



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2011)1970 final

Strasbourg, 13 September 2011

MINUTES
of the 1970th meeting of the Commission
held in Brussels
(Berlaymont)
on Wednesday 7 September 2011
(morning)

PV(2011)1970 final

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Single sitting: Wednesday 7 September 2011 (morning)

The sitting was opened at 9.10 by Ms REDING, President BARROSO being absent.

Present:

Baroness ASHTON	High Representative/ Vice-President	
Ms REDING	Vice-President	
Mr KALLAS	Vice-President	
Ms KROES	Vice-President	
Mr TAJANI	Vice-President	
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Vice-President	
Mr POTOČNIK		
Mr REHN		
Mr PIEBALGS		
Mr BARNIER		Items 1 to 10 (in part)
Mr ŠEMETA		
Mr DE GUCHT		Item 10 (in part)
Mr DALLI		
Ms GEOGHEGAN-QUINN		Items 9 (in part) and 10
Ms GEORGIEVA		
Mr HAHN		
Mr FÜLE		
Mr ANDOR		
Ms MALMSTRÖM		
Mr CIOLOŞ		

Absent:

Mr BARROSO

President

Mr ALMUNIA

Vice-President

Ms VASSILIOU

Mr LEWANDOWSKI

Ms DAMANAKI

Mr OETTINGER

Ms HEDEGAARD

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

Mr MARTÍNEZ MONGAY	Chef de cabinet to Mr ALMUNIA
Mr BRUNET	Chef de cabinet to Ms VASSILIOU
Mr LEMAÎTRE	Chef de cabinet to Mr LEWANDOWSKI
Mr MARKOPOULIOTIS	Chef de cabinet to Ms DAMANAKI
Mr KOEHLER	Chef de cabinet to Mr OETTINGER
Mr VIS	Chef de cabinet to Ms HEDEGAARD

The following also sat in:

Mr LAITENBERGER	Chef de cabinet to the PRESIDENT	
Mr ROMERO REQUENA	Director-General, Legal Service	
Mr VANDERSTEEN	Acting Director-General, DG Communication	
Ms AHRENKILDE HANSEN	Commission Spokeswoman	
Mr THEBAULT	Head of the Bureau of European Policy Advisers	Items 9 and 10
Mr PESONEN	Chef de cabinet to Mr REHN	
Mr GUERSENT	Chef de cabinet to Mr BARNIER	Item 10 (in part)
Mr VANHEUKELEN	Chef de cabinet to Mr DE GUCHT	Items 1 to 10 (in part)

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

1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2011)1970/3; SEC(2011)974/2)

The Commission took note of that day's agenda and of the tentative agendas for forthcoming meetings.

2. WEEKLY MEETING OF CHEFS DE CABINET

(RCC(2011)1970)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 5 September.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND SPECIAL MINUTES OF 1969TH MEETING
(20 JULY)**

(PV(2011)1969; PV(2011)1969, PART II AND /2)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 1969th meeting.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(RCC(2011)965)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group held on Friday 2 September (RCC(2011)965).

It paid particular attention to the following points.

4.1. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

i) Ordinary legislative procedure

(point 1.2 of the IRG record)

Dossiers at Parliament first reading

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

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2011)305/2.

ii) Preparation for the September I 2011 part-session of Parliament
(point 1.3 of the IRG record)

Ordinary legislative procedure – Codecision – 1st reading

- Community regime for the control of exports, transfer, brokering and transit of dual use items (Regulation) – MOREIRA report – 2010/0262 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2011)7851.

- European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union (Frontex) (Regulation) – BUSUTTIL report – 2010/0039 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2011)7852 and /2.

- Repeal of certain obsolete Council acts in the field of the common agricultural policy (Regulation) – DE CASTRO report – 2010/0368 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2011)7853.

- Rules for the implementation of voluntary modulation of direct payments under the common agricultural policy (Regulation) – REIMERS report – 2010/0372 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2011)7854.

