



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2016) 2177 final

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

Brussels, 27 July 2016

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

of the 2177th meeting of the Commission

held in Brussels

(Berlaymont)

on Wednesday 13 July 2016

(morning)

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Single sitting: Wednesday 13 July 2016 (morning)

The sitting opened at 9.04 with Mr TIMMERMANS in the chair, the PRESIDENT being absent.

Present:

Mr TIMMERMANS	First Vice-President	
Ms GEORGIEVA	Vice-President	
Mr ANSIP	Vice-President	
Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Vice-President	
Mr OETTINGER	Member	
Mr HAHN	Member	
Mr MIMICA	Member	
Mr ARIAS CAÑETE	Member	
Mr VELLA	Member	
Mr ANDRIUKAITIS	Member	
Mr AVRAMOPOULOS	Member	
Ms THYSSEN	Member	
Mr STYLIANIDES	Member	
Mr HOGAN	Member	
Lord HILL	Member	
Ms BULC	Member	
Ms BIENKOWSKA	Member	
Ms JOUROVÁ	Member	
Mr NAVRACSICS	Member	
Ms VESTAGER	Member	
Mr MOEDAS	Member	Items 9/10/11/12/13/14 (in part) and 15

Absent:

Mr JUNCKER	President
Ms MOGHERINI	High Representative / Vice-President
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Vice-President
Mr KATAINEN	Vice-President
Ms MALMSTRÖM	Member
Mr MOSCOVICI	Member
Ms CREȚU	Member

(13 July 2016)

*- English language version of the French text which is authentic -*The following sat in to represent absent Members of the Commission:

Ms PANZETTI	Chef de cabinet to Ms MOGHERINI
Mr SZAPIRO	A member of Mr ŠEFČOVIČ's staff
Ms HARDEMAN	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Mr KATAINEN
Ms EICHHORN	A member of Ms MALMSTRÖM's staff
Mr DE MICHELIS	Chef de cabinet to Ms CREȚU

The following also sat in:

Ms MARTÍNEZ ALBEROLA	Deputy 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	Items 9/10/11/12/13/14 (in part) and 15
Mr SHOTTER	Chief adviser in the PRESIDENT's Office	Items 1 to 14
Ms DEJMEK-HACK	Adviser in the PRESIDENT's Office	Item 15
Ms SILLAVEE	PRESIDENT's Office	
Ms SUTTON	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Mr TIMMERMANS	
Ms SCHMITT	Chef de cabinet to Mr AVRAMOPOULOS	Items 1 to 14
Mr BALDWIN	Chef de cabinet to Lord HILL	Item 15
Mr RUETE	Director-General, DG Migration and Home Affairs	Items 1 to 14

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

On behalf of the Commission and in his own name, Mr TIMMERMANS expressed the Commissioners' sadness that this was to be Lord HILL's last meeting as a Member of the Commission; Lord HILL had resigned from his post with effect from 16 July, as he had stated he would do if the referendum in the United Kingdom resulted in a majority vote to leave the European Union.

Speaking on behalf of the Commissioners, he said that all the Members had appreciated Lord HILL's professionalism, team spirit, solidarity, friendliness and sense of humour during his 20-month term of office. He congratulated him for the important work he had carried out for the Union on behalf of the Commission. It was work of which he could be justifiably proud and which would not be forgotten in the history of European integration. He wished Lord HILL every success for the future and sincerely hoped that he would keep in touch with the Members of the Commission, who would miss him.

Lord HILL warmly thanked Mr TIMMERMANS and the College as a whole, expressing his gratitude for their welcome when he arrived, the times they had shared over the last, politically eventful, 20 months and the friendships they had forged. With only a few days left before he would leave his post, he stressed that his experience as a Commissioner, which he had not sought, had been extremely enriching and had enabled him to learn a lot about Europe and even about the United Kingdom. With the United Kingdom's forthcoming withdrawal from the Union, a difficult period of negotiations would begin and Lord HILL expressed his hope that reason would prevail over rhetoric. He expressed his willingness to be involved personally in the process, as far as possible, and recommended that the Commission Members should visit the United Kingdom during this period. In conclusion, he emphasised his desire to maintain friendly relations with them all.

