



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2015) 2139 final

Brussels, 30 September 2015

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

of the 2139th meeting of the Commission

held in Brussels

(Berlaymont)

on Wednesday 23 September 2015

(morning)

PV(2015) 2139 final

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Attendance list	4-6
1. AGENDAS (OJ(2015) 2139/FINAL; SEC(2015) 361/FINAL)	7
2. WEEKLY MEETING OF CHEFS DE CABINET (RCC(2015) 2139).....	7
3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES AND SPECIAL MINUTES OF THE 2138 TH MEETING OF THE COMMISSION (16 SEPTEMBER) (PV(2015) 2138; PV(2015) 2138, PART II).....	7
4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS (RCC(2015) 71)	7
4.1. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS	8
4.2. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL	9
4.3. RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT	10
5. MONITORING THE APPLICATION OF EUROPEAN UNION LAW	11
INFRINGEMENTS (SEC(2015) 357; SEC(2015) 381; SEC(2015) 380).....	11
6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS.....	11
6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED (SEC(2015) 362 ET SEQ.).....	11
6.2. EMPOWERMENT (SEC(2015) 363 ET SEQ.)	11
6.3. DELEGATION AND SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS (SEC(2015) 364 ET SEQ.).....	11
6.4. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES (SEC(2015) 366 AND /2)	12
6.5. AD HOC EMPOWERMENT AUTHORISING THE MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION RESPONSABLE FOR ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS, TAXATION AND CUSTOMS TO SIGN, ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION, ITSELF ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN STABILITY MECHANISM, AN AMENDMENT TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH CYPRUS (C(2015) 6529).....	12

7.	ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS (SEC(2015) 367)	13
7.1.	DG TRANSLATION – LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR THE AD14 POST OF DIRECTOR OF THE TRANSLATION CENTRE FOR THE BODIES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (CDT) (PERS(2014) 109 TO /6)	13
7.2.	DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – SPECIAL ADVISERS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION FOR 2015 – SECOND LIST (PERS(2015) 81).....	13
7.3.	SECRETARIAT-GENERAL – APPOINTMENT OF AN AD14 DIRECTOR.....	14
7.4.	DG ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS – AMENDMENT OF THE ORGANISATION CHART AND APPOINTMENT OF AN AD14 PRINCIPAL ADVISER	14
7.5.	DG MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT – AMENDMENT OF THE ORGANISATION CHART.....	15
8.	COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL – MANAGING THE REFUGEE CRISIS – IMMEDIATE OPERATIONAL, BUDGETARY AND LEGAL MEASURES UNDER THE EUROPEAN AGENDA ON MIGRATION (COM(2015) 490; RCC(2015) 73)	15

Single sitting: Wednesday 23 September 2015 (morning)

The sitting opened at 9.20 with Mr JUNCKER, President, in the chair.

Present:

Mr JUNCKER	President
Mr TIMMERMANS	First Vice-President
Ms MOGHERINI	High Representative / Vice-President
Ms GEORGIEVA	Vice-President
Mr ANSIP	Vice-President
Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Vice-President
Mr KATAINEN	Vice-President
Mr HAHN	Member
Mr MIMICA	Member
Mr VELLA	Member
Mr AVRAMOPOULOS	Member
Ms THYSSEN	Member
Mr MOSCOVICI	Member
Mr STYLIANIDES	Member
Mr HOGAN	Member
Lord HILL	Member
Ms BULC	Member
Ms BIEŃKOWSKA	Member
Ms JOUROVÁ	Member
Mr NAVRACSICS	Member
Ms CREȚU	Member
Ms VESTAGER	Member
Mr MOEDAS	Member

Absent:

Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Vice-President
Mr OETTINGER	Member
Ms MALMSTRÖM	Member
Mr ARIAS CAÑETE	Member
Mr ANDRIUKAITIS	Member

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

Mr NOCIAR	Chef de cabinet to Mr ŠEFČOVIČ
Mr MAMER	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Mr OETTINGER
Mr CEBALLOS BARÓN	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Ms MALMSTRÖM
Ms LOBILLO BORRERO	Chef de cabinet to Mr ARIAS CAÑETE
Mr VINČIŪNAS	Chef de cabinet to Mr ANDRIUKAITIS