- Repeal of certain obsolete Council acts (Regulation) – MOREIRA report – 2010/0369 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2011)7855.

- Repeal of Regulation (EEC) 429/73 making special provisions for imports into the Community of certain goods coming under Regulation (EEC) 1059/69 and originating in Turkey and Regulation (EC) 215/2000 renewing for 2000 the measures laid down in Regulation (EC) 1416/95 establishing certain concessions in the form of Community tariff quotas in 1995 for certain processed agricultural products (Regulation) – MOREIRA report – 2010/0367 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2011)7856 and /2.

- Application of certain guidelines in the field of officially supported export credits (Decision) – JADOT report – 2006/0167 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SPI(2011)5/3, further to note SPI(2011)5/2 already approved by the Commission at its meeting on 2 February.

Non-legislative procedure

- Signature and conclusion, on behalf of the European Community, of the International Tropical Timber Agreement, 2006 (Council Decision) – MOREIRA report – 2006/0263 (NLE)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2011)7858 and /2.

4.2. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL

iii) Programming of Council business

(SI(2011)304)

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2011)304 on the Council meetings between 8 and 21 September.

4.3. RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT

iv) Participation by Members of Parliament in international conferences

(point 3.4 of the IRG record)

- Sixth annual Internet Governance Forum meeting (Nairobi, 27-30 September)

The Commission agreed to the request to the PRESIDENT from Mr Jerzy Buzek, President of Parliament, concerning the attendance of three Members of the European Parliament at the above-mentioned meeting as observers in the EU delegation, with a reminder about the procedure to be followed.

6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED

(SEC(2011)975 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 18 July and 2 September.

6.2. EMPOWERMENT

(SEC(2011)976 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 18 July and 2 September.

6.3. DELEGATION AND SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS

(SEC(2011)977 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedure between 18 July and 2 September, as archived in e-Greffe.

6.4. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES

(SEC(2011)978 AND /2)

The Commission took note of the sensitive written procedures for which the time limit expired between 5 and 9 September and of the 'finalisation' written procedure initiated following the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet on 5 September.

7. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS ON SECURITY OF ENERGY SUPPLY AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION – "THE EU ENERGY POLICY: ENGAGING WITH PARTNERS BEYOND OUR BORDERS"

(COM(2011)539 TO /3; SEC(2011)1022/2; SEC(2011)1023; SEC(2011)1026; RCC(2011)964)

8. PROPOSAL FOR A DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL SETTING UP AN INFORMATION EXCHANGE MECHANISM WITH REGARD TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS BETWEEN MEMBER STATES AND THIRD COUNTRIES IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY

(COM(2011)540 AND /2; SEC(2011)1026; RCC(2011)964)

The Commission:

- approved the communication in COM(2011)539/3, for transmission to Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, and, for information, to national parliaments, together with the staff working papers distributed as SEC(2011)1022/2 and SEC(2011)1023, the contents of which were noted;
- adopted the proposal for a Decision set out in COM(2011)540/2, for transmission to Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the national parliaments.

9. RELATIONS WITH NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN EXTERNAL POLICY

Baroness ASHTON reported on the informal 'Gymnich' meeting in Sopot on 2 and 3 September to which she had invited the EU foreign ministers, along with the Polish Council Presidency. Discussion had focused on three major issues.

First, the participants had called for continued efforts to strengthen strategic partnerships, in particular with a second group of countries consisting of South Africa, Brazil and India.

Second, concerns had been expressed with regard to two countries on the EU's eastern borders – Ukraine and Belarus. Baroness ASHTON stressed the need to give serious consideration to the potential repercussions for Europe of the current situation in Ukraine. She also noted that the internal political and economic difficulties in Belarus were causing concern ahead of the eastern partnership summit to be held in Warsaw on 29 and 30 September.

