/3;
- took note of the final report of the Hearing Officer of 26 May in C(2005)1829/4;
- adopted in the authentic language (English) the decision in C(2005)1829, making the undertakings given by the parties compulsory;
- decided to notify the decision and the final report of the Hearing Officer to the companies concerned;
- decided that the most important parts of the decision, together with the opinion of the Advisory Committee and the final report of the Hearing Officer, would be published in all the official languages in the Official Journal of the European Union (with all business secrets removed);

- decided also to publish the decision (with business secrets removed) on the internet.

11. GREEN PAPER ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY, OR DOING MORE WITH LESS

(COM(2005)265 to /4; SEC(2005)831)

Mr PIEBALGS presented the dossier he was tabling. Emphasising that the initiative came at an opportune moment, with crude oil prices at record levels, forecasts of growing oil consumption and an incoming Council Presidency that was potentially interested in the issue of energy efficiency, he pointed out that the Green Paper was designed to launch a debate at European level, putting a number of specific questions to the interested parties. After the consultation process, the Commission would be able to present a complete action plan in 2006, identifying the measures that would have to be proposed. While an effective energy efficiency policy could make a substantial contribution to competitiveness and employment in the Union – key objectives in the Lisbon strategy – Mr PIEBALGS added that it would likewise contribute to meeting the Kyoto commitments, by promoting a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, and to supporting efforts to improve the Union's security of energy supply. The Green Paper suggested a number of options and avenues to be followed, such as drawing up annual action plans at national level on energy efficiency, backed up by evaluation exercises (benchmarking); information for the public through publicity campaigns and improved labelling of products; changes to taxation to reflect the "polluter pays" principle; use of public procurement to assist the launch of new technologies promoting efficient energy use.

Emphasising the importance of the smooth operation of the energy market, Ms KROES reminded the meeting of the inquiry the Commission had recently opened in the gas and electricity sectors under Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2003 of 16 December 2002 on the implementation of the rules on competition laid down in Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty.

The PRESIDENT welcomed the initiative taken in this important area that could prompt a key political debate in which the Union should demonstrate that it was a world leader. He concluded this item by drawing attention to the transatlantic consensus that existed between politicians and scientists alike.

Having taken note of this information, the Commission approved the Green Paper in COM(2005) 265/4 for transmission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.

12. PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION ON THE COMMON ORGANISATION OF THE MARKETS IN THE SUGAR SECTOR

PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION AMENDING REGULATION (EC) NO 1782/2003 ESTABLISHING COMMON RULES FOR DIRECT SUPPORT SCHEMES UNDER THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY AND ESTABLISHING CERTAIN SUPPORT SCHEMES FOR FARMERS

**PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY SCHEME FOR THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND AMENDING REGULATION (EC) NO 1258/1999 ON THE FINANCING OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY
(COM(2005)263 to /5; SEC(2005)718; SEC(2005)808 and /2; SEC(2005)810; SEC(2005)829)**

Ms FISCHER BOEL introduced the dossier she was tabling and which was a follow up to the communication setting out the Commission's approach to the future of the Community sugar regime (COM(2004) 499 final). As a result of the debate with the European institutions and a wide range of consultative bodies that followed this communication, the proposal being put before the Commission contained new elements designed to enhance the competitiveness of the sugar sector and its market

orientation, and to ensure a sustainable future and a stable long-term planning perspective for the sector. Ms FISCHER BOEL reviewed the key elements of her proposal, which included a 39% price cut over two years, starting in the marketing year 2006/07, aimed at ensuring sustainable market balance; compensation paid to farmers accounting for 60% of this price cut; a four-year voluntary restructuring scheme, drawing on a well-supplied fund, aimed at encouraging less-competitive producers to leave the sector and at offsetting the social and environmental impact of the restructuring process; the new regime to run until 2014/15, without the need for a revision clause. Ms FISCHER BOEL said that the political agreement on these proposals could be reached by the end of the year. She concluded by expressing her conviction that if the Commission failed to act now the Community sugar sector would inevitably face a slow and painful death over the next few years.

Having noted these comments, the Commission held an exchange of views on the issue, in which it focused particularly on the following factors:

- the likely economic and social impact of the reform;
- the case for the proposed price cut and the timetable and pace of the planned reform;
- the possible case for going beyond these proposals and aiming for a more extensive reform;
- the link between the reform of the EU sugar sector and the rules of the World Trade Organisation and the international trade negotiations being conducted under the Doha agenda, in view of the EU's international obligations and the meeting in Hong Kong at the end of the year;
- the consequences of the reform for the final consumer and any impact it might have on public health;
- in the light of the subsidiarity principle, the need to give Member States a certain degree of flexibility in implementing the reform;

- ways of taking into account specific needs and difficulties in certain Member States or certain sectors likely to be more particularly affected by the proposed reform, including the possible need to use the instruments provided for under the cohesion policy;
- the need to think about additional measures to promote the production of biofuels in the less developed countries.

