



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

**PV(2014) 2072 final**

*- English language version of the French text which is authentic -*

Brussels, 29 January 2014

# TEXTE EN

## MINUTES

**of the 2072<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Commission**

**held in Brussels**

**(Berlaymont)**

**on Wednesday 22 January 2014**

**(morning)**

—

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*- English language version of the French text which is authentic -*

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**Single sitting: Wednesday 22 January 2014 (morning)**

The sitting opened at 9.08 with Mr BARROSO, President, in the chair.

**Present:**

|                    |                |                              |
|--------------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| Mr BARROSO         | President      |                              |
| Mr ALMUNIA         | Vice-President |                              |
| Mr KALLAS          | Vice-President |                              |
| Mr TAJANI          | Vice-President |                              |
| Mr ŠEFČOVIČ        | Vice-President |                              |
| Mr REHN            | Vice-President |                              |
| Mr POTOČNIK        | Member         |                              |
| Mr PIEBALGS        | Member         |                              |
| Mr BARNIER         | Member         | Items 12/16 (in part) and 17 |
| Mr ŠEMETA          | Member         |                              |
| Mr DE GUCHT        | Member         |                              |
| Ms GEOGHEGAN-QUINN | Member         |                              |
| Mr LEWANDOWSKI     | Member         |                              |
| Ms DAMANAKI        | Member         |                              |
| Ms GEORGIEVA       | Member         |                              |
| Mr OETTINGER       | Member         |                              |
| Mr HAHN            | Member         |                              |
| Ms HEDEGAARD       | Member         |                              |
| Mr FÜLE            | Member         |                              |
| Mr ANDOR           | Member         |                              |
| Ms MALMSTRÖM       | Member         |                              |
| Mr CIOLOŞ          | Member         | Items 1 to 12/16 (in part)   |
| Mr MIMICA          | Member         |                              |

Absent:

Baroness ASHTON

High Representative/  
Vice-President

Ms REDING

Vice-President

Ms KROES

Vice-President

Ms VASSILIOU

Member

Mr BORG

Member

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

|                   |                                        |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Mr CEBALLOS BARÓN | A member of Baroness ASHTON's staff    |
| Ms HOFFMANN       | Deputy Chef de cabinet to Ms REDING    |
| Mr O'DONOHUE      | Deputy Chef de cabinet to Ms KROES     |
| Mr HILL           | Deputy Chef de cabinet to Ms VASSILIOU |
| Mr KANDOLF        | Deputy Chef de cabinet to Mr BORG      |

The following also sat in:

|                      |                                                   |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Mr SOBRAL            | Deputy Chef de cabinet to the<br>PRESIDENT        |
| Mr ROMERO REQUENA    | Director-General, Legal Service                   |
| Mr PAULGER           | Director-General, DG Communication                |
| Mr DOENS             | Head of the Commission Spokesperson<br>Service    |
| Ms AHRENKILDE HANSEN | Commission Spokeswoman                            |
| Mr THEBAULT          | Head of the Bureau of European Policy<br>Advisers |
| Mr KARNITSCHNIG      | A member of the PRESIDENT's staff                 |
| Mr MAMER             | Deputy Chef de cabinet to<br>Mr OETTINGER         |
| Ms JENSEN            | Deputy Chef de cabinet to<br>Ms HEDEGAARD         |
| Mr RISTORI           | Director-General, DG Energy                       |
| Mr DELBEKE           | Director-General, DG Climate Action               |

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

**1. AGENDAS**

**(OJ(2014) 2072/FINAL; SEC(2014) 50/2)**

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(2014) 2072)**

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 20 January.

**3. MINUTES OF 2071<sup>ST</sup> MEETING (14 JANUARY)**

**(PV(2014) 2071)**

The Commission held over approval of the minutes of its 2071<sup>st</sup> meeting for the following week.

**4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS**

**4.1. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS**

- i) Improvement of securities settlement in the European Union and central securities depositories (CSDs) and amendment of Directive 98/26/EC (Regulation) – SWINBURNE report – 2012/0029 (COD)**  
**(SI(2014) 8)**

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2014) 8.

- ii) Specific requirements regarding statutory audit of public-interest entities / Amendment of Directive 2006/43/EC on statutory audits of annual accounts and consolidated accounts (Directive) – KARIM reports – 2011/0359 (COD) / 2011/0389 (COD)**  
(SI(2014) 9)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2014) 9.

