



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2009)1898 final

Strasbourg, 15 December 2009

DRAFT MINUTES
of the 1898th meeting of the Commission
held in Brussels
(Berlaymont)
on Wednesday 9 December 2009
(morning)

PV(2009)1898 final

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Attendance list	4-6
1. AGENDAS (OJ(2009)1898/3; SEC(2009)1646/2).....	7
2. WEEKLY MEETING OF CHEFS DE CABINET (SEC(2009)1898)	7
3. MINUTES OF 1897TH MEETING (2 DECEMBER) (PV(2009)1897).....	7
4. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS.....	7
4.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED (SEC(2009)1648 ET SEQ.).....	7
4.2. EMPOWERMENT (SEC(2009)1649 ET SEQ.)	8
4.3. DELEGATION AND SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS (SEC(2009)1650 ET SEQ.).....	8
4.4. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES (SEC(2009)1651)	8
4.5. AD HOC EMPOWERMENT CONCERNING MEASURES TO BE ADOPTED IN THE EVENT OF THE COUNCIL'S FAILING TO ACT, FIXING FOR 2010 THE FISHING OPPORTUNITIES AND ASSOCIATED CONDITIONS FOR CERTAIN FISH STOCKS AND GROUPS OF FISH STOCKS, APPLICABLE IN EUROPEAN UNION WATERS AND, FOR EUROPEAN UNION VESSELS, IN WATERS WHERE CATCH LIMITATIONS ARE REQUIRED (SEC(2009)1669 AND /2)	8
4.6. AD HOC EMPOWERMENT CONCERNING MEASURES TO BE ADOPTED IN RELATION TO A PROCEEDING UNDER ARTICLE 102 OF THE TREATY ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ARTICLE 54 OF THE EEA AGREEMENT (CASE COMP/39.316 – GDF) (SEC(2009)1668).....	9
5. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS (SEC(2009)1647)	9
DG PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION – DEROGATION FROM COMMISSION DECISION C(2004) 1597/5 OF 28 APRIL 2004 ON A NEW POLICY FOR THE ENGAGEMENT AND USE OF TEMPORARY AGENTS.....	9

6.	COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL – IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 290 OF THE TREATY ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (COM(2009)673 TO /3; SEC(2009)1658).....	10
7.	COMMISSION DECISION ON A PROCEEDING UNDER ARTICLE 102 OF THE TREATY ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ARTICLE 54 OF THE EEA AGREEMENT (CASE COMP/38.636 – RAMBUS) (C(2009)7610 TO /8)	10
8.	COMMUNICATION TO THE COMMISSION ON THE ALLOCATION OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND DECENTRALISED ADMINISTRATIVE APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2010 (SEC(2009)1667 AND /2).....	11
9.	TRENDS IN THE MEMBER STATES (SEC(2009)1692).....	11
10.	INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS (SEC(2009)1658).....	12
	10.1. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS	12
	10.2. RELATIONS WITH THE COUNCIL	14
	10.3. RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT	16
11.	RELATIONS WITH NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES.....	17
	11.1. 13 TH EU-UKRAINE SUMMIT (KIEV, 4 DECEMBER)	17
	11.2. UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE (COPENHAGEN, 7 TO 18 DECEMBER).....	19
	11.3. 7 TH WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE (GENEVA, 1 AND 2 DECEMBER) (SEC(2009)1689).....	21

Single sitting: Wednesday 9 December 2009 (morning)

The sitting opened at 11.15 with Mr BARROSO, President, in the chair.

