



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2011)1966 final

Brussels, 13 July 2011

MINUTES
of the 1966th meeting of the Commission
held in Brussels
(Berlaymont)
on Wednesday 29 June 2011
(morning and afternoon)

PV(2011)1966 final

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Attendance list	4-5
1. AGENDAS (OJ(2011)1966/3; SEC(2011)836).....	6
2. WEEKLY MEETING OF CHEFS DE CABINET (SEC(2011)1966).....	6
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 1964TH MEETING AND MINUTES AND SPECIAL MINUTES OF 1965TH MEETING (15 AND 22 JUNE) (PV(2011)1964 AND /2; PV(2011)1965; PV(2011)1965, PART II).....	6
4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS (SEC(2011)844).....	7
4.1. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS	7
4.2. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL	11
4.3. RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT	11
4.4. EXTERNAL RELATIONS	11
5. MONITORING THE APPLICATION OF EUROPEAN UNION LAW	12
STATE AID – INDIVIDUAL CASES (SEC(2011)849/2).....	12
6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS.....	12
6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED (SEC(2011)837 ET SEQ.).....	12
6.2. EMPOWERMENT (SEC(2011)838 ET SEQ.)	12
6.3. DELEGATION AND SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS (SEC(2011)839 ET SEQ.).....	12
6.4. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES (SEC(2011)840)	13
7. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS - A	

BUDGET FOR EUROPE 2020 (COM(2011)500 TO /3, PARTS I AND II; SEC(2011)867; SEC(2011)868 AND /2).....	13
8. PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION LAYING DOWN THE MULTIANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE YEARS 2014-2020 (COM(2011)398 AND /2)	13
9. DRAFT INTERINSTITUTIONAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL AND THE COMMISSION ON COOPERATION ON BUDGETARY MATTERS AND ON SOUND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (COM(2011)403 AND /2).....	13
10. PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL DECISION ON THE SYSTEM OF OWN RESOURCES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (COM(2011)510 AND /2); SEC(2011)876 AND /2).....	13
11. PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION LAYING DOWN IMPLEMENTING MEASURES FOR THE SYSTEM OF OWN RESOURCES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (COM(2011)511 AND /2).....	14
12. PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION ON THE METHODS AND PROCEDURE FOR MAKING AVAILABLE THE TRADITIONAL AND GNI-BASED OWN RESOURCES AND ON THE MEASURES TO MEET CASH REQUIREMENTS (RECAST) (COM(2011)512)	14
13. DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING THE STAFF REGULATIONS OF OFFICIALS AND THE CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT OF OTHER SERVANTS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (SEC(2011)877 AND /2).....	14

Single sitting: Wednesday 29 June 2011 (morning and afternoon)

The sitting opened at 11.08 with Mr BARROSO, President, in the chair. It was adjourned at 14.00 and resumed at 14.15.

Present:

Mr BARROSO	President	
Baroness ASHTON	High Representative/Vice-President	
Ms REDING	Vice-President	Items 1 to 7/13 (in part)
Mr ALMUNIA	Vice-President	
Mr KALLAS	Vice-President	
Ms KROES	Vice-President	
Mr TAJANI	Vice-President	
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Vice-President	
Mr POTOČNIK	Member	
Mr REHN	Member	
Mr PIEBALGS	Member	
Mr BARNIER	Member	
Ms VASSILIOU	Member	
Mr ŠEMETA	Member	
Mr DE GUCHT	Member	
Mr DALLI	Member	
Ms GEOGHEGAN-QUINN	Member	
Mr LEWANDOWSKI	Member	
Ms DAMANAKI	Member	Items 1 to 7/13 (in part)
Ms GEORGIEVA	Member	Items 1 to 7/13 (in part)
Mr OETTINGER	Member	
Mr HAHN	Member	
Ms HEDEGAARD	Member	
Mr FÜLE	Member	
Mr ANDOR	Member	
Ms MALMSTRÖM	Member	
Mr CIOLOŞ	Member	

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 Commission Spokesperson Service	
Ms AHRENKILDE HANSEN	Commission Spokeswoman	
Mr THEBAULT	Head of the Bureau of European Policy Advisers	
Mr FRUTUOSO DE MELO	Deputy Chef de cabinet to the PRESIDENT	
Mr SELMAYR	Chef de cabinet to Ms REDING	Items 7/13 (in part)
Mr NOCIAR	Chef de cabinet to Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Items 7/13 (in part)
Mr LINDER	A member of Mr ŠEFČOVIČ's staff	Items 7/13 (in part)
Mr LEMAÎTRE	Chef de cabinet to Mr LEWANDOWSKI	
Mr SCHWARZ	A member of Mr LEWANDOWSKI's staff	Items 1 to 7/13 (in part)
Mr MARKOPOULIOTIS	Chef de cabinet to Ms DAMANAKI	Items 7/13 (in part)
Ms FINK-HOOIJER	Chef de cabinet to Ms GEORGIEVA	Items 7/13 (in part)
Mr SERVOZ	Deputy Secretary-General	
Mr JOUANJEAN	Director-General, DG Budget	
Mr LEHNER	DG Budget	

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

1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2011)1966/3; SEC(2011)836)

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(2011)1966)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Tuesday 28 June.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 1964TH MEETING AND MINUTES AND SPECIAL MINUTES OF 1965TH MEETING (15 AND 22 JUNE)

(PV(2011)1964 AND /2; PV(2011)1965; PV(2011)1965, PART II)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 1964th and 1965th meetings.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(SEC(2011)844)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group held on Friday 24 June (SEC(2011)844).

It paid particular attention to the following points.

