



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2009)1859 final

Brussels, 28 January 2009

MINUTES
of the 1859th meeting of the Commission
held in Brussels
(Berlaymont)
on Wednesday 21 January 2009
(morning)

PV(2009)1859 final

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Attendance list	5-7
1. AGENDAS (OJ(2009)1859/3; SEC(2009)21/3; SEC(2009)35; SEC(2009)36).....	8
2. WEEKLY MEETING OF CHEFS DE CABINET (SEC(2009)1859)	8
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND SPECIAL MINUTES OF 1858TH MEETING (13 JANUARY) (PV(2009)1858; PV(2009)1858, PART II)	8
4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS.....	8
4.1. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS	8
4.2. RELATIONS WITH THE COUNCIL	9
4.3. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT	9
5. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS.....	10
5.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED (SEC(2009)23 ET SEQ.).....	10
5.2. EMPOWERMENT (SEC(2009)24 ET SEQ.)	10
5.3. DELEGATION AND SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS (SEC(2009)25 ET SEQ.).....	10
5.4. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES (SEC(2009)26)	10
6. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS (SEC(2009)22)	11
6.1. DG EXTERNAL RELATIONS – INTERNAL (GRADE AD14/15) AND EXTERNAL (GRADE AD14, EU-27) PUBLICATION OF VACANCY NOTICE FOR CHIEF ADVISED (PERS(2009)12).....	11
6.2. DG EDUCATION AND CULTURE – TERMINATION OF THE EXTERNAL SELECTION PROCEDURE TO APPOINT A GRADE AD15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR- GENERAL (EU-10) (PERS(2006)147 TO /5).....	11
7. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN	

PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – STRATEGIC GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE EU’S MARITIME TRANSPORT POLICY UNTIL 2018 (COM(2009)8 TO /3; SEC(2009)34).....	12
8. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – COMMUNICATION AND ACTION PLAN WITH A VIEW TO ESTABLISHING A EUROPEAN MARITIME TRANSPORT SPACE WITHOUT BARRIERS (COM(2009)10 TO /3; SEC(2009)49; SEC(2009)34).....	12
9. PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ON REPORTING FORMALITIES FOR SHIPS ARRIVING IN OR DEPARTING FROM PORTS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE COMMUNITY AND REPEALING DIRECTIVE 2002/6/EC (COM(2009)11 AND /2); SEC(2009) 46; SEC(2009)47; SEC(2009)48; SEC(2009)49; SEC(2009)34)	13
10. TRENDS IN THE MEMBER STATES (SEC(2009)79).....	13
11. RELATIONS WITH NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES.....	14
11.1. DISPUTE BETWEEN UKRAINE AND RUSSIA ON THE SUPPLY OF GAS.....	14
11.2. LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST – SITUATION IN GAZA (SEC(2009)81).....	14
11.3. MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY IN TRANSPORT (TOKYO, 15-16 JANUARY) (SEC(2009)72).....	14
11.4. JOINT STATEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND THE GOVERNMENT OF GEORGIA ON A FRAMEWORK FOR INCREASED EC FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO GEORGIA 2008 - 2010 (SEC(2009)73)	14
11.5. CONFERENCE FOUNDING AN INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY	

<i>AGENCY (IRENA) (BONN, 26-27 JANUARY) (SEC(2009)62).....</i>	<i>14</i>
12. OTHER BUSINESS.....	15
<i>INFORMAL MEETING OF EUROPEAN MINISTERS ON THE SITUATION IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR (BRUSSELS, 16 JANUARY) (SEC(2009)75)</i>	<i>15</i>
13. POLICY DEBATE ON CLIMATE CHANGE (SEC(2009)77).....	15

Single sitting: Wednesday 21 January 2009 (morning)

The sitting opened at 9.08 in the Jean Monnet room with Mr BARROSO, President, in the chair.

Present:

Mr BARROSO	President	
Ms WALLSTRÖM	Vice-President	
Mr VERHEUGEN	Vice-President	Item 13
Mr BARROT	Vice-President	
Mr KALLAS	Vice-President	
Mr TAJANI	Vice-President	
Ms REDING		
Mr DIMAS		
Mr ALMUNIA		
Ms HÜBNER		
Mr BORG		
Ms GRYBAUSKAITĖ		
Mr POTOČNIK		
Mr FIGEL'		
Mr MICHEL		
Mr KOVÁCS		Item 13 (in part)
Ms KROES		
Ms FISCHER BOEL		
Mr McCREEVY		
Mr ŠPIDLA		
Mr PIEBALGS		
Ms KUNEVA		Item 13 (in part)
Mr ORBAN		
Ms VASSILIOU		
Baroness ASHTON		

