



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2012) 2019 final

Strasbourg, 23 October 2012

MINUTES
of the 2019th meeting of the Commission
held in Brussels
(Berlaymont)
on Wednesday 10 October 2012
(morning)

PV(2012) 2019 final

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Attendance list	5-7
1. AGENDAS (OJ(2012) 2019/FINAL; SEC(2012) 561/2).....	8
2. WEEKLY MEETING OF CHEFS DE CABINET (RCC(2012) 2019).....	8
3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES AND SPECIAL MINUTES OF THE 2017TH AND 2018TH MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION (26 SEPTEMBER AND 3 OCTOBER) (PV(2012) 2017 AND/2; PV(2012) 2017, PART II; PV(2012) 2018; PV(2012) 2018, PART II).....	8
4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS.....	8
4.1. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS	8
4.2. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL	9
5. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS.....	10
5.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED (SEC(2012) 562 ET SEQ.).....	10
5.2. EMPOWERMENT (SEC(2012) 563 ET SEQ.)	10
5.3. DELEGATION AND SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS (SEC(2012) 564 ET SEQ.).....	10
5.4. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES (SEC(2012) 565)	10
6. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS (SEC(2012) 566/2)	11
6.1. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL / SERVICE FOR FOREIGN POLICY INSTRUMENTS / DG TRADE / DG ENLARGEMENT / DG DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION - EUROPEAID / DG HUMANITARIAN AID AND CIVIL PROTECTION (ECHO) / DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY / DG BUDGET – COMMISSION DECISION ON THE MANAGEMENT OF COMMISSION RESOURCES IN UNION DELEGATIONS (C(2012) 7200 AND /2).....	11

6.2. DG HEALTH AND CONSUMERS – RENEWAL OF THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF APPEAL OF THE COMMUNITY PLANT VARIETY OFFICE (CPVO).....	11
7. COMMISSION DECISION ON INTERVENTION IN A CASE BEFORE THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (CASE C-658/11 – EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT V COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION) (C(2012) 7112 AND /2)	12
8. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS: A STRONGER EUROPEAN INDUSTRY FOR GROWTH AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY – UPDATE OF THE INDUSTRIAL POLICY COMMUNICATION (COM(2012) 582 TO /3; SWD(2012) 297; SWD(2012) 298 (PARTS 1 TO 4); SWD(2012) 299 (PARTS 1 TO 3); RCC(2012) 98).....	12
9. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL – ENLARGEMENT STRATEGY AND MAIN CHALLENGES 2012-2013 (COM(2012) 600 TO /5; SWD(2012) 331 AND /2; SWD(2012) 332 TO /3; SWD(2012) 333 TO /3; SWD(2012) 334 AND /2; SWD(2012) 335 AND /2; SWD(2012) 336 TO /3; SWD(2012) 337 AND /2; RCC(2012) 97)	12
10. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL ON THE MAIN FINDINGS OF THE COMPREHENSIVE MONITORING REPORT ON CROATIA’S STATE OF PREPAREDNESS FOR EU MEMBERSHIP (COM(2012) 601 TO /3; SWD(2012) 338 TO /3; RCC(2012) 97)	13
11. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL ON A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR A STABILISATION AND ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT	

BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND KOSOVO

(COM(2012) 602 TO /4; SWD(2012) 339 TO /3; RCC(2012) 97) 13

12. POLICY DEBATE ON THE 2013 ANNUAL GROWTH SURVEY

(SEC(2012) 569) 14

Single sitting: Wednesday 10 October 2012 (morning)

The sitting opened at 9.12 with Mr BARROSO, President, in the chair.

