



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

**PV(2007)1806 final**

Strasbourg, 13 November 2007

**MINUTES**

**of the 1806th meeting of the Commission  
held in Strasbourg  
(Winston Churchill building)  
on Tuesday 23 October 2007  
(afternoon)**

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**PV(2007)1806 final**

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**Single sitting: Tuesday 23 October 2007 (afternoon)**

The sitting opened at 14.48 hours with Mr BARROSO, President, in the chair. Item 14 was chaired by Ms WALLSTRÖM.

Present:

|                    |                |                         |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Mr BARROSO         | President      | Items 1 to 13           |
| Ms WALLSTRÖM       | Vice-President |                         |
| Mr VERHEUGEN       | Vice-President |                         |
| Mr KALLAS          | Vice-President | Items 1 to 13           |
| Mr FRATTINI        | Vice-President | Items 1 to 13           |
| Ms REDING          |                |                         |
| Mr DIMAS           |                |                         |
| Mr ALMUNIA         |                |                         |
| Ms HÜBNER          |                |                         |
| Ms GRYBAUSKAITĖ    |                | Items 1 to 9 (in part)  |
| Mr KYPRIANOU       |                |                         |
| Mr REHN            |                |                         |
| Mr KOVÁCS          |                |                         |
| Ms KROES           |                | Items 1 to 14 (in part) |
| Ms FISCHER BOEL    |                |                         |
| Ms FERRERO-WALDNER |                |                         |
| Mr McCREEVY        |                | Items 1 to 13           |
| Mr ŠPIDLA          |                |                         |
| Mr MANDELSON       |                |                         |
| Ms KUNEVA          |                |                         |
| Mr ORBAN           |                |                         |

Absent:

Mr BARROT

Vice-President

Mr BORG

Mr POTOČNIK

Mr FIGEL'

Mr MICHEL

Mr PIEBALGS

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

|             |                                 |
|-------------|---------------------------------|
| Mr SAGREDO  | A member of Mr BARROT's staff   |
| Mr SANT     | A member of Mr BORG's staff     |
| Mr ROSA     | A member of Mr MICHEL's staff   |
| Ms SOEWARTA | A member of Mr PIEBALGS's staff |

The following also sat in:

|                       |                                         |                         |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mr VALE DE ALMEIDA    | Chef de cabinet to the PRESIDENT        |                         |
| Mr PETITE             | Director-General, Legal Service         |                         |
| Mr SØRENSEN           | Director-General, DG Communication      | Items 1 to 9            |
| Mr WORINGER           | DG Communication                        | Items 10 to 14          |
| Mr LAITENBERGER       | Commission Spokesman                    | Items 1 to 13           |
| Ms CARVALHO           | Bureau of European Policy Advisers      |                         |
| Mr THEBAULT           | Deputy Chef de cabinet to the PRESIDENT | Items 1 to 14 (in part) |
| Mr MARQUES DE ALMEIDA | A member of the PRESIDENT's staff       | Items 1 to 9            |
| Ms MARTÍNEZ ALBEROLA  | A member of the PRESIDENT's staff       | Items 1 to 12           |
| Mr SEVERIS            | A member of Mr KYPRIANOU's staff        | Item 12                 |
| Mr LEARDINI           | Secretariat-General                     | Items 1 to 10           |

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

**1. AGENDAS**

**(OJ(2007)1806/3; SEC(2007)1368/2)**

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)1806)**

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 22 October 2007.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND SPECIAL MINUTES OF 1805<sup>TH</sup> MEETING  
(17 OCTOBER 2007)**

**(PV(2007)1805; PV(2007)1805, PART II)**

The Commission approved the minutes of its 1805th meeting.

#### **4. MONITORING THE APPLICATION OF COMMUNITY LAW**

##### **4.1. STATE AID – RECAPITULATIVE LIST**

**(SEC(2007)1419 TO /3)**

The Commission adopted the decisions in the recapitulative list in SEC(2007)1419/3.