Absent:

Mr REHN

Ms FERRERO-WALDNER

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

Mr ARTJOKI	A member of Mr REHN's staff
Mr CHILD	Chef de cabinet to Ms FERRERO-WALDNER

The following also sat in:

Mr VALE DE ALMEIDA	Chef de cabinet to the PRESIDENT	
Ms DURAND	Director-General, Legal Service	
Mr CARVOUNIS	Deputy Director-General, Communication DG	
Mr LAITENBERGER	Commission Spokesman	
Ms CARVALHO	Bureau of European Policy Advisers	
Mr THEBAULT	Deputy Chef de cabinet to the PRESIDENT	Item 13 (in part)
Mr BALDWIN	Adviser in the PRESIDENT's Office	
Ms KONTOU	Chef de cabinet to Mr DIMAS	
Ms GRAFF	A member of Mr DIMAS's staff	
Mr RUNGE-METZGER	DG Environment	

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

1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2009)1859/3; SEC(2009)21/3; SEC(2009)35; SEC(2009)36)

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(2009)1859)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 19 January.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND SPECIAL MINUTES OF 1858th MEETING
(13 JANUARY)**

(PV(2009)1858; PV(2009)1858, PART II)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 1858th meeting.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

4.1. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

i) Action to be taken on Parliament's legislative opinions

(SP(2009)170)

The Commission decided to empower the Commission Members responsible for the sectors in question, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Ms WALLSTRÖM and, if necessary, with the other Members concerned, to adopt the amended proposals for transmission to Parliament and the Council,

as set out in SP(2009)170, drawn up following the January I part-session of Parliament, the contents of which were noted.

4.2. *RELATIONS WITH THE COUNCIL*

ii) Programming of Council business

(SI(2009)15)

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2009)15 on the Council meetings between 22 January and 4 February.

iii) Results of the Economic and Financial Affairs Council (Brussels, 20 January)

(SEC(2009)71)

Mr ALMUNIA and Mr McCREEVY would inform the Commission Members of the main results of the Economic and Financial Affairs Council held on 20 January in a note to be distributed later.

The Commission also took note of the information note from Mr ALMUNIA on the January economic forecasts, distributed as SEC(2009)71.

4.3. *RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT*

iv) Results of Parliament's January I part-session

(SP(2009)107 TO /3)

The Commission took note of the information in SP(2009)107 to /3 on the proceedings of the part-session of Parliament held in Strasbourg from 12 to 15 January.

5. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

5.1. *WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED*

(SEC(2009)23 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 12 and 16 January.

5.2. *EMPOWERMENT*

(SEC(2009)24 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 12 and 16 January.

5.3. *DELEGATION AND SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS*

(SEC(2009)25 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedure between 12 and 16 January, as archived in *e-Greffe*.

5.4. *SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES*

(SEC(2009)26)

The Commission took note of the sensitive written procedures for which the time limit expired between 19 and 23 January.

**6. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS
(SEC(2009)22)**

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
(PERS(2009)11)**

***6.1. DG EXTERNAL RELATIONS – INTERNAL (GRADE AD14/15) AND
EXTERNAL (GRADE AD14, EU-27) PUBLICATION OF VACANCY
NOTICE FOR CHIEF ADVISER
(PERS(2009)12)***

On a proposal from Mr KALLAS, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Ms FERRERO-WALDNER, the Commission decided to authorise the publication, under Articles 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) and 29(2) of the Staff Regulations, of the vacancy notice in PERS(2009)12 for the post of Chief Adviser in the Directorate-General for External Relations.

This decision would take effect immediately.

***6.2. DG EDUCATION AND CULTURE – TERMINATION OF THE
EXTERNAL SELECTION PROCEDURE TO APPOINT A GRADE AD15
DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL (EU-10)
(PERS(2006)147 TO /5)***

The Commission took note of the information set out at point 2 of PERS(2009)11 and, on a proposal from Mr KALLAS, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr FIGEL', decided to terminate selection procedure COM/2007/10042 for the post of Deputy Director-General in the Directorate-General for Education and Culture.

This decision would take effect immediately.

**7. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – STRATEGIC GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE EU’S MARITIME TRANSPORT POLICY UNTIL 2018
(COM(2009)8 TO /3; SEC(2009)34)**

The Commission approved the communication in COM(2009)8/3 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.

**8. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – COMMUNICATION AND ACTION PLAN WITH A VIEW TO ESTABLISHING A EUROPEAN MARITIME TRANSPORT SPACE WITHOUT BARRIERS
(COM(2009)10 TO /3; SEC(2009)49; SEC(2009)34)**

The Commission approved the communication in COM(2009)10/3 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the EFTA Surveillance Authority, and to the national parliaments.

9. PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ON REPORTING FORMALITIES FOR SHIPS ARRIVING IN OR DEPARTING FROM PORTS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE COMMUNITY AND REPEALING DIRECTIVE 2002/6/EC

(COM(2009)11 AND /2); SEC(2009)46; SEC(2009)47; SEC(2009)48; SEC(2009)49; SEC(2009)34)

The Commission:

- adopted the proposal for a Directive in COM(2009)11/2 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the EFTA Surveillance Authority, and to the national parliaments, accompanied by the impact assessment and the summary thereof in staff papers SEC(2009)46 and SEC(2009)47 respectively, the contents of which were noted;
- took note of the opinion of the Impact Assessment Board on the above proposal for a Directive, as set out in SEC(2009)48.

10. TRENDS IN THE MEMBER STATES

(SEC(2009)79)

The Commission took note of the information note from Ms WALLSTRÖM in SEC(2009)79.

11. RELATIONS WITH NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES

11.1. DISPUTE BETWEEN UKRAINE AND RUSSIA ON THE SUPPLY OF GAS

The PRESIDENT and MR PIEBALGS would draw up an information note on this issue which would then be sent to Commission Members.

11.2. LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST – SITUATION IN GAZA

(SEC(2009)81)

The Commission took note of the information note from Mr MICHEL and Ms FERRERO-WALDNER in SEC(2009)81.

11.3. MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY IN TRANSPORT (TOKYO, 15-16 JANUARY)

(SEC(2009)72)

The Commission took note of the information note from Mr TAJANI distributed as SEC(2009)72.

11.4. JOINT STATEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND THE GOVERNMENT OF GEORGIA ON A FRAMEWORK FOR INCREASED EC FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO GEORGIA 2008 - 2010

(SEC(2009)73)

The Commission authorised Ms FERRERO-WALDNER to sign on the Commission's behalf the joint statement set out in the annex to SEC(2009)73.

11.5. CONFERENCE FOUNDING AN INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY (IRENA) (BONN, 26-27 JANUARY)

(SEC(2009)62)

The Commission took note of the information note from Mr PIEBALGS distributed as SEC(2009)62.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

INFORMAL MEETING OF EUROPEAN MINISTERS ON THE SITUATION IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR (BRUSSELS, 16 JANUARY) (SEC(2009)75)

The Commission took note of the information note from Mr VERHEUGEN distributed as SEC(2009)75.

13. POLICY DEBATE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

(SEC(2009)77)

Mr DIMAS introduced the policy debate on the fight against climate change by saying that a communication on the European Union's position with a view to the forthcoming negotiations on this issue would be put before the Commission for approval at its next meeting. He welcomed the opportunity for an initial exchange of views provided by today's debate. He reminded the meeting that in December 2008 the Union had reached a historic agreement on climate and energy, thereby implementing its commitment to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2020 and that if 2008 had been a crucial year on the internal front, 2009 looked set to be a key year in terms of diplomacy. He added that securing an international agreement at the UN Copenhagen Climate Change Conference (UNCCCC) at the end of 2009 would be a priority for the European Union.

Mr DIMAS considered that up to now the Union had spearheaded the fight against climate change and that the results obtained should not be underestimated. The 20% target was the most ambitious gas emission reduction target worldwide to date, particularly given the European Union's further commitment to increasing this reduction to 30% if a global international agreement were reached.

He stressed that from now on the main challenge facing the European Union was to persuade non-EU countries, as a matter of urgency, of the complexity of the issues

raised and the numerous consequences involved. The Union would be in a strong position in the negotiations because it had clear commitments itself and the necessary instruments for realising them. He then went on to enumerate the key points on which he considered that the policy debate should focus.

Firstly, with regard to the other developed countries, Mr DIMAS pointed out that on the basis of scientific opinion, the European Union had already proposed reducing the gas emissions of the developed countries to 30% below 1990 levels. The Union was committed to this target of 30% provided that the other developed countries agreed to make similar reductions. The key issue was therefore how to assess whether the targets of the other developed countries were sufficiently ambitious and whether they were comparable to those of the EU. Given that circumstances differed widely from country to country, it would not be very practicable to apply the same criteria to all of them. A combination of criteria should therefore be considered such as per capita income, greenhouse gas emission intensity, demographic trends and the efforts already made to reduce emissions. Among the developed countries, he emphasised the importance of the position of the USA and the announcement by the new US President, Barack Obama, that he wanted his country to play an active part in the negotiations and run-up to the Copenhagen Conference. Discussions were also essential with other key partners such as Japan, Australia, Canada and Russia.