4.1. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

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

(SP(2011)5712)

The Commission decided to empower the Commission Members responsible for the sectors in question, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr ŠEFČOVIČ 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(2011)5712, drawn up following Parliament's part-session of 22-23 June, the contents of which were noted.

ii) Ordinary legislative procedure

(point 1.2 of the record)

Dossiers at Parliament first reading

- Implementation of Article 10 of the United Nations' Firearms Protocol and establishment of export authorisation, import and transit measures for firearms, their parts and components and ammunition (Regulation) – IACOLINO report – 2010/0147 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2011)245.

- Energy market integrity and transparency (Regulation) – CHATZIMARKAKIS report – 2010/0363 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2011)257.

(29 June 2011)

- Amendment of Council Regulation (EC) No 1290/2005 on the financing of the common agricultural policy and repeal of Council Regulations (EC) No 165/94 and No 78/2008 (Regulation) – LA VIA report – 2010/0365 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2011)251/2.

Dossiers at Council first reading

- Single application procedure for a single permit for third-country nationals to reside and work in the territory of a Member State and a common set of rights for third-country workers legally residing in a Member State (Directive) - MATHIEU report - 2007/0229 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2011)249.

- Amendment of Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) – alignment delegated acts / implementing acts (Regulation) – DE CASTRO report – 2010/0266 (COD)

The Commission took note that this dossier had been held over.

iii) Preparation of Parliament's July part-session

(point 1.3 of the record)

Ordinary legislative procedure – Codecision – second reading

- Provision of food information to consumers (Regulation) – SOMMER report – 2008/0028 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2011)5614.

Empowerment

- Provision of food information to consumers (Regulation) – SOMMER report – 2008/0028 (COD)

The Commission empowered Mr DALLI, under Article 13 of its Rules of Procedure, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr ŠEFČOVIČ and any associated Members, to adopt and transmit to the Council its opinion on the amendments, in accordance with Article 294(7)(c) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, once Parliament had been consulted, and if necessary to attach to its opinion an amended proposal, on the basis of the line set out in SP(2011)5614.

- Cross-border enforcement of legislation in the field of road safety (Directive) – AYALA SENDER report – 2008/0062 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2011)5616.

Empowerment

- Cross-border enforcement of legislation in the field of road safety (Directive) – AYALA SENDER report – 2008/0062 (COD)

The Commission empowered Mr KALLAS, under Article 13 of its Rules of Procedure, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr ŠEFČOVIČ and any associated Members, to adopt and transmit to the Council its opinion on the amendments, in accordance with Article 294(7)(c) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, once Parliament had been consulted, and if necessary to attach to its opinion an amended proposal, on the basis of the line set out in SP(2011)5616.

Ordinary legislative procedure – Codecision – first reading

- Over-the-counter derivatives, central counterparties and trade repositories (Regulation) – LANGEN report – 2010/0250 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2011)5618 and /3.

- Amendment of Directives 98/78/EC, 2002/87/EC and 2006/48/EC as regards the supplementary supervision of financial entities in a financial conglomerate (Directive) – STOLOJAN report – 2010/0232 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2011)5619.

- Short selling and certain aspects of credit default swaps (Regulation) – CANFIN report – 2010/0251 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2011)5620 and /2.

- Amendment of Directive 97/9/EC on investor compensation schemes (Directive) – SCHMIDT report – 2010/0199 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2011)5622.

- Amendment of Directive 2001/18/EC as regards the possibility for the Member States to restrict or prohibit the cultivation of GMOs in their territory (Regulation) – LEPAGE report – 2010/0208 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2011)5625 and /2.

- Amendment of Directive 2000/25/EC as regards the provisions for tractors placed on the market under the flexibility scheme (Directive) – TATARELLA report – 2010/0301 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2011)5627.

- Amendment of Directive 97/68/EC as regards the provisions for engines placed on the market under the flexibility scheme (Directive) – PIETIKÄINEN report – 2010/0195 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2011)5628.

- Amendment of Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 on cooperation between national authorities responsible for the enforcement of consumer protection laws (Regulation) – REPO report – 2011/0001 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2011)5629.

4.2. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL

iv) Programming of Council business

(SI(2011)253)

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2011)253 on the Council meetings between 30 June and 13 July.

v) Results of the European Council (Brussels, 23 and 24 June)

(SI(2011)250)

The Commission took note of the conclusions of the European Council of 24-25 June, as set out in SI(2011)250.

4.3. RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT

vi) Results of June II part-session

(SP(2011)5582)

The Commission took note of the information on Parliament's part-session held on 22 and 23 June in Brussels, set out in SP(2011)5582.

4.4. EXTERNAL RELATIONS

vii) Joint EU-US statement on supply-chain security

(SI(2011)255 and /2)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2011)255/2.

5. MONITORING THE APPLICATION OF EUROPEAN UNION LAW

STATE AID – INDIVIDUAL CASES

(SEC(2011)849/2)

The Commission adopted the decisions in SEC(2011)849/2.

6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED

(SEC(2011)837 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 20 and 24 June.

6.2. EMPOWERMENT

(SEC(2011)838 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 20 and 24 June.

6.3. DELEGATION AND SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS

(SEC(2011)839 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedure between 20 and 24 June, as archived in e-Greffe.

6.4. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES

(SEC(2011)840)

The Commission took note of the sensitive written procedures for which the time limit expired between 27 June and 1 July.

- 7. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS - A BUDGET FOR EUROPE 2020
(COM(2011)500 TO /3, PARTS I AND II; SEC(2011)867; SEC(2011)868 AND /2)**
- 8. PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION LAYING DOWN THE MULTIANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE YEARS 2014-2020
(COM(2011)398 AND /2)**
- 9. DRAFT INTERINSTITUTIONAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL AND THE COMMISSION ON COOPERATION ON BUDGETARY MATTERS AND ON SOUND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
(COM(2011)403 AND /2)**
- 10. PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL DECISION ON THE SYSTEM OF OWN RESOURCES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(COM(2011)510 AND /2); SEC(2011)876 AND /2)**

- 11. PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION LAYING DOWN IMPLEMENTING MEASURES FOR THE SYSTEM OF OWN RESOURCES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(COM(2011)511 AND /2)**
- 12. PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION ON THE METHODS AND PROCEDURE FOR MAKING AVAILABLE THE TRADITIONAL AND GNI-BASED OWN RESOURCES AND ON THE MEASURES TO MEET CASH REQUIREMENTS (RECAST)
(COM(2011)512)**
- 13. DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING THE STAFF REGULATIONS OF OFFICIALS AND THE CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT OF OTHER SERVANTS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(SEC(2011)877 AND /2)**

By way of introduction, the PRESIDENT stressed the importance of the set of proposals being tabled that day for adoption and felt that, covering as they did the period from 2014 to 2020, they would be at the heart of the present Commission's legacy.