##### **4.2. INFRINGEMENTS – URGENT CASES – RECAPITULATIVE LIST**

**(SEC(2007)1388; SEC(2007)1387; SEC(2007)1420)**

The Commission adopted the decisions in the recapitulative list in SEC(2007)1388, subject to the following amendment:

|                       |                                                                                     |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>2000/5042</b>      | <b><i>Finland</i></b>                                                               |
| <b>Trade in snuff</b> |                                                                                     |
| <u>Decision</u> :     | Second referral – penalty payment: €19 828,80 /day and<br>lump sum: €3 888,00 / day |

The Commission thus decided to apply a seriousness factor of 6 in setting the levels of the penalty payment and of the lump sum, and to recalculate these daily amounts using the calculation method in force.

##### **4.3. INFRINGEMENTS – CASES POSTPONED BECAUSE OF NON-AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS – REGULARISATION**

**(SEC(2007)1391)**

The Commission adopted the decisions in SEC(2007)1391.

## **5. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS**

### **5.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED**

**(SEC(2007)1369 ET SEQ.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 15 and 19 October 2007.

### **5.2. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES**

**(SEC(2007)1370 AND /2)**

The Commission took note of the sensitive written procedures for which the time limit expired between 22 and 26 October 2007 and of the "finalisation" written procedures initiated following the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet on 22 October 2007.

### **5.3. EMPOWERMENT**

**(SEC(2007)1371 ET SEQ.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 15 and 19 October 2007.

### **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 15 and 19 October 2007, as archived on "Greffé 2000" (Registry).

**6. PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL DIRECTIVE ON A SINGLE APPLICATION PROCEDURE FOR A SINGLE PERMIT FOR THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS TO RESIDE AND WORK IN THE TERRITORY OF A MEMBER STATE AND ON A COMMON SET OF RIGHTS FOR THIRD-COUNTRY WORKERS LEGALLY RESIDING IN A MEMBER STATE (COM(2007)638 TO /3; SEC(2007)1408 TO /3; SEC(2007)1393; SEC(2007)1402; SEC(2007)1385)**

The Commission adopted the proposal for a Council Directive in COM(2007)638/3 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions and to the national parliaments together with the impact assessment and the summary in staff papers SEC(2007)1408 and /3 and SEC(2007)1393 respectively, the contents of which were noted.

It also took note of the opinion of the Impact Assessment Board on the above proposal for a Directive, as set out in SEC(2007)1402.

**7. PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL DIRECTIVE ON THE CONDITIONS OF ENTRY AND RESIDENCE OF THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS FOR THE PURPOSE OF HIGHLY QUALIFIED EMPLOYMENT COM(2007)637 TO /4; SEC(2007)1403; SEC(2007)1382; SEC(2007)1401; SEC(2007)1385)**

The Commission adopted the proposal for a Council Directive in COM(2007)637/4 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, and to the national parliaments, accompanied by the impact assessment and the summary in staff papers SEC(2007)1403 and SEC(2007)1382 respectively, the contents of which were noted.

It also took note of the opinion of the Impact Assessment Board on the above proposal for a Directive, as set out in SEC(2007)1401.

Lastly, in view of the transitional provisions applying to the access of nationals of the new Member States to the labour market, the Commission would take into consideration the consequences of this proposal on the situation of such persons in comparison with the treatment that would be given to non-Community nationals.

## **8. COMMISSION COMMUNICATION TO PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL – ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS (COM(2007)635 TO /3; SEC(2007)1384)**

The Commission approved the communication in COM(2007)635/3, for transmission to the European Parliament and the Council, and to the national parliaments.

## **9. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS (SEC(2007)1379)**

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group held on Friday 19 October 2007 (SEC(2007)1379).