Finally, she turned to the third topic of discussions – Libya, Syria and the Middle East peace process. The EU was keeping up its contacts with all stakeholders on the possibility of a resolution being introduced in the United Nations on the status of Palestine and she was continuing efforts to reach a common European position. She

hoped that, by adopting a united and constructive approach, Europe would make a positive contribution to the peace process and its future implementation.

Baroness ASHTON also noted that, during the meeting and in the presence of the Norwegian Foreign Minister, tribute had been paid to the victims of the massacre in Norway on 22 July.

The Commission took note of this information.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

LATEST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Mr REHN referred first to the generally tough economic situation and the nervousness of the financial markets. Recent analyses and the latest available figures confirmed a certain slackening-off in European growth, however the efforts being made at European level should eventually prove fruitful, in particular in terms of economic governance.

He informed the Commission Members of the recent decision by the Swiss National Bank which, in order to stem the continued overvaluation of its currency, had set a minimum exchange rate of SFr 1.20 per euro. This decision would probably be discussed on Thursday at an important meeting of the Governing Council of the European Central Bank, which should also focus on interest rates and price levels in the euro area.

Turning to Greece, the experts forming part of the "troika" (the Commission, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund) had temporarily interrupted their current mission there to give the Greek authorities time to supplement the measures needed to honour the commitments by the Greek government. The experts should be able to return to Greece sometime in September to complete their work, thus paving the way for a decision by euro-area Member States in October on the financial aid to be granted to Greece.

Lastly, Mr REHN focused on the progress made in amending the Treaty establishing the European Financial Stability Mechanism to make it more flexible and effective.

The following points in particular were raised in the ensuing discussion:

- the importance for the Commission of providing a political response to the crisis and of reasserting its role, given the current intergovernmental and populist tendencies; the need also to reinforce Commission communication on the positive measures it has embarked on to promote growth;
- the headway made in the last stage of the interinstitutional negotiations on the proposals concerning short selling and derivatives;
- in relation to Greece, the value of underlining the importance of the regions as major stakeholders in the projects to be carried out by this country, and a reminder of the measures currently taken in this context;
- the need for a strong initiative to boost growth and the real economy, for resolute action to promote small and medium-sized enterprises, and for a financial sector geared to financing business projects that fully support growth and job creation, in particular in the services sector;
- the need for comprehensive, effective implementation of the Services Directive;
- the case for reflecting on the scope of the concept of economic governance and the conditions for implementing it.

Replying to the questions and comments by the participants, Mr REHN stressed that it was important to ensure swift and appropriate implementation at European level of the decisions taken on economic and financial matters in order to safeguard financial stability in Europe and boost economic recovery. Budget consolidation should be pursued to varying degrees depending on the specific situation of each Member State, while at the same time devising measures to further growth, for instance by improving the internal market.

He welcomed the initiatives in this respect that had been referred to during the meeting by Mr BARNIER and Mr TAJANI, and also thanked Mr HAHN for his undertaking to improve Greece's ability to develop new projects and benefit from the available European funds.

Lastly, in the coming weeks and months, several important and positive decisions would be taken in relation to measures on economic governance, on which Mr REHN hoped the European Parliament and Council would shortly reach agreement, and in relation to strengthening the European Financial Stability Mechanism, as well as the forthcoming meetings of the Economic and Financial Affairs Council and the European Council.

Ms REDING wound up the debate by thanking Mr REHN and emphasising once again the importance of good economic and financial governance and also economic growth, which each Commission Member was working towards in the context of his or her remit. It would be wise to collate the various actions carried out and measures adopted in order to present them in a more homogenous way and hence develop a more positive approach that would offer European citizens longer term prospects.

Lastly, she pointed out that the Commission meeting in Strasbourg on 27 September next would start at 12.00 noon and that, following the meeting, the PRESIDENT would make his speech to Parliament on the state of the Union.

The Commission took note of this information and these conclusions.

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

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The meeting closed at 9.59.