



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2006) 1765 final

Brussels, 22 November 2006

MINUTES
of the 1765th meeting of the Commission
held in Strasbourg
(Winston Churchill Building)
14 November 2006
(afternoon)

PV(2006) 1765 final

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Single sitting: Tuesday 14 November 2006 (afternoon)

The sitting opened at 13.10 hours with Mr Barroso, President, in the chair.

Present:

Mr BARROSO	President	
Ms WALLSTRÖM	Vice-President	
Mr VERHEUGEN	Vice-President	Items 1 to 14 (in part)
Mr BARROT	Vice-President	
Mr KALLAS	Vice-President	Items 1 to 13.
Mr FRATTINI	Vice-President	Items 1 to 13.
Mr ALMUNIA		
Ms HÜBNER		
Mr BORG		
Ms GRYBAUSKAITĖ		
Mr POTOČNIK		
Mr REHN		
Mr MICHEL		Items 13 (in part) and 14
Mr KOVÁCS		
Ms KROES		
Ms FISCHER BOEL		
Mr McCREEVY		
Mr ŠPIDLA		
Mr MANDELSON		Items 13 (in part) and 14
Mr PIEBALGS		

Absent:

Ms REDING

Mr DIMAS

Mr FIGEL'

Mr KYPRIANOU

Ms FERRERO-WALDNER

The following sat in to represent absent Members of the Commission

Mr PRONK	Adviser to Ms REDING
Mr ADAMIŠ	Chef de cabinet to Mr FIGEL'
Ms SPANOU	A member of Mr KYPRIANOU's staff
Mr SCHWAIGER	Deputy Chef de Cabinet to Ms FERRERO-WALDNER

The following also sat in

Mr VALE DE ALMEIDA	Chef de cabinet to the President	
Mr PETITE	Director-General, Legal Service	
Mr CARVOUNIS	Deputy Director-General, Communication DG	
Mr LAITENBERGER	Commission Spokesman	
Ms CARVALHO	Acting Director-General, Bureau of European Policy Advisers (BEPA)	
M. KLAUS	A member of the President's staff	Items 1 to 14 (in part)
Mr MORDUE	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Mr VERHEUGEN	Items 1 to 14 (in part)
Ms SCHREIBER	Chef de cabinet to Mr ŠPIDLA	Item 14 (in part)
Ms NIKOLAY	A member of Mr MANDELSON's staff	Items 1 to 13 (in part)
Ms BUGNOT	Secretariat-General	Items 1 to 14 (in part)

Secretary: Ms DAY, Secretary-General, assisted by Mr AYET PUIGARNAU, Director in the Secretariat-General.

1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2006) 1765/3 ;(SEC(2006) 1434/2)

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(2006) 1765)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 13 November.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND SPECIAL MINUTES OF 1764th MEETING
(8 NOVEMBER)**

(PV(2006) 1764 and /2) PV(2006) 1764, Part II)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 1764th meeting.

4. MONITORING THE APPLICATION OF COMMUNITY LAW

INFRINGEMENTS - URGENT CASE

(SEC(2006) 1459)

The Commission adopted the decision in SEC(2006) 1459.

5. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

5.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED

(SEC(2006) 1435 et seq.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 6 and 10 November.

5.2. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES

(SEC(2006) 1436 to /3)

The Commission took note of the sensitive written procedures for which the time limit expired between 13 and 17 November.

5.3. EMPOWERMENT

(SEC(2006) 1437 et seq.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 6 and 10 November.

5.4. DELEGATION AND SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation procedure between 6 and 10 November, as archived on the "Greffé 2000" (Registry) website.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

(SEC(2006) 1438/2)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

(PERS(2006) 153)

**6.1. OPOCE – 2006 PROMOTIONS EXERCISE FOR OFFICIALS
ASSIGNED TO THE PUBLICATIONS OFFICE OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITIES**

(C(2006) 5459 ; C(2006) 5460)

On a proposal from Mr KALLAS, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr FIGEL', the Commission :

- adopted the allocation of appeal priority points, priority points in recognition of work undertaken in the interests of the institution and transitional priority points awarded for the 2006 exercise to officials assigned to the Official Publications Office of the European Communities ;
- adopted the list of officials assigned to the Official Publications Office of the European Communities who were promoted in 2006.