Present:

Mr BARROSO	President	
Ms REDING	Vice-President	
Mr ALMUNIA	Vice-President	
Mr KALLAS	Vice-President	
Ms KROES	Vice-President	Items 1 to 12 (in part)
Mr TAJANI	Vice-President	
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Vice-President	Items 1 to 12 (in part)
Mr REHN	Vice-President	Items 1 to 12 (in part)
Mr POTOČNIK	Member	
Mr PIEBALGS	Member	Items 1 to 12 (in part)
Mr BARNIER	Member	
Ms VASSILIOU	Member	
Mr ŠEMETA	Member	
Mr DE GUCHT	Member	
Mr DALLI	Member	
Ms DAMANAKI	Member	Item 12 (in part)
Mr OETTINGER	Member	Item 12 (in part)
Mr HAHN	Member	Items 1 to 12 (in part)
Ms HEDEGAARD	Member	Item 12
Mr FÜLE	Member	Items 1 to 12 (in part)
Mr ANDOR	Member	Item 12
Ms MALMSTRÖM	Member	
Mr CIOLOŞ	Member	

Absent:

Baroness ASHTON	High Representative/ Vice-President
Ms GEOGHEGAN-QUINN	Member
Mr LEWANDOWSKI	Member
Ms GEORGIEVA	Member

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

Mr MORRISON	Chef de cabinet to Baroness ASHTON	Items 1 to 12 (in part)
Mr CEBALLOS BARÓN	A member of Baroness ASHTON's staff	Item 12 (in part)
Mr BELL	Chef de cabinet to Ms GEOGHEGAN-QUINN	
Mr LEMAÎTRE	Chef de cabinet to Mr LEWANDOWSKI	
Ms HRISTCHEVA	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Ms GEORGIEVA	

The following also sat in:

Mr CABRAL	Adviser hors classe in the PRESIDENT 's Office	
Mr ROMERO REQUENA	Director-General, Legal Service	
Mr PAULGER	Director-General, DG Communication	
Mr DOENS	Head of the Commission Spokesperson Service	Items 1 to 12 (in part)
Ms AHRENKILDE HANSEN	Commission Spokeswoman	
Mr THEBAULT	Head of the Bureau of European Policy Advisers	Item 12 (in part)
Ms SKURATOWICZ	A member of the PRESIDENT's staff	
Ms LUCAS	A member of the PRESIDENT's staff	
Mr WHELAN	Chef de cabinet to Ms KROES	Item 12 (in part)
Mr RITTER	A member of Mr REHN's staff	
Mr MOUTARLIER	Adviser in Mr ŠEMETA's office	
Ms CHRISTOPHIDOU	Chef de cabinet to Ms DAMANAKI	Items 1 to 12 (in part)
Mr BRUNET	A member of Mr FÜLE's staff	Item 12 (in part)
Mr SERVOZ	Deputy Secretary-General	

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

1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2012) 2019/FINAL; SEC(2012) 561/2)

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(2012) 2019)**

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 8 October.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES AND SPECIAL MINUTES OF THE 2017TH
AND 2018TH MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION (26 SEPTEMBER AND
3 OCTOBER)
(PV(2012) 2017 AND /2; PV(2012) 2017, PART II; PV(2012) 2018;
PV(2012) 2018, PART II)**

The Commission approved the minutes of its 2017th and 2018th meetings.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

4.1. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

- i) Multiannual financial framework 2014-2020 – Cohesion policy
legislative package
(SI(2012) 423)**

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2012) 423.

ii) Guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure and repeal of Decision 1364/2006/EC (Regulation) – CORREIA DE CAMPOS report – 2011/0300 (COD)

(SI(2012) 428 and /2)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2012) 428/2.

iii) European Union position within the General Council of the World Trade Organization on the accession of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the World Trade Organization (Council Decision) – CORREIA DE CAMPOS report – 2012/0255 (NLE)

(SI(2012) 429)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2012) 429.

iv) Preparation of the Council meeting (Competitiveness) (Luxembourg, 10 and 11 October) – Draft Council conclusions on key enabling technologies and the European innovation partnership on raw materials

(SI(2012) 424)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2012) 424.

4.2. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL

v) Programming of Council business

(SI(2012) 427)

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2012) 427 on the Council meetings between 11 and 24 October.

5. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

5.1. *WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED*

(SEC(2012) 562 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 1 and 5 October.

5.2. *EMPOWERMENT*

(SEC(2012) 563 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 1 and 5 October.