Every Member of the Commission had been involved in the long process of preparing this dossier in depth, whether through the various seminars on the topic or at bilateral or group meetings. He thanked the Members of the Commission, especially Mr LEWANDOWSKI and Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, their Cabinets, and the departments for which they were responsible, as well as his own staff, for the time and effort they had invested in this vast and complicated initiative and which today were coming to fruition in a set of proposals which set out a comprehensive political approach and at the same time matched different policies with financial amounts.

The PRESIDENT went on to talk about the broader context against which these proposals should be seen, and stressed the highly political nature, figures aside, of

all budget matters and the ensuing negotiations. He felt that the economic crisis facing Europe made this a less than ideal time to put forward such budget proposals and that these special circumstances should be taken into account.

He referred to the differences of opinion – although these did not seem to be irreconcilable - of the two arms of the budgetary authority regarding the size of the EU budget, and quoted a number of statistics. Thus, he noted that (1) the current multiannual financial framework represented, for the period 2007-2013, 1.05% of European gross national income (GNI) in commitment appropriations and 1% in payment appropriations, (2) the European Parliament had recently called for a budget amounting to 1.11% of GNI, and (3) in December 2010 five Member States had sent him a letter appealing for a budget which did not exceed the level of the 2013 budget, with a growth rate that was less than inflation.

In the PRESIDENT's view, the Commission should take account of the difficult situation in which the Member States found themselves and propose a responsible budget, without giving up on its ambitions for Europe. He felt in particular that the EU budget represented an undeniable added value for the people of Europe. On this point he said that (1) by bringing national policies together to form joint policies it was possible to make savings and reduce the risk of distortions in the internal market, (2) by pooling costs it was possible to achieve better results, as in the fields of research or education, and (3) the EU budget made possible projects, such as infrastructure projects for example, that the Member States could not finance on their own.

He emphasised the innovative nature of the Commission's proposals, saying that the amounts proposed should be judged not only in terms of quantity but also in terms of quality – bearing in mind how each euro would be spent – and stressed finally that this was a budget for investment and growth.

The PRESIDENT explained that, together with Mr LEWANDOWSKI, he had chosen to place the Commission mid-way between the position of the European Parliament and that of the Council by proposing a budget that represented 1% of GNI in payment appropriations and 1.05% in commitment appropriations. The

figure of 1.11% proposed by Parliament could be achieved by adding certain elements that fell outside the multiannual financial framework, or in some cases even outside the budget, and he felt that the situation should thus be viewed as a whole.

He set out in detail the interinstitutional context within which the negotiations on the multiannual financial framework would take place, and stressed the importance of obtaining the support of Parliament, which, in addition to the role conferred on it specifically by the Treaty of Lisbon, also defended the European general interest.

Finally, he hoped that day's debate would lead to a consensus, and pointed out that the proposals ultimately adopted would then have to be fully supported and defended by every Commission Member.

Referring to the major policies, and in order to keep the budget within reasonable limits, the PRESIDENT suggested applying a similar approach, based on the nominal stability principle, to the two main areas of expenditure, agriculture and cohesion. By adopting this approach, he said, it was possible to find the resources to finance the policies for which an increase in expenditure was planned, e.g. research and innovation, education and culture, migration management and external relations. He also proposed that there be no increase in administrative expenditure, and that staffing levels of the EU institutions, bodies and agencies be reduced by 5% over that period, which would demonstrate to the Member States and the people of Europe that the EU was applying to itself the same rules as it was recommending for others, and that it had to improve its efficiency and be capable of making savings.

The PRESIDENT felt that, if the above approach were adopted, the Commission's proposals would also make it possible to achieve the key objectives of European policies in a more modern and simplified way.

Thus, he noted that, while the common agricultural policy remained an important policy, its share of the EU budget would fall from 41.5% at present to 36.2%, although it would remain at the same level in nominal terms and farmers' incomes would be safeguarded. He also welcomed the fact that Mr CIOLOȘ,

Mr POTOČNIK and Ms HEDEGAARD had worked effectively to enhance the environmental dimension of this policy. Finally, he said that the financing not included in heading 2, for example for food aid to the most deprived and the proposed new reserve to deal with crises in the farming sector, would in future be covered by other arrangements.

Turning to cohesion policy, which accounted for 35% of the current multiannual financial framework, he said that Mr HAHN recommended linking it more closely to the Europe 2020 strategy, imposing much tougher conditionality and covering all EU regions in one way or another. By adopting a strict approach combining nominal stability and a re-examination of allocations between categories of regions, and including the Connecting Europe Facility, the proposal would bring it up to 36.7% of the European budget. He also mentioned the creation of a new category of regions 'in transition' and felt that the Commission's proposal clearly demonstrated the importance it attached to a strong cohesion policy, solidarity with Europe's most vulnerable regions, territorial cohesion and the regional dimension of the European project.

The PRESIDENT noted that, by remodelling agricultural policy and cohesion policy in this way, it was possible to propose increases in the budget for other sectors, such as research and innovation. In this context he stressed the new strategic framework – HORIZON 2020 – and the need to simplify funding arrangements in this area so that European researchers could focus on their research activities.