**6.2. SG – APPLICATION OF ARTICLE 50 OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS
(SECOND STAGE) WITH RESPECT TO AN AD16 OFFICIAL**

(C(2006) 5461/2)

The Commission continued its discussions on this matter, begun on 20 September 2006 (PV(2006) 1758).

On a proposal from Mr KALLAS, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, the Commission adopted the decision set out in C(2006) 5461/2 applying the second stage of the procedure laid down in Article 50 of the Staff Regulations to Mr Jorge Manuel DE OLIVEIRA E SOUSA, a grade AD16 official currently Adviser hors classe in the Secretariat-General.

This decision would take effect on 1 December 2006.

7. COMMISSION COMMUNICATION TO PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – ECONOMIC REFORMS AND COMPETITIVENESS : KEY MESSAGES FROM THE EUROPEAN COMPETITIVENESS REPORT 2006

(COM(2006) 697 to /4 ; SEC(2006) 1467 and /2 ; SEC(2006) 1468)

The Commission approved the communication in COM(2006) 697/4 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, and to the national parliaments together with the staff paper SEC(2006) 1467/2, the contents of which were noted.

8. COMMISSION COMMUNICATION TO PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL – REDUCTION OF THE RESPONSE BURDEN, SIMPLIFICATION AND PRIORITY-SETTING IN THE FIELD OF COMMUNITY STATISTICS

(COM(2006) 693 and /2) ; SEC(2006) 1463)

The Commission approved the communication in COM(2006) 693 for transmission to Parliament, the Council and to the national parliaments.

9. COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION FOR A COUNCIL DECISION ESTABLISHING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 104(8), THAT THE ACTION TAKEN BY POLAND IN RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE COUNCIL IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 104(7) OF THE TREATY ESTABLISHING THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, IS PROVING TO BE INADEQUATE (SEC(2006) 1443 to /3 ; SEC(2006) 1464)

The Commission adopted the recommendation distributed as SEC(2006) 1443/3 for transmission to the Council.

10. COMMISSION DECISION ON A PROCEEDING UNDER ARTICLE 8(2) OF COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) 139/2004 ON THE CONTROL OF CONCENTRATIONS BETWEEN UNDERTAKINGS AND ARTICLE 57 OF THE EEA AGREEMENT (CASE COMP/M.4180 – GAZ DE FRANCE/SUEZ) (C(2006) 5419 to /6) ;SEC(2006) 1465)

The Commission

- took note of the opinion of the Advisory Committee on Concentrations of 25 October in C(2006) 5419/4 ;
- took note of the final report of the Hearing Officer of 30 October in C(2006) 5419/5 ;
- adopted, in the authentic language (French), the decision set out in C(2006) 5419/2 and 6, declaring the operation notified compatible with the common market and with the functioning of the agreement on the European Economic Area, subject to total compliance with the conditions and obligations deriving from the commitments entered into, as set out in the second annex to the decision ;

- decided to notify the decision set out in C(2006) 5419, /2 and /6 to the companies concerned, together with the final report of the Hearing Officer and the opinion of the Advisory Committee ;
- 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 the official languages in the Official Journal (with all business secrets removed) ;
- decided to publish the decision (with business secrets removed) on the Internet.

11. RELATIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES

11.1. VISIT TO LATIN AMERICA (URUGUAY, ARGENTINA AND CHILE, 3-7 NOVEMBER 2006) (SEC(2006) 1482)

The Commission took note of the information note from Ms FERRERO-WALDNER in SEC(2006) 1482.

11.2. FOURTH MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TROIKA WITH THE UNITED STATES ON QUESTIONS OF JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND SECURITY (WASHINGTON, 6 NOVEMBER 2006) (SEC(2006) 1479)

The Commission took note of the information note from Mr FRATTINI in SEC(2006) 1479.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

THE IMPLICATIONS FOR BUDGETARY SURVEILLANCE OF THE COMMISSION SERVICES' AUTUMN 2006 ECONOMIC FORECASTS (SEC(2006) 1481)

The Commission took note of the information note from Mr ALMUNIA in SEC(2006) 1481.

13. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – A STRATEGIC REVIEW OF THE « BETTER REGULATION » INITIATIVE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

(COM(2006) 689 to /4 ; COM(2006) 690 to /3 ; COM(2006) 691 to /4 ; SEC(2006) 1457 to /3 ; SEC(2006) 1463)

The PRESIDENT introduced the communication by emphasising its vital importance for the future of the « better regulation » initiative. He thanked Mr VERHEUGEN, in particular, and the other Commission Members and departments for their contributions to the preparation of the texts. The present Commission had always given a very high priority to the simplification of legislation. By presenting this communication the Commission was once again honouring its commitments and taking the initiative in this area.

The PRESIDENT then explained that this package of texts covered the entire legislative cycle, from policy-making to the implementation of the legislation at Community and national levels, and including the impact assessment, simplification and reduction of the administrative burden. He pointed out that, because of joint responsibility, the success or failure of the venture would depend on the commitment of both the European Union and the Member States, and on the quality of their cooperation.

The PRESIDENT also mentioned the incorporation of the « better regulation » initiative into the Lisbon Strategy for growth and employment and the ambitious nature of the current proposals. Their success would depend on the active support of all departments and the Commission's leadership.

Turning to the target of reducing the administrative burden by 25%, the PRESIDENT underlined the political nature of this target and the effect it would have of encouraging all those concerned to commit themselves to achieving it. He referred to background studies which suggested that a 25% reduction was feasible and noted that several Member States had asked the Commission to suggest a quantified target to enable progress to be measured.

As regards improving procedures within the Commission, the PRESIDENT mentioned the creation of the Impact Assessment Board which should become a centre of excellence and hence a reference point in this area, providing effective support to all departments and helping to improve the standard of impact assessments. Clearly, the creation of this body did not undermine the responsibility of Commission Members for policy in their respective areas of responsibility, particularly as regards their right of initiative.

The Board would be answerable to the PRESIDENT and would be chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General responsible for the « better regulation » dossier. Its members would be chosen from the departments with direct expertise in the three areas of impact assessment – economic, social and environmental – without, however, excluding other fields. He explained that the role of the Board would be to ensure compliance with the highest quality standards as regards analysis, consistency between proposals and their impact assessments and the objective appraisal of all policy options.

Lastly, on the subject of institutional continuity between successive Commissions, the PRESIDENT felt that the principle of discontinuity which applied in a number of Member States could not hold at Community level for two main reasons: on one hand, because the Treaty made no provision for it and on the other, because of the

specific nature of the Community decision-making and legislative process, including in terms of the duration of this process.

Nevertheless, the PRESIDENT indicated that the present Commission would encourage its successor to follow its example and consequently re-examine all pending legislative proposals in the light of its own policy priorities. He stressed the political nature of each Commission's action and the importance of being able to decide which proposals would be retained and which abandoned.

He concluded by reminding the meeting of the enormous interest this initiative aroused in the other institutions and the Member States, among the general public, in companies and in the media. He urged all Commission Members to join forces to achieve this ambitious project.

Mr VERHEUGEN thanked the PRESIDENT for his presentation, which he fully supported. He felt that the proposals being presented to the Commission that day would enable the « better regulation » initiative to enter a new phase in which its positive effects would become apparent, particularly in economic terms. The first objective of the initiative is to support and improve the competitiveness of the European economy.

According to Mr VERHEUGEN, the impact assessments would take account of the macroeconomic, microeconomic, social and ecological effects of legislative proposals.

He mentioned studies carried out in several Member States and pilot projects which showed the beneficial effects of simplifying legislation. He stressed the cost savings for businesses and the reduction in the workload of public administrations that would result from such simplification. It required an integrated approach, supported by the EU and the Member States. He announced his intention of presenting quarterly reports to the Commission on the state of implementation of the rolling simplification programme and called on the Commission Members to contribute actively to preparing this within the stated deadlines.

