



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2007)1796 final

Brussels, 18 July 2007

MINUTES

of the 1796th meeting of the Commission

held in Strasbourg

(Winston Churchill Building)

on Tuesday 10 July 2007

(afternoon)

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PV(2007)1796 final

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Attendance list	4-7
1. AGENDAS (OJ(2007)1796/3; SEC(2007)943/2).....	8
2. WEEKLY MEETING OF CHEFS DE CABINET (SEC(2007)1796)	8
3. MINUTES OF 1795TH MEETING (4 JULY) (PV(2007)1795).....	8
4. MONITORING THE APPLICATION OF COMMUNITY LAW	9
4.1. STATE AID – HORIZONTAL DOSSIER (SEC(2007)929; SEC(2007)985).....	9
4.2. STATE AID – INDIVIDUAL CASES – RECAPITULATIVE LIST (SEC(2007)992; SEC(2007)985)	9
4.3. INFRINGEMENTS - CASES POSTPONED BECAUSE OF NON-AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS - REGULARISATION (SEC(2007)964).....	10
5. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS.....	10
5.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED (SEC(2007)945 et seq.)	10
5.2. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES (SEC(2007)946 AND /2).....	10
5.3. EMPOWERMENT (SEC(2007)947 et seq.).....	10
5.4. DELEGATION AND SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS	10
6. COMMISSION CONSOLIDATED JURISDICTIONAL NOTICE UNDER COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) NO 139/2004 OF 20 JANUARY 2004 ON THE CONTROL OF CONCENTRATIONS BETWEEN UNDERTAKINGS (SEC(2007)971 AND /2)	11
7. PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ON THE TAKING-UP AND PURSUIT OF THE BUSINESS OF INSURANCE AND REINSURANCE	

(SOLVENCY II) (COM(2007)361 TO /3; SEC(2007)871; SEC(2007)870; SEC(2007)872; SEC(2007)878)	11
8. TRENDS IN THE MEMBER STATES (SEC(2007)984 AND /2)	12
9. RELATIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES	12
9.1. EU - NORWAY ENERGY DIALOGUE, (STAVANGER, 24-25 JUNE) (SEC(2007)999).....	12
9.2. SECOND MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL OF THE ENERGY COMMUNITY (PODGORICA, 29 JUNE) (SEC(2007)1001)	12
10. OTHER BUSINESS	13
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP OF THE WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANISATION (SEC(2007)1002)	13
11. REFORMING EUROPE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY - OPINION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 48 OF THE TREATY ON EUROPEAN UNION, ON THE CONFERENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES CONVENED TO REVISE THE TREATIES (COM(2007)412 AND /2; SEC(2007)963).....	13
12. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS (SEC(2007)953).....	18
12.1. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS	18
12.2. RELATIONS WITH THE COUNCIL	19
12.3. RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT	21
12.4. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE, THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS, THE OMBUDSMAN AND NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS	21
13. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS (SEC(2007)948/2)	22
13.1. DG DIGIT – APPOINTMENT OF AD14/15 DIRECTOR (PERS(2007)1 TO /3)	22

(10 July 2007)

13.2. DG ELARG – APPOINTMENT OF AD14/15 DIRECTOR (PERS(2007)46 TO /3)	22
13.3. OPOCE – APPOINTMENT OF AD15/16 DIRECTOR-GENERAL (PERS(2006)166 TO /6).....	23
13.4. DG TREN – APPOINTMENT OF AD14/15 DIRECTOR (PERS(2007)68 TO /3).....	23
13.5. DG RTD – ADOPTION OF A LIST FOR THE FUNCTION OF AD14 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN JOINT UNDERTAKING FOR ITER AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF FUSION ENERGY (PERS(2007)77).....	24
13.6. DG ADMIN – RECRUITMENT OF OFFICIALS AND TEMPORARY STAFF FROM THE NEW MEMBER STATES (EU-10+2) IN THE COMMISSION – SITUATION AT 1 MAY 2007 AND NEXT STEPS (SEC(2007)941 AND /2; SEC(2007)944).....	25
14. WHITE PAPER ON SPORT (COM(2007)391 TO /3; SEC(2007)932 AND /2; SEC(2007)936 AND /2; SEC(2007)934 AND /2; SEC(2007)935 AND /2; SEC(2007)939; SEC(2007)974).....	25