It paid particular attention to the following:

### **9.1. *LEGISLATIVE MATTERS***

#### **i) Preparation for October II 2007 part-session of Parliament (point 1.2 of the IRG 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 associated, to take a position on Parliament's amendments to its proposals.

It paid particular attention to the following:

Codecision – 1<sup>st</sup> reading

- Implementing powers conferred on the Commission – Batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators (Directive) – BLOKLAND report – 2007/0036 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2007)5490.

**9.2. RELATIONS WITH THE COUNCIL**

**ii) Programming of Council business**

(SI(2007)918)

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2007)918 on the Council meetings between 18 and 31 October 2007.

**iii) Results of the Intergovernmental Conference and of the informal meeting of the Heads of State or Government (Lisbon, 18 and 19 October 2007)**

The PRESIDENT reported on the outcome of the discussions at the meeting of the Intergovernmental Conference and of the informal meeting of the Heads of State or Government on 18 and 19 October 2007 in Lisbon. He emphasised the twofold importance of these meetings, which had successfully brought to a close a difficult chapter in the institutional development of the EU and provided a demonstration, with the debate on globalisation, of the Union's ability to tackle today's issues.

Firstly, as regards the agreement on the reform Treaty, the PRESIDENT highlighted the crucial step forward that would now left the Union better equipped to take on the challenges ahead. He noted that the changes

since the European Council last June were finally limited in number and in many cases concerned only one or two Member States, the choice having been made to encourage opt-outs rather than lower the general level of ambition of the Treaty. He felt that the Commission had achieved the objectives it had set itself for the negotiations. He was pleased that the danger of a step back in relation to the Treaty of Nice had been avoided and that the role of the Commission had been restated. He also thought that the Treaty of Lisbon would enable the European institutions to operate more democratically and more effectively and would make for greater coherence in the management of external affairs.

The PRESIDENT noted that this agreement, two and a half years after the two no votes in the referendums that had marked the beginning of a period of doubt about whether 27 Member States could agree on a treaty, gave the lie to all the critics claiming that the Union was paralysed and that it was impossible to reconcile divergent national interests. He emphasised that the agreement had not been secured after a bitter struggle but had emerged from a calm and consensual meeting that was the culmination of two years of efforts to produce real advances on matters that were important for the public such as climate change, energy, migration, the internal market and telecommunications.

He felt that the EU had shown greater solidity than it was given credit for and demonstrated its ability to pick itself up after a setback. He emphasised the key role played by the Portuguese Presidency of the Council, on the basis of the excellent preparatory work done by the German Presidency. He also highlighted the Commission's contribution, and particularly thanked Ms WALLSTRÖM for the work she had put into the matter, and the Legal Service and the Secretariat-General for their contribution to devising constructive solutions to the last-minute obstacles. He noted in particular the role of the Commission in settling the question of access to Austrian universities and allaying the concerns expressed by the Czech Republic and Poland, and the excellent

cooperation with the delegation from Parliament in resolving the question of the number of MEPs.

The PRESIDENT then looked to the period ahead following the signing of the Treaty in Lisbon on 13 December 2007. He insisted that the Commission do its utmost to help make the ratification process go smoothly in the 27 Member States, while continuing to produce tangible results for ordinary citizens and with particular attention being paid to the specific situation of each Member State. He highlighted the enhanced importance of communication work over the coming months, stressing that the ratification phase, which was primarily a national affair, would require decentralised communication initiatives, specifically adapted to the realities of the 27 Member States, and conceived in full agreement with the national authorities.

He also noted the need for the Commission, after 13 December 2007, to start preparing itself for the entry into force of the new provisions. The big change would be the appointments of a President of the European Council and a High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, who would also be Vice-President of the Commission. He drew attention to the pledges made about consulting Parliament on the appointment of the first High Representative/Vice-President. As regards the President of the European Council, he thought it would be worthwhile considering how to ensure continuity and to enable the Commission to go on making an effective contribution to the work of the European Council.

