



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2010) 1913 final

Strasbourg, 20 April 2010

MINUTES
of the 1913th meeting of the Commission
held in Brussels
(Berlaymont)
on Wednesday 14 April 2010
(morning)

PV(2010) 1913 final

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Single sitting: Wednesday 14 April 2010 (morning)

The sitting opened at 9.06 with Mr BARROSO, President, in the chair.

Present:

Mr BARROSO	President	
Ms REDING	Vice-President	
Mr ALMUNIA	Vice-President	
Mr KALLAS	Vice-President	
Mr TAJANI	Vice-President	Points 1 to 10 (in part)
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Vice-President	
Mr POTOČNIK		
Mr REHN		
Mr PIEBALGS		
Mr BARNIER		
Mr ŠEMETA		
Mr DE GUCHT		
Mr DALLI		
Ms GEOGHEGAN-QUINN		
Mr LEWANDOWSKI		Points 1 to 10 (in part)
Ms DAMANAKI		
Ms GEORGIEVA		
Mr HAHN		
Ms HEDEGAARD		
Mr FÜLE		
Mr ANDOR		
Ms MALMSTRÖM		
Mr CIOLOŞ		

Absent:

Baroness ASHTON

High
Representative/Vice-
President

Ms KROES

Vice-President

Ms VASSILIOU

Mr OETTINGER

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

Mr WHELAN	Chef de cabinet to Ms KROES	Item 10 (in part)
Ms CHRISTOPHIDOU	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Ms VASSILIOU	
Mr ONIDI	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Mr OETTINGER	

The following also sat in:

Mr LAITENBERGER	Chef de cabinet to the PRESIDENT	
Mr ROMERO REQUENA	Director-General, Legal Service	
Mr SØRENSEN	Director-General, DG Communication	
Mr DOENS	Head of the European Commission Spokesperson Service	Item 10 (in part)
Ms AHRENKILDE HANSEN	Commission Spokeswoman	
Mr SCHINAS	Bureau of European Policy Advisers	
Mr FRUTUOSO DE MELO	Deputy Chef de cabinet to the PRESIDENT	Item 10 (in part)
Mr CABRAL	Adviser <i>hors classe</i> in the PRESIDENT's office	
Mr PRETO	Chef de cabinet to Mr TAJANI	Item 10 (in part)
Ms RISO	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Mr REHN	

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

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The PRESIDENT paid tribute to President Lech Kaczyński and the other members of the Polish delegation who died in a tragic airplane accident on Saturday 10 April 2010 in the Smolensk region of Russia.

The Commission observed a minute's silence in memory of the victims.

Mr LEWANDOWSKI expressed thanks, both on behalf of the Polish people and personally, for the messages of sympathy and solidarity he had received in recent days.

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1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2010)1913/3; SEC(2010)388/2)

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(2010)1913)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 12 April.

3. APPROVAL OF THE SPECIAL MINUTES OF THE 1911TH MEETING OF THE COMMISSION AND THE MINUTES OF THE 1912TH MEETING (24 AND 31 MARCH)

The Commission held over approval of the special minutes of its 1911th meeting and the minutes of its 1912th meeting for the following week.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

4.1. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

i) Preparation for the April II part-session of Parliament

Ordinary legislative procedure – Codecision – 1st reading

- Aviation security charges (Directive) – LEICHTFRIED report – 2009/0063 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2010)1550/2.

- Community guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network (Decision - recast) – SIMPSON report – 2009/0110 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2010)1551.

4.2. RELATIONS WITH THE COUNCIL

ii) Programming of Council business

(SI(2010)96)

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2010)96 on the Council meetings between 15 and 28 April.

4.3. RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT

iii) Results of the April I part-session of Parliament

(SP(2010)1876)

The Commission took note of the information on Parliament's part-session held on 7 April in Brussels, set out in SP(2010)1876.

5. MONITORING THE APPLICATION OF EUROPEAN UNION LAW

STATE AID – INDIVIDUAL CASES

(SEC(2010)404/2)

The Commission adopted the decisions in SEC(2010)404/2.

