



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2007)1791 final

Brussels, 13 June 2007

MINUTES
of the 1791st meeting of the Commission
held in Brussels
(Berlaymont)
on Wednesday 6 June 2007
(morning)

PV(2007)1791 final

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Single sitting: Wednesday 6 June 2007 (morning)

The sitting opened at 09.08 hours chaired by Ms WALLSTRÖM in the absence of President BARROSO.

Present:

Ms WALLSTRÖM Vice-President

Mr VERHEUGEN Vice-President

Mr BARROT Vice-President

Mr KALLAS Vice-President

Mr FRATTINI Vice-President

Ms REDING

Ms HÜBNER

Mr BORG

Ms GRYBAUSKAITĖ

Mr POTOČNIK

Mr FIGEL'

Mr KYPRIANOU

Mr KOVÁCS

Ms KROES

Ms FISCHER BOEL

Mr McCREEVY

Mr ŠPIDLA

Mr MANDELSON

Ms KUNEVA

Mr ORBAN

Absent:

Mr BARROSO

President

Mr DIMAS

Mr ALMUNIA

Mr REHN

Mr MICHEL

Ms FERRERO-WALDNER

Mr PIEBALGS

The following sat in to represent absent Members of the Commission:

Mr SCHELLEKENS	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Mr DIMAS
Mr THOMAS	Chef de cabinet to Mr ALMUNIA
Mr PESONEN	Chef de cabinet to Mr REHN
Mr LEVIE	A member of Mr MICHEL's staff
Mr CHILD	Chef de cabinet to Ms FERRERO-WALDNER
Mr GARCÍA PORRAS	A member of Mr PIEBALG's staff

The following also sat in:

Mr THEBAULT	Deputy Chef de cabinet to the PRESIDENT	
Mr PETITE	Director-General, Legal Service	
Mr SØRENSEN	Director-General, Communication DG	
Mr MANN	Communication DG – Spokesman's Service	
Ms MARTÍNEZ ALBEROLA	A member of the PRESIDENT's staff	Items 1 to 8 (in part)
Mr MARQUES DE ALMEIDA	A member of the PRESIDENT's staff	Item 13 (in part)
Ms KOTTOVA	A member of Mr FRATTINI's staff	Items 9 to 11
Mr SCHINAS	Chef de cabinet to Mr KYPRIANOU	Items 1 to 8 (in part)
Ms NAESAGER	A member of Ms FISCHER BOEL's staff	Items 1 to 8 (in part)

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

1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2007)1791/3; SEC(2007)748/2)

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(2007)1791)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 4 June.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 1790th MEETING (30 MAY 2007)

(PV(2007)1790)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 1790th meeting.

4. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

4.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED

(SEC(2007)749 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 29 May and 1 June.

4.2. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES

(SEC(2007)750 AND /2)

The Commission took note of the sensitive written procedures for which the time limit expires between 4 and 8 June and of the "finalisation" written procedure initiated following the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet on 4 June

4.3. EMPOWERMENT

(SEC(2007)751 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 29 May and 1 June.

4.4. DELEGATION AND SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation procedure between 29 May and 1 June, as archived in Greffe 2000 (Registry).

5. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

(SEC(2007)752)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

(PERS(2007)60)

5.1. DG EMPL – APPOINTMENT OF AN AD14/15 DIRECTOR

(PERS(2007)35 TO /5)

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Director, Resources, Communication in the Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities Directorate-General (PERS(2007)35 to /3).

(6 June 2007)

The Commission took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 6 March and 26 April 2007 (PERS(2007)35/4 and /5).

The Commission proceeded to compare the applicants' qualifications for the post. It also considered the applicants' ability, efficiency and conduct in the service. On a proposal from Mr KALLAS, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr ŠPIDLA, the Commission decided to appoint Ms Marie DONNELLY to the post.

This decision would take effect on a date to be determined.

5.2. *DG ENTR – APPOINTMENT OF AN AD14/15 DIRECTOR*
(PERS(2007)40 TO /3)

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Director, Resources and Communication in the Enterprise and Industry Directorate-General (PERS(2007)40).

The Commission took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 19 March and 26 April (PERS(2007)40/2 and /3).

The Commission proceeded to compare the applicants' qualifications for the post. It also considered the applicants' ability, efficiency and conduct in the service. On a proposal from Mr KALLAS, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr VERHEUGEN, the Commission decided to appoint Ms Colette COTTER to the post.