The following also sat in:

Mr SELMAYR	Chef de cabinet to the PRESIDENT	
Mr ROMERO REQUENA	Director-General, Legal Service	
Mr PESONEN	Director-General, DG Communication	
Mr SCHINAS	Head of the Spokesperson's Service and Chief Spokesperson of the Commission	
Ms METTLER	Head of the European Political Strategy Centre	
Ms MARTÍNEZ ALBEROLA	Deputy Chef de cabinet to the PRESIDENT	
Mr SMULDERS	Chef de cabinet to Mr TIMMERMANS	
Mr MANSERVISI	Chef de cabinet to Ms MOGHERINI	
Mr KARNITSCHNIG	Chef de cabinet to Mr HAHN	
Ms SCHMITT	Chef de cabinet to Mr AVRAMOPOULOS	
Mr MORRISON	Secretariat-General	
Ms ANDREEVA	Commission Spokesperson's Service	
Mr RUETE	Director-General, DG Migration and Home Affairs	Items 1 to 8 (in part)

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

1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2015) 2139/FINAL; SEC(2015) 361/FINAL)

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(2015) 2139)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 21 September.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES AND SPECIAL MINUTES OF THE 2138TH MEETING OF THE COMMISSION (16 SEPTEMBER)

(PV(2015) 2138; PV(2015) 2138, PART II)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 2138th meeting.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(RCC(2015) 71)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (IRG) held on Friday 18 September (RCC(2015) 71).

It paid particular attention to the following points.

4.1. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

i) Trilogue meetings

(point 3.1 of the IRG record)

- Protective measures against pests of plants (Regulation) – McINTYRE report – 2013/0141 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2015) 343 and /2.

- European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation and Training (Europol) and repeal of Decisions 2009/371/JHA and 2005/681/JHA (Regulation) – DÍAZ DE MERA report – 2013/0091 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2015) 347.

ii) Council dossiers

(point 3.3 of the IRG record)

- 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and 11th Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (Paris, 30 November to 11 December) – Draft Council Conclusions

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2015) 344.

- Protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by competent authorities for the purposes of prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, and the free movement of such data (Directive) – LAURISTIN report – 2012/0010 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2015) 353.

4.2. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL

iii) Programming of Council business

(SI(2015) 354)

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2015) 354 on the Council meetings between 24 September and 7 October.

iv) Non-legislative dossiers

(point 4.1 of the IRG record)

- Signing, on behalf of the European Union, of the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism and its Additional Protocol (CETS No 196) (Council Decisions) – 2015/0131 (NLE) and 2015/0130 (NLE)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2015) 328.

- Arrangements for additional participatory rights for the European Union in the programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2015) 352/2.

v) Preparations for Council meeting (Justice and Home Affairs) (Brussels, 22 September)

(point 4.2.1 of the IRG record)

- Provisional measures in the area of international protection for the benefit of Italy, Greece and Hungary (Council Decision) – 2015/0209 (NLE)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2015) 351.

4.3. RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT

vi) Action taken on non-legislative resolutions adopted by Parliament at its June I part-session

(point 5.6.2 of the IRG record)

The Commission approved document SP(2015) 529 on the action taken on the non-legislative resolutions adopted by Parliament at its June I part-session, for transmission to Parliament.

vii) Action taken on non-legislative resolutions adopted by Parliament at its June II part-session

(point 5.6.3 of the IRG record)

The Commission approved document SP(2015) 530/4 on the action taken on the non-legislative resolutions adopted by Parliament at its June II part-session, for transmission to Parliament.

viii) Action taken on legislative opinions and non-legislative resolutions adopted by Parliament at its June I and II part-sessions

(point 5.6.4 of the IRG record)

The Commission approved document SP(2015) 531 on the action taken on the legislative opinions and non-legislative resolutions adopted by Parliament at its June I and II part-sessions, for transmission to Parliament.

ix) Results of the September II part-session of Parliament

(SP(2015) 532 and /2)

The Commission took note of the information on Parliament's part-session held on 16 and 17 September in Brussels, set out in SP(2015) 532/2.