6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED

(SEC(2010)390 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 29 March and 9 April.

6.2. EMPOWERMENT

(SEC(2010)392 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 29 March and 9 April.

6.3. DELEGATION AND SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS

(SEC(2010)393 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedure between 29 March and 9 April, as archived in e-Greffe.

6.4. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES

(SEC(2010)394)

The Commission took note of the sensitive written procedures for which the time limit expired between 12 and 16 April.

**6.5. GENERAL EMPOWERMENT REGARDING THE APPROVAL OF
SPECIFIC SUPPORT FOR FARMERS EXERCISING SPECIFIC
AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES ENTAILING ADDITIONNAL
AGRI-ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS**

(SEC(2010)402 AND /2)

The Commission granted the Member of the Commission responsible for agriculture and rural development the general empowerment set out SEC(2010)402 and /2 to adopt, on its behalf and under its responsibility, decisions approving specific support for farmers exercising specific agricultural activities entailing additional agri-environment benefits.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS
(SEC(2010)389)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
(PERS(2010)32)

7.1. DG COMPETITION – APPOINTMENT OF AD14/15 DIRECTOR
(PERS(2009)143 TO /3)

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Director, Policy and Strategy, in the Directorate-General for Competition (PERS(2009)143).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 21 January and 4 March (PERS(2009)143/2 and /3).

The Commission proceeded to compare the applicants' qualifications for the post. It also considered their ability, efficiency and conduct in the service. On a proposal from Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr ALMUNIA, it then decided to appoint Mr Carles ESTEVA MOSSO to the vacant post.

This decision would take effect immediately.

7.2. DG ENLARGEMENT – APPOINTMENT OF AD14/15 DIRECTOR
(PERS(2009)146 TO /3)

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Director, Enlargement Policy and Communication, in the Directorate-General for Enlargement (PERS(2009)146).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 18 February and 4 March (PERS(2009)146/2 and /3).

The Commission proceeded to compare the applicants' qualifications for the post. It also considered the applicants' ability, efficiency and conduct in the

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service. On a proposal from Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr FÜLE, it then decided to appoint Mr Dimitrios KOURKOULAS to the post.

This decision would take effect on 15 July 2010.

7.3. PUBLICATIONS OFFICE – TERMINATION OF THE SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR AN AD14/15 DIRECTOR POST

The Commission took note of the information at point 3 of PERS(2010)32 and, on a proposal from Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Ms REDING, decided to terminate – without making any appointment – internal selection procedure COM/2009/1602 for the post of Director, Official Journal and Research, in the Publications Office.

This decision would take effect immediately.

**7.4. DG ENERGY – LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR THE AD14 POST OF DIRECTOR OF THE AGENCY FOR THE COOPERATION OF ENERGY REGULATORS
(PERS(2010)22 TO /3)**

Having noted the procedure followed, as set out in point 4 of PERS(2010)32, the Commission, on a proposal from Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr OETTINGER, decided:

- to approve the list of three candidates set out in point 4 of PERS(2010)32;
- to consider this list as the Commission proposal under Article 16 of Council Regulation (EC) No 713/2009;
- to ask Mr OETTINGER to communicate this list to the Administrative Board and the Board of Regulators of the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

**7.5. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – SPECIAL ADVISERS
TO COMMISSION MEMBERS – 1 APRIL 2010 TO 31 MARCH 2011
(PERS(2010)33)**

The Commission took note of the information at point 5 of PERS(2010)32 and, on a proposal from Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, decided:

- to authorise Mr ŠEFČOVIČ to adopt the list of special advisers to Commission Members set out in PERS(2010)33;
- to authorise the Director-General for Human Resources and Security to implement that decision by signing contracts of employment on behalf of the authority empowered to conclude contracts of employment.

The decision was backdated to take effect on 1 April 2010.