5.3. *DELEGATION AND SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS*

(SEC(2012) 564 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedure between 1 and 5 October, as archived in e-Greffe.

5.4. *SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES*

(SEC(2012) 565)

The Commission took note of the sensitive written procedures for which the time limit expired between 8 and 12 October.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

(SEC(2012) 566/2)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

(PERS(2012) 108/2)

**6.1. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL / SERVICE FOR FOREIGN POLICY
INSTRUMENTS / DG TRADE / DG ENLARGEMENT /
DG DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION - EUROPEAID /
DG HUMANITARIAN AID AND CIVIL PROTECTION (ECHO) /
DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY / DG BUDGET –
COMMISSION DECISION ON THE MANAGEMENT OF
COMMISSION RESOURCES IN UNION DELEGATIONS**

(C(2012) 7200 AND /2)

The Commission took note of the information at point 1 of PERS(2012) 108/2 and, on a proposal from Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, Baroness ASHTON, Mr PIEBALGS, Mr DE GUCHT, Mr LEWANDOWSKI, Ms GEORGIEVA and Mr FÜLE, adopted the decision set out in C(2012) 7200/2.

This decision would take effect immediately.

**6.2. DG HEALTH AND CONSUMERS – RENEWAL OF THE TERM OF
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF APPEAL OF THE
COMMUNITY PLANT VARIETY OFFICE (CPVO)**

The Commission took note of the information at point 2 of PERS(2012) 108/2 and, on a proposal from Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr DALLI, decided:

- to propose to the Council that Mr Paul VAN DER KOOIJ's term of office as Chairman of the Board of Appeal of the Community Plant Variety Office be renewed for a period of five years from 17 December 2012;
- to ask Mr DALLI to communicate this proposal to the Council.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

7. COMMISSION DECISION ON INTERVENTION IN A CASE BEFORE THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (CASE C-658/11 – EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT v COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION) (C(2012) 7112 AND /2)

The Commission adopted the decision in C(2012) 7112/2.

8. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS: A STRONGER EUROPEAN INDUSTRY FOR GROWTH AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY – UPDATE OF THE INDUSTRIAL POLICY COMMUNICATION (COM(2012) 582 TO /3; SWD(2012) 297; SWD(2012) 298 (PARTS 1 TO 4); SWD(2012) 299 (PARTS 1 TO 3); RCC(2012) 98)

The Commission approved the Communication in COM(2012) 582/3, 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 documents distributed as SWD(2012) 297, SWD(2012) 298 (parts 1 to 4) and SEC(2012) 299 (parts 1 to 3), the contents of which were noted.

9. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL – ENLARGEMENT STRATEGY AND MAIN CHALLENGES 2012-2013

(COM(2012) 600 TO /5; SWD(2012) 331 AND /2; SWD(2012) 332 TO /3; SWD(2012) 333 TO /3; SWD(2012) 334 AND /2; SWD(2012) 335 AND /2; SWD(2012) 336 TO /3; SWD(2012) 337 AND /2; RCC(2012) 97)

The Commission approved the English-language version of the Communication in COM(2012) 600/4 and /5, for transmission to Parliament and the Council and, for information, to the national parliaments, together with the 2012 progress reports on Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Turkey and Iceland, as set out in staff working documents SWD(2012) 331 and /2, SWD(2012) 332 to 3, SWD(2012) 333 to /3, SWD(2012) 334/2, SWD(2012) 335 and /2, SWD(2012) 336 to /3, and SWD(2012) 337 and /2 respectively, the contents of which were noted.

10. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL ON THE MAIN FINDINGS OF THE COMPREHENSIVE MONITORING REPORT ON CROATIA'S STATE OF PREPAREDNESS FOR EU MEMBERSHIP

(COM(2012) 601 TO /3; SWD(2012) 338 TO /3; RCC(2012) 97)

The Commission approved the Communication in COM(2012) 601/3, for transmission to Parliament and the Council and, for information, to the national parliaments, together with the staff working document distributed as SWD(2012) 338/2 and /3, the contents of which were noted.

11. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL ON A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR A STABILISATION AND ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE

EUROPEAN UNION AND KOSOVO¹**(COM(2012) 602 TO /4; SWD(2012) 339 TO /3; RCC(2012) 97)**

The Commission approved the Communication in COM(2012) 602/4, for transmission to Parliament and the Council and, for information, to the national parliaments, together with the staff working document distributed as SWD(2012) 339 to /3, the contents of which were noted.

12. POLICY DEBATE ON THE 2013 ANNUAL GROWTH SURVEY**(SEC(2012) 569)**

The PRESIDENT introduced the policy debate by saying that the Annual Growth Survey – one of the essential tools available to the Commission for promoting better coordination of economic policy – marked the beginning of a new European Semester by setting out the economic reforms in progress, identifying what remained to be done and, if necessary, establishing new priorities for action over the next 12 months. The 2013 Annual Growth Survey was scheduled for adoption by the Commission on 28 November and the Commission would adopt its proposals for country-specific recommendations in May 2013.

He highlighted the difficulties and challenges facing most of the Member States, which were now having to implement a painful consolidation of their public finances and structural reforms that were long overdue. The road to economic recovery, sustainable growth and job creation was proving to be long, and the economic situation was not improving as much or as fast as some had hoped. The unemployment rate remained high, particularly for young people, social tensions were growing and the weak growth prospects were having a negative impact on

¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1244/99 and the International Court of Justice's opinion on Kosovo's declaration of independence.

public and private debt. He also spoke of the growing disparities between Member States and the deterioration in the external environment.

In this climate, the PRESIDENT felt that the approach chosen by the Commission was the right one and would deliver results in the longer term, the problems being due more to inadequate or slow implementation of the decisions. He felt it was more necessary than ever to tackle the roots of the crisis and its effects, given that full implementation of the growth compact agreed at the European Council in June 2012 would undoubtedly take a long time. This meant that the priorities identified for 2012 remained valid. These were differentiated growth-friendly fiscal consolidation, stabilisation of the financial sector and the restoration of lending to the real economy, as well as structural measures to promote growth and jobs. It was important, however, to ensure that the efforts demanded were shared fairly and equally.

Following presentations by Mr REHN, Mr ANDOR and Mr ŠEMETA on economic, social and tax aspects, the Commission held a debate during which it acknowledged the usefulness of the Annual Growth Survey and broadly supported maintaining the five objectives set out the previous year. It also noted the need to give priority to measures likely to revive growth, create jobs and boost competitiveness, while maintaining a balance between such measures and differentiated fiscal consolidation. It was suggested that the Annual Growth Survey be used as an instrument to identify promising sectors so that Member States could invest in innovation, and to promote optimum coordination between sectoral policies ranging from education to environmental protection. The Commission noted the importance of ensuring the quality of government expenditure, the need to take a realistic approach as regards both the low growth prospects and the extent to which Member States had reached their targets in the previous year, and the value of putting forward practical recommendations that would pave the way for an effective dialogue between each Member State and the Commission.

The PRESIDENT thanked the Commissioners for this lively discussion on the Annual Growth Survey. The purpose of this exercise, conducted under the guidance of Mr REHN in a spirit of collective responsibility, was to allow major political and

economic issues which had previously been compartmentalised at national level to be tackled at European level at the Commission's initiative. He welcomed the fact that the governments of the Member States were now taking the Annual Growth Survey very seriously. He was also pleased that the Commission was playing a key role in the process, using its freedom to consider the medium and long-term issues, while at the same time performing its allotted tasks, which were to carry out an objective analysis of the economic situation and to enforce the Stability and Growth Pact.

In conclusion, the PRESIDENT noted that a majority of Commission Members wanted to keep the 2012 priorities for 2013, while suggesting that the growth-related aspects be updated. He also stressed the need for smart and differentiated fiscal consolidation and reiterated that employment – and hence training and qualifications – was an important and pressing issue in Europe which should be tackled alongside the question of competitiveness.

The Commission took note of the results and conclusions of the policy debate and of the discussion paper distributed under the authority of the PRESIDENT as SEC(2012) 569.

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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 11.55.