Single sitting: Tuesday 10 July 2007 (afternoon)

The sitting opened at 13.05 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	
Ms HÜBNER	
Mr BORG	
Ms GRYBAUSKAITĖ	
Mr POTOČNIK	
Mr FIGEL'	
Mr KYPRIANOU	
Mr REHN	
Mr MICHEL	
Ms KROES	
Ms FISCHER BOEL	
Ms FERRERO-WALDNER	
Mr McCREEVY	
Mr ŠPIDLA	
Mr MANDELSON	
Mr PIEBALGS	
Ms KUNEVA	
Mr ORBAN	

Items 11 (in part) to 14

Absent:

Mr ALMUNIA

Mr KOVÁCS

(10 July 2007)

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

Mr QUERO MUSSOT	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Mr ALMUNIA
Mr MARJÁN	A member of Mr KOVACS's staff

The following also sat in:

Mr VALE de ALMEIDA	Chef de cabinet to the PRESIDENT	
Ms DURAND	Deputy Director-General, Legal Service	
Mr SØRENSEN	Director-General, Communication DG	Items 11 (in part) to 14
Mr LAITENBERGER	Commission Spokesman	
Ms CARVALHO	Bureau of European Policy Advisers	
Ms MARTINHO	Chief adviser in the PRESIDENT's Office	
Mr JENSEN	Chief adviser in the PRESIDENT's Office	Items 1 to 11
Mr MARQUES DE ALMEIDA	A member of the PRESIDENT 's staff	Items 1 to 11

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

1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2007)1796/3; SEC(2007)943/2)

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)1796)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 9 July.

3. MINUTES OF 1795th MEETING (4 JULY)

(PV(2007)1795)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 1795th meeting.

4. MONITORING THE APPLICATION OF COMMUNITY LAW

4.1. STATE AID – HORIZONTAL DOSSIER

(SEC(2007)929; SEC(2007)985)

Draft Commission Regulation concerning the application of Articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty to state aid to small and medium-sized enterprises active in the production, processing and marketing of fishery products – Block-exemption regulation

The Commission

- approved the draft Commission Regulation concerning the application of Articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty to state aid to small and medium-sized enterprises active in the production, processing and marketing of fishery products in SEC(2007)929, with a view to the consultation of the State Aid Advisory Committee, in accordance with Article 8(1)(a) of Council Regulation (EC) 994/98;
- authorized Mr BORG, Commission Member with responsibility for fisheries and maritime affairs, to continue the procedure, and in particular to transmit this draft Commission Regulation to the Member States and to consult them in the State Aid Advisory Committee.

4.2. STATE AID – INDIVIDUAL CASES – RECAPITULATIVE LIST

(SEC(2007)992; SEC(2007)985)

The Commission adopted the decisions in the recapitulative list SEC(2007)992.

**4.3. INFRINGEMENTS – CASES POSTPONED BECAUSE OF NON-AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS – REGULARISATION
(SEC(2007)964)**

The Commission adopted the decisions in SEC(2007)964.

5. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

**5.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED
(SEC(2007)945 et seq.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 2 and 6 July.

**5.2. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES
(SEC(2007)946 AND /2)**

The Commission took note of the sensitive written procedures for which the time limit expired between 9 and 13 July and of the "finalisation" written procedures initiated following the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet on 9 July.

**5.3. EMPOWERMENT
(SEC(2007)947 et seq.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 2 and 6 July.

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 2 and 6 July, as archived on the "Greffé 2000" (Registry) website.

6. COMMISSION CONSOLIDATED JURISDICTIONAL NOTICE UNDER COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) NO 139/2004 OF 20 JANUARY 2004 ON THE CONTROL OF CONCENTRATIONS BETWEEN UNDERTAKINGS (SEC(2007)971 AND /2)

The Commission

- adopted in German, English and French the consolidated jurisdictional notice in SEC(2007)971;
- empowered Ms KROES, Commission Member with responsibility for competition, to adopt, on behalf of the Commission, the consolidated jurisdictional notice in the other official EU languages.

7. PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ON THE TAKING-UP AND PURSUIT OF THE BUSINESS OF INSURANCE AND REINSURANCE (SOLVENCY II) (COM(2007)361 TO /3; SEC(2007)871; SEC(2007)870; SEC(2007)872; SEC(2007)878)

The Commission adopted, subject to final linguistic revision, the proposal for a Directive in COM(2007)361/3 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 impact assessment and the related summary contained in the staff papers distributed as SEC(2007)871 and SEC(2007)870 respectively, the contents of which were noted.

It took note of the opinion of the Impact Assessment Board on this dossier, as set out in SEC(2007)872.

8. TRENDS IN THE MEMBER STATES

(SEC(2007)984 AND /2)

The Commission took note of the information note from Ms WALLSTRÖM distributed as SEC(2007)984/2.

9. RELATIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES

9.1. *EU – NORWAY ENERGY DIALOGUE, (STAVANGER, 24-25 JUNE 2007)*

(SEC(2007)999)

The Commission took note of the information note from Mr PIEBALGS in SEC(2007)999.

9.2. *SECOND MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL OF THE ENERGY COMMUNITY (PODGORICA, 29 JUNE 2007)*

(SEC(2007)1001)

The Commission took note of the information note from Mr PIEBALGS in SEC(2007)1001.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP OF THE WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANISATION

(SEC(2007)1002)

The Commission took note of the information note from Mr KOVÁCS in SEC(2007)1002.

11. REFORMING EUROPE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY - OPINION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 48 OF THE TREATY ON EUROPEAN UNION, ON THE CONFERENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES CONVENED TO REVISE THE TREATIES (COM(2007)412 AND /2; SEC(2007)963)

The PRESIDENT presented the draft Commission opinion drawn up under Article 48 of the Treaty on European Union, which he was tabling for adoption with Ms WALLSTRÖM.

The PRESIDENT described the context of the Commission opinion. He mentioned the mandate that the European Council of 21, 22 and 23 June had assigned to the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) due to open on 23 July, and the opinion on the convening of the IGC that Parliament would be giving that Wednesday 11 July. He also reminded the meeting of the conclusions of the Commission seminar on 14 May and the debate on the conclusions of the European Council that the Commission had had at its 1794th meeting on 27 June.

Given the extremely precise mandate issued by the European Council, the PRESIDENT considered that the debate up to the beginning of the IGC could hinge in part on the question of whether or not this mandate should be reviewed. He therefore felt it essential that the Commission give its unfailing support to the

mandate issued by the European Council, which was the best possible compromise between the 27 Member States, and that it oppose any rediscussion that would be particularly harmful for the interests of the EU. He added that this was also the position of Parliament, which was about to adopt a favourable opinion on the mandate set by the European Council.

The PRESIDENT stated that the Commission should still be able to present its own positions at the IGC in response to the concrete proposals that could emerge during the proceedings and offer the best solutions possible on points that could still be open to interpretation. He added that the Commission would work to this end in close cooperation with the Council Presidency.

On the question of the Commission's political message, he emphasised the importance of highlighting the link between the institutional arrangement and a Europe that can deliver for the 21st century, whose motto could be "working together to achieve results in the interest of Europe's citizens". He felt that this strategy had borne fruit. By way of example he quoted the very positive results of the latest Eurobarometer poll, the best since 1994, and also the Berlin Declaration and the very constructive approach of the previous Council Presidency, which would no doubt be continued by the new Presidency.

The PRESIDENT noted that this constructive approach was also reflected in the Commission opinion. He felt that the IGC would not introduce new elements nor revisit the mandate, but would rather have to devote all its efforts to giving substance to the political consensus reached at the June European Council. He confirmed the Commission's support for the Council Presidency so that it could conclude the proceedings of the IGC in time for the informal European Council in October 2007. He saw it as being in the Commission's interest to promote a speedy process and resolve the institutional issue that had been left in abeyance and was undermining the efforts made in other fields of Community action. In this connection, the Commission would also be calling on the Member States to ratify the Reform Treaty as soon as possible.