Mr VERHEUGEN believed that reducing the administrative burden by 25% would produce a 1.5% increase in Community GNP, worth approximately €150 billion, which would constitute the most important contribution to growth and employment. He explained, however, that the reduction in the administrative burden would not affect obligations arising from environmental, health and safety and employment protection legislation.

Finally, Mr VERHEUGEN noted that the next Council Presidency would be giving a high priority to all of these questions. He thanked the Commission Members and all of the departments for their contributions and for the support they had given to this difficult and demanding project so far. He urged them to continue their efforts to achieve the objectives laid down in this communication.

After these presentations, the Commission held an in-depth discussion in which the following points were raised :

- the value and even-handedness of the communication on the « better regulation » initiative and of the accompanying documents on the simplification of the regulatory environment and the reduction in administrative burdens ;
- the significant positive impact of the initiative for companies, the European economy and the general public ;
- the important position which the « better regulation » initiative occupied in the present Commission's policy agenda and the importance it would have for future Commissions ;
- the need to ensure long-term and unanimous support for the initiative on the part of the Commission and its departments ;
- the contribution of this initiative made to the Commission's credibility and the predictability of its actions ;

- the importance of maintaining the principle of continuity in the Community legislative process, in the interests of sound management by the Commission, the institutional balance and the success of European legislation ;
- the right of each Commission, in its dual role of initiator of legislation and guardian of the Treaties, to review all ongoing legislative proposals at the beginning of its mandate in the light of its own priorities, or even to re-examine the entire Community *acquis* ;
- the extent of the Member States' responsibility for implementing the proposals for simplification and reducing administrative burdens and the support which the Commission could give them ;
- the need for a proper, long-term communication strategy, particularly as regards the political nature of the 25% target for reducing the administrative burden ;
- the need to bring together in the Impact Assessment Board all of the expertise in the field of impact assessment available inside the Commission, but also to enlist external expertise if necessary ;
- the support the Board would provide for the departments, and the assurance that ultimate responsibility would continue to rest with the Commission.

The PRESIDENT concluded by noting the Commission's unanimous support for all of the documents being presented for its approval, subject to the following amendments to the communication distributed as COM(2006) 689/4:

- in Chapter II, « Progress to date and challenges ahead », Section 2, « Improving the preparation of proposals », Subsection « Screening and withdrawal of pending proposals », the second paragraph would be amended as follows:

« ~~However, an assessment of pending legislation at the beginning of a new political cycle~~ This being said, regular assessments of pending legislation by the Commission throughout the political cycle from its beginning to its end can

contribute to reinforcing political ownership and the overall coherence of the EU's strategic political agenda. » ;

- in the same Subsection, « Screening and withdrawal of pending proposals », the fourth paragraph would be amended as follows:

« Without prejudice to its prerogative to withdraw pending proposals at any given moment, the present Commission ~~recommends that future Commissions should carry out a similar exercise within the first six months of taking office~~ is making a regular screening of pending proposals in the context of preparing work programmes in order to remove any proposals and to verify that the draft legislation on the table of the legislator is in line with political priorities. It believes that any new Commission should carry out a similar exercise in principle within the first six months of taking office. » ;

- in Chapter IV, « Next steps. », Subsection « Screening and withdrawal of pending proposals. », the first and second indents would be amended as follows:

« ~~This Commission recommends that any future Commission carries out a screening of pending proposals in the beginning of its mandate~~ This Commission considers that any future Commission should carry out a screening of pending proposals in principle within the first six months of its mandate in order to verify that the draft legislation on the table of the legislator is in line with political priorities.

~~The Commission will screen pending proposals regularly in the context of preparing the annual work programme to remove any obsolete proposals. The present Commission will continue to screen pending proposals regularly in the context of preparing the annual work programme to remove proposals where appropriate. . ».~~

Subject to these amendments, the Commission approved the communication and the working papers distributed as COM(2006) 689/4, COM(2006) 690/3 and COM(2006) 691/4 for transmission to Parliament, the Council, the European

Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions and to national parliaments.