- iii) Electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market (Regulation) – ULVSKOG report – 2012/0146 (COD)**  
(SI(2014) 10 and /2)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2014) 10/2.

- iv) Fees payable to the European Medicines Agency for the conduct of pharmacovigilance activities in respect of medicinal products for human use (Regulation) – McAVAN report – 2013/0222 (COD)**(SI(2014) 11 and /2)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2014) 11/2.

- v) Uniform rules and a uniform procedure for the resolution of credit institutions and certain investment firms in the framework of a Single Resolution Mechanism and a Single Bank Resolution Fund and amendment of Regulation (EU) 1093/2010 (Regulation) – FERREIRA report – 2013/0253 (COD)**  
(SI(2014) 13 to /3)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2014) 13/3.

- vi) Establishment of rules and procedures with regard to the introduction of noise-related operating restrictions at Union airports within a balanced approach and repeal of Directive 2002/30/EC (Regulation) – LEICHTFRIED report – 2011/0398 (COD)**  
(SI(2014) 14 and /2)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2014) 14/2.

- vii) Marine equipment and repeal of Directive 96/98/EC (Directive) – RIQUET report – 2012/0358 (COD)**  
(SI(2014) 15)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2014) 15.

- viii) Electronic invoicing in public procurement (Directive) – COLLIN-LANGEN report – 2013/0213 (COD)**  
(SI(2014) 18 and /2)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2014) 18/2.

#### **4.2. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL**

- ix) Programming of Council business**  
(SI(2014) 19)

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2014) 19 on the Council meetings between 23 January and 5 February.

#### **4.3. RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT**

- x) Results of Parliament's January part-session**  
(SP(2014) 20; SP(2014) 21)

The Commission took note of the information in SP(2014) 20 and SP(2014) 21 on the proceedings of the part-session of Parliament held in Strasbourg from 13 to 16 January.

**xi) Action to be taken on Parliament's legislative resolutions and other resolutions of a legal nature**

(SP(2014) 38)

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(2014) 38, drawn up following the January part-session of Parliament, the contents of which were noted.

**5. MONITORING THE APPLICATION OF EUROPEAN UNION LAW**

***STATE AID – INDIVIDUAL CASES***

***(SEC(2014) 59 AND /2)***

The Commission adopted the decisions in SEC(2014) 59/2.

**6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS**

***6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED***

***(SEC(2014) 51 ET SEQ.)***

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 13 and 17 January.

**6.2. EMPOWERMENT**

**(SEC(2014) 52 ET SEQ.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 13 and 17 January.

**6.3. DELEGATION AND SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS**

**(SEC(2014) 53 ET SEQ.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedure between 13 and 17 January, as archived in e-Greffe.

**6.4. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES**

**(SEC(2014) 54 AND /2)**

The Commission took note of the sensitive written procedures for which the time limit expired between 20 and 24 January and of the 'finalisation' written procedures initiated following the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet on 20 January.

**7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS**

**(SEC(2014) 55)**

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**(PERS(2014) 11)**

**DG COMPETITION – INTERNAL PUBLICATION OF VACANCY NOTICE  
FOR AN AD15/16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL  
(PERS(2014) 12)**

On a proposal from Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr ALMUNIA, the Commission decided to authorise the publication, under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations, of the vacancy notice in PERS(2014) 12 for the post of Deputy Director-General, 'Mergers', in DG Competition.

This decision would take effect immediately.

**8. REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT  
AND THE COUNCIL ON PROGRESS IN BULGARIA UNDER THE  
COOPERATION AND VERIFICATION MECHANISM  
(COM(2014) 36 AND /2; SWD(2014) 36 AND /2)**

The Commission approved the report set out in COM(2014) 36/2, for transmission to Parliament and the Council, and, for information, to the national parliaments, together with the technical report set out in staff paper SWD(2014) 36/2, the contents of which were noted.

**9. REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT  
AND THE COUNCIL ON PROGRESS IN ROMANIA UNDER THE  
COOPERATION AND VERIFICATION MECHANISM  
(COM(2014) 37 AND /2; SWD(2014) 37 AND /2)**

The Commission approved the report set out in COM(2014) 37/2, for transmission to Parliament and the Council, and, for information, to the national parliaments, together with the technical report set out in staff paper SWD(2014) 37/2, the contents of which were noted.