Following on from the PRESIDENT's presentation Ms WALLSTRÖM confirmed that the mandate was an acceptable political compromise and a fine achievement by the European Council, which deserved the support of the Commission and the other institutions. She thought, however, that constructive contributions from the Council Presidency, the Member States and the Commission would still be necessary in order to bring the revision of the Treaties to a satisfactory conclusion.

Ms WALLSTRÖM also drew attention to the importance of the communication strategy, which she regarded as a major political priority for the Commission in the coming months. She reported that following the debate on 27 June, she had asked her departments to prepare a document for publication after the conclusion of the IGC to explain to citizens the Commission's position and to structure the debate with civil society.

After the two presentations, the Commission held an in-depth discussion during which the following aspects in particular were raised:

- the unanimous support of the Commission Members for the mandate drawn up by the European Council, which was a balanced and reasonable compromise, acceptable to all the stakeholders, and their opposition to any rediscussion of this mandate;
- the observation that the mandate took up a good many of the Commission's proposals;
- recognition of the excellent work done in this matter by the German Council Presidency;
- the Commission's firm support to the new Council Presidency for speedy implementation of the mandate in the IGC;
- the importance of defining a coherent and coordinated approach on the external relations provisions, particularly with respect to the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the External Action Service;

- the importance of correctly reflecting the single legal personality in the text of the Reform Treaty;
- the fact that the mandate, as a political compromise, had not taken up all the Commission's ideas, particularly as regards the primacy of Community law, the Charter of Fundamental Rights, or the question of European symbols;
- the provisions of the mandate on certain areas of Union action such as climate change, social protection, enlargement and trade;
- support for the increased use of codecision in fifty or so areas, and for the extension of qualified majority voting to more than forty new areas;
- the case for taking into account, in the IGC discussions, demographic challenges and gender equality;
- the need for the Commission to equip itself, for the coming months, with a constructive, comprehensive and well-balanced communication strategy, directed as a matter of priority towards the general public.

In closing the discussion, the PRESIDENT noted the unanimous support for the Commission's draft opinion.

On external relations and the External Action Service, he took the view that the provisions in the mandate gave a satisfactory guarantee of institutional coherence and the Commission's powers and confirmed that a close watch would have to be kept on these questions at the IGC. For this he proposed referring the matter to the External Relations group of Commissioners immediately after the summer break.

He stressed that the principal objective of the Commission's communication strategy, adapted to the specific features of each Member State, was first to demonstrate the Commission's support for the mandate, and second to contribute actively and constructively to the rapid conclusion of the work of the IGC and of the ratification process that would follow.

The PRESIDENT also noted the Commission's agreement on the following amendments to the English document distributed as COM(2007)412/2:

- in chapter II "*The Reform Treaty*", the 3rd and 4th sentences of the first paragraph on page 4 would read as follows: "*Together with many positive elements, which are to be welcomed, this compromise meant that some of the changes agreed in the 2004 IGC were not retained and a number of derogations were granted to individual Member States. The disappearance of some elements, including some symbolic ones, as well as changes that reduced the readability of the Treaty text, were necessary parts of a package agreement which could be subscribed to by all Member States.*"; the following sentence "*The Commission actively contributed....*" remained unchanged;
- in the section "*A more effective Europe*", the 3rd bullet point on page 5 would read as follows: "*Streamlined procedures for economic governance will enhance coordination and facilitate decision-taking in the euro area.*";
- in the section "*A Europe of rights and values, solidarity and security*", the last bullet point on page 7 would read as follows: "*The new horizontal social clause will give prominence to the Union's commitment to employment and social protection, and the role of the regions and the social partners will be confirmed as part of the political, economic and social fabric of the Union.*".

Subject to insertion of the above amendments, the Commission adopted the opinion in COM(2007)412/2, for transmission to the Council, and for information, to Parliament, the European Central Bank, the Court of Justice, the Court of Auditors, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, and to the national parliaments.

12. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(SEC(2007)953)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group held on Friday 6 July 2007 (SEC(2007)953).

It paid particular attention to the following:

12.1. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

i) Situation report

(point 1.1 of the record of the IRG)

Application of the new "Comitology" decision – General Alignment

The Commission adopted an omnibus-type approach for the general alignment of existing acts on Council Decision 2006/512/EC amending Decision 1999/468/EC laying down the procedures for the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission, in accordance with the line set out in SI(2007)715.

ii) Preparation for Parliament's July part-session

(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 associated Members, to take a position on Parliament's amendments to its proposals.