He referred again to the proposal to create the new Connecting Europe Facility, aimed at infrastructure in the area of energy, transport and information and communication technologies, which would have a centrally-managed fund of €40 billion and an additional €10 billion earmarked in the Cohesion Fund for projects linked to the trans-European transport networks.

Among the other priority sectors where budget increases were proposed were i) education, where the EU could play a key role, particularly as regards cross-border mobility, ii) migration, where it was essential for the EU to take account of the growing pressures, to protect its external borders and to facilitate legal migration,

and finally iii) external relations, where extra funding was earmarked for the neighbourhood policy, development aid and strategic partnerships.

The PRESIDENT also pointed out that the need to modernise the budget applied to the revenue side too, and that according to the Treaty the EU budget had to be financed from own resources. He explained that the proposed reform was based on the principles of autonomy, transparency and fairness, and that the creation of new own resources would not lead to an increase in the size of the budget but would make it possible to reduce national contributions. The proposal on own resources provided for a renewed VAT resource and a tax on the financial sector. However, the idea of a resource based on the emissions trading system had in the end been discarded.

He also felt that, for the same reasons, there was a need to reform the current system of rebates and corrections for certain Member States in order to put an end to the notion of ‘fair return’, while still recognising that Member States’ contributions would have to be limited where they proved to be genuinely excessive.

The PRESIDENT then handed over to Mr LEWANDOWSKI and Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, to present the proposals relating to their particular areas of responsibility: budget and administration, respectively.

Mr LEWANDOWSKI began by reminding Members that in the current difficult economic climate available resources had to be used more efficiently to face the challenges of the coming years and to implement the improvements introduced by the Lisbon Treaty.

With the aid of various tables presented at the meeting, he demonstrated that, despite the new competences conferred by the Treaty and the accession of new Member States, the framework presented for approval took account of the need for budgetary restraint and remained at around 1% of GNI. This budget framework was resolutely modern in character, for example in its greater emphasis on the link with the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy as an element of conditionality, the new Connecting Europe Facility, its innovative financial instruments, the increased

appropriations for research and the new legitimacy of traditional policies. At the same time it showed administrative rigour, a genuine commitment to simplification and a desire to find new means of funding through own resources. Mr LEWANDOWSKI also mentioned the enhanced flexibility instruments he planned to include in the future framework and outlined the main features of the renewed system of own resources.

He concluded his presentation by stressing once again the realism and ambition which characterised this proposal and urging all Members to defend it vigorously and with conviction.

Mr ŠEFČOVIČ then presented the draft proposal for a regulation amending the Staff Regulations of Officials and Other Servants of the European Union, pointing out that the aim was to continue the efforts already made to achieve greater efficiency and savings. On the basis of this draft he would be launching the social dialogue with staff representatives and consulting the Staff Regulations Committee and the Central Staff Committee, before submitting a formal proposal to the Commission for adoption.

This was not a comprehensive new reform: the proposed measures built on the major reform of the European public service already undertaken in 2004, which had already made possible savings of EUR 3 billion and would enable a further EUR 5 billion to be saved between now and 2020. The new measures should produce another EUR 1 billion in additional savings. He thanked Mr LEWANDOWSKI and his cabinet for their work on this dossier.

These measures should enable the European Union not only to freeze administrative expenditure on running the institutions up to 2020, but also to cut the administrative cost of the agencies and other EU bodies which were funded from other headings of the financial framework.

He cited the main elements of the proposal on the table that day: the proposed 5% cut in staff across all categories and all EU institutions, agencies and bodies in the period 2013-2017, to be achieved by not replacing some staff who left naturally, the

increase in the compulsory working week from 37.5 to 40 hours, the move to make 65 the normal age for retirement, and the plan to renew the method for adjusting salaries and pensions for eight years, coupled with a solidarity levy.

He concluded by stressing that the proposed measures aimed to strike a balance between a much-needed move towards better cost-efficiency on the one hand and preserving the institutions' ability to implement their policies and their need to attract and retain highly qualified staff in the different fields of expertise and drawn from all the EU Member States.

The Commission then held an in-depth debate on all the proposals concerning the next multiannual financial framework, during which the following points in particular were raised:

Cohesion policy

- in relation to cohesion policy in general, the need for increased conditionality tied to the achievement of the Europe 2020 strategy objectives;
- widespread support for the principle of a new category of “transition regions”, but also certain doubts as to the relevance of this option;
- the importance of allocating a minimum percentage (at least 25%) to the European Social Fund under the cohesion budget with a view to underpinning the achievement of the Europe 2020 flagship initiatives;
- the wish, in relation to transition and competitiveness regions, to concentrate on deploying cohesion financing (apart from the Social Fund) primarily but not exclusively on energy efficiency, renewable energy, and small and medium-sized enterprises competitiveness and innovation;

Common agricultural policy

- the need to maintain a certain amount of flexibility between the two pillars of agricultural policy, and the importance of retaining the possibility of limited transfers of funds between these two pillars while ensuring, however, that

excessive amounts were not transferred as this could alter the nature of Pillar II and undermine its rural development objective; the reminder also of the need to take account of the “greening” of direct payments to farmers;

- support for the formula adopted in relation to convergence rates for direct payments;
- support in principle for the possibility of granting farmers aid under the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund; several questions were raised, nevertheless, about identifying an exact sum for farmers to be set aside in the amounts available under this fund; concern that a pre-allocation of this kind might alter the original function of this instrument and penalise other sectors, for instance industry, which was also exposed to the adverse effects of globalisation; a reminder that this was a reserve to be used in crisis situations and that the funds available had never, to date, been completely used up;

Research and innovation – European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

- a reminder of the major role played by the EIT, namely in the Common Strategic Framework for Research and Innovation; support for a significant increase in the financial resources to be granted to it (for example around EUR 2.8 billion);

Financing of biodiversity and mainstreaming of climate change action into political priorities

