



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2009)1866 final

Brussels, 18 March 2009

MINUTES

**of the 1866th meeting of the Commission
held in Strasbourg
(Winston Churchill building)
on Tuesday 10 March 2009
(afternoon)**

PV(2009)1866 final

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Single sitting: Tuesday 10 March 2009 (afternoon)

The sitting opened at 13.09 with Mr BARROSO, President, in the chair.

Present:

Mr BARROSO	President	
Ms WALLSTRÖM	Vice-President	Item 10 (in part)
Mr VERHEUGEN	Vice-President	
Mr BARROT	Vice-President	
Mr KALLAS	Vice-President	
Mr TAJANI	Vice-President	
Ms REDING		
Mr DIMAS		
Mr BORG		
Ms GRYBAUSKAITĖ		
Mr POTOČNIK		
Mr FIGEL'		
Mr ŠPIDLA		
Ms KUNEVA		
Mr ORBAN		
Ms VASSILIOU		

Absent:

Mr ALMUNIA

Ms HÜBNER

Mr REHN

Mr MICHEL

Mr KOVÁCS

Ms KROES

Ms FISCHER BOEL

Ms FERRERO-WALDNER

Mr McCREEVY

Mr PIEBALGS

Baroness ASHTON

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

Mr QUERO MUSSOT	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Mr ALMUNIA
Mr KOLINSKI	A member of Ms HÜBNER's staff
Mr KRINGS	A member of Mr REHN's staff
Mr FRIIS	A member of Ms FISCHER BOEL's staff
Ms ARP	A member of Ms FERRERO- WALDNER's staff
Ms SAMNADDA	A member of Mr McCREEVY's staff
Ms SOEWARTA	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Mr PIEBALGS

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, DG Communication
Mr LAITENBERGER	Commission Spokesman
Ms CARVALHO	Bureau of European Policy Advisers
Mr KLAUS	A member of the PRESIDENT's staff

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

The PRESIDENT paid tribute to Jean Monnet on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of his death (16 March), emphasising the inspiration to be drawn in these times of crisis from the legacy of the man who is still one of the founding fathers of Europe. He reminded the meeting of the profound mark that Jean Monnet had left on European integration and its institutions and of the European Union's debt today to the concept of de facto solidarity of which this great European was one of the most ardent supporters.

The PRESIDENT also reminded the meeting of the values, pragmatism and long-term vision which had characterised not only Jean Monnet's political thought but also the political construction based on it. The PRESIDENT would be speaking both in the European Parliament and in other forums on the occasion of the celebration of this anniversary.

* * *

1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2009)1866/3; SEC(2009)277/2)

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(2009)1866)

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

3. MINUTES OF 1865TH MEETING (4 MARCH)

(PV(2009)1865)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 1865th meeting.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(SEC(2009)285)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group held on Friday 6 March (SEC(2009)285).

It paid particular attention to the following points:

4.1. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

i) Preparation for March I part-session of Parliament

(point 1.3 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 – 1st reading

- Public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents (regulation) – CASHMAN report – 2008/0090 (COD)

The Commission authorised Mr WALLSTRÖM to pursue contacts with Parliament and the Council in order to reach agreement at first reading following the line set out in SP(2009)1159 and /3.

ii) Preparation of agreements at first reading

(point 1.4 of the IRG record)

- Aerodromes, air traffic management and air navigation services (regulation) – MARINESCU report – 2008/0128 (COD)

The Commission authorised Mr TAJANI to pursue contacts with Parliament and the Council in order to reach agreement at first reading following the line

set out in SPI(2009)26.

- Performance and sustainability of the European aviation system (regulation) – MARINESCU report – 2008/0127 (COD)

The Commission authorised Mr TAJANI to pursue contacts with Parliament and the Council in order to reach agreement at first reading following the line set out in SPI(2009)27.

iii) Preparation for Conciliation Committee meeting on 17 March

(point 1.5 of the IRG record)

- Organisation of working time (Directive) – CERCAS report – 2004/0209 (COD)

The Commission authorised Mr ŠPIDLA to pursue contacts with Parliament and the Council in order to secure a compromise on a joint draft at the Conciliation Committee meeting, following the line set out in SPI(2009)24.