Secondly, Mr DIMAS highlighted the issue of the developing countries' contribution to a future international agreement. These countries should also take measures to limit the growth of their gas emissions even if the nature and level of their targets were different from those of the developed countries. The developing countries should cut their emissions by 15-30% below their usual levels by 2020. The differences between developing countries should be taken into account: the least developed countries with low emissions needed support to adapt to the consequences of climate change while economically more advanced countries with higher emission levels should make a significant contribution to the fight against climate change.

Mr DIMAS turned thirdly to the question of financing, in particular for the developing countries. This was a key issue in terms of both the effectiveness and

acceptance of any agreement reached at Copenhagen. Additional investments would therefore be needed globally to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change; according to some estimates annual investment of around 120 to 150 billion would be needed in the developing countries in 2020. Part of these investments would be financed by the developing countries themselves, while an additional source of funding and investment could be obtained through the carbon market, particularly carbon credits. However, the developed countries must also make a contribution and the European Union would have to take on its fair share in the global agreement. The communication on climate change to be submitted to the Commission for approval at its next meeting should at least give a clear idea of the approximate amounts that would be needed globally, based among other things on the figures supplied by the UN. Lastly, he pointed out that the EU's offer in the negotiations would depend on the level of ambition of the international agreement achieved and the contributions of the other countries.

He reminded the meeting that in 2009 the European Union would have to significantly step up its contacts with its international partners in the various international forums. This would require consultation and joint work by Commission Members in the run-up to the Copenhagen Conference.

Mr DIMAS concluded his presentation by mentioning a related dossier currently in preparation, the White Paper on Adaptation, an ambitious strategic horizontal document covering several policy areas. This dossier would need the contribution of the different departments and he called for the support of the other Commission Members and their departments.

The PRESIDENT then took the floor. He considered, firstly, that the European Union should set out its own strategy and tactics, given that it was in a strong position in the negotiations in terms of its commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the concessions it was able to make if other countries did the same. He stressed that the first objective was to persuade the USA, in particular, and the other developed countries, in particular the G8 countries and Australia, to make a significant contribution. The European Union could propose a transatlantic carbon market that could become a world carbon market. The PRESIDENT then referred to

the need for a differentiated approach with regard to the emerging countries, in particular China and India, and the other developing countries, while stressing the importance of a clear commitment from the major developed countries, particularly the USA, as the only means of securing agreement with the developing countries.

On the question of financing, the PRESIDENT considered that the European Union must put forward the need for a global financial agreement to which the EU would make a substantial contribution, but that it should avoid putting figures on the table too early on in the negotiations. He considered such caution justified both for internal reasons (the economic crisis and the resulting financial commitments required of the Member States) and external reasons (to emphasise that the European Union assumed its responsibilities but could not by itself finance all the adaptation measures and measures to fight climate change). The PRESIDENT considered that it would therefore be advisable not to refer, even in a general way, to the additional financial measures. He recommended instead giving priority to the kind of package envisaged, the role of the market and of the private sector, and innovative mechanisms such as development aid. He emphasised that climate change was also, above all, a human problem and that development was an important aspect of it.

The PRESIDENT ended by stressing that the Commission must act collectively on this issue. By way of an example, he noted the excellent cooperation that currently existed between Mr DIMAS, Mr MICHEL and Ms FERRERO-WALDNER and the need for the Commission to be present and active in all situations. Lastly, he mentioned the Group of External Relations Commissioners, who would be informed on a regular basis of the progress of this dossier.

He concluded by referring to the discussion to be held at the next Commission meeting on the communication on the climate change negotiations, and emphasised the importance of that discussion for identifying certain specific points for which a political orientation was desirable.

Following these introductory remarks, the Commission held a wide-ranging debate during which the following points were raised:

- support for the general approach advocated in the introductions and in the information note;
- the need to pursue the Community approach to action on climate change and to develop it internationally;
- the importance of the targets agreed at European level, the mandate given to the Commission by the European Council, and the work on following up the European Council of 11 and 12 December and in the Economic and Financial Affairs Council;
- the significant contribution of measures taken against climate change to economic recovery plans at European and world level;
- the complementary relationship between the issue of economic recovery and the climate protection agenda, and the need to develop a long-term approach in both these areas;
- the contributions of climate change strategy to innovation, research and development and the opportunities it opened up for the European economy and for trade between the European Union and its partners;
- the constructive and proactive role which could be played by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology in the transfer of technology;
- the importance of including organisations representing the two sides of industry at world level;
- recognition of the special situation of the European transport industry, in particular air and sea transport, and the importance of preserving competitiveness in world transport markets;
- the importance, for communication strategy aimed at both the European public and the EU's international partners, of stressing the major opportunities and benefits offered by closer international cooperation in combating climate change;