It was attended by:

Mr BARROSO	President
Baroness ASHTON	High Representative / Vice-President
Mr VERHEUGEN	Vice-President
Mr KALLAS	Vice-President
Mr TAJANI	Vice-President
Ms REDING	
Mr DIMAS	
Mr ALMUNIA	
Mr POTOČNIK	
Mr KOVÁCS	
Ms FISCHER BOEL	
Mr McCREEVY	
Mr ŠPIDLA	
Mr ORBAN	
Ms VASSILIOU	
Mr ŠEMETA	
Mr SAMECKI	
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	

Items 1 to 11 (in part)

Absent:

Ms WALLSTRÖM	Vice-President
Mr BARROT	Vice-President
Mr BORG	
Mr REHN	
Ms KROES	
Ms FERRERO-WALDNER	
Mr PIEBALGS	
Ms KUNEVA	
Mr DE GUCHT	

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

Mr LEFFLER	Chef de cabinet to Ms WALLSTRÖM
Ms STRICKLAND	A member of Mr BORG's staff
Mr CHILD	Chef de cabinet to Ms FERRERO-WALDNER
Ms GARCÉS TOLON	A member of Ms KUNEVA's staff
Mr VANHEUKELEN	Chef de cabinet to Mr DE GUCHT

The following also sat in:

Mr LAITENBERGER	Chef de cabinet to the PRESIDENT	
Mr ROMERO REQUENA	Director-General, Legal Service	
Mr CARVOUNIS	Deputy Director-General, DG Communication	
Ms AHRENKILDE HANSEN	Commission Spokeswoman	
Mr GASPAR	Acting Director-General, Bureau of European Policy Advisers	
Mr BALDWIN	Adviser in the PRESIDENT's Office	Item 11 (in part)

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

1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2009)1898/3; SEC(2009)1646/2)

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)1898)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 7 December.

3. MINUTES OF 1897th MEETING (2 DECEMBER)

(PV(2009)1897)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 1897th meeting.

4. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

4.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED

(SEC(2009)1648 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 30 November and 4 December.

4.2. EMPOWERMENT

(SEC(2009)1649 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 30 November and 4 December.

4.3. DELEGATION AND SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS

(SEC(2009)1650 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedure between 30 November and 4 December, as archived in e-Greffe.

4.4. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES

(SEC(2009)1651)

The Commission took note of the sensitive written procedures for which the time limit expired between 7 and 11 December.

4.5. AD HOC EMPOWERMENT CONCERNING MEASURES TO BE ADOPTED IN THE EVENT OF THE COUNCIL'S FAILING TO ACT, FIXING FOR 2010 THE FISHING OPPORTUNITIES AND ASSOCIATED CONDITIONS FOR CERTAIN FISH STOCKS AND GROUPS OF FISH STOCKS, APPLICABLE IN EUROPEAN UNION WATERS AND, FOR EUROPEAN UNION VESSELS, IN WATERS WHERE CATCH LIMITATIONS ARE REQUIRED

(SEC(2009)1669 AND /2)

The Commission decided to empower Mr BORG, Commission Member responsible for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, to adopt, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, on behalf of the Commission and under its responsibility, certain measures concerning fishing opportunities and associated conditions for certain fish stocks in the event of the Council failing to act, according to the terms laid down in SEC(2009)1669 (see also point 10.1.iii) of these minutes).

**4.6. AD HOC EMPOWERMENT CONCERNING MEASURES TO BE ADOPTED IN RELATION TO A PROCEEDING UNDER ARTICLE 102 OF THE TREATY ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ARTICLE 54 OF THE EEA AGREEMENT (CASE COMP/39.316 – GDF)
(SEC(2009)1668)**

The Commission decided to empower Ms KROES, Commission Member responsible for Competition, to adopt, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, on behalf of the Commission and under its responsibility, the decisions needed to implement the commitments annexed to the decision of 3 December 2009 in order to ensure that the companies concerned comply with the commitments forming part of that decision, according to the terms laid down in SEC(2009)1668.