4.2. RELATIONS WITH THE COUNCIL

iv) Programming of Council business

(SI(2009)62)

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2009)62 on the Council meetings between 12 and 25 March.

4.3. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

v) Preparation for the March I part-session – oral questions

(point 3.4 of the IRG record)

H-0038/09, H-0039/09, H-0041/09, H-0042/09, H-0043/09, H-0045/09,
H-0048/09, H-0049/09, H-0051/09, H-0053/09, H-0055/09, H-0057/09,
H-0059/09, H-0061/09, H-0063/09, H-0065/09, H-0068/09, H-0070/09,
H-0072/09, H-0073/09, H-0074/09, H-0075/09, H-0076/09, H-0078/09,
H-0079/09, H-0081/09, H-0082/09, H-0084/09, H-0085/09, H-0086/09,

H-0087/09, H-0088/09, H-0090/09, H-0092/09, H-0094/09, H-0095/09, H-0096/09, H-0097/09, H-0099/09, H-0100/09, H-0102/09, H-0104/09, H-0105/09, H-0106/09, H-0107/09, H-0110/09, H-0112/09, H-0114/09, H-0115/09, H-0116/09, H-0117/09, H-0118/09, H-0119/09, H-0120/09, H-0122/09, H-0123/09, H-0125/09, H-0126/09

The Commission approved the draft answers set out in SP(2009)1051 to /4, following the agreement reached between the Chefs de cabinet on revisions to some of these draft answers, and certain draft supplementary answers, revisions to answers and draft answers as set out in SP(2009)1051/5 *et seq.*

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

(point 3.5.1 of the IRG record)

The Commission approved the documents SP(2009)1067 and /2 on the action taken on the non-legislative resolutions adopted by Parliament at its January 2009 part-session, for transmission to Parliament.

vii) Participation by Members of Parliament in international conferences

(point 3.8 of the IRG record)

- Forty-seventh session of the UN Commission for Social Development (New York, 4 – 13 February 2009)

The Commission decided to reply to the request from Mr PÖTTERING, President of Parliament, to the PRESIDENT, concerning the participation by two Members of Parliament in the above-mentioned meeting, with a reminder about the procedure agreed upon between the two institutions.

5. MONITORING THE APPLICATION OF COMMUNITY LAW

5.1. STATE AID – INDIVIDUAL CASES – RECAPITULATIVE LIST (SEC(2009)293 TO /3)

The Commission adopted the decisions in SEC(2009)293/3.

5.2. STATE AID – OTHER MATTERS (SEC(2009)312)

The Commission took note of the information note from Mr TAJANI on the follow-up to Commission Decisions N 510/2008 and C 26/2008 of 12 November 2008 on Alitalia distributed in SEC(2009)312.

6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED (SEC(2009)279 ET SEQ.)

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

6.2. EMPOWERMENT (SEC(2009)280 ET SEQ.)

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

6.3. DELEGATION AND SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS (SEC(2009)281 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedure between 2 and 6 March, as archived in e-Greffe.

6.4. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES

(SEC(2009)282 AND /2)

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

7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

(SEC(2009)278)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

(PERS(2009)34)

7.1. DG ENVIRONMENT – APPOINTMENT OF AD15 DIRECTOR

On a proposal from Mr KALLAS, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr DIMAS, the Commission decided, under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations, to fill the post of Director (Water, Chemicals and Cohesion), in DG Environment, by transferring in the interest of the service Mr Gustaaf BORCHARDT, AD15 official and currently Director (Relations with the Council) in the Secretariat-General.