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

(SP(2015) 540)

The Commission took note of document SP(2015) 540, drawn up following Parliament's September II part-session.

5. MONITORING THE APPLICATION OF EUROPEAN UNION LAW

INFRINGEMENTS

(SEC(2015) 357; SEC(2015) 381; SEC(2015) 380)

The Commission adopted the decisions in SEC(2015) 380.

6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED

(SEC(2015) 362 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 14 and 18 September.

6.2. EMPOWERMENT

(SEC(2015) 363 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 14 and 18 September.

6.3. DELEGATION AND SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS

(SEC(2015) 364 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedure between 14 and 18 September, as archived in Decide.

6.4. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES

(SEC(2015) 366 AND /2)

The Commission took note of the sensitive written procedures for which the time limit expired between 21 and 25 September and of the finalisation written procedure initiated following the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet on Monday 21 September.

6.5. AD HOC EMPOWERMENT AUTHORISING THE MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION RESPONSABLE FOR ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS, TAXATION AND CUSTOMS TO SIGN, ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION, ITSELF ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN STABILITY MECHANISM, AN AMENDMENT TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH CYPRUS

(C(2015) 6529)

The Commission decided to empower Mr MOSCOVICI, the Member of the Commission responsible for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs, to sign, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr DOMBROVSKIS, Vice-President responsible for the Euro and Social Dialogue, on behalf and under the responsibility of the Commission, itself acting on behalf of the European Stability Mechanism, and after approval by its Board of Governors, an amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding setting out the detailed economic policy conditions attached to the financial assistance to Cyprus, in accordance with the terms set out in C(2015) 6529.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS
(SEC(2015) 367)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
(PERS(2015) 80)

**7.1. DG TRANSLATION – LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR THE AD14 POST
OF DIRECTOR OF THE TRANSLATION CENTRE FOR THE BODIES
OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (CDT)**
(PERS(2014) 109 TO /6)

On a proposal from Ms GEORGIEVA, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, the Commission decided:

- to approve the list of two candidates in the order set out in point 1 of PERS(2015) 80, for the post of Director of the Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union (CdT), and to consider this list as the Commission proposal;
- to ask Ms GEORGIEVA, the Member of the Commission responsible for the Budget and Human Resources, to communicate this decision and the list of candidates to the Management Board of the Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

**7.2. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – SPECIAL ADVISERS TO
THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION FOR 2015 – SECOND LIST**
(PERS(2015) 81)

The Commission noted the information in point 2 of PERS(2015) 80 and, on a proposal from Ms GEORGIEVA, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, decided:

- to adopt the list of special advisers to Members of the Commission set out in PERS(2015) 81;
- to authorise the Director-General for Human Resources and Security to implement that decision by signing contracts of employment on behalf of the authority empowered to conclude contracts of employment.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

7.3. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL – APPOINTMENT OF AN AD14 DIRECTOR

On a proposal from Ms GEORGIEVA, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, the Commission decided to postpone until 1 November 2015 the transfer in the interest of the service under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations of Ms Paraskevi MICHOU, currently Director of the ‘Civil Justice’ Directorate in DG Justice and Consumers, to the post of Director of the ‘Institutional and Administrative Policies’ Directorate in the Secretariat-General.

This decision would take effect immediately.

7.4. DG ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS – AMENDMENT OF THE ORGANISATION CHART AND APPOINTMENT OF AN AD14 PRINCIPAL ADVISER

On a proposal from Ms GEORGIEVA, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and after consulting Mr MOSCOVICI and Mr DOMBROVSKIS and Mr KATAINEN, the Commission decided:

- to approve the creation of a temporary post of Principal Adviser in DG Economic and Financial Affairs, directly attached to the Deputy Director-General in charge of the C, E, F and G (ECFIN.DDG.I) Directorates; this post would be abolished upon departure of the job holder;
- to fill this post by transfer in the interest of the service under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations of Mr Declan COSTELLO, currently Director of the

‘Economies of the Member States II’ Directorate in DG Economic and Financial Affairs.

These decisions would take effect on 1 October 2015.