**5. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS
(SEC(2009)1647)**

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
(PERS(2009)148)**

DG PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION – DEROGATION FROM COMMISSION DECISION C(2004) 1597/5 OF 28 APRIL 2004 ON A NEW POLICY FOR THE ENGAGEMENT AND USE OF TEMPORARY AGENTS

The Commission took note of the information at point 1 of PERS(2009)148 and, on a proposal from Mr KALLAS, decided, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, to waive, up until the end of the respective transitional periods, the obligation for EU-10 and EU-2 temporary staff to pass a selection procedure in order to extend type 2b) or 2d) contracts beyond three years, as laid down in the third subparagraph of point a) of the second paragraph of Article 3 of Commission decision C(2004)1597/5 of 28 April 2004 on a new policy for the engagement and use of

temporary agents.

This decision would take effect immediately.

**6. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL – IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 290 OF THE TREATY ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(COM(2009)673 TO /3; SEC(2009)1658)**

The Commission approved the communication in COM(2009)673/3, for transmission to the European Parliament and the Council, and to the national parliaments.

**7. COMMISSION DECISION ON A PROCEEDING UNDER ARTICLE 102 OF THE TREATY ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ARTICLE 54 OF THE EEA AGREEMENT (CASE COMP/38.636 – RAMBUS)
(C(2009)7610 TO /8)**

The Commission:

- took note of the opinion of the Advisory Committee on Restrictive Practices and Dominant Positions of 28 September in C(2009)7610/3;
- took note of the final report of the Hearing Officer of 29 September in C(2009)7610/4;
- adopted in the authentic language (English) the decision in C(2009)7610/8, making the commitments offered by the company concerned compulsory;

- decided to empower Ms KROES, Commission Member responsible for Competition, to adopt, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, the necessary decisions to ensure that the company concerned complies with the commitments forming part of the decision;
- decided to notify the decision to the company concerned, together with the final report of the Hearing Officer;
- decided to publish the key parts of the decision, together with the Advisory Committee's opinion and the Hearing Officer's final report, in the official languages of the Union in the *Official Journal of the European Union* (with business secrets and other confidential information removed);
- decide to make the decision (minus any business secrets and other confidential information) also accessible on the Internet.

8. COMMUNICATION TO THE COMMISSION ON THE ALLOCATION OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND DECENTRALISED ADMINISTRATIVE APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2010

(SEC(2009)1667 AND /2)

The Commission approved, subject to a final general clean-up of the text, the communication in SEC(2009)1667 and /2, and the follow-up and implementing measures set out in that document.

9. TRENDS IN THE MEMBER STATES

(SEC(2009)1692)

The Commission took note of the information note from Ms WALLSTRÖM in SEC(2009)1692.

10. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(SEC(2009)1658)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group held on Friday 4 December (SEC(2009)1658).

It paid particular attention to the following points.

10.1. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

i) Ordinary legislative procedure

(point 1.2.1 of the IRG record)

- Protection of animals used for scientific purposes (Directive) – JEGGLE report – 2008/0211 (COD)

The Commission authorised Mr DIMAS to pursue negotiations with Parliament and the Council in order to facilitate agreement on the Council position at first reading, following the line set out in SPI(2009)94/3; formal adoption of this position was reserved for a subsequent decision by the next Commission.

- Framework for the deployment of intelligent transport systems in the field of road transport and for interfaces with other transport modes (Directive) – JENSEN report – 2008/0263 (COD)

The Commission authorised Mr TAJANI to pursue negotiations with Parliament and the Council in order to facilitate agreement on the Council position at first reading, following the line set out in SPI(2009)95; formal adoption of this position was reserved for a subsequent decision by the next Commission.

ii) Follow-up to Council meeting (Agriculture and Fisheries) (Brussels, 20 November)

(point 1.4 of the IRG record)

- Conservation of fisheries resources through technical measures (Council Regulation) – VISSER report – 2008/0112 (CNS)

The Commission confirmed the agreement given *ad referendum* by Mr BORG during the Council meeting (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 20 November concerning the renewal of technical measures for conserving fisheries resources for an emergency transitional period of eighteen months with effect from 1 January 2010, following the line set out in SI(2009)314.

iii) Preparations for Council meeting (Agriculture and Fisheries) (Brussels, 14 to 16 December)

(point 1.5 of the IRG record)

- Obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market (Regulation) – LUCAS report – 2008/0198 (COD)

The Commission authorised Mr DIMAS to give political support to a Presidency compromise which would be adopted by qualified majority, following the line set out in SI(2009)315/4; formal adoption of this position was reserved for a subsequent decision by the next Commission.