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

7.2. DG HUMANITARIAN AID (ECHO) – APPOINTMENT OF AD15 DIRECTOR

On a proposal from Mr KALLAS, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr MICHEL, the Commission decided, under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations, to fill the post of Director (Support to Operations) in DG Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) by transferring in the interest of the service Mr Walter SCHWARZENBRUNNER, AD15 official and currently Director (General Affairs) in DG Information Society and Media.

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

7.3. DG INFORMATION SOCIETY AND MEDIA – APPOINTMENT OF AD15 DIRECTOR

On a proposal from Mr KALLAS, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Ms REDING, the Commission decided, under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations, to fill the post of Director (General Affairs) in DG Information Society and Media by transferring in the interest of the service Ms Megan RICHARDS, AD15 official and currently Director (Resource Management) in the Joint Research Centre.

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

**7.4. DG EDUCATION AND CULTURE - LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR AN AD14 FUNCTION OF DIRECTOR AT THE EUROPEAN TRAINING FOUNDATION
(PERS(2009)30)**

Having noted the procedure followed, as set out in point 4 of PERS(2009)34, the Commission, on a proposal from Mr KALLAS, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr FIGEL', decided:

- to approve the list of three candidates set out in point 4 of PERS(2009)34;
- to authorise M. FIGEL' to send this list to the Governing Board of the European Training Foundation.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

**7.5. DG EXTERNAL RELATIONS – INTERNAL PUBLICATION OF A VACANCY NOTICE FOR AD15/16 DIRECTOR-GENERAL
(PERS(2009)35)**

On a proposal from Mr KALLAS, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Ms FERRERO-WALDNER, the Commission decided to authorise the

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publication, under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations, of the vacancy notice in PERS(2009)35 for the post of Director-General, DG External Relations.

This decision would take effect immediately.

**7.6. DG REGIONAL POLICY- APPLICATION OF THE ARTICLE 50
PROCEDURE (SECOND STAGE) WITH RESPECT TO AN AD15
OFFICIAL
(PERS(2009)36)**

The Commission continued its discussions on this matter begun on 13 January 2009 (PV(2009)1858).

On a proposal from Mr KALLAS, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Ms HÜBNER, the Commission adopted the decision in PERS(2009)36 applying the second stage of the procedure laid down in Article 50 of the Staff Regulations with respect to Mr Alejandro CHECCHI LANG, an AD15 official, currently Director (Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Netherlands, Slovakia, Slovenia) in DG Regional Policy.

This decision would take effect on 1 June 2009.

**8. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING REGULATION (EEC) NO 95/93 ON
COMMON RULES FOR THE ALLOCATION OF SLOTS AT COMMUNITY
AIRPORTS
(COM(2009)121 TO /4; SEC(2009)299)**

The Commission adopted the proposal for a Regulation set out in COM(2009)121/3, for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the national parliaments.

9. RELATIONS WITH NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES

VISIT TO EGYPT AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN SUPPORT OF THE PALESTINIAN ECONOMY AND FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF GAZA (SHARM EL SHEIKH AND CAIRO, 1 TO 4 MARCH 2009) ***(SEC(2009)321)***

The Commission took note of the information note from Ms FERRERO-WALDNER set out in SEC(2009)321.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10.1. TOPICAL ISSUES

The PRESIDENT reminded the meeting of the brief working breakfast the Commission would hold on Wednesday 18 March to discuss the Lisbon Treaty and the situation in Ireland, with a view to a possible second referendum to ratify the Treaty, and also of the exchange of views to be held that same day at 9.30 hours between the Commission and the President of the European Investment Bank (EIB), Mr Philippe Maystadt.

In relation to this, Mr VERHEUGEN informed the Commission of the outcome of his recent visit to Ireland, saying that the atmosphere there appeared to be more constructive now, but that the Commission should adopt a pragmatic approach in its responses to the expectations of that Member State.