- some questions about the possibility of funding biodiversity protection under the global public goods programme;
- acknowledgement of the need for general commitment to further mainstream climate efforts into all the EU’s policies and priorities; the case, therefore, for increasing the share of the budget earmarked for climate issues and the wish to have a target figure in this domain; the need, however, to have a precise methodology to set a target of this kind; the suggestion that a figure of around

20% be indicated, which would then be confirmed by evidence collected in impact assessments;

Other points relating to expenditure

- as regards the new financial supervision authorities, the need to ensure that they were financed in such a way as to guarantee their independence;
- a reference to the situation of the Ignalina nuclear power plant and the financing of its decommissioning;
- the situation regarding the ITER project, which was to be financed outside the multiannual financial framework and the budget, which did not mean, however, that the Commission intended to withdraw from this project or cease complying with its international obligations;
- a reminder of the need to mention the autonomous budget lines and the corresponding amount allocated in the policy fiche on employment and social affairs;

Own resources – tax on financial transactions

- the very broad support for the proposal to introduce a new own resource in the form of a financial transaction tax which appeared to be technically feasible, economically viable, politically fair and a significant source of revenue, however it was necessary to continue working to achieve agreement at world level, in particular within the G20; the reminder that the European Parliament had called for a tax of this kind, that it had been mentioned in the conclusions of the March European Council and that a majority of people in Europe supported it; the intention of presenting a formal proposal on this in the autumn, on the basis of an in-depth impact assessment (a preliminary version of this was already available); some doubts, however, about the feasibility of introducing a financial transaction tax at European level and its potential effects in terms of the relocation of financial activities outside the EU, job losses in Europe and even the cost implications for consumers of financial products; several questions

about the relationship between the resources generated by such a tax and the national contributions to the budget as well as the lump sum reductions envisaged for some Member States.

Winding up the debate, the PRESIDENT welcomed the spirit of cooperation that had predominated at this meeting and throughout the process of drafting the proposals on the next multiannual financial framework. He underlined the importance of the active and decisive involvement of each Member of the Commission in the communication efforts concerning this matter, on which lengthy, difficult debates were about to start. He trusted that they could rely on support in this respect from the European Parliament and the Council Presidency taking up office on 1 July.

He sincerely thanked the Commission Members and their cabinets and departments which had played a direct part in drafting this proposal, in particular Mr Hervé JOUANJEAN, Director-General of DG Budget, Ms Irène SOUKA, Director-General of DG Human Resources and Security and Mr Michel SERVOZ, Deputy Secretary-General.

Finally, the PRESIDENT noted the Commission's unanimous support for the proposed texts and its agreement on the following amendments to be made to the English-language versions:

- **Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Court of Auditors, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - A Budget for Europe 2020 – COM(2011)500/3 – Part I**

- **on page 6, the third sentence in the third paragraph would read as follows:**

“The Commission has carried out extensive analysis of the options [footnote No 7] and has decided to propose a new own resource system based on a financial transactions tax and a new VAT resource.”;

- **on pages 8 and 9, the new third sentence in the first paragraph of Chapter 5 “THE MAJOR NEW ELEMENTS ” would read as follows:**

“It addresses cross-cutting policy priorities, such as environmental protection and the fight against climate change, as an integral part of all the main instruments and interventions.” ;

- **on page 10, the title of section 5.2 would read as follows:**

“Solidarity and investment for sustainable growth and employment” ;

- **on page 11, the second and fifth paragraphs would read as follows:**

“The European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) is a flexible fund, outside the financial framework, which supports workers who lose their jobs as a result of changing global trade patterns and helps them to find another job as rapidly as possible. The amounts which are needed vary from year to year, that is why the Commission is proposing to keep the EGF outside the financial framework. The EGF can also be used to help those in the agriculture sector whose livelihoods could be affected by globalisation.” ;

“The contracts will set out clear objectives and indicators and establish a limited number of conditionalities (both ex ante and linked to the achievement of results so that they can be monitored), and include a commitment to give yearly account of progress in the annual reports on cohesion policy. Funding will be targeted on a limited number of priorities: competitiveness and transition regions would primarily devote their entire budgetary allocation, except for the ESF, to energy efficiency, renewable energies, SME competitiveness and innovation, while convergence regions would devote their allocation to a somewhat wider range of priorities (where necessary, including institutional capacity building).” ;

- **on page 12, the last sentence in the first paragraph would read as follows:**

“Lack of progress in fulfilling these conditions will give rise to the suspension or

cancellation of funds.” ;

- **on page 13, the text in the box would read as follows:**

“The Commission proposes to allocate €376 billion for the 2014-2020 period for spending in cohesion policy instruments.

This amount comprises:

- €162.6 billion for convergence regions,*
- €38.9 billion for transition regions,*
- €53.1 billion for competitiveness regions,*
- €11.7 billion for territorial cooperation*
- €68.7 billion for the Cohesion Fund*

And €40 billion for the Connecting Europe facility (see 5.3 below)

The European Social Fund (based on the 25/40/52 formula per category of regions) will represent at least 25% of the cohesion envelope, not taking into account the Connecting Europe facility, i.e. €84 billion

Outside the MFF:

- €3 billion for the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund*
- €7 billion for the European Solidarity Fund” ;*

- **on page 15, the last sentence in the second paragraph would read as follows:**

“The Commission will propose to extend the scope of the European Globalisation Fund to include assistance to farmers whose livelihoods may be affected by globalisation.” ;

- **on page 15, the first sentence in the fifth paragraph would read as**

follows:

“Convergence of payments: to ensure a more equal distribution of direct support, while taking account of the differences that still exist in wage levels and input costs, the levels of direct support per hectare will be progressively adjusted.” ;

– **on pages 16 and 17, the text in the box would read as follows:**

“The Commission proposes to allocate €281.8 billion for Pillar I of the Common Agricultural Policy and €89.9 billion for rural development for the 2014-2020 period. This funding will be complemented by a further €15.2 billion:

- €4.5 billion for research and innovation on food security, the bio-economy and sustainable agriculture (in the Common strategic framework for research and innovation)

- €2.2 billion for food safety in Heading 3

- €2.5 billion for food support for most deprived persons in Heading I

- €3.5 billion in a new reserve for crises in the agriculture sector

- Up to €2.5 billion in the European Globalisation Fund” ;

– **on page 19, the new second sentence in the fifth paragraph would read as follows:**

“The EU is committed to contribute financially to meeting its international commitments on climate change and biodiversity.” ;

– **on page 20, the first paragraph would read as follows:**

“The EU's humanitarian aid is now recognised in the Lisbon Treaty as a self standing policy in the area of the EU's external action, bringing a high level of added value. A coherent, complementary and coordinated EU approach to the provision of humanitarian aid ensures that scarce resources are used efficiently

to meet identified needs and supports the drive to more effective international humanitarian response. The increase in the number of natural and man-made disasters and their economic impact calls for systematic action at European level to strengthen preparedness and to enhance response capacities, both inside and outside the EU. The Commission proposes that crisis response, prevention and management be pursued with the Humanitarian Aid Instrument, and the Civil Protection Mechanism responding to natural and man-made disasters, which will continue as the effects of climate change make themselves felt.” ;

- **on pages 21 and 22, the text in the box would read as follows:**

“The Commission proposes to allocate €70 billion for the 2014-2020 period for external instruments.

And outside the MFF:

-European Development Fund (ACP countries), €30 billion

-European Development Fund (overseas countries and territories), €321 million

-Global Climate and Biodiversity Fund

-Emergency Aid Reserve, €2.5 billion” ;

- **on page 24, the bullet point at the top of the page would read as follows:**

“For funds under shared management - the ERDF, the ESF, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the future European Maritime and Fisheries Fund - a Common Strategic Framework will replace the current approach of establishing separate sets of strategic guidelines for the different instruments.” ;

- **on page 24, the new last sentence in the first paragraph of subsection 6.1.4 would read as follows:**

“In the area of development cooperation, climate and environment, notably

- **Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Court of Auditors, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - A Budget for Europe 2020 – COM(2011)500/3 – Part II**

“European Globalisation Fund Up to €2.5 bn” ;

“Today, climate action is integrated into many policy areas and implemented through a range of instruments that support multiple EU objectives, for instance both biodiversity and climate change mitigation policies. Already today, a proportion of the EU budget is related to climate mainstreaming and thus contributes to Europe's transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society. The Commission intends to increase the proportion to at least 20%, with contribution from different policies, subject to impact assessment evidence.” ;

“Competitiveness and SMEs Programme €2.4 bn”;

“Transition regions and competitiveness regions would be required to focus primarily the entire allocation of cohesion funding (except for the ESF) on

energy efficiency and renewable energy; SME competitiveness and innovation. ” ;

- **in the section entitled “*Employment and Social Affairs*”, the fourth bullet point in the table on page 38 would read as follows:**

“Autonomous Budget Lines €400 million ” ;

- **in the section entitled “*Health and Consumers*”, the second and third bullet points in the table on page 53 would read as follows:**

“Health for Growth Programme €396 million

Consumers Programme €175 million ” ;

- **in the section entitled “*Infrastructure – Connecting Europe facility*”, the second and third bullet points in the table on page 59 would read as follows:**

“Transport €21.7 bn

ICT/Digital €9.2 bn ” ;

- **in the section entitled “*Justice*”, the third line in the table on page 82 would read as follows:**

“Rights and Citizenship Programme €387 million ” ;

- **in the section entitled “*Research and Innovation*”, the last sentence of point (2), entitled “*Tackling societal challenges*”, on page 87 would read as follows:**

“The EIT will, through its Knowledge and Innovation Communities, strongly contribute to addressing the challenges, with a significantly increased budget.” ;

- **in the same section, the table on page 89 would read as follows:**

“Common Strategic Framework for Research and Innovation €80 bn ” ;

- **in the section entitled “Administration”, the first and second bullet points on page 92 would read as follows:**

“Pension expenditure and European Schools €12.2 bn

Administrative expenditure of the institutions €50.45 bn ” ;

- **Proposal for a Council Regulation laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020 – COM(2011)398/2**

- **on page 4, the first sentence in the first paragraph and the second paragraph of subsection 1.2.3 of the explanatory memorandum would read as follows:**

“If the repayment of a guaranteed loan provided under the Balance of Payments Facility (“BoP”) or under the European Financial Stabilisation Mechanism (“EFSM”) has to be covered by the Union's budget, Regulation No 1150/2000 foresees a possibility to call additional own resources to respect the Union's budget's legal obligation. ” ;

“It is highly unlikely that this situation will ever occur but in order to avoid any potential difficulties it is proposed to include in the MFF Regulation a provision excluding such potential expenditure from the financial framework (i.e. if need be the amounts would be mobilised over and above the ceilings of the financial framework). ” ;

- **on page 12, recital 4 of the proposal for a Council Regulation would read as follows:**

“If it is necessary to mobilise the Union's budget guarantees for the loans provided under the Balance of Payment Facility and the European Financial Stabilisation Mechanism set out in Council Regulation (EC) No 332/2002 of 18 February 2002 establishing a facility providing medium-term financial assistance for Member States' balances of payments [footnote No 9] and in

Council Regulation (EU) No 407/2010 of 11 May 2010 establishing a European financial stabilisation mechanism [footnote No 10], the necessary amount should be mobilised over and above the ceilings of the commitments and payments appropriations of the financial framework while respecting the own resources ceiling.” ;

- **Proposal for a Council Decision on the system of own resources of the European Union – COM(2011)510/2**

- **on pages 2 and 3, the fifth paragraph of section 1.2 would read as follows:**