- Fishing opportunities for 2010 for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Community waters and, for Community vessels, in waters where catch limitations are required (Council Regulation)

The Commission authorised Mr BORG to accept at the Council meeting (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 14, 15 and 16 December a Presidency compromise which might be adopted by qualified majority, along the lines set out in SI(2009)316/3 (see also point 4.5 of these minutes).

iv) Preparations for the Council meeting (Transport, Telecommunications and Energy) (Brussels, 17 and 18 December)

- Rights of passengers in bus and coach transport and cooperation between national authorities responsible for the enforcement of consumer protection laws (Regulation) – CANCIAN report – 2008/0237 (COD)

The Commission authorised Mr TAJANI to give political support, following the line set out in SI(2009)313, at the Council meeting (Transport, Telecommunications and Energy) on 17 and 18 December to a Presidency compromise which would only be adopted by qualified majority, so that the ordinary legislative procedure could continue at second reading; formal adoption of this position was reserved for a subsequent decision by the next Commission.

10.2. RELATIONS WITH THE COUNCIL

v) Programming of Council business
(SI(2009)322)

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2009)322 on the Council meetings between 10 and 23 December.

vi) Results of Council meeting (Justice and Home Affairs) (Brussels, 30 November and 1 December)
(SEC(2009)1673)

The Commission took note of the information note from Mr BARROT in SEC(2009)1673 concerning progress in the second-generation Schengen Information System (SIS II) project.

vii) Results of the Council meeting (Competitiveness) (Brussels, 3 and 4 December)

Mr VERHEUGEN reported on the main results of the Council meeting on competitiveness held on 3 and 4 December.

He spoke first about the discussions on the future strategy known as EU 2020. This was the first time the issue had been debated in the Council. The Commission's proposals had been welcomed and the balanced nature of the working document it had presented had been borne out by the discussions. He stressed the emphasis put by many Member States on the importance of strengthening the competitiveness of European economies, including by developing a strong industrial base, modern, innovative and greener.

Turning to the question of the 'Community patent', Mr VERHUEGEN noted that the Council had reached agreement on the principles of a regulation. He congratulated Mr McCREEVY for having obtained agreement on this important issue. The Council should complete its work in the course of 2010.

He also reported on the discussions held over lunch on 4 December concerning the restructuring of the European subsidiaries of General Motors. Stressing the importance of a joint European approach that adhered to the rules on state aid and the internal market, he said that the Member States had asked the Commission to carry out an ex ante evaluation of the viability of the restructuring plan put forward by General Motors.

Mr VERHEUGEN felt that to meet the challenges confronting it, the European automobile industry – and the companies concerned – would have to work out a restructuring strategy to protect jobs and boost the industry's competitiveness. Finally, he promised that his departments would continue to cooperate closely with those under the responsibility of Ms KROES and that any initiative on this matter would be referred to the Commission.

The PRESIDENT then highlighted the importance of the issues surrounding the restructuring of General Motors' European subsidiaries. He confirmed that the Commission would ensure that the rules on state aid and the internal market were observed. He also drew attention to the responsibilities of the automobile industry and the Member States.

The Commission took note of this information.

viii) Preparations for the European Council (Brussels, 10 and 11 December)

The PRESIDENT spoke briefly about the items on the agenda for the European Council's first meeting since the entry into force of the new Treaty (see also item 11.2 of these minutes).

The Heads of State and Government would discuss the management of the economic and financial crisis during 2009, supervision of the financial markets and the principles underlying the future 'EU 2020' strategy, using as a basis the discussions at the Council meeting (Economic and Financial Affairs) on 2 December.