He then informed the Commission of his interview on Monday 9 March with the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr Horst Köhler. He referred to the imminent ruling by the Federal German Constitutional Court, to which several complaints had been referred concerning the compatibility of the Lisbon Treaty with the German Basic Law, and the link between this

ruling and the conclusion of the Treaty ratification procedure by Germany.

Mr VERHEUGEN was also looking forward to the forthcoming meeting with Mr Philippe Maystadt, explaining that this would be an opportunity to clarify the conditions governing access by European businesses to the loans granted by the EIB. More flexible conditions would be welcomed by certain sectors of the European economy, particularly the car industry. He intends to preparing reflexion elements on this subject.

The PRESIDENT concluded this item by emphasising the importance of the visit by the EIB President. The general public should be made more aware of the close cooperation between the Commission and the EIB, and the constructive work in progress involving both Community and national levels should be pursued.

Ms REDING announced the latest developments in the "Telecom package", saying that this matter would be discussed at a trialogue this day and at a second trialogue on 18 March. She was pleased with the recent progress made at interinstitutional level, and thanked the current Council Presidency for its commitment in this respect. She reminded the meeting of the Commission's stance on the European Telecom Market Authority and the position adopted by the Council in this area. She was optimistic about a possible agreement being reached at the second reading of the package. The European Parliament vote on this was scheduled for April.

Ms WALLSTRÖM drew the meeting's attention to the recent European Parliament talks on the implementation of the "Better Regulation" programme aimed at recasting existing legislation. The Commission should pay particular attention to this matter in its relations with Parliament in order to identify the objectives of the proposed recasting and to stress to Parliament that the rules of the interinstitutional legislative process should remain unchanged.

10.2. SCREENING OF EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES**(SEC(2009)313 AND /2)**

Ms WALLSTRÖM then presented the information note on external communication activities. She thanked the Commission Members and the services concerned for their excellent cooperation during this exercise, which had started in 2007. The preparations, which had required a major technical and administrative input, had resulted in new guidelines and new mission statements.

Four major aspects had emerged from this exercise: the need to develop a corporate identity for the Commission, to better target and prioritise messages, to increase the capacity for research and information exchange in the Commission Representations in Member States, and lastly to make available to the Commission Members, their Cabinets and other services a set of communication tools to permit the design and development of a more interactive communication strategy better suited to the diverse needs in this area.

Ms WALLSTRÖM highlighted the political importance of the efforts made, which must be continued in order to ensure the release of the reserve which the European Parliament had set aside in relation to part of the staff appropriations. The reserve would be released once the Commission had fulfilled its obligations in the context of the screening.

Apart from the substantial benefits it would bring to the Commission's everyday work, this new structure would satisfy the demands expressed by a large number of Community and national stakeholders, and would meet the high expectations of the general public. She concluded by saying that this exercise was not the last step in the reform process, but rather the first step in ensuring better communication underpinned by new tools.

There had been several activities recently involving efficient and rapid communication on important issues such as combating climate change and

reforming the common organisation of the market in wine. It was important to choose the most suitable channels to publicise each issue, such as the Internet, the local and national press, and television and radio. Lastly, she stressed the benefits of the personal involvement of Commission Members, including at the level of the Member States.

The following points emerged during a brief discussion:

- the importance of this exercise given the European Parliament elections next June;
- the need for proactive communication activities which are coordinated, fast, targeted and better suited to the needs of journalists and the general public, in Brussels and especially in the Member States;
- a reminder of the importance of the regional media in Europe when it comes to publicising issues and bringing the EU closer to citizens, which must be taken into account in Commission communication activities;
- the role of the Commission Members and spokespersons in ensuring the continuous development in each Member State of their communication activities and links with the national and above all regional media;
- the need to ensure better and greater use of the resources available to the Commission through its representations in the Member States;
- the advantages of strengthening the network of communication correspondents and of making better use of the expertise and knowledge of Commission officials and other staff.

The Commission took note of this information and of the note from the PRESIDENT and Ms WALLSTRÖM set out in SEC(2009)313/2.

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The meeting closed at 13.52.