This decision would take effect on a date to be determined.

5.3. *DG RTD – APPOINTMENT OF AN AD14/15 DIRECTOR*
(PERS(2007)44 TO /3)

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Director, Industrial Technologies in the Research Directorate-General (PERS(2007)44).

(6 June 2007)

The Commission took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 20 March and 19 April (PERS(2007)44/2 and /3).

The Commission proceeded to compare the applicants' qualifications for the post. It also considered the applicants' ability, efficiency and conduct in the service. On a proposal from Mr KALLAS, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr POTOČNIK, the Commission decided to appoint Mr Herbert VON BOSE to the post.

This decision would take effect on a date to be determined.

**5.4. DG TREN – APPOINTMENT OF AN AD14/15 DIRECTOR
(PERS(2007)50 TO /4)**

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Director, Trans-European Networks – Energy and Transport in the Energy and Transport Directorate-General (PERS(2007)50).

The Commission took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 2 April and 10 May (PERS(2007)50/2 to /4).

The Commission proceeded to compare the applicants' qualifications for the post. It also considered the applicants' ability, efficiency and conduct in the service. On a proposal from Mr KALLAS, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, Mr BARROT and Mr PIEBALGS, the Commission decided to appoint Mr Jonathan SCHEELE to the post.

This decision would take effect on a date to be determined.

**5.5. DG TAXUD – APPLICATION OF THE ARTICLE 50 PROCEDURE
(SECOND STAGE) WITH RESPECT TO AN AD15 OFFICIAL**

The Commission resumed its discussions on this matter, begun on 7 February (PV(2007)1775).

(6 June 2007)

Having taken note of the information in point 5 of PERS(2007)60, the Commission, on a proposal from Mr KALLAS, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, decided to amend the effective date of the decision on the application of the second stage of the procedure laid down in Article 50 of the Staff Regulations in respect of Mr Manuel ARNAL MONREAL, and to set it at 1 July.

**6. COMMISSION COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL – FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2008 – GENERAL POLICY DECLARATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
(COM(2007)295 AND /2)**

The Commission adopted the communication in COM(2007)295 for transmission to the Council.

7. RELATIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES

***7.1. EU-TURKEY ENERGY CONFERENCE (ISTANBUL, 5-6 JUNE 2007)
(SEC(2007)804)***

The Commission took note of the information note from Mr REHN and Mr PIEBALGS distributed as SEC(2007)804.

***7.2. MEETING OF G8 FOREIGN MINISTERS (MOSCOW, 30 JUNE 2007)
(SEC(2007)801)***

The Commission took note of the information note from Ms FERRERO-WALDNER distributed as SEC(2007)801.

***7.3. MIDDLE EAST QUARTET MEETING (BERLIN, 30 MAY 2007)
(SEC(2007)802)***

The Commission took note of the information note from Ms FERRERO-WALDNER distributed as SEC(2007)802.

8. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(SEC(2007)746 AND /2)

The Commission took note of the record, distributed as SEC(2007)746 and /2, of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (GRI) held on Friday 1 June.

It paid particular attention to the following:

8.1. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

i) State of play

(point 1.1 of the record of the IRG)

Application of the new comitology decision – General question

The Commission took note of the information in SPI(2007)50. It noted that Ms WALLSTRÖM intended to report on the results of the political contacts she would be having during the June II plenary with the appropriate Parliament bodies.

Application of the new comitology decision – Specific question

– Nutrition and health claims made on foods (Regulation) – POLI BORTONE report – 2006/0195 (COD)

Mr KYPRIANOU briefly outlined the background to the proposal for amendment of Regulation 1924/2006 of Parliament and the Council on nutrition and health claims made on foods, a proposal made as part of the exercise of adapting basic instruments to the new comitology arrangements.

He reminded the meeting that the Commission had accepted the compromise that had emerged from the institutional dialogue, whereby Parliament would include with its amendments connected with the comitology aspects a specific amendment on the provision of a transitional period for nutrition claims relating to the growth of children, this transitional period not having been included by Parliament during the procedure for the adoption of Regulation 1924/2006.

Despite this, he reported that Parliament now seemed intent on adopting, on 7 June next, only its own amendments on comitology, ignoring the compromise agreed at the dialogue.