Following this exchange of views, the PRESIDENT noted a very broad consensus on the need for and advisability of a major reform of the sugar sector and on the balanced nature of the proposal. He thanked Ms FISCHER BOEL and the departments for which she was responsible for their constructive and thorough work on this important dossier. Reiterating that the aim of the proposed reform of the common organisation of the markets in the sugar sector - which had not been significantly amended since its creation 40 years ago – was to improve competitiveness and safeguard the future of the EU sugar sector, he drew attention to the impact of the proposed measures, which might compromise economic activity in this sector in certain Member States. In some cases such activity had come into existence because of the advantages offered by the common organisation of the market in the sugar sector. He therefore particularly emphasised the social dimension of the accompanying measures envisaged by the Commission to offset the impact of the restructuring process in the Member States. These would receive particular attention in the negotiations in the Council. The Commission was thereby demonstrating its deep commitment to social solidarity and providing clear proof that the Common Agricultural Policy was perfectly capable of reform.

After its discussions, and subject to any drafting amendments, the Commission adopted the proposals for Regulations set out in COM(2005)263/5 for transmission to the Council, Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee. It also took note of the updated impact assessment in SEC(2005)808/2, which would be transmitted to those institutions as a staff working paper. It noted that the Commission communication in SEC(2005)810 would be published in the Official Journal, given that the reform was supposed to come into effect in the marketing

year 2006/07. Finally, it instructed the Commission Members concerned to examine the question of measures to promote the production of biofuels, including such production in less developed third countries, and, if necessary, to present a proposal on the subject.

**13. PROPOSAL FOR A PARLIAMENT AND COUNCIL REGULATION
ESTABLISHING ACCOMPANYING MEASURES FOR SUGAR
PROTOCOL COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY THE REFORM OF THE EU
SUGAR REGIME**

(COM(2005)266 to /3; SEC(2005)828; SEC(2005)829)

Mr MICHEL briefly introduced the dossier which he was tabling. He emphasised that the reform of the EU sugar regime and the price cut which it entailed could have a profound impact on the 18 ACP countries that were signatories to the sugar protocol and enjoyed preferential sugar exports to the EU. Following the commitments made by the Commission to support the necessary adaptation process in these countries, the proposal for a Regulation that he was presenting established accompanying measures for the countries in question totalling EUR 40 million for 2006. The Community aid would be subject to sustainable strategies specific to each of the countries concerned.

In the light of this information, the Commission:

- approved the proposal for a Regulation set out in COM(2005)266/3, for transmission to the Council and Parliament;
- took note of the impact assessment in SEC(2005)828 for transmission to the above-mentioned institutions as a staff working paper.

14. RELATIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES

14.1. EU–CANADA SUMMIT (NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, 19 JUNE)

14.2. EU–US SUMMIT (WASHINGTON, 20 JUNE)

The PRESIDENT and Mr MANDELSON reported on the outcome of the recent summits between the European Union and Canada and the United States, respectively. They spoke of the high quality of the political dialogue and the constructive tone that had characterised the meetings between the European delegation and the Canadian Prime Minister and the US President and stressed the open and positive approach of the North American leaders, who attributed an important role to the European Union as a strong and privileged partner.

The Commission took note of this information and held a brief exchange of views, focusing particularly on the following points:

- the need for better political follow-up to the results achieved in summits of this sort;
- ways of developing certain dossiers through better coordination at an earlier stage of the process, and the need to build on the dynamism generated during these summits in order to secure practical results;
- the need for the European Union to take advantage of its role as leader in certain areas, such as climate change and official development aid.

The PRESIDENT concluded by emphasising the clear progress that had recently been made in transatlantic relations and the positive atmosphere surrounding them. He suggested that the group of external relations Commissioners should in the near future discuss ways of improving the coordination of the preparations for and follow-up to summits between the European Union and its main partners and report back to the Commission.

**14.3. VISIT BY MR ALMUNIA AND MS HÜBNER TO UKRAINE (KIEV, 16 AND 17 JUNE)
(SEC(2005)883)**

The Commission took note of the information note distributed by Mr ALMUNIA and Ms HÜBNER.

**14.4. MEETING OF EURO-MEDITERRANEAN FINANCE MINISTERS (RABAT-SKHIRAT, 19 AND 20 JUNE 2005)
(SEC(2005)882)**

The Commission took note of the information note distributed by Mr ALMUNIA.

**15. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS (continued from item 4)
(SEC(2005)803)**

15.1. RELATIONS WITH THE COUNCIL

- i) Staff Working Paper: “Progress report on mid-term review of the first generation of country strategy (for EC external assistance)”**
(point 2.4 of the record)

The Commission took note of staff paper annexed to SI(2005)568.