The PRESIDENT reverted to the discussions at the informal meeting of the Heads of State or Government on EU action in the context of globalisation. The communication "The European interest: Succeeding in the age of globalisation" approved on 3 October 2007 had proved opportune and well-balanced: it had been the basis for the discussion and had been very well received by the Heads of State or Government. He

stressed the need for the Commission to continue to provide input for this debate.

Two other specific points would have to be followed up before the December European Council, namely a statement on globalisation – an initiative of the British Prime Minister, Mr Gordon Brown – and the proposal of the French President, Mr Nicolas Sarkozy, to set up a Reflection Group on the future of Europe. This, insisted the PRESIDENT, was not a case of reopening the institutional questions, for which an answer had just been found, but a means of projecting ourselves into the future and drawing the outlines of the political debate on the Union for decades to come.

In conclusion the PRESIDENT said that the Heads of State or Government had gone away with a feeling of confidence which he felt the Commission could share. He thought that the EU had come through a difficult test and could now look towards the future, and that the possibility was there for the Commission to move forward on the path traced out in September at its last seminar.

Ms WALLSTRÖM fully agreed with the PRESIDENT's analysis of the situation. Speaking more particularly about the ratification of the Treaty of Lisbon, she stressed that it was for the Member States to choose the process, but there was much to be gained by having as much consistency as possible. She pointed out that there would be debates in certain Member States and that it was therefore essential to present and explain the outcome of the Lisbon negotiations carefully, in close cooperation with the other institutions. She hoped that the general public would be invited to take part in the discussion straightaway. A communication campaign would be useful; it should be as decentralised as possible and planned in cooperation with the governments of the Member States. As the central plank of the action, an internet site in 22 languages had already been launched on Friday 19 October 2007. In conclusion she

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insisted on the need to go beyond the institutional issues and to focus now on producing concrete results for ordinary citizens, a task in which all Commission Members had an important role to play.

The Commission briefly discussed practical issues relating to the appointment of the High Representative/Vice-President and in particular the repercussions on the present composition of the Commission.

The Commission took note of this information.

**iv) Preparation of the Economic Policy Committee (Brussels, 29 October 2007) and of the Economic and Financial Affairs Council (Brussels, 13 November 2007)**

(point 2.3 of the IRG record)

- Staff paper "Migration into the EU : main determinants and economic impact"

The Commission took note of the staff paper in SI(2007)926/2.

**9.3. RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT**

**v) Preparation for October II 2007 part-session of Parliament – non-legislative matters**

(point 3.1 of the IRG record)

- Contribution of taxation and customs policies to the Lisbon Strategy – WAGENKNECHT report – 2007/2097 (INI)

The Commission took note of SP(2007)5471 and /2.

**vi) Action taken on Parliament's legislative opinions and non-legislative resolutions**

(point 3.5.2 of the IRG record)

The Commission approved document SP(2007)5401 on the action taken on Parliament's legislative opinions and non-legislative resolutions adopted at its September I and II 2007 part-sessions, for transmission to Parliament.

**vii) Action taken on Parliament's non-legislative resolutions**

(point 3.5.3 of the IRG record)

The Commission approved the documents SP(2007)5402 and /2 on the action taken on Parliament's non-legislative resolutions adopted at its September I 2007 part-session, for transmission to Parliament.

**viii) Participation by Members of Parliament in international conferences**

(point 3.8 of the IRG record)

- Twentieth meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (Antalya, 9 to 18 November 2007)

The Commission decided to approve the request from Mr PÖTTERING, President of Parliament, to the PRESIDENT, concerning the participation of three members of Parliament at the above meeting.

**10. COMMISSION COMMUNICATION TO PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME 2008**

**(COM(2007)640 TO /4; SEC(2007)1414)**

The Commission took a last look at the draft work programme for 2008, proposed by the PRESIDENT in agreement with Ms WALLSTRÖM.