**10. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – TOWARDS A JOBS-RICH RECOVERY**

**(COM(2014) 14 TO /3; SWD(2014) 14 TO /4; RCC(2014) 6)**

**11. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE – FOR A EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL RENAISSANCE**

**(COM(2014) 25 AND /2; SWD(2014) 23 (PARTS 1 AND 2); RCC(2014) 6)**

The Commission:

- approved the communication on a European industrial renaissance in COM(2014) 14/3, for transmission to Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, and, for information, to the national parliaments, together with the staff working document distributed as SWD(2014) 14/4, the contents of which were noted;
- approved the communication on the internal market for industrial products in COM(2014) 25/2, for transmission to Parliament, the Council and the Economic and Social Committee, and, for information, to the national parliaments, together with the staff working document distributed as SWD(2014) 23 (parts 1 and 2),

the contents of which were noted.

**12. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE AND ENERGY IN THE PERIOD FROM 2020 TO 2030**

(COM(2014) 15 TO /3; SWD(2014) 15; SWD(2014) 16; SEC(2014) 136; RCC(2014) 4)

**13. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – ENERGY PRICES AND COSTS IN EUROPE**

(COM(2014) 21 TO /3; SWD(2014) 19 (PARTS 1 AND 2); SWD(2014) 20 (PARTS 1 TO 4); RCC(2014) 4)

**14. PROPOSAL FOR A DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF A MARKET STABILITY RESERVE FOR THE UNION GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION TRADING SCHEME AND AMENDING DIRECTIVE 2003/87/EC**

(COM(2014) 20 AND /2; SWD(2014) 17; SWD(2014) 18; SEC(2014) 58; RCC(2014) 4)

**15. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND**

**SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS –  
EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION OF HYDROCARBONS (SUCH AS  
SHALE GAS) USING HIGH VOLUME HYDRAULIC FRACTURING IN  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**(COM(2014) 23 AND /2; SWD(2014) 21 (PARTS 1 TO 4); SWD(2014) 22;  
SEC(2014) 60; RCC(2014) 4)**

**16. COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION ON MINIMUM PRINCIPLES FOR  
THE EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION OF HYDROCARBONS (SUCH  
AS SHALE GAS) USING HIGH VOLUME HYDRAULIC FRACTURING  
(C(2014) 267 TO /3; RCC(2014) 4)**

The PRESIDENT began by highlighting the importance of the decision on the 2030 framework for climate and energy policies submitted that day to the Commission. He pointed out that it was necessary to propose solutions that would address the issue of climate change – the challenge of the century – and at the same time ensure the competitiveness of the Union in the context of a genuinely European energy policy. These texts would set out, for both policy-makers and investors, the direction in which the Union proposed extending the '2020 Strategy' for energy and climate launched in 2007, now that it had drawn lessons from the way the strategy was working out, made good certain shortcomings and adjusted its general structure. He also stressed the key role this policy framework would play when the mandate of the present Commission was assessed.

The PRESIDENT felt that it was the right time to propose this new 2030 framework for climate and energy policies, on the one hand in response to certain internal needs of the Union (for greater predictability, completion of the internal energy market and reduced reliance on imports) and, on the other, in order to prepare for international summits such as the UN Climate Change Conference in 2015.

He then reviewed the main points of the package, namely (i) the overall communication setting out the strategic framework for energy and climate policies for 2030, (ii) the legislative proposal amending the directive on greenhouse gas emission allowances, aimed at introducing an automatic stabiliser in this market instrument, (iii) a Commission communication and recommendation on the exploration and production of shale gas, laying down minimum rules for environmental protection and safety while leaving Member States free to choose their energy mix, and (iv) an analysis of energy prices and cost factors and of the ways in which the Union can take action in this field.

On the overall concept, the PRESIDENT said that the 2030 framework was based on the quantified targets of the 2020 strategy but that the implementing provisions for the Member States had been made more flexible. He explained that the main target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030 with respect to the 1990 level was ambitious but achievable, particularly as it was the most economically feasible milestone for attaining the proposed target for 2050 and was increasingly supported by the Member States and the European Parliament.

As regards the second major quantified target to be achieved, relating to the share of renewable energy in energy consumption, he said that the Commission suggested setting it at a minimum of 27%, which was the economically viable threshold for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40%. He referred in particular to the idea of making this target binding only at European level and replacing the resulting national targets, under the current system, with more flexible national efforts so as to avoid market fragmentation. He stressed the importance of this target in order to send a strong signal to investors and guarantee security of energy supply in the EU.