* * *

1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2016) 2177/FINAL; SEC(2016) 315/FINAL)

The Commission took note of that day's agenda and of the tentative agendas for forthcoming meetings. It also took note of the addition to the agenda for that day's meeting of items 8.1, 8.2 and 8.8, relating to three administrative decisions, and of item 7.

2. WEEKLY MEETING OF CHEFS DE CABINET

(RCC(2016) 2177)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 11 July.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES AND SPECIAL MINUTES OF THE
2175TH MEETING OF THE COMMISSION AND THE MINUTES OF THE
2176TH MEETING OF THE COMMISSION (27 JUNE AND 5 JULY)**

(PV(2016) 2175; PV(2016) 2175, PART II)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 2175th meeting, and decided to hold over for one week approval of the minutes of its 2176th meeting.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(RCC(2016) 94)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (IRG) held on Friday 8 July (RCC(2016) 94).

It paid particular attention to the following points.

4.1. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

i) Trilogue meetings

(point 3.1 of the IRG record)

- Amendment of Regulation (EC) 539/2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement (Regulation) – DÍAZ DE MERA GARCÍA CONSUEGRA report – 2016/0142 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2016) 299.

- Amendment of Regulation (EC) 562/2006 as regards the reinforcement of checks against relevant databases at external borders (Regulation) – MACOVEI report – 2015/0307 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2016) 300.

- Combating terrorism and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA on combating terrorism (Directive) – HOHLMEIER report – 2015/0281 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2016) 301.

- Money market funds (Regulation) – GILL report – 2013/0306 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2016) 302.

4.2. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL

ii) Programming of Council business

(SI(2016) 311)

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2016) 311 on the Council

meetings between 14 and 27 July.

iii) Preparation of the informal meeting of Ministers responsible for Competitiveness (Research) (Bratislava, 17, 18 and 19 July)
(point 4.2.6 of the IRG record)

- Development of a European research and innovation ecosystem for innovative SMEs

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2016) 304/2.

4.3. RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT

iv) Action to be taken on Parliament's legislative resolutions and other resolutions of a legal nature
(SP(2016) 473)

The Commission decided to empower the Commission Members responsible for the sectors in question, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr TIMMERMANS 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(2016) 473, drawn up following the part-session of Parliament of 4 to 7 July, the contents of which were noted.

v) Results of the Parliament's July part-session
(SP(2016) 466; SP(2016) 467)

The Commission took note of the information in SP(2016) 466 and SP(2016) 467 on the proceedings of the part-session of Parliament held in Strasbourg from 4 to 7 July.

vi) Non-legislative dossiers

(point 5.1 of the IRG record)

- Committee of Inquiry into Emission Measurements in the Automotive Sector (EMIS) – Commission's replies to the additional written questions from the Committee of Inquiry

The Commission took note of SP(2016) 479 and the replies to the additional questions set out in the Annex thereto.

- Committee of Inquiry into Emission Measurements in the Automotive Sector (EMIS) – Preparation for the hearing of Mr Stavros DIMAS, former Member of the European Commission, on 14 July

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2016) 480.

5. MONITORING THE APPLICATION OF EUROPEAN UNION LAW

STATE AID AND OTHER COMPETITION RULES

The Commission's decision on this item is recorded in the special minutes.

6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED

(SEC(2016) 316 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 4 and 8 July.

6.2. EMPOWERMENT

(SEC(2016) 317 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 4 and 8 July.

6.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS

(SEC(2016) 318 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedure between 4 and 8 July, as archived in Decide.

6.4. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES

(SEC(2016) 319/2)

The Commission took note of the sensitive written procedures for which the time limit expired between 11 and 15 July.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

**7.1. DECISION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
OF 13 JULY 2016 AMENDING DECISION C(2014) 9000 OF
1 NOVEMBER 2014 ON THE ORGANISATION OF
RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION
(C(2016) 6000)**

The Commission took note of the decision of the PRESIDENT set out in C(2016) 6000.