It focused on certain areas of activity and specific initiatives, that it viewed in the context of the general balance of the work programme and its policy priorities. It considered more particularly:

- the increased importance that should be given to the planned initiatives under the European neighbourhood policy and the follow-up of the joint EU - Africa strategy within the set of external relations dossiers planned for 2008;
- the terms that reflected the importance of the public health and animal health aspect within the topic of climate change.

After this final review, the PRESIDENT noted that the Commission was in agreement on the transfer of the initiatives "European Neighbourhood Policy: country progress reports" and "Communication 'Concrete follow-up measures to the Joint EU-Africa Strategy'" from the list of priority initiatives to the list of strategic initiatives, in Annex 1 of COM(2007)640/4.

Subject to inclusion of these amendments, the Commission adopted its legislative and work programme for 2008 in COM(2007)640/4, for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, and to the national parliaments.

## **11. OTHER BUSINESS**

### ***11.1. MICROSOFT CORPORATION v EUROPEAN COMMISSION CASE***

Ms KROES reported on the result of the contacts that had taken place in recent weeks with the heads of Microsoft Corporation, following the judgment of the Court of First Instance of the European Communities of 17 September 2007 in case T-201/04.

She said that even before entering into these contacts Microsoft had decided not to appeal the above judgment and therefore accepted the main points of the Commission decision of 24 March 2004, particularly as regards the obligation of interoperability with products developed by other software manufacturers.

She also mentioned the results of the discussions, particularly those on the licence fees requested, access to information for software manufacturers and the conditions governing the use of this information, the clauses to be inserted in the licence agreements, etc.

She expressed her satisfaction with the outcome of the negotiations, emphasising that the determination the Commission had shown in the case was now bearing fruit, and competition, consumers and innovation would all benefit.

The Commission took note of this information.

### ***11.2. JUDGMENTS DELIVERED BY THE EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE THAT TUESDAY 23 OCTOBER 2007***

The PRESIDENT mentioned briefly the four judgments delivered by the Court of Justice on Tuesday 23 October 2007, in Cases C-273/04, C-112/05, C-440/05 and C-11/06 - C-12/06, concerning:

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- the measures for the new Member States to adapt to the common agricultural policy, upholding the extension of the system of phasing-in direct payments to farmers;
- the obstacle to the free movement of capital arising from the "Volkswagen law";
- the competence of the European Community to oblige the Member States to provide for common criminal penalties in order to combat ship-source pollution;
- the undue restrictions on the freedom of movement of EU citizens deriving from the German federal law on education and training grants.

The PRESIDENT was pleased with these judgments, which confirmed the essential arguments of the Commission in the cases. He thanked the Legal Service for all it had done.

The Commission took note of this information.

## **12. WHITE PAPER : TOGETHER FOR HEALTH: A STRATEGIC APPROACH FOR THE EU 2008-2013**

**(COM(2007)630 TO /4; SEC(2007)1376 TO /3; SEC(2007)1374 AND /2; SEC(2007)1375 AND /2; SEC(2007)1378; SEC(2007)1386)**

Mr KYPRIANOU briefly presented the White Paper he was tabling for approval. He emphasised the need, in today's changing Europe – population ageing, new threats, difficulty in ensuring sustainability of health systems, but also technological progress – for a new, more comprehensive health strategy, going beyond public health policy alone to encompass all aspects of this area.

He listed the four principles underlying this new strategy – an approach based on shared health values, the idea that health generates wealth, the need to integrate

health concerns in all policies, and strengthening the EU's voice in global health – and the three objectives set in the White Paper: (i) fostering good health in an ageing Europe; (ii) protecting citizens from health threats; (iii) supporting dynamic health systems and new technologies.

He also mentioned the new structured cooperation mechanism to advise the Commission and to promote coordination between the Member States proposed under this strategy, which would rationalise and simplify the present operation and involve regional and local authorities in the process.