“New revenue streams can be developed taking advantage of a supranational approach and the critical mass that can be achieved at EU level. Where the mobility of some tax bases is too high to allow effective action by Member States acting alone, or where limited actions by some Member States but not by others create a fragmentation of the Internal market, EU action can add value. Financial sector taxation is particularly relevant in this respect. In its October 2010 communication on financial sector taxation the Commission indicated that new financial sector taxes "could help to create the conditions for more sustainable growth, as envisaged in the Europe 2020 strategy" [footnote No 6]. The Commission has announced a legislative proposal for an EU financial transaction tax in the autumn. Moreover, further developing the VAT system in the context of a new own resource could also reinforce the Internal market and lead to economic efficiency gains.” ;

- **on pages 4 and 5, point (3) of section 2.2 would be deleted and points (1), (2) and (4) (renumbered (3)) would read as follows:**

“(1) Financial transaction taxation (FTT) could constitute a new revenue stream, which could reduce the existing Member State contributions, give national governments extra room for manoeuvre and contribute to the general budgetary consolidation effort. Although some form of financial transaction taxation already exists in a limited number of Member States, the analysis also

made it clear that action at EU level could prove both more effective and efficient than uncoordinated action by Member States given the level of cross-order activity and high mobility of the tax bases. Furthermore, it could play a role in reducing the existing fragmentation of the Internal market. The Commission will therefore present a proposal for an EU financial transaction tax in the autumn of 2011. A financial transaction tax that could be collected at EU level would reduce the juste retour problems observed in the current system. The EU initiative will constitute a first step towards the application of a FTT at global level.

(2) The development of a new VAT resource would bring a new impetus to the development of the Internal market by reinforcing harmonization of national VAT systems. The new VAT resource would be one facet of a markedly revised VAT system in the EU in the wake of the Green Paper on the future of VAT. The new initiative will include the elimination of a number of exemptions or exceptions which are detrimental to the proper functioning of the Internal market and the measures to reduce VAT fraud in the EU.

(3) The analysis showed that these own resources could be introduced at EU level during the 2014-2020 period following a suitable period of technical preparation. Combining these own resources would bring additional advantages compared to introducing only one new own resource. It would ensure a fair distribution of impact across the various Member States and the critical mass necessary to substantially reduce the existing Member States contributions to the EU budget.” ;

- **on pages 5 and 6, the last two paragraphs of the same section 2.2 would read as follows:**

“On the basis of its analysis, the Commission proposes the introduction of a financial transaction tax own resource from 1 January 2018 at the latest and a new VAT resource from 1 January 2018 at the latest. The timing of introduction of these new own resources reflects the time needed for completing the legal framework, and adopting and implementing the relevant legislation. The

Commission will present the relevant detailed regulations or amendments to existing legal acts as well as the related implementing regulations pursuant to Article 322(2) TFEU by the end of 2011.

The resulting estimated impact on the structure of own resources is summarized in the table below. It shows the shift from the existing national contributions towards the new own resources. The new own resources would finance around 40% of EU expenditures. Traditional own resources would account for close to 20% of the total. The GNI-based own resource would remain the single most important resource financing about 40% of the budget. ” ;

- **on page 6, the heading of the table would read as follows:**

“Estimated evolution of the structure of EU financing (2012-2020) ” ;

- **on page 6, the eighth heading would be deleted and the title of the sixth heading in the table would read as follows:**

“New VAT resource ” ;

- **on page 8, the new last sentence in the second paragraph would read as follows:**

“The amounts of the lump sums are based on current assumptions independent of the introduction of new own resources. ” ;

- **on pages 9 and 10, points (2) and (3) of section 3.2 would read as follows:**

“(2) a list of new own resources, including the timing of their introduction and relevant limits to their application. In particular, the Decision contains a maximum limit to the tax rates applicable to the new own resources, whereas the implementing regulation pursuant to Article 311(4) presents specific rates. This arrangement provides for both the necessary control of tax rates by the Member States and their respective parliaments and for some flexibility under the democratic oversight of the European Parliament. This flexibility will be

particularly useful at early stages of the implementation of the new own resources, when uncertainties as to their precise impacts will be highest. The specific rates for financial transaction taxation will be proposed together with the concrete legislative proposal in the autumn;

(3) the provisions related to the correction mechanisms and the ending of the current UK correction. The Decision defines the lump sum reduction on GNI payments attributed to each of the Member States concerned for every year. The Decision includes an article on the financing of these corrections, which would be based on the relative prosperity of all Member States; ” ;

- **on page 10, the first sentence of point (1) of section 3.3 would read as follows:**

“(1) the tax rates and the rates of call applicable for each of the own resources established in the Decision. ” ;

- **on page 14, recitals 8 and 9 of the proposal for a Council Decision would read as follows:**

“(8) In order to better align Union's financing instruments with the policy priorities of the Union, to reduce Member States' contributions to the Union's annual budget and to participate in their budgetary consolidation efforts, this Decision should include new own resources – a financial transaction tax and a new VAT resource.

(9) The key principles, variables and dates for the adaptation of the legal framework of the Union for the purposes of the new own resources from a financial transaction tax and a new VAT resource should be set out in this Decision. ” ;

- **on page 16, the last sentence in recital 16 would read as follows:**

“That regulation should also include the tax rates and the rates of call for each of the own resources established in the Decision and technical issues related to GNI, to allow limited flexibility within the limits set out in this Decision. ” ;

- **on page 17, subparagraphs (c) and (d) of Article 2(1) of the proposal for a Council Decision would read as follows:**

“(c) a share of the Value Added Tax (VAT) on supplies of goods and services, intra-Community acquisitions of goods and importation of goods subject to a standard rate of VAT in every Member State pursuant to Council Directive 2006/112/EC (footnote No 18), with the rate applicable in accordance with Regulation (EU) No .../... not exceeding two percentage points of the standard rate.