**8. 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/39.351 –
SWEDISH INTERCONNECTORS)
(C(2010)2366 TO /4)**

The Commission:

- took note of the opinion of the Advisory Committee on Restrictive Practices and Dominant Positions of 15 March in C(2010)2366/3;
- took note of the final report of the Hearing Officer of 25 March in C(2010) 2366/4;
- adopted in the authentic language (English) the decision in C(2010)2366, making the commitments offered by the company concerned compulsory;

- decided to notify the company concerned of the decision in C(2010)2366 and of the Hearing Officer's final report;
- decided to authorise Mr ALMUNIA, Member of the Commission responsible for competition, acting in agreement with the PRESIDENT, to adopt the decisions necessary to implement the commitments forming part of this decision, in order to ensure that the company concerned complied with them;
- decided that the key parts of the decision, together with the Advisory Committee's opinions and the Hearing Officer's final report, would be published in the official languages of the Union in the *Official Journal of the European Union* (with business secrets and other confidential information removed);
- decided to make the decision (minus any business secrets and other confidential information) also accessible on the Internet.

9. RECOMMENDATION FOR A COUNCIL OPINION UNDER ARTICLE 5(3) OF COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) NO 1466/97 ON THE UPDATED STABILITY PROGRAMME OF PORTUGAL (2009 - 2013) (SEC(2010)435 AND 2; SEC(2010)437)

The Commission adopted the recommendation for a Council opinion on the updated stability programme of Portugal (2009-2013), as set out in SEC(2010)435/2, for transmission to the Council.

10. POLICY DEBATE ON STRENGTHENING COORDINATION OF ECONOMIC POLICIES

Introducing the policy debate on strengthening coordination of economic policies, the PRESIDENT said he was convinced of the need to learn now the lessons of the economic and financial crisis in order to understand the weaknesses in the system

and make the necessary improvements. He reiterated the Commission's role as guardian of the Treaties and its right of initiative, and stressed that the Commission needed to send a rapid signal in the form of practical proposals within the framework of the Treaty.

Mr REHN spoke first about the recent decisions on establishing a possible financial support mechanism for Greece. He then mentioned the lessons to be learned from the economic and financial crisis as a whole and from the situation in Greece in particular, i.e. the need to enhance economic governance in Europe.

He felt it was important to use the Commission's right of initiative to work towards practical solutions that were within the Treaty and achievable in the medium term. Here he outlined the various possible courses of action and presented the three main strands of reform which he wanted to open up for discussion, namely a strengthening of the Stability and Growth Pact, deeper and broader economic surveillance and the creation of a crisis-resolution mechanism. He ended his presentation by stressing the link between these proposals and the 'Europe 2020' strategy.

The Commission then held an in-depth discussion focusing on the three main priorities proposed by Mr REHN. It expressed wide support for Mr REHN' analysis and his general approach.

The debate highlighted agreement on the need, first to strengthen the preventive and corrective arms of the Stability and Growth Pact, second to improve economic surveillance with special attention to micro-economic imbalances, growth and competitiveness, and lastly to create a crisis-resolution mechanism that offered more than just financial assistance.

Following the discussion, Mr REHN thanked the Commission Members for their support and contributions. He took note of various comments that had been made and said that the pointers laid down during this first debate would provide food for thought ahead of the informal meeting of Eurogroup ministers on 15 April and preparation of the communication to be put before the Commission in May. He also

pointed out the relevance for economic and monetary policy of the review carried out to mark the tenth anniversary of Economic and Monetary Union (EMU@10).

Winding up the policy debate, the PRESIDENT also thanked the Commission Members for their valuable contributions. He noted that there was wide support for Mr REHN's analysis and main proposals and said that the Commission would make full use of its right of initiative in this dossier, using the new possibilities opened up by the Lisbon Treaty.

He also pointed to the links between the issues raised that day and the 'Europe 2020' strategy recently adopted by the Commission and ended by confirming that all these questions would be discussed regularly by the College of Commissioners in the months ahead.

The Commission took note of the results and conclusions of the policy debate.

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The Commission's other discussions on certain agenda items are recorded in the special minutes.

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The meeting closed at 11.37.