Mr KYPRIANOU assessed the effects of Parliament's choice. He pointed out in particular that, upon entry into force of this amendment to the Regulation, scheduled for 1 July next, if there were no transitional period, it would no longer be possible to sell new products bearing such claims.

In conclusion, the action he could envisage for dealing with this situation would be for the Commission to reject the entire report of the parliamentary committee and withdraw its proposal for the amendment of Regulation 1924/2006. He considered that such a decision would be fully consistent with the Commission's discussions of 4 April.

The Commission reviewed the situation set out by Mr KYPRIANOU, endorsing his concerns, and compared pros and cons of the various options possible.

After this review, the Commission agreed on the importance of concluding, as quickly as possible, the exercise of adapting basic instruments to the new comitology arrangements. It accordingly decided not to withdraw its proposal for amendment of Regulation 1924/2006 and not to follow the line set out in point 4 of SPI(2007)51.

(6 June 2007)

It also took note of Mr KYPRIANOU's intention to table, as soon as possible, a new proposal that would offset the disadvantages caused by the text to be adopted by the legislative authority as regards nutrition claims relating to the growth of children. Mr KYPRIANOU felt that the chances of this proposal securing a majority in Parliament were slim.

ii) Preparation for June I part-session of Parliament

(point 1.2 of the record of the IRG)

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:

Codecision – 1st reading

- Organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community (Regulation) – ANDERSSON report – 2006/0180 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2007)2626.

Consultation

- Specific rules for the fruit and vegetables sector (Regulation) – SALINAS GARCÍA report – 2007/0012 (CNS)

Ms FISCHER BOEL reported that the Member States were close to a political agreement in the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 11 and 12 June on the reform of the fruit and vegetables sector. She noted that the interinstitutional work had advanced very smoothly on the proposal adopted by the Commission in January. She outlined the remaining issues still to be settled in the Council.

She then referred in detail to the proposal for setting up a programme designed to encourage fruit consumption in schools. She thought that including this programme would help to secure political agreement in the Council. She added that the programme was in line with the White Paper on health issues relating to nutrition, overweight and obesity approved by the Commission on 30 May. She drew attention to the interest that this idea had already aroused in Parliament and the Council, and with many other interested parties, in the light of the positive results expected particularly as regards promotion of these products and the development of healthy eating habits.

Ms FISCHER BOEL did, however, acknowledge that the questions raised by certain Commission Members were pertinent and agreed to instruct her department to conduct a detailed impact assessment of this programme.

The Commission held a brief exchange of views, focusing particularly on the need to ensure budgetary neutrality of the reform, the importance of conducting a proper assessment of the programme, its expected benefits, and its operational feasibility. After this exchange, she confirmed her interest for the initiative, subject to the results of the impact assessment.

The Commission noted that the impact assessment would have to cover all aspects of the planned programme, in particular:

- the budget cost;
- the benefits in terms of public health;
- the benefits for the development of healthy eating habits from childhood;
- the relevance in terms of bringing the EU closer to its citizens;
- the coherence with the various Community policies and the obligations deriving from the rules of international trade;
- the conditions and detailed arrangements for the operation of the programme so as to ensure the success of its implementation.

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2007)2629 and /4.

- Multi-annual plan for the cod stocks in the Baltic Sea and the fisheries exploiting those stocks (Regulation) – CHMIELEWSKI report – 2006/0134 (CNS)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2007)2628.

- Protection of personal data processed in the framework of police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters (framework decision) – ROURE report – 2005/0202 (CNS)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2007)2629 and /2.

iii) Preparations for Council meeting (Transport, Telecommunications and Energy) (Luxembourg, 6 to 8 June 2007)

(point 1.3 of the record of the IRG)

- Common rules for the operation of air transport services in the Community (Regulation – recasting) – DEGUTIS report – 2006/0130 (COD)

The Commission authorised Mr BARROT to intervene in the Council (Transport, Telecommunications and Energy) on 6, 7 and 8 June, within the framework of the general guideline in preparation, following the line set out in SI(2007)543, subject to the vote by Parliament of its opinion at first reading.

iv) Preparations for Council meeting (Competitiveness) (Luxembourg, 25 June)

(point 1.4 of the record of the IRG)

- Community customs code (Regulation) – FOURTOU report – 2005/0246 (COD)

The Commission authorised Mr KOVÁCS, with a view to a political agreement to be secured by qualified majority at the Council (Competitiveness) on 25 June, to support a Presidency compromise following the line set out in SI(2007)570 and /2.