He also pointed to the crucial importance of this European Council in the context of the United Nations climate change conference in Copenhagen.

The Commission took note of this information.

10.3. RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT

ix) Action taken on non-legislative resolutions adopted by Parliament at its October I part-session

(point 3.3.2 of the IRG record)

The Commission approved document SP(2009)5194 on the action taken on Parliament's non-legislative resolutions adopted at its October I part-session, for transmission to Parliament.

x) Action taken on non-legislative resolutions adopted by Parliament at its September part-session

(point 3.3.3 of the IRG record)

The Commission approved the documents SP(2009)4689 and /2 on the action taken on the non-legislative resolutions adopted by Parliament at its September 2009 part-session, for transmission to Parliament.

11. RELATIONS WITH NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES

11.1. 13TH EU-UKRAINE SUMMIT (KIEV, 4 DECEMBER)

The PRESIDENT reported on the results of the 13th EU-Ukraine summit in Kiev on 4 December. He spoke first of the intense political contest in the run-up to the Ukrainian presidential elections to be held on 17 January 2010.

He reminded the meeting that the official summit had been held with the present Ukrainian president, Viktor Yushchenko, who, although one of the candidates in the presidential election, currently had very low popularity ratings. At the summit, the Ukrainian president had strongly criticised the action taken by the government of Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, who was also a candidate in the forthcoming presidential elections.

The PRESIDENT reported that after the summit, the European Union delegation also met Ms Tymoshenko, who appeared to be in a position to take part in the second round of the presidential elections, and Mr Yanukovich, her possible adversary in this second round.

He stressed the complexity of the forthcoming Ukrainian elections and the crisis they had the potential to trigger. On the basis of the latest opinion polls, Mr Yanukovich believed that he could win the presidential elections and had warned his European partners that, should the results not be in line with these forecasts, this would mean that the government had intervened in the electoral process.

Discussions at the summit and at other meetings had focused chiefly on the Ukraine's wish to make progress towards accession to the European Union and on energy issues.

President Yushchenko had placed particular emphasis on this first point and agreement on the joint statement had not been reached until the last moment,

since the Ukrainian president had tried to persuade the Europeans to go further than the terms previously agreed upon and to make reference to Ukraine's European identity and prospect of accession. However, the PRESIDENT said that President Yushchenko had finally been persuaded to agree to the text of the joint statement, which he considered satisfactory for both parties.

The European Union delegation had pointed out strongly that it was for Ukraine to show that it had made the necessary progress, that the Union could not substitute for Ukraine in ensuring its political stability and reforming its economy, and that the Ukrainian political forces would have to unite their efforts to ensure implementation of the stand-by arrangement with the International Monetary Fund.

On the energy front, the PRESIDENT said that he had received two different messages. President Yushchenko was particularly concerned about the burden imposed on Ukraine by the present provisions on transit of gas and by lower-than-market transit tariffs. The Ukrainian president felt that if Ukraine could obtain a fair market price for Russian gas in transit in its territory, it would not need the support of the International Monetary Fund to make its monthly gas payments.

In contrast, Ms Tymoshenko had been very positive about relations with Russia in the field of energy. She felt that present relations were constructive and did not see any problems in the current arrangements. The payments for November had been made. The Ukrainian Prime Minister had said that gas transit prices were on a par with European prices and had assured her European partners that there would be no further interruptions to supplies of gas to the European Union.

However, Ms Tymoshenko had hinted that this situation might change if she did not win the forthcoming presidential elections, indicating clearly that if she won there would be no more interruptions to gas supplies to the European Union in the next ten years.

The PRESIDENT then reported briefly on his meeting with Mr Yanukovich, in which the wish for quality relations with the Union and for a European perspective for Ukraine, as well as interest in the Eastern Partnership, were clearly spelled out.