- ii) Proposal for a Council regulation on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).**
(point 2.5 of the record)

Having noted the information from Ms FISCHER BOEL on the outcome of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 20 and 21 June, the Commission endorsed the approach adopted by Ms FISCHER BOEL at the meeting (SI(2005)587/2).

15.2. OTHER BUSINESS

- iii)** Authorisation to accept a compromise on the amended proposal for a new scheme of generalised tariff preferences (GSP) SEC(2005)854 and /2; SEC(2005)856; SI(2005)599)

Having noted the information provided by Mr MANDELSON about the state of the ongoing negotiations in the Council bodies on the new system of generalised preferences, the Commission authorised Mr MANDELSON to accept a majority compromise on the GSP along the lines set out in SEC(2005)854/2.

iv) *Brussels European Council, 16-17 June*

Referring to the ratification process for the Constitution, the PRESIDENT commented on the European Council declaration to the effect that in the current situation, coloured by the results of the French and Dutch referendums, the Union needed a period of reflection in which the Member States would be able to engage in a broad debate on the future of Europe with Members of Parliament, social partners and the general public. The European institutions would also have to contribute to this debate, and the Commission would have a special role to play. Given that the Union would not have a new constitution by the date originally agreed, the PRESIDENT stressed that the “business as usual” approach was not an option, and the Union’s first priority should be to avoid being paralysed by recent events. In an effort to launch a listening exercise and appropriate action, the PRESIDENT, accompanied by Ms WALLSTRÖM, and other Commission Members, planned to visit all of the Member States, where they would discuss the future of Europe with MPs, social partners and young people, etc. In the PRESIDENT’s view, by September the Commission needed to be able to draw up a clear list of its main policy priorities for the near future. At the end of this listening exercise it should produce a strategic roadmap.

On the matter of the financial perspective, the PRESIDENT (citing the conclusions of the European Council) pointed to the need for the Commission to adopt a realistic approach and to be prepared to present any amendments and contributions that the Council Presidency might request. The Commission might also play the role of “broker” in this complicated situation, and the PRESIDENT underlined the particular difficulties that certain Member States would face if no financial perspective were agreed in time for 1 January 2007.

Having taken note of these observations and the additional contribution by Ms GRYBAUSKAITĖ, the Commission held an in-depth exchange of views on the following aspects :

- the nature and outcome of the European Council; an assessment of the negotiations in terms of policy and tactics;
- the possible causes of the No votes in the referendums; the need for the Union to produce a balanced response to the messages sent by the Dutch and French voters; the importance of this answer being European rather than national; the involvement of the Commission in the dialogue with the general public; the need to explain the challenges of the Union and to discuss them with the public; the nature and future of the European social model; the possible case for promoting the adoption of certain parts of the draft constitution ;
- the scope for and importance of securing rapid agreement on the financial perspective; the likely nature of such an agreement; the consequences (particularly for the new Member States) of failure to reach an agreement in time for 1 January 2007; the need for the Commission to work for such an agreement, among other things by acting as the representative of the Community interest and “broker” in the efforts to unite a divided European Council;

- the various factors that might form part of an agreement on the financial perspective; the value of a revision clause providing for a mid-term review of the structure of the EU budget; the possible merits of proposing a second meeting to consider the modernisation of certain aspects of the EU budget;
- the need to work towards a budget system enabling the Union to provide a budgetary response to future challenges facing the Union and to the priorities of its citizens ;
- the possible case for proposing the creation of a new own resource.

Winding up the debate, the PRESIDENT noted :

- that the Commission had an important role to play in the debate on the future of Europe that should take place during the period of reflection, while at the same time recognising the responsibility of the Member States for conducting national debates. It would lend the necessary support to such a process;
- that the Commission would undertake the practical preparations for its participation in this debate during a seminar in September;
- that it would engage in an analysis aimed at setting specific priorities for the short term, while still implementing the strategic objectives it had set itself;
- that it would present a strategic document on the future of Europe at the end of these debates, probably in time for the European Council in June 2006;
- that the Commission believed that securing an agreement on the financial perspective for the period beyond 2007 was a matter of extreme urgency and without such an agreement the Union was in danger of being paralysed;

(22 June 2005)

- that the Commission thought it likely that the Luxembourg Presidency's final "negotiation box" would form the basis for a future agreement and that it was prepared to support the UK Presidency in its efforts to achieve such an agreement;
- that the Commission believed it was important that any future agreement should include a revision clause, both for the structure of expenditure and for revenue;
- that the Commission found itself in a situation where it could and should provide leadership in order to help to bring together the Member States of the European Union.

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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 1325 hours.