The Commission also took note of the information note from the PRESIDENT distributed as SEC(2006) 1457/3. With regard to Chapter 3, « Composition of the Board », and specifically the provisions on members of the Impact Assessment Board, the Commission made it clear that it would be up to the Board's President to decide whether to call in additional experts, depending on requirements.

14. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(SEC(2006) 1440)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (IRG) held on Friday 10 November (SEC(2006) 1440).

It paid particular attention to the following :

14.1. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

i) Codecision procedure

(point 1.1.1 of the record)

Codecision 2nd reading

- GEBHARDT report – Services in the internal market – COM(2004) 2 – 2004/0001 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2006) 1048, supplementing the line set out in SP(2006) 4903.

- SACCONI Reports – REACH – COM(2003) 644 – 2003/0256 (COD) and 2003/0257 (COD)

The Commission decided to put on record the statement set out in Annex D to the record of the IRG distributed as SEC(2006) 1440, in the framework of the tripartite discussions currently under way, in order to promote an agreement at second reading.

Conciliation procedure

- BREPOELS report - Infrastructure for spatial information in the « INSPIRE » Community – COM(2004) 516 –2004/0175 (COD)

The Commission authorised Mr DIMAS to pursue the contacts with the co-legislators with a view to the conciliation committee of 21 November reaching a joint draft, following the line set out in SPI(2006) 106.

ii) Preparations for the November I part-session

(point 1.3 of the record)

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

It paid particular attention to the following :

Consultation

- HENNICOT-SCHOEPGES Report – Management of air traffic (SESAR) COM(2005) 602 – 2005/0235 (CNS)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2006) 4828.

iii) Preparation of the Special Committee on Agriculture of 14 and 27 November and 6 December

(point 1.4 of the record)

- Proposal for a Council Regulation on organic production and labelling of organic products – COM(2005) 671 – 2005/0278 (CNS)

In order to facilitate an approach within the Council that would be acceptable to a large majority of Member States, when the time came, the Commission authorised Ms FISCHER BOEL to support a compromise following the line set out in SI(2006) 1061.

- Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) 2092/91 on organic production of agricultural products and indications referring thereto in agricultural products and foodstuffs – COM(2005) 671 – 2005/0279 (CNS).

The Commission authorised Ms FISCHER BOEL to accept a Council Presidency compromise following the line set out in SI(2006) 1061, irrespective of the Council decision on the first proposal.

iv) Preparations for the Council meeting « Agriculture and Fisheries » on 20 and 21 November

(point 1.5 of the record)

- Proposal for a Council Regulation fixing for 2007 and 2008 the fishing opportunities for Community vessels for certain deep-sea fish stocks – COM(2006) 554

The Commission authorised Mr BORG to support a Council Presidency compromise with a view to reaching an agreement at the Council meeting « Agriculture and Fisheries » on 20 and 21 November, following the line set out in SI(2006) 1067/2.

**v) Preparations for the Permanent Representatives Committee II,
15 November**

(point 1.6 of the record)

- Proposal for a Parliament and Council Directive on the exercise of voting rights by shareholders of companies having their registered office in a Member State and whose shares are admitted to trading on a regulated market and amending Directive 2004/109/EC – COM(2005) 685 – 2005/0265 (COD)

The Commission authorised Mr McCREEVY to pursue the contacts with the co-legislators in order to promote an agreement at first reading, following the line set out in SI(2006) 1073.

vi) Follow-up to the extraordinary Council « Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumers » on 7 November

(point 1.7 of the record) ; SI(2006) 1039)

- Proposal for a Parliament and Council Directive amending Directive 2003/88/EC concerning certain aspects of the organisation of working time – COM(2004) 607 and COM(2005) 246 – 2004/0209 (COD)

Mr ŠPIDLA briefly informed the Commission of the results of the extraordinary meeting of the « Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumers » Council on 7 November. The Council had failed to reach agreement on the proposal for the working time Directive. Mr ŠPIDLA mentioned certain key points of the text which were often poorly understood, such as rest time and the opt-out for the maximum weekly working time, and expressed his regret at the failure to muster a qualified majority in favour of the compromise presented by the Finnish Presidency, which had made considerable efforts to bring this issue to a successful conclusion. He emphasised that the opt-out clause was at the centre of the serious political clash between two groups of Member States and explained why, in many

cases, the opt-out was a necessity in practice, because of the rules on on-call time.