8.2. RELATIONS WITH THE COUNCIL

v) Programming of Council business

(SI(2007)572)

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2007)572 on the Council meetings between 31 May and 13 June 2007.

vi) Results of the Council meeting (Economic and Financial Affairs) (Luxembourg, 5 June 2007)

Mr KOVÁCS reported briefly on the Council meeting (Economic and Financial Affairs) on 5 June, devoted largely to tax matters. He drew attention to the importance of the conclusions agreed by the Council on the fight against tax fraud and on the value-added tax (VAT) simplification package.

In the fight against tax fraud, particularly in the field of indirect taxation, Mr KOVÁCS noted that the Commission's brief was to continue the impact assessments and to propose legislative initiatives to improve the effectiveness of conventional measures and to explore the possibility of introducing more far-reaching measures. In this connection, he drew attention to the invitation to the Commission to conduct, before the end of 2007, a study on the possibility of introducing a general reverse-charge system.

On the VAT package, Mr KOVÁCS mentioned the importance of the political agreement reached in the Council on all these matters, in particular the determination of the country in which transactions are taxed, simplification of the VAT refund arrangements and the principle of the mini one-stop shop.

The Commission took note of this information.

8.3. RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT

vii) Action taken on Parliament's non-legislative resolutions (point 3.5.2 of the record of the IRG)

The Commission approved the document SP(2007)2625 on the action taken on the opinions and non-legislative resolutions adopted by Parliament at its April 2007 part-session, for transmission to Parliament.

viii) Participation by Members of Parliament in international conferences

(point 3.7 of the record of the IRG)

– United Nations Human Rights Council (Geneva, 11 to 13 June 2007)

The Commission decided to accede to the request from Mr PÖTTERING, President of Parliament, to the PRESIDENT, concerning the participation of seven members of Parliament in the above-mentioned conference.

9. PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL DIRECTIVE AMENDING DIRECTIVE 2003/109/EC OF 25 NOVEMBER 2003 TO EXTEND ITS SCOPE TO BENEFICIARIES OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION (COM(2007)298 TO /3; SEC(2007)767)

10. REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL ON THE EVALUATION OF THE DUBLIN SYSTEM (COM(2007)299 TO /3; SEC(2007)742 AND /2; SEC(2007)767)

11. GREEN PAPER ON THE FUTURE COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM (COM(2007)301 TO /4; SEC(2007)767)

Mr FRATTINI presented the three initiatives at items 9 to 11 of the agenda.

He reminded the meeting that the plan of action for the implementation of the Hague Programme called for a common European asylum system to be in place by the end of 2010. The ultimate objective was that the EU should be a single protection area for refugees, with a common asylum procedure and a uniform status operating throughout the Union. He emphasised that the aim was therefore to establish a level playing field, a system which guaranteed that persons genuinely in need of protection would have access to a high level of protection under equivalent conditions in all Member States.

He also reminded the meeting that the implementation of the common system involved two stages, the first of which, now completed, was to harmonise national legal systems, and in particular to establish a common asylum procedure. This first stage was currently under evaluation, and the first results were set out in the report on the Dublin system for determining the Member State responsible for examining an asylum application lodged by a third-country national on the territory of one of the Member States of the EU, Norway and Iceland. The report concluded that the goals of the system had been properly attained and proposed measures to make it even more effective, in particular to strengthen solidarity between the Member States.

Mr FRATTINI moved on the Green Paper launching the second stage, which was to serve as a basis for wide-ranging public consultation on the consolidation and future layout of the common European asylum system. The results would be in at the end

of 2007 and would help with preparations for the plan of action, to be published in the first quarter 2008, which would present the measures needed for the adoption of the common European asylum system in 2010.

Lastly, Mr FRATTINI mentioned the proposal for a Directive which sought to correct an injustice in the Directive concerning the status of third-country nationals who are long-term residents in order to offer the beneficiaries of international protection (refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection) a degree of legal certainty as regards their stay in a Member State and rights comparable to those enjoyed by Union nationals after five years of lawful residence.