He emphasised the great importance of research, and the role that the 7<sup>th</sup> framework programme and initiatives from the field of the information society could play in supporting efforts to promote health.

He thanked all the Commission Members for their contribution to the preparation of this White Paper and remarked in conclusion that everybody shared responsibility for health protection.

After this presentation the Commission approved the White Paper in COM(2007)630/4 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, and to the national parliaments, together with the detailed strategic approach, the impact assessment and the summary in staff papers SEC(2007)1376/3, SEC(2007)1374/2 and SEC(2007)1375/2 respectively, the contents of which were noted.

The Commission also took note of the opinion of the Impact Assessment Board on the White Paper, as set out in SEC(2007)1378.

### **13. RELATIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES**

#### ***13.1. SITUATION IN TURKEY***

The PRESIDENT reported on his telephone conversation of 22 October 2007 with the Turkish Prime Minister, Mr Recep Tayyip Erdogan, following the attacks by the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) against the Turkish army and the death they had caused. The PRESIDENT had expressed to Mr Erdogan the Commission's solidarity with the Turkish Government in the struggle it was waging against this terrorism. While understanding Turkey's duty to protect its citizens, the Commission remained attached, he had told the Turkish Prime Minister, to seeing Turkey and Iraq cooperate in combating terrorism with due respect for international law.

The Commission took note of this information.

#### ***13.2. VISIT TO ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL (11 TO 19 OCTOBER 2007) (SEC(2007)1445)***

The Commission took note of the information note from Ms FISCHER BOEL, distributed as SEC(2007)1445.

#### ***13.3. EU-RUSSIA ENERGY DIALOGUE (BRUSSELS, 16 OCTOBER 2007) (SEC(2007)1446)***

The Commission took note of the information note from Mr PIEBALGS in SEC(2007)1446.

### **14. OTHER BUSINESS (CONTINUED FROM ITEM 11)**

#### ***14.1. ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE IMF AND THE WORLD BANK (WASHINGTON, 20 TO 22 OCTOBER 2007) (SEC(2007)1449; SEC(2007)1447)***

Mr ALMUNIA reported briefly on the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, held in Washington from 20 to 22 October 2007. He highlighted in particular: (i) the concerns and the difficulties expressed in connection with the recent turbulence on the financial markets; (ii) the discussions on exchange rates, with particular reference to the Chinese currency; (iii) the prospects of a reform of the International Monetary Fund and the related regional issues; (iv) the recent changes affecting the World Bank and the prospects for its future, in the context of the arrival of its new President, Mr Robert Zoellick. Mr ALMUNIA also drew attention to the information note from Mr MICHEL.

The Commission held a brief exchange of views on certain specific points raised by Mr ALMUNIA, and more particularly on ways that could be envisaged to ensure better coordination of the positions of the EU Member States in the International Monetary Fund.

Ms WALLSTRÖM concluded, given the interest shown in the exchange of views, that it would be useful for the Commission to hold a more structured discussion in the near future on the questions raised.

The Commission took note of this information and of the information notes from Mr ALMUNIA and Mr MICHEL, distributed as SEC(2007)1449 and SEC(2007)1447 respectively.

#### ***14.2. INFORMAL MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (LISBON, 18 AND 19 OCTOBER 2007)***

Mr REHN reported on the discussion the Foreign Ministers had had on the fringe of the informal meeting of the Heads of State or Government in Lisbon on 18 and 19 October 2007.

He reviewed the main subjects broached by the ministers and commented in particular on the exchange of views on the prospects for the next stages of the

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process of stabilisation and association of Serbia, and on the final status of Kosovo.

The Commission took note of this information.

**14.3. APPOINTMENT OF THE "SWIFT" EMINENT EUROPEAN PERSON  
(SEC(2007)1448)**

The Commission took note of the information note from Mr FRATTINI in SEC(2007)1448.

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The meeting closed at 16.16 hours.