The PRESIDENT then addressed the key issue of energy efficiency, stressing that it was not the Commission's intention at this stage to pre-empt the review of the energy efficiency directive due to take place in mid-2014. The proposed 2030 framework also explored a number of ideas for European governance which would

be discussed with the Member States before the next Commission presented detailed proposals.

He pointed out that this draft 2030 framework for climate and energy policies was not a legislative proposal, but a starting point for the discussions to be held with the European Council in March. After this, the Commission would endeavour to secure a political agreement in the Council and Parliament by the first quarter of 2015.

In conclusion, the PRESIDENT expressed his conviction that the Union must continue to take the lead on this issue, capitalise on its position and demonstrate ambition, even if it could not be the only region in the world to make efforts in this field. He asked the whole Commission to support this solid, balanced and achievable initiative and to do everything possible to maintain its coherence in the ensuing interinstitutional process.

Completing this presentation, Ms HEDEGAARD thanked the other Commission Members and the departments that had taken part in drawing up this wide-ranging initiative. She was proud of this Commission's contribution to sustainable growth over and beyond the considerable difficulty of resolving the financial crisis. Regarding the appropriateness of the initiative, she emphasised its evident economic importance to the Union, which was highly dependent on energy imports, and the Union's leverage potential to launch an international debate given its pioneering role as a world leader in climate policy.

She underlined the crucial importance of the target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40% to ensure that the Union was reliably and firmly on track to achieve the goal set for 2050. She also noted the key role that could be played by the revised EU emissions trading scheme (EU ETS) proposed by the Commission, in particular the stability reserve, an automatic mechanism that would do away with any market intervention in the future.

With regard to the share of renewables in total energy consumption, she said that the Member States had some room for manoeuvre but reiterated that the European target was binding and a necessary signal for the European renewables industry which, from 1.2 million jobs at present, could exceed the 3 million mark. Although this represented a major challenge, there was a good chance of chalking up a success for the current Commission.

Mr OETTINGER also confirmed the reasons why the Commission had to put forward without delay a strategic framework for the EU's energy and climate policies for 2030, particularly in view of investors' expectations.

Turning to the chosen approach to renewable energy and the 27% target, he said that the decision to allow the Member States a degree of leeway to achieve this overall target was a pragmatic solution, and that it would be all the more important to set up a European monitoring and coordination system. He endorsed the rationale for cutting greenhouse gas emissions and the decision to set a target of a 40% reduction by 2030, even though in his view a target of 35% would have been more in line with past developments and future possibilities. He favoured taking a realistic approach and setting out very clearly the by no means negligible measures needed to achieve that target, which included increasing the linear reduction factor within the framework of the EU ETS and significantly speeding up renovation of buildings.

He said the EU should send a clear message that energy efficiency remained at the core of its energy and climate policy, noting its importance for operators in the energy sector, industry, construction and transport among others. All options should be kept open pending the progress report on this subject scheduled for mid-2014.

Lastly, with regard to the communication on energy prices and costs in Europe, all possible measures should be taken to reduce gas and electricity prices in particular, which adversely affected the international competitiveness of European companies and industry. Certain Member States should stop including excessive taxes in their

electricity rates, and the current fragmentation of the European renewable energy market should be brought to an end.

Mr POTOČNIK presented the Communication from the Commission on the exploration and production of hydrocarbons such as shale gas using high volume hydraulic fracturing, and the accompanying recommendation. The main objective was to set up, by way of a number of minimum voluntary principles, a framework for safe shale gas extraction in all Member States which chose to develop this supply source. The purpose of this framework was to provide the predictability and stability that investors needed while spelling out the consequences for the environment and human health of exploiting this new energy source. Turning to the contents, he said that the Commission recommendation was inspired by the International Energy Agency's 'Golden Rules for a Golden Age of Gas'. The Commission would monitor the application of the recommendations by the Member States and could put forward additional measures as and when required.