Mr ŠPIDLA confirmed his intention of supporting any new initiative which might be taken by the Finnish Presidency to break the deadlock. If no solution could be found before the Presidency of the Council passed to Germany, which had already indicated that it did not intend to pursue the issue, he would refer the matter back to the Commission in order to consider the consequences of the non-adoption of the Directive.

The PRESIDENT warmly thanked Mr ŠPIDLA for his work in these complex negotiations and for the information he had provided about the situation in the Council. He concluded that the Commission might reconsider this matter in the light of further developments, if new decisions proved to be necessary.

The Commission took note of this information.

14.2. *RELATIONS WITH THE COUNCIL*

(SI(2006) 1060)

vii) List of sensitive dossiers

(point 2.2 of the record)

Ms GRYBAUSKAITĖ outlined the state of the latest negotiations on the 2007 Budget. She particularly drew the Commission Members' attention to the need to continue to do their utmost in their dealings with the two arms of the budgetary authority in the days to come to promote a positive outcome, particularly with a view to removing certain administrative appropriations from the reserve.

The Commission took note of this information.

**viii) Results of the Council « Education, Youth and Culture » -
« Audiovisual » Policy (Brussels, 13 November)**

(SEC(2006) 1483 ; SI(2006) 1077)

- Television without frontiers – COM(2005) 646 – 2005/0260 (COD)

The Commission took note of the information note from Ms REDING distributed as SEC(2006) 1483.

**ix) Follow-up to the work of the Permanent Representatives Committee
(SEC(2006) 1480/2)**

- Consideration of the Community position to be adopted with a view to the first ministerial meeting of the Energy Community (Skopje, 16 and 17 November)

The Commission took note of the information note from Mr PIEBALGS in SEC(2006) 1480/2.

It also noted the adoption that day (Tuesday 14 November), by urgent written procedure (E/2351/2006), of the proposal for a Council decision on a Community position within the Ministerial Council of the Energy Community on certain procedural issues related to the budget of the Energy Community, on the procedural rules on acceptance of countries as observers and the rights and obligations of observers to the Energy Community, and on the acceptance of Moldova, Ukraine, Norway and Turkey as observers to the Energy Community. This proposal was the subject of COM(2006) 709.

14.3. RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT

x) Preparations for the November I plenary session – Commission’s legislative and work programme for 2007

(point 3.2 of the record)

The PRESIDENT clarified certain aspects of the proposed presentation of the Commission’s work programme for 2007 at Parliament’s plenary session, due to take place that day (14 November), and emphasised the importance of ensuring the presence of the maximum possible number of Commission Members at this occasion.

The Commission took note of this information.

xi) Action taken on Parliament's non-legislative resolutions

(point 3.5.2 of the record)

The Commission adopted SP(2006) 5076 and /2 on action taken on non-legislative resolutions adopted by Parliament at its September II part-session, for transmission to Parliament.

xii) Organisation of plenary sessions in 2007 – Presence of Commission Members at Question Time in 2007

(point 3.8 of the record)

The Commission approved document SP(2006) 4884/2 establishing the Commission Members’ attendance list at Commission Question Time in 2007, for transmission to Parliament.

**14.4. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COMMITTEE, THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS, THE
EUROPEAN OMBUDSMAN AND NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS**

**xiii) Follow-up to Committee of the Regions opinions – first half of 2006
(plenary sessions of February, April and June 2006)**

(point 4.1 of the record)

The Commission approved the replies to the opinions adopted by the Committee of the Regions during the first half of 2006 in the document distributed as SR(2006) 33, for transmission to the Committee of the Regions.

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The meeting closed at 14.58