(d) the application of a uniform rate, to be determined pursuant to the budgetary procedure in the light of the total of all other revenue, to the sum of Gross National Income (GNI) of all the Member States.” ;

- **on page 18, the text of Article 4 would read as follows:**

“1. The uniform rate fixed under Article 2(1)(d) shall apply to the GNI of each Member State.

2. For the period of 2014–2020, a gross reduction in annual GNI contributions shall be granted to the following Member States:

- EUR 2500 million for Germany,*
- EUR 1050 million for the Netherlands,*
- EUR 350 million for Sweden,*
- EUR 3600 million for the United-Kingdom.” ;*

- **on page 18, the text of Article 5 would read as follows:**

“The cost of the corrections set out in Article 4 shall be borne by the Member States in proportion to each Member State’s share of the payments referred to in Article 2(1)(d). ” ;

- **on page 19, the text of Article 8 would read as follows:**

“1. The Union's own resources referred to in Article 2(1)(a) and, from 1 January 2018 at the latest, those referred to in Article 2(1)(c), shall be collected by the Member States in accordance with the national provisions imposed by law, regulation or administrative action, which shall, where appropriate, be adapted to meet the requirements of Union rules.

The Commission shall examine the relevant national provisions communicated to it by Member States, transmit to Member States the adjustments it deems necessary in order to ensure that they comply with Union rules and report, if necessary, to the budgetary authority.

2. The Union's own resources referred to in Article 2(1)(b) shall be collected from 1 January 2018 at the latest in accordance with the relevant Union legislation supplemented, where necessary, by the national provisions imposed by law, regulation or administrative action. These national provisions shall, where appropriate, be adapted to meet the requirements of Union rules.

The Commission shall examine the relevant national provisions communicated to it by Member States, transmit to Member States the adjustments it deems necessary in order to ensure that they comply with Union rules and report, if necessary, to the budgetary authority.

3. Member States shall make the resources provided for in Article 2(1)(a), (c) and (d) available to the Commission, in accordance with the regulation adopted under Article 322(2) of the Treaty.

The resources provided for in Article 2(1)(b) shall be made available or paid to the Commission in accordance with the regulation adopted under Article 322(2) of the Treaty. ” ;

– **on page 20, subparagraph (b) in Article 9 would read as follows:**

“(b) the reference GNI, the provisions to adjust GNI and the provisions to recalculate the ceilings for payments and commitments in case of significant changes to GNI, for the purposes of applying Articles 2(1)(d) and 3;” ;

- **Proposal for a Council Regulation laying down implementing measures for the system of own resources of the European Union – COM(2011) 511/2**

– **on page 7, the heading and text of Article 1 would read as follows:**

“Applicable rates

1. The tax rates applicable [footnote No 14: Should the legislative act referred to in article 2(1)(b) of Decision ... provide for differentiated rates for transactions executed in regulated markets and outside regulated markets, the tax rates applicable to the own resources will be adjusted on this basis.] to the own resource referred to in Article 2(1)(b) of Decision ... shall be:

...% for transactions on bonds, stocks and similar securities;

...% for other transactions.

2. The tax rate applicable to the own resource referred to in Article 2(1)(c) of Decision... shall be 1.0%.

3. The uniform rate referred to in Article 2(1)(d) of Decision ...shall be set within the budgetary procedure and shall be calculated as a percentage of the sum of the forecast of the Gross National Income (GNI) of the Member States in such a manner that it fully covers that part of the budget not financed from the revenue referred to in Article 2(1)(a), (b) and (c) of Decision ..., from financial contributions to supplementary research and technological development programmes and other revenue.

That rate shall be expressed in the budget by a figure containing as many decimal places as is necessary to fully divide the GNI-based resource among the Member States.” ;

- **on page 13, the last paragraph of Article 8 would read as follows:**

“Where the on-the-spot or associated inspections identify the need for amendment or correction of data in the statements or declarations sent to the Commission regarding own resources and the resultant corrections are to be made via a current statement or declaration then the relevant changes shall be identified, in the statement or declaration so used, by means of appropriate notes.” ;

- **on page 15, Part A of the Annex would be deleted.**

Subject to the inclusion of the above amendments in COM(2011)500/3 Parts I and II, COM(2011)398/2, COM(2011)510/2 and COM(2011)511/2 and subject where necessary to a thorough revision, linked to these amendments, of COM(2011)403/2 and COM(2011)512 and the staff working papers, and subject also to a final, general linguistic revision of all the documents mentioned, the Commission:

- adopted the communication in COM(2011)500/3;
- adopted the proposal for a Council Regulation set out in COM(2011)398/2;
- adopted the draft Institutional Agreement set out in COM(2011)403/2;
- adopted the proposal for a Council Decision set out in COM(2011)510/2;
- adopted the proposal for a Council Regulation set out in COM(2011)511/2;
- adopted the proposal for a Council Regulation set out in COM(2011)512;
- decided to send the communication and all the proposals on the forthcoming multiannual financial framework for 2014-2020 to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Court of Auditors, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, and, for information, to the national parliaments, together with the staff working papers in SEC(2011)867, SEC(2011)868/2, and SEC(2011)876, the contents of which were noted;

- took note of the draft proposal for a Regulation amending the Staff Regulations set out in SEC(2011)877 and authorised Mr ŠEFČOVIČ and DG Human Resources and Security to begin, on that basis, consultations with the trade unions and staff associations, in accordance with the framework agreement, with the Staff Regulations Committee, pursuant to Article 10 of the Staff Regulations, and with the Central Staff Committee.

* * *

During the meeting the PRESIDENT welcomed the appointment of Ms Christine Lagarde to the post of Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund and the result of the vote in the Greek parliament, which had approved by 155 votes to 138, with 5 abstentions, the new austerity plan for 2012-2015 presented by the Greek Prime Minister, Mr Georgios Papandreou.

*

* *

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

*

* *

The meeting closed at 17.32.