7.5. DG MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT – AMENDMENT OF THE ORGANISATION CHART

On a proposal from Ms GEORGIEVA, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and after consulting Ms BULC, and Mr ŠEFČOVIČ and Mr KATAINEN, the Commission decided:

- to increase by one unit the quota of structural adviser posts in DG Mobility and Transport;
- to adopt the new organisation chart set out in SEC(2015) 379.

These decisions would take effect on 1 October 2015.

Following the reorganisation, the total quota of structural adviser posts in DG Mobility and Transport would increase from 4 to 5.

8. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL – MANAGING THE REFUGEE CRISIS – IMMEDIATE OPERATIONAL, BUDGETARY AND LEGAL MEASURES UNDER THE EUROPEAN AGENDA ON MIGRATION (COM(2015) 490; RCC(2015) 73)

The PRESIDENT opened the discussion on the Communication submitted that day to the Commission concerning immediate operational, budgetary and legal measures to be taken under the European Agenda on Migration and the short, medium and long-term overall strategy put forward by the Commission last May. He intended to submit this new raft of immediate measures that very evening to the EU leaders at

the informal European Council meeting.

Before examining the actual content of the Communication, he explained that it followed on from a previous Commission proposal dated 9 September and adopted the day before at an extraordinary meeting of the Justice and Home Affairs Council on the relocation of 120 000 refugees from Italy and Greece to the other Member States on the basis of an established distribution key. This figure was in addition to the already approved distribution of 40 000 other refugees among the Member States, bringing the total number of persons to be relocated to 160 000 at present.

The PRESIDENT was disappointed that it had been necessary to hold a vote on this simple European solidarity initiative, which was modest in the context of the situation on the ground, and that it had been adopted by qualified majority. However, he was extremely proud of the excellent work carried out by the Commission in these difficult circumstances and in such a short period of time. He thanked Mr AVRAMOPOULOS and his departments for their total commitment, Mr TIMMERMANS for his active support and the Members concerned for their contribution to this initiative, which was highly significant politically.

Mr TIMMERMANS also paid tribute to the Commission in general and the staff of DG Migration and Home Affairs and its Director-General, Mr Matthias RUETE, in particular, as well the cabinets directly concerned and the Secretariat-General for the outstanding quality of their work. These different players had acted tirelessly as mediators and facilitators, enabling the previous day's extraordinary meeting of the Justice and Home Affairs Council, which had given rise to difficult discussions, to approve the relocation proposal, albeit by way of a vote.

He then turned to the Communication itself, briefing the meeting on the raft of priority operational and budgetary measures which it envisaged for the next six months with a view to stabilising the current situation.

First, he mentioned the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) emergency financing for 2015, noting that greater resources should be made available to EU agencies involved in refugee reception, registration and relocation operations, which

would also entail contributions by the Member States. He also invoked the transposal in full of EU asylum law, otherwise known as the Dublin system, and the application of more systematic penalties to Member States which failed to meet their obligations. In addition, structural improvements would be made to management of the external borders; the PRESIDENT had announced ambitious measures by the end of 2015 with a view to setting up a European border control and coastguard service, in particular by consolidating the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union (Frontex). He then stressed that priority should be given to allocating resources to the Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis ('the Madad Fund') set up by the European Union and providing financial assistance to humanitarian aid dispensed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the World Food Programme, while also helping the neighbouring countries bearing the brunt of the current crisis, especially Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Serbia. Lastly, a strategy was needed to tackle the root causes of migration. This should emerge from the Valletta Summit of 11 and 12 November with African and other key countries.

He concluded by expressing the hope that the Communication submitted to the Commission that day would send a strong signal to the meeting of EU Heads of State or Government taking place that evening.

Mr AVRAMOPOULOS commented that the decision to relocate 120 000 refugees was a political milestone: for the first time, the EU had taken tangible measures to tackle the mass influx of migrants as a European challenge. He also welcomed the fact that this decision applied to all the Member States, notwithstanding the concerns raised by some of those States.

He welcomed the immense effort and political commitment which had produced this result. He paid tribute to the Director-General, Mr Matthias RUETE, and all the staff of DG Migration and Home Affairs, who had displayed admirable devotion and sense of duty.