During the ensuing discussion, the Commission made the following main points:

- there was broad support for this major strategic initiative, which was regarded as balanced and combined ambition and flexibility with a view to achieving a low-carbon economy and economically viable implementing arrangements, while learning the lessons of the past;
- this set of proposals complemented the communications on a European industrial renaissance and a vision for the internal market for industrial products (see points 10 and 11 of these minutes), which had also been adopted on that day and were designed to boost growth, jobs and industrial competitiveness while reducing the EU's carbon footprint;
- the EU should move now to set out its climate policy vision for 2030 so that it continued to play a pioneering role in this field in the international arena; but

also, international developments throughout the process of implementing this vision should be taken into account;

- the EU's commitment to renewables should be maintained, this being essential if the main objective of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 40% was to be achieved; at the same time, a degree of leeway had to be left to the Member States; adoption of the 'mechanical' 27% rate was a good starting point; however, some wished to reflect the intention of aiming for an even more ambitious overall target of a 30% renewables share of total energy consumption;
- some emphasised that the proposed mechanism had to be flexible and that European targets should not be transformed into binding targets for the Member States, while others felt it regrettable that the Member States had not been required to set themselves quantitative targets as well; it remained to be seen how the balance between a binding European target and non-binding national targets would be managed; a binding European target would help to ensure that the renewables market was not renationalised by way of state aid;
- the need for an effective system of monitoring the measures taken by the Member States to ensure that the proposed target was met at European level; the importance of the Commission maintaining the role it was already playing in the context of the 2020 energy and climate strategy;
- a reminder of the priority given to renewables and energy efficiency in the framework of regional policy for the period 2014-2020; an emphasis on the greenhouse gas emissions trading system as the cornerstone of the Union's ambitious climate and energy policy, and support for the creation of the proposed stability reserve to ensure the smooth operation of the market; the knock-on effect of the EU emissions trading system for investment in renewable energy;

- the case put by some participants for maintaining the list of sectors at risk of 'carbon leakage';
- the need to tackle the question of high energy prices by promoting a deepening of the internal energy market, particularly as regards interconnections; but also the need, at the same time, to make progress on energy efficiency in order to enhance the competitiveness of the European economy, taking into account the results of the mid-term review of the Directive; the importance of addressing the real causes of the rise in energy prices, for example energy transport costs, and promoting competitive conditions, or looking at taxation and energy prices; the importance here of distinguishing between taxes and levies; a reminder of the principle agreed at European level to move away from labour market taxes and towards green taxation;
- the need to take into account the forthcoming revision of the Fuel Quality Directive in 2014 when the Union would decide its future policy on the levels in fuels of substances contributing to the greenhouse effect; the need for a cautious approach because of the possible impact on international trade;
- the importance of considering the question of fair effort-sharing; the need to take into consideration the specific situation of the most vulnerable Member States, the proportionately greater cost for most of them of implementing the proposed measures and the efforts some of them have already made; the idea of setting up an advisory structure and a solidarity mechanism to help these Member States;
- the importance of presenting the cost of implementing the proposed strategy not only as a burden but also as an investment for the future in aspects of technological development, the creation of new industries and greater productivity and competitiveness; a call for emphasis to be placed on the key role that research would play in achieving the objectives of the 2030 framework

for energy and climate policies;

- a reference to the increasing number of environmental disasters and the security threats which they entailed, and the growing number of climate refugees in the world.

Ms HEDEGAARD thanked the Commission members for their support and provided additional information on a number of points. She stressed in particular the overriding need, in her view, to continue beyond 2020 to dissociate growth from increased volumes of greenhouse gas emissions, something which the Union had succeeded in doing for the past 22 years, as demonstrated by the 18% reduction in its carbon dioxide emissions combined with a 45% increase in its GDP. To give an idea of the order of magnitude, she said that the reduction in emissions proposed for the next 18 years represented a further 22% and corresponded, in terms of cost, to around 0.15% of GDP between now and 2030.

Mr OETTINGER again stressed the clear political message which had to be sent to political decision-makers, investors, industry and the public to launch a debate, although it would be premature to embark on legislation at this stage. He felt it was appropriate to set a minimum quantitative target of 27% for the share of renewables in energy consumption in 2030, a percentage that would almost automatically be engendered by the target of a 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, according to the econometric models. At the same time, he pointed out that this minimum percentage would obviously not prevent those Member States who so desired from setting more ambitious targets for themselves.