7.2. STAFF SURVEY

Ms GEORGIEVA announced that the deadline for Commission staff to

respond to the 2016 survey allowing them to give their views on working in the institution would be extended until 20 July. She asked all the Members of the Commission to encourage staff in the Directorates-General under their authority and in their cabinets to take part in the survey.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

(SEC(2016) 320 AND /2)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

(PERS(2016) 74 AND /2)

8.1. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – APPOINTMENT OF AD15/16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL

(PERS(2015) 115 TO /3)

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Deputy Director-General responsible for Directorates HR.A and HR.B and Unit HR.R.1 in the Directorate-General for Human Resources and Security (PERS(2015) 115).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 1 February and 15 June 2016 (PERS(2015) 115/2 and /3).

The Commission proceeded to compare the applicants' qualifications for the post. It also considered their ability, efficiency and conduct in the service. On a proposal from Ms GEORGIEVA, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, it then decided to appoint Mr Bernard MAGENHANN to the post.

This decision would take effect on 1 September 2016.

8.2. DG MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT – CHANGE TO ORGANISATION CHART, REINSTATEMENT AND TRANSFER IN THE INTEREST OF THE SERVICE OF AN AD15 OFFICIAL

The Commission took note of the information in point 2 of PERS(2016) 74/2 and, on a proposal from Ms GEORGIEVA, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and having consulted Ms BULC and also Mr ŠEFČOVIČ and Mr KATAINEN, decided:

- to create a new post of Deputy Director-General responsible for Directorates MOVE.C ‘Innovative and sustainable mobility’, MOVE.D ‘Logistics, maritime and land transport and passenger rights’ and MOVE.E ‘Aviation and international transport affairs’ in the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport;
- to reinstate Mr Matthew BALDWIN in his post as adviser *hors classe* in the Directorate-General for Trade at the end of his current secondment and, on the same date, to transfer him in the interest of the service, under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations, to the new post of Deputy Director-General in the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport.

These decisions would take effect on 16 July 2016.

8.3. DG CLIMATE ACTION – APPOINTMENT OF AD14/15 DIRECTOR (PERS(2016) 16 TO /3)

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Director, ‘International and mainstreaming’, in the Directorate-General for Climate Action (PERS(2016) 16).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 8 March and 14 April 2016 (PERS(2016) 16/2 and /3).

The Commission proceeded to compare the applicants' qualifications for the post. It also considered their ability, efficiency and conduct in the service. On a proposal from Ms GEORGIEVA, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and after consulting Mr ARIAS CAÑETE and also Mr ŠEFČOVIČ and Mr KATAINEN, it decided to appoint Ms Yvon SLINGENBERG to the post.

This decision would take effect on 1 November 2016.

**8.4. DG EDUCATION AND CULTURE – APPOINTMENT OF AD14/15
DIRECTOR
(PERS(2015) 120 TO /3)**

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Director, 'Modernisation of Education II: Education policy and programme, Innovation, EIT and MSCA', in the Directorate-General for Education and Culture (PERS(2015) 120).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 19 February and 7 April 2016 (PERS(2015) 120/2 and /3).

The Commission proceeded to compare the applicants' qualifications for the post. It also considered their ability, efficiency and conduct in the service. On a proposal from Ms GEORGIEVA, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and after consulting Mr NAVRACSICS and also Mr ANSIP, Mr DOMBROVSKIS and Mr KATAINEN, it decided to appoint Ms Antoaneta ANGELOVA-KRASTEVA to the post.

This decision would take effect on a date to be determined.

**8.5. DG REGIONAL AND URBAN POLICY – APPOINTMENT OF AD14/15
DIRECTOR
(PERS(2016) 14 TO /3)**

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Director, ‘Inclusive Growth, Urban and Territorial Development and Northern Europe’, in the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (PERS(2016) 14).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 23 March and 28 April 2016 (PERS(2016) 14/2 and /3).

The Commission proceeded to compare the applicants’ qualifications for the post. It also considered their ability, efficiency and conduct in the service. On a proposal from Ms GEORGIEVA, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and after consulting Ms CREȚU, and also Mr ANSIP, Mr KATAINEN and Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, it decided to appoint Mr Eric VON BRESKA to the post.

This decision would take effect on 1 October 2016.