It would now be possible to start work on the ground, beginning with the

deployment of refugee reception and registration centres ('hotspots') in Greece and Italy.

He ended by expressing the hope that the EU Heads of State or Government would give a strong political impetus to the accelerated implementation of the many other tangible measures envisaged by the Communication.

On migration issues, Ms MOGHERINI pointed out the need for complementarity between the internal dimension, with regard to the immediate measures, and the external dimension, with a view to solving the root causes of migration.

Concerning external aspects, the Member States should be asked as a matter of urgency to increase the financing for the activities of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Food Programme. It was also important to maintain a coherent dialogue with the third countries in migration corridors both to the south of Europe (Libya, other African countries) and to the east (Pakistan, Syria) to prevent further massive influxes. The Valletta summit could be expected to contribute to this dialogue.

With regard to the eastern Mediterranean, the Union must assist countries such as Jordan and Lebanon, which were flooded with refugees, and support the resilience of the local communities by helping to integrate new arrivals and provide schooling for children.

As regards Turkey, the Union would send a needs assessment mission to the country next week. On the basis of the result of the visit to Brussels of the Turkish President, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, on 5 October, the Union should consider the possibility of a high-level dialogue on migration between the EU and Turkey.

Ms MOGHERINI was also concerned about the delicate situation in the western Balkans. She cautioned against possible friction between Serbia and the neighbouring Member States, some of which were temporarily closing their borders.

Regarding Libya, the Union was prepared to cooperate with the authorities if, as was to be hoped, a government of national unity was formed in mid-October, failing

which the internal situation could deteriorate still further.

With reference to Syria, she mentioned the preparations for a new diplomatic effort with the Member States and the UN, while pointing out the political obstacles that still had to be overcome to persuade certain powers to take part.

Mr HAHN welcomed the fact that in 2015, an additional €300 million would be allocated from the EU budget to the Trust Fund for Syria, which could be employed for the whole of the route used by migrants up to the western Balkans. However, the Member States must also replenish this Trust Fund to complete the Union's contribution and bring the Trust Fund to over €1 billion. Such a measure would send a strong signal that the Union was ready to act and to make the necessary resources available.

The Trust Fund should be used chiefly to keep refugees in the regions close to their country of origin. In Jordan and Lebanon, the Union had been able to work towards this end by helping to improve certain infrastructures, including hundreds of schools. However, in Turkey only 20% of the refugees lived in reception centres; the vast majority were dispersed in public areas.

He had proposed the reallocation of €1 billion to help Turkey to cope with the influx of refugees into its territory. Obtaining additional financing was not the sole priority of the Turkish government, but nonetheless he recommended stepping up the dialogue with Turkey on all aspects of migration – registration of refugees, return to countries of origin, combating people traffickers. It was important, in particular, for the action plan on migration to be finalised quickly with Turkey and for Turkey to be on the list of safe countries of origin, once the misgivings of certain Member States had been allayed.

In addition, he had asked his departments to assess the possibility of drawing up a kind of 'Marshall Plan' for Syria which, among other aims, would promote the return of migrants to their countries of origin when the time came.

With regard to the situation in the western Balkans, he mentioned the significant increase in the number of migrants from certain countries in the region, in particular

from Albania in the spring of 2015, and the need to pay close attention to the growing tensions between Serbia and neighbouring Croatia and urge Croatia to stop closing its borders.

Lastly, Mr HAHN referred to the opening of new migration routes, citing certain Syrian refugees who were crossing Russia to northern Norway in order to apply for asylum there.

Mr STYLIANIDES highlighted the part played by EU humanitarian aid in managing the current refugee crisis. The humanitarian aid budget would be increased by €200 million in 2015, and by €300 million in 2016 in addition to the €1 billion already entered in the EU budget for that year. These allocations would respond to the immediate needs (for example, education, food aid, care and the construction of shelters) created by the crisis in Syria and Iraq, as well as in the host and transit countries. The host countries could use the European Civil Protection Mechanism to help them to manage the influx of refugees, as had been done by Hungary and Serbia, even if this mechanism could provide only short-term solutions.