The PRESIDENT thanked the Members of the Commission and the departments that had helped to produce the overall communication and the accompanying documents for all their work. He praised the spirit of collective responsibility that had characterised the discussion of this politically sensitive document and welcomed the Commission's commitment to this policy framework which was so

important for shaping the future without being overly prescriptive or proposing an approach that was too inflexible for the Member States. He reiterated the value of setting a quantitative target, which served as a means to an end: in this case the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. He returned to the link between the target of a 40% reduction in these emissions and the target of at least 27%, stressing that this was realistic, given the fact that the technologies in the renewable energy sector had now reached a level of maturity.

He urged Members of the Commission to participate fully in the discussions of this initiative with the Council and Parliament in the months to come. He also referred to the important role the Commission would have to play later on in the European governance that would be put in place to verify that the energy and climate policy objectives were properly implemented in the Member States.

He concluded by noting that the Commission supported the package as a whole and agreed to the following changes being made to the English version of the communication distributed as COM(2014) 15/3:

- **on page 5, under heading 2 'KEY ELEMENTS OF THE FRAMEWORK', the third sentence of the fourth paragraph would now read as follows:**

*'It would be accompanied by a coherent headline target at European level for renewable energy of at least 27% with flexibility for Member States to set national objectives.'*

- **on page 6, under section 2.2 'A Renewable energy target at EU level', the third sentence of the third paragraph would read:**

*'A greenhouse gas reduction target of 40% should by itself encourage a greater share of renewable energy in the EU of at least 27%.'*

- **the last sentence of the same paragraph would read:**

*'These new commitments for 2030 will be reviewed as part of the governance process described in section 3 and, if necessary, they would be complemented by further EU action and instruments to ensure delivery of the EU target.'*

- **on page 16, under section 4.4 'Innovation and finance', the second sentence of the fourth paragraph would read:**

*'EU funding during the period 2014-2020 is available under the European Structural and Investment Funds, where a minimum of EUR 23 billion has been ring-fenced for the "Shift to low-carbon economy" Thematic Objective.'*

- **on page 18, under heading 6 'NEXT STEPS', the third paragraph would read:**

*'The Commission also invites the Council and the European Parliament to endorse an EU level target of at least 27% as the share of renewable energy to be consumed in the EU by 2030 to be delivered through clear commitments decided by the Member States themselves, supported by strengthened EU level delivery mechanisms and indicators.'*

At the end of the discussion, the Commission, subject to the inclusion of the above amendments and subject to final linguistic revision of all the documents listed below:

- approved the Communication on a policy framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030 in COM(2014) 15/3 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions, and to the national parliaments for information, together with the impact assessment and the summary thereof in staff working documents SWD(2014) 15 and SWD(2014) 16, the contents of which were noted;

- took note of the opinion of the Impact Assessment Board on the above communication, as set out in SEC(2014) 136;
- approved the Communication on energy prices and costs in Europe in COM(2014) 21/3, for transmission to Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, and, for information, to the national parliaments, together with the staff working documents distributed as SWD(2014) 19 (parts 1 and 2) and SEC(2014) 20 (parts 1 to 4), the contents of which were noted;
- adopted the proposal for a decision in COM(2014) 20/2 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the national parliaments, together with the impact assessment and the summary thereof in staff working documents SWD(2014) 17 and SWD(2014) 18, the contents of which were noted;
- took note of the opinion of the Impact Assessment Board on the above proposal for a decision, as set out in SEC(2014) 58;
- approved the Communication on the exploration and production of hydrocarbons (such as shale gas) using high volume hydraulic fracturing in the EU in COM(2014) 23/2 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions, and to the national parliaments for information, together with the impact assessment and the summary thereof in staff working documents SWD(2014) 21 (parts 1 to 4) and SWD(2014) 22, the contents of which were noted;
- took note of the opinion of the Impact Assessment Board on the above communication, as set out in SEC(2014) 60;
- adopted the recommendation in COM(2014) 267/3 and decided to transmit it to

the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the national parliaments, and to publish it in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

## **17. RELATIONS WITH NON-EU COUNTRIES**

### ***LATEST DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN UKRAINE***

Mr FÜLE reported on the political situation in Ukraine. He said that the EU was gravely concerned and condemned unequivocally the measures adopted recently by the Ukraine parliament restricting the fundamental rights of citizens with regard to freedom of association, the media and the press, and placing restrictions on the activities of civil society organisations in the country. He referred to the measures adopted at European level, and in particular the statement of 17 January 2014 issued by Baroness Ashton at the end of the latest Foreign Affairs Council.

The Commission took note of this information.

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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 12.18.