- the lessons learned from the dispute between Russia and Ukraine over gas supplies, in particular the need to diversify Europe's energy supply;
- the importance of close cooperation between all countries and players on the international scene, including the United Nations, the G8 and the G20;
- the importance of differentiated treatment between developed and developing countries and, among the latter, between emerging countries and less advanced countries;
- the need for close cooperation between the EU and the United States, and optimism about the constructive and cooperative approach of the new US administration;
- the complementary relationship between climate change strategy and development aid, which would require a large number of different and differentiated instruments, but also in-depth coordination;
- regarding the future implementation of an international system for combating climate change, a preference for the introduction of market mechanisms in order to guarantee greater effectiveness;
- the contributions expected from developing countries as a whole, but also the particular emphasis on the significant - or even vital - contributions that would have to come from developing countries such as China, India or Brazil;
- the importance of taking into account the least developed countries and the fact that they were often the most affected by the negative consequences of climate change, even though the changes themselves were caused mainly by developed or developing countries;
- the significant budgetary and tax aspects of the climate change measures, the need to develop innovative models in order to mobilise public and private funds, and recognition of the role that market forces could play in this context;

- the question of the use of revenue from auctions in any global greenhouse gas emissions trading scheme, one option being to use this revenue to support the poorest countries, particularly in the fields of innovation and research;
- the possibility, following the introduction of a global emissions trading scheme, of reducing or even eliminating entirely the relocation of businesses in connection with emissions;
- concerns about the failure by many developed countries, including certain Member States, to meet the targets set and commitments made in the volume of aid to the poorest countries, as OECD figures seemed to indicate a tendency for developed countries to cut back on development aid in their budgets;
- the scale of deforestation across the globe and the importance of taking this into account in the negotiations;
- the urgent need to reach a new international agreement given that the first phase of the Kyoto Protocol would end in 2012;
- the importance of the upcoming meetings of the European Council (19 and 20 March), the G20 (London, 2 April) and the World Bank and the IMF (Washington, 25 and 26 April);
- the groundwork for international negotiations and the formulation of the EU's strategy for those negotiations, and the importance of the EU setting goals that were both realistic and ambitious;
- also as regards negotiating strategy, the question of whether or not to flesh out in more detail the EU's objectives in the negotiations even before they opened, given the need to align more closely the positions of the EU and its partners.

Following the debate, Mr DIMAS stressed the need for a clear commitment by the United States and cited certain figures that had been advanced by the new US President. He also agreed with the comments in favour of differentiating among developing countries.

On the transport front, he pointed out that the aviation industry was already part of the European emissions trading scheme and that a global agreement at Copenhagen would apply to all signatory countries, thereby enabling the companies concerned to maintain their competitiveness. Lastly, he emphasised the need for an agreement on financing in order to obtain a global agreement at the Copenhagen conference.

Winding up the debate, the PRESIDENT welcomed the various opinions that had been expressed, which would prove useful for finalising the draft communication to be laid before the Commission the following week.

On the question of financing, he felt that the EU should adopt a comprehensive approach, linking the climate issue to energy and the economic crisis. With that in mind it should develop operational ideas and concepts that would enable progress to be made worldwide across the whole range of issues involved, in particular market mechanisms, the private sector, innovative instruments, public development aid and trade-related assistance. In his view, the EU should announce that it would make a contribution to funding but that it also expected a similar commitment on the part of other countries. He preferred not to quote figures now, except perhaps to outline the overall effort deemed necessary at this stage.

Turning to the tactical aspects of the negotiations, the PRESIDENT mentioned the United States as a vital partner as well as the members of the G8, Australia and certain emerging countries such as Brazil, China and India. He stressed here the need to distinguish between those developing countries that were emerging and the rest.

He then spoke about the importance within the EU of properly explaining and communicating the need for Europe that was emerging from the debate on climate change, and on the specific tools it required. He argued that a diplomatic initiative should be launched towards the outside world and that every opportunity should be used to build up regional, international, bilateral and multilateral contacts.

Lastly, the PRESIDENT noted that the relevant departments would prepare position papers to supply each Commission Member with suitable communication material

(21 January 2009)

and that the Group of External Relations Commissioners and the Commission as a whole would be kept regularly informed of new developments in this dossier.

The Commission took note of the information note in SEC(2009) 77 and the results and conclusions of the policy debate.

*

* *

The meeting closed at 10.23.