In the longer term, he stressed the need to enhance the Member States' contribution to management of the refugee crisis and the importance of stepping up the political dialogue with the main players in the region, in particular Turkey. The next UN General Assembly would be an appropriate platform for debating the issue of refugees at international level and providing global answers. He also supported the idea of a 'Marshall Plan' proposed by Mr HAHN.

Lastly, Mr STYLIANIDES laid particular emphasis on the attention to be given to education in the management of the current crisis in order to save an entire generation of young refugees and promote their integration into the host countries.

Ms GEORGIEVA returned to the sizeable budgetary effort already agreed at EU level to tackle the present crisis. In addition to the €4.5 billion already programmed for 2015 and 2016, an amount of €1.2 billion had been proposed, which would bring the total to €5.7 billion, and to €7.5 billion if one added the allocation from the

Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa. She explained that the communication presented that day provided for an additional €1.7 billion for 2015 and 2016. In total, EU budgetary support would reach €9.2 billion over those two years.

This net increase in EU financial support in no way called into question the ceilings set by the multiannual financial framework 2014-2020, since it resulted from accessing funds not used in 2015, reprogramming certain actions, using budgetary margins and the reserve for emergency assistance and the flexibility instrument. The other headings in the financial framework had not been reduced. The draft proposal for the 2015 amending budget would be finalised the following week.

The financial effort would focus on actions linked to improving emergency reception capacity in Europe and on assistance provided to refugees outside the EU, whether through humanitarian aid or aid provided by trust funds.

She concluded by noting that the Commission was working actively on strengthening the departments most directly involved in the management of the refugee crisis, whether in house or in EU agencies.

Mr MOSCOVICI expressed his wholehearted support for the communication presented that day and focused on the idea that migrants might also be considered as a resource for a continent with an ageing population. His departments were actively assessing the macroeconomic and budgetary impact of this increase in the population.

A key finding was that the budgetary impact of hosting migrants varied substantially from one Member State to another, from 0.1% to 0.6% of gross domestic product (GDP), according to national estimates which had to be refined. In any event, one preliminary estimate put the short-term annual budgetary impact at between €4 000 and €17 000 per person.

At the macroeconomic level, his departments had concluded that there was a favourable impact in the medium term if refugees were well integrated into the labour market. However, he highlighted the redistributive effects, which were

positive for workers whose skills were complemented by migrants' skills, but also a potentially negative effect for those workers whose skill set was similar to that of migrants.

He concluded by stressing the need for the Member States to deploy without delay integration policies that facilitated the transition to the labour market, because it took 15 years on average for refugees to achieve an employment rate of 70%.

In the course of the discussion that followed, the Commission raised the following key points:

- the milestone marked by the adoption by the Justice and Home Affairs Council of the Commission's proposals on relocating refugees in the form of decisions that were now binding on the Member States;
- the need to develop a long-term strategy for receiving refugees since the influx of migrants was set to continue over the next few years;
- the importance of integrating refugees as quickly as possible into the labour market in their host country;
- the case for explaining to the Member States how to make the best use of the European Social Fund (ESF) in order to integrate migrants into their labour market;
- the adjustments to be made to the programming of the structural funds for 2014-2020, since it had not been possible to include the present migration issue when it was being prepared;
- there was broad support for initiatives to create an ambitious system of European coastguards: a Commission proposal would be tabled before the end of the year;
- the need for awareness that financing alone could not resolve the refugee crisis and that the EU had to further enhance its expertise and capacity in refugee management;

- the assistance that could be provided by multicultural Member States to those whose more homogeneous societies were faced with the challenges of integrating new communities;
- the dangers represented by the exploitation of the refugee crisis for electoral purposes in national political debate;
- the need to devise a specific approach to the situation of refugee women when managing the current crisis;
- whether or not to fix a maximum number of refugees that the EU was able to receive.

The PRESIDENT concluded by thanking the Members of the Commission for their contributions to the discussion and by noting their full support for the communication on immediate operational, budgetary and legal measures under the European Agenda on Migration.

The Commission approved, subject to final linguistic revision, the communication in COM(2015) 490, for transmission to Parliament, the European Council and the Council, and, for information, to the national parliaments.

*

* *

The meeting closed at 10.49