Winding up, the PRESIDENT once again emphasised the particular pre-electoral climate in which the summit had been held and the need to follow the situation in Ukraine and relations with the country closely in the coming months, while considering that the summit as such had been satisfactory.

The Commission took note of this information.

11.2. UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE (COPENHAGEN, 7 TO 18 DECEMBER)

The PRESIDENT referred first to the meeting of the European Council on 10 and 11 December, the last one under the current presidency, explaining the format and the planned agenda. The agenda for Thursday 10 December included an exchange of views with the European Parliament, a formal session on the economic and financial situation in Europe and, in particular, on the approach to be taken in future, and a dinner focusing on the Copenhagen climate change conference, during which the President of the European Council would also spell out his vision of the future functioning of the European Council. Friday 11 December would see the completion of the official conclusions (see also point 10.2.viii) of these minutes).

He then turned to the progress in the negotiations relating to the United Nations climate change conference in Copenhagen from 7 to 18 December. While the ministers would not start working on this before the weekend and the Heads of State and Government would only commence from 17 December, the process was already well under way since some countries had submitted better offers and others had tabled their first targets in figures, while the United States had announced emission regulating measures for the beginning of 2010 should Congress fail to move ahead with this issue. He

praised the important work accomplished at summits, and also at every level, to encourage leaders to make specific proposals.

The European Union had played a crucial role in giving impetus to this process since it had been the first to make a binding and unconditional commitment to reduce its emissions by 20% by 2020 and it had announced that it was willing to raise this target to 30% if the other developed countries committed themselves to similar reductions and if developing countries made an appropriate contribution based on their respective responsibilities and capacities. Moreover, the EU had taken the lead as regards carbon finance.

There was already a positive atmosphere surrounding the meeting on 18 December: about one hundred Heads of State or Government, including US President Barack Obama, had announced that they would attend. However, it was still too early to join in the optimism of some sections of the media as regards the outcome of the negotiations on the many issues to be discussed, in particular the reduction of emissions, financing, the architecture of the legally binding treaty scheduled for 2010 and the Kyoto Protocol, not to mention the question of the measurable, recordable and verifiable nature of reductions.

All of these matters would be discussed at the European Council. It was important for the EU to maintain a united front, especially on the question of the rate of reduction it wished to commit itself to, as some Member States wanted to keep the 20% target while others were calling for an unconditional reduction of 30%. In relation to this last point, it was advisable to be cautious when defining the EU position in order to obtain the most ambitious deal possible at the end of the Copenhagen conference while ensuring firm, appropriate commitments by all the stakeholders. The various technical responses should, where necessary, be prepared. Turning to the question of financing the fight against climate change, the PRESIDENT expressed the hope that the European Council would agree to announce a figure for the EU's share of fast-start funding between 2010 and 2012 as it was important to send out a strong signal on this, while taking account of the developing countries'

capacities and commitments.

The PRESIDENT ended by underlining the importance of securing an ambitious agreement but said that it must not be binding on the European Union only. While the EU must adopt a united, flexible position on any new targets, it must also encourage the other stakeholders to make commitments, particularly concerning the financing aspect.

Mr DIMAS fully agreed with the PRESIDENT's analysis. It was extremely important for the European Union to present a united front at Copenhagen. It would be possible to adopt a flexible approach as regards the European target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and set it at between 20% and 30% during the negotiations at the European Council.

Referring to China's hostility regarding any international mechanism to monitor the fulfilment of its commitments, he pointed out that the United States also preferred national checks, which made the discussion with the Chinese even more difficult. It was therefore necessary to convince the United States to adopt a more positive attitude to such an international mechanism.

The Commission took note of this information.

**11.3. 7TH WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE (GENEVA, 1 AND 2 DECEMBER)
(SEC(2009)1689)**

The Commission took note of the information note from Ms FISCHER-BOEL, in agreement with Baroness ASHTON and Ms FERRERO-WALDNER, set out in SEC(2009)1689.

*

* *

The meeting closed at 11.56.