It paid particular attention to the following:

Codecision 2nd reading

- Specific programme "Civil Justice" (2007-2013) (Decision) – SEGELSTRÖM report – 2005/0440 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2007)3626.

(10 July 2007)

Empowerment

- Specific programme "Civil Justice" (2007-2013) (Decision) – SEGELSTRÖM report – 2005/0440 (COD)

The Commission empowered Mr FRATTINI, under Article 13 of its Rules of Procedure, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Ms WALLSTRÖM and any associated Members, to adopt and transmit to the Council its opinion on the amendments, in accordance with Article 251(2)(c) of the Treaty, once Parliament had been consulted, and if necessary to attach to its opinion an amended proposal, on the basis of the line set out in SP(2007)3626.

Codecision – 1st reading

- Community statistical programme 2008-2012 (decision) – BECSEY report – 2006/0229 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2007)3644.

- Mergers and divisions of public limited companies as regards the requirement for an independent expert's report on the occasion of a merger or a division (Directive) – KAUPPI report – 2007/0035 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2007)3677 and /2.

12.2. RELATIONS WITH THE COUNCIL

iii) Programming of Council business

(SI(2007)710)

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2007)710 on the Council meetings between 5 and 18 July 2007.

iv) Results of the informal meeting of ministers responsible for employment and social policy (Guimarães, 6 July)

(SI(2007)720)

Mr ŠPIDLA reported briefly on the main results of the informal meeting of ministers responsible for employment and social policy organised by the Council Presidency on 6 July in Guimarães, which had also been attended by representatives of the social partners.

As regards the new integrated guidelines for growth and jobs, while noting the general consensus of the ministers on the present wording, Mr ŠPIDLA pointed out that a majority had expressed the desire to see the visibility of social inclusion enhanced.

The need for better horizontal coordination between policies and between the various Council bodies had been stressed. In this connection, Mr ŠPIDLA referred to the "Jumbo" Council that would bring together the ministers responsible for employment and justice in December next and which would address the questions of migration and integration.

The ministers and the representatives of the social partners alike had emphasised the need for a balanced approach on the extremely sensitive matter of flexicurity.

Lastly, Mr ŠPIDLA alluded to the proposal of the German Vice-Chancellor Mr Franz Müntefering to introduce a social policy day (or week) for a debate on social Europe in all the national parliaments and in the European Parliament ahead of the European elections in 2009.

The Commission took note of this information.

12.3. RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT

v) Preparation for July 2007 part-session of Parliament – Consideration of non-legislative matters

(point 3.1 of the record of the IRG)

- Opinion on the convening of a conference of the representatives of the governments of the Member States – LEINEN report

The Commission took note of the note in SP(2007)3603 and /3.

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

vi) Follow-up to Committee of the Regions opinions –Thirty-first report (December 2006 plenary session)

(point 4.1 of the record of the IRG)

The Commission approved the replies to the opinions adopted by the Committee of the Regions during the December 2006 plenary session, contained in the document distributed as SR(2007)21, for transmission to the Committee of the Regions.

13. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

(SEC(2007)948/2)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

(PERS(2007)76/2)

13.1. DG DIGIT – APPOINTMENT OF AD14/15 DIRECTOR

(PERS(2007)1 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, Infrastructure, Services, Provision in the Informatics Directorate-General (PERS(2007)1).

The Commission took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 20 December 2006 and 11 January 2007 (PERS(2007)1/2 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, it then decided to appoint Mr Marcel JORTAY to the post.

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

13.2. DG ELARG – APPOINTMENT OF AD14/15 DIRECTOR

(PERS(2007)46 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 in the Enlargement Directorate-General (PERS(2007)46).

The Commission took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 22 March and 14 June (PERS(2005)46/2 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

(10 July 2007)

a proposal from Mr KALLAS, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr REHN, it then decided to appoint Ms Gerhard SCHUMANN-HITZLER to the post.