Following this presentation, the Commission held a brief exchange of views highlighting the following aspects:

- the advisability of bringing proposals on the common system forward straight away so as to comply with the schedule for the second stage, while taking into account the schedules of other European institutions, and particularly the elections to Parliament in 2009;
- the need to support with solidarity certain Member States particularly affected by illegal immigration flows, by providing infrastructure and logistical support for the surveillance of territorial waters ;
- the value of a cross-sector approach on account of the strategic and human importance of these initiatives.

Following this exchange of views, the Commission:

- adopted the proposal for a Council directive set out in COM(2007)298/3, for transmission to Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, and to the national parliaments;
- approved, subject to a minor drafting change, the report in COM(2007)299/3, for transmission to Parliament and to the Council, and to the national

parliaments, with the Annex in the staff paper distributed as SEC(2007)742/2, the contents of which were noted;

- approved the Green Paper in COM(2007)301/4, for transmission to Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, and to the national parliaments.

12. DRAFT COMMISSION REGULATION ESTABLISHING A PROHIBITION OF FISHING FOR BLUEFIN TUNA BY COMMUNITY VESSELS IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN, EAST OF LONGITUDE 45°W, AND MEDITERRANEAN (C(2007)2328 AND /2; SEC(2007)805; SEC(2007)784; SEC(2007)768)

Mr BORG outlined the background to the draft Commission Regulation. He reminded the meeting that there was an enormous market for bluefin tuna and that this was a highly lucrative fishery sector, which had entailed such heavy overfishing as to threaten the viability of reserves.

He recapitulated the results of the conference organised by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) in Dubrovnik in November 2006, where an agreement had been signed on an Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna recovery plan. The plan was to be put into operation by the signatories to the agreement with effect from 13 June 2007.

He informed Members that on 5 June the Permanent Representatives Committee (COREPER) had recommended the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) to adopt the proposal for a Regulation establishing a multiannual bluefin tuna recovery plan and transposing the ICCAT plan into Community law as an A item on 11 June.

Mr BORG briefly reminded the meeting of the obstacles to adoption of the proposal for a Regulation by the Council so far, emphasising that the Community was

obliged as an ICCAT contracting party to comply with the commitments given in Dubrovnik.

He highlighted the core issue, which was that, pending the implementation of the recovery plan, provisional quotas established at the beginning 2007 were almost exhausted, which meant that the Commission had to take a rapid decision to close bluefin tuna fisheries.

However, since the evidence following the previous day's Coreper meeting was that the plan should be finally adopted by the Council on 11 June so that final quotas would be set for 2007 in excess of the temporary quotas, Mr BORG agreed that it was the right time for the Commission to adopt a Regulation prohibiting fisheries with effect from 10 June, as that presented in C(2007)2328.

On the other hand, since the quotas currently in force were about to be exhausted, he highlighted the need, should the Council fail to adopt the proposal for a Regulation introducing the recovery plan and therefore the new quotas on 11 June, to order the immediate closure of bluefin tuna fisheries, which was why he was asking the Commission to empower him to do so.

Following this review, the Commission decided, following the line set out in the note SEC(2007)805, to empower the Commission Member responsible for fisheries and maritime affairs to adopt the Commission Regulation establishing a prohibition of fishing for bluefin tuna by Community vessels in the Atlantic Ocean, east of longitude 45°w, and Mediterranean, with effect from 12 June, if the Council meeting (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 11 June did not adopt the proposal for a Regulation amending Council Regulation 41/2007 concerning bluefin tuna recovery plan.

The Commission took note of the information note from Mr BORG in SEC(2007)784.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

13.1. AUDIOVISUAL CONTENT AND THE CONVERGENCE OF TECHNOLOGIES

(SEC(2007)803)

Ms REDING reported on the results of the Council meeting (Education, youth and Culture) held in Brussels on 24 May and, more specifically, the unanimous political agreement on the proposal for the amendment of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (Television without frontiers). She welcomed the agreement on this important initiative and the support given by the main political groups in Parliament. She also welcomed the fact that it had taken only 18 months to reach agreement in Parliament and the Council.

She referred to the most significant positive repercussions of the Directive as thus amended, such as the strengthening of the competitiveness of the European industry, the improvement of legal certainty and the development of the internal market in audiovisual productions, which would benefit both industry and Europe's citizens.

Ms REDING pointed out that the Directive complied with the country-of-origin principle. She felt that it would engender a propitious climate for the development of cross-border services by audiovisual producers, particularly as regards on-demand services. She referred also to other aspects such as the relaxation of the quantitative rules on advertising, which would offer greater flexibility for the industry, better protection for the consumer and conditions of fair competition between the producers in Europe and in the United States and other non-member countries.

She pointed to the main beneficial effects of the Directive for the general public, such as the right to access extracts from events of general interest, clear identification of media service suppliers, promotion of cultural diversity in the new audiovisual services and better access to audiovisual services for people with impaired sight or hearing.

She explained that the Directive also aimed to reaffirm Europe's fundamental values, particularly as regards the ban on content that incited religious or racial hatred and the protection of minors. The new rules would help to strengthen European audiovisual production generally and therefore improve public access to European material.

As regards the Creative Content Online Strategy which she was planning to put before the Commission at the end of 2007, Ms REDING asked Members to ensure that the departments reporting to them contributed to the preparatory work, given that this was a horizontal issue.

Lastly, Ms REDING summed up the results of the Europe Day at the 2007 Cannes Festival. She was particularly glad that a large number of films supported by the Media Programme had been selected and that a European film produced in a new Member State had won the Golden Palm.

The Commission took note of the information note from Mr REDING in SEC(2007)803.

13.2. "AMATO GROUP" ON THE EUROPEAN CONSTITUTION (BRUSSELS, 3 AND 4 JUNE 2007)

Ms WALLSTRÖM reported on the results of the last meeting of the Action Committee for European Democracy, chaired by Mr Giuliano Amato, and the main points of the final statement of the committee, which had focused on drafting a contribution to the ongoing institutional debate in the absence of ratification of the Constitutional Treaty by all the Member States. She pointed out that Ms HÜBNER and herself had been invited by Mr Amato to take part in the work of committee in a personnel capacity, without the Commission being bound by the results of the discussions.

Ms WALLSTRÖM pointed out that the committee had reached a consensus on a full and solid contribution to the institutional debate which adequately reflected the positions of the Member States that had ratified the

Constitutional Treaty but also of those that had rejected it or not yet presented it for ratification.

She mentioned the committee's support for the ideas of the Council Presidency, particularly as regards the Conclusion of the Intergovernmental Conference before the end of 2007 and coordination between Member States with a view to ratification of a new Treaty before the forthcoming elections to Parliament.

She pointed out that the committee's proposals for making the text more accessible were based on the traditional treaty-amendment method, though without excluding new factors relating particularly to climate change and energy.

Ms WALLSTRÖM was especially pleased with the close consistency between the committee's contributions and the results of the Commission's debate at its informal meeting on 18 April and the positions supported by the Commission at the bilateral consultations organised by the Council Presidency. In this connection, she particularly mentioned EU legal personality, the abolition of the pillars, the legal status of the Charter and the protection for the integrity of the institutional package. But she felt that the committee's contribution did not prejudge the Commission's opinion on the Intergovernmental Conference, which would be before it in July.

Ms HÜBNER added to Ms WALLSTRÖM's presentation by briefly mentioning the structure suggested by the committee for the future Treaty and its main points. The Treaty would incorporate Parts I and IV of the Constitutional Treaty, and the key components of Part III would be incorporated in the existing Treaties by means of amendments.

She drew the Commission's attention to the proposal for abolition of the three pillars. She considered that all these proposals taken together could be ratified as a single package, without, however, excluding further amendments and ratifications in the future.

The Commission took note of this information.

13.3. "COMMISSION GOES LOCAL" INITIATIVE

Ms WALLSTRÖM briefly reminded the meeting of the background to the *Commission goes local* initiative, viz. the action plan on improving communication on Europe adopted by the Commission in July 2005 with the aim of fine-tuning the Commission's capacities and powers regarding information on European policies.

To strengthen contacts with citizens at local level by adapting advertising to the public in each Member State and communicating them via channels that audiences preferred in a language that they understood, a series of events had been scheduled with the Lisbon Representation in Portugal on 2 and 3 July when the Commission was to meet the future Council Presidency in Porto on 2 July. Ms WALLSTRÖM thanked Members for their support and asked them to contribute actively to the success of the initiative, as the events in question could arouse considerable media interest.

The Commission took note of this information.

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The meeting closed at 10.49 hours.