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

**13.3. OPOCE – APPOINTMENT OF AD15/16 DIRECTOR-GENERAL
(PERS(2006)166 TO /6)**

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) and 29(1)(b) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Director-General of the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities (OPOCE) (PERS(2006)166 to /3).

The Commission took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 9 March and on 19 April 2007 and of the opinion of the OPOCE Management Committee of 29 June 2007 (PERS(2006)166/4 to /6).

The Commission proceeded to compare the applicants' qualifications for the post. In this connection, Mr KALLAS referred to the qualifications and professional experience of Ms Martine REICHERTS, who he proposed for appointment in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr ORBAN. Mr ORBAN spelled out the specific characteristics of the function and the challenges awaiting the new Director-General of OPOCE.

In the light of the above, the Commission, on a proposal from Mr KALLAS, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr ORBAN, decided to appoint Ms Martine REICHERTS to the post.

This decision would take effect on 1 August 2007.

**13.4. DG TREN – APPOINTMENT OF AD14/15 DIRECTOR
(PERS(2007)68 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 of the Trans-European

(10 July 2007)

Transport Network Executive Agency (AE TEN-T – Brussels) in the Energy and Transport Directorate-General (PERS(2007)68).

The Commission took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 7 and 28 June 2007 (PERS(2005)68/2 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, Mr BARROT and Mr PIEBALGS, it decided to appoint Mr Dirk BECKERS to the post and to transfer him in the interest of the service to the TEN-T executive agency for the duration of his term of office, i.e. until 31 December 2008; he would perform this function as a temporary staff member.

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

**13.5. DG RTD – ADOPTION OF A LIST FOR THE FUNCTION OF AD14
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN JOINT UNDERTAKING
FOR ITER AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF FUSION ENERGY
(PERS(2007)77)**

The Commission noted the procedure followed, as set out in item 5 of PERS(2007)76/2, and, on a proposal from Mr KALLAS, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr POTOČNIK, decided:

- to approve the list of two candidates set out in PERS(2007)77;
- to consider this list as the Commission proposal under Article 8 of the Annex to Decision 2007/198/Euratom;
- to have Mr POTOČNIK communicate this decision to the Governing Board of the European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy.

This decision would take effect immediately.

13.6. DG ADMIN – RECRUITMENT OF OFFICIALS AND TEMPORARY STAFF FROM THE NEW MEMBER STATES (EU-10+2) IN THE COMMISSION – SITUATION AT 1 MAY 2007 AND NEXT STEPS (SEC(2007)941 AND /2; SEC(2007)944)

The Commission took note of the report from Mr KALLAS in SEC(2007)941/2.

14. WHITE PAPER ON SPORT

(COM(2007)391 TO /3; SEC(2007)932 AND /2; SEC(2007)936 AND /2; SEC(2007)934 AND /2; SEC(2007)935 AND /2; SEC(2007)939; SEC(2007)974)

Mr FIGEL' presented the broad lines of the White Paper on Sport which was due to be approved by the Commission by finalisation written procedure that Wednesday 11 July 2007 (E/1488/2007).

Mr FIGEL' thanked all the Commission Members, and particularly Ms KROES, Mr McCREEVY, Mr ŠPIDLA, Mr FRATTINI and Mr KYPRIANOU, for the contributions of their departments to the drafting of the White Paper. He pointed out that the White Paper followed on from the December 2000 Nice Declaration, which recognised the important role played by sport and its specific place in European society, and developed the lines agreed by the Commission at the last debate on this question.

Mr FIGEL' then pointed to sport as an economic and social phenomenon of growing importance, making a substantial contribution to the attainment of the European Union's strategic goals of solidarity and prosperity. He emphasised that the White Paper was the first initiative the Commission had taken to deal in depth with matters relating to sport. It covered the societal role, the economic dimension and the organisation of professional sport in the Union. Mr FIGEL added that concrete proposals for initiatives that the Commission would have to take or support were listed in a "Pierre de Coubertin" action plan.

Mr FIGEL' concluded by pointing out that the mandate for the Intergovernmental Conference preparing the Reform Treaty included a provision on sport, and so the White Paper was not the last stage of the process.

The Commission then had a very brief exchange of views on mechanisms for financing sport.

The Commission took note of this information.

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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 14.51 hours.