**8.6. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY / EUROPEAN
PERSONNEL SELECTION OFFICE – DEPUTISING FOR THE
DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN PERSONNEL SELECTION OFFICE**

Under Article 27 of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission, on a proposal from Ms GEORGIEVA, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, decided to designate the following officials, in the order set out below, to deputise for the Director of the European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO) if he should be prevented from performing his duties:

- Mr Didier Gilles GUILLARD, Head of Unit, ‘Resources and Administrative Support’ (EPSO.03);

- Ms Sari LEHKONEN, Head of Unit, ‘Stakeholder Relations and Selection Management’ (EPSO.04);
- Ms Claudine CAMILLERI, Head of Unit, ‘Communication and Attractiveness’ (EPSO.05);
- Mr Ulrich SONDERMANN, Head of Unit, ‘Assessment Centres Management’ (EPSO.02);
- Ms Heike GRAS, Head of Unit, ‘E-selection and Test Development’ (EPSO.01).

This decision would take effect immediately.

8.7. SECRETARIAT GENERAL – APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC ETHICS COMMITTEE SET UP BY COMMISSION DECISION C(2003) 3750 OF 21 OCTOBER 2003 (C(2016) 4507; PERS(2016) 75)

The Commission adopted the decision in C(2016) 4507.

8.8. DECISION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION DEROGATING FROM DECISION C(2014) 9002 OF 1 NOVEMBER 2014 ON THE RULES GOVERNING THE COMPOSITION OF THE CABINETS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION AND OF THE SPOKESPERSON'S SERVICE

Following Lord HILL's resignation as Member of the Commission and the reassignment to Mr DOMBROVSKIS of the financial stability, financial services and capital markets union portfolio (see also item 7.1 of these minutes), the Commission took note of the decision of the PRESIDENT set out in point 3 of document PERS(2016) 74/2 to allocate, as an exceptional measure, three additional posts (two AD posts and one AST post) to

Mr DOMBROVSKIS' cabinet from 16 July to 31 December 2016, as follows:

- two members of the AD function group – Ms Mette TOFTDAL GROLLEMAN and Mr Lee James FOULGER – currently in Lord HILL's cabinet, were assigned to the new posts in Mr DOMBROVSKIS' cabinet from 16 July to 31 December 2016;
- one member of the AST function group – Ms Silvia WEIDENAUER – currently in Lord HILL's cabinet, was assigned to the new post in Mr DOMBROVSKIS' cabinet from 16 July to 31 December 2016;
- at the end of their assignment to Mr DOMBROVSKIS' cabinet, they would rejoin their original departments if they were officials or, if they were temporary staff, their contracts would be terminated.

The other members of staff currently employed in Lord HILL's cabinet were placed under the supervision and responsibility of Ms GEORGIEVA from 16 July until 30 September 2016 at the latest, on which date they would rejoin their original departments if they were officials or, if they were temporary staff, their contracts would be terminated.

9. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ESTABLISHING A COMMON PROCEDURE FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION IN THE UNION AND REPEALING DIRECTIVE 2013/32/EU

(COM(2016) 467 AND /2; RCC(2016) 95)

10. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND COUNCIL ON STANDARDS FOR THE QUALIFICATION OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS OR STATELESS PERSONS AS BENEFICIARIES OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION, FOR A UNIFORM STATUS FOR

REFUGEES OR FOR PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR SUBSIDIARY PROTECTION AND FOR THE CONTENT OF THE PROTECTION GRANTED AND AMENDING COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 2003/109/EC OF 25 NOVEMBER 2003 CONCERNING THE STATUS OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS WHO ARE LONG-TERM RESIDENTS

(COM(2016) 466 TO /3; RCC(2016) 95)

- 11. PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL LAYING DOWN STANDARDS FOR THE RECEPTION OF APPLICANTS FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION (RECAST)**

(COM(2016) 465 TO / 3; RCC(2016) 95)

- 12. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ESTABLISHING A UNION RESETTLEMENT FRAMEWORK AND AMENDING REGULATION (EU) 516/2014 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL**

(COM(2016) 468 AND /2; RCC(2016) 95)

- 13. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL – FIFTH REPORT ON RELOCATION AND RESETTLEMENT**

(COM(2016) 480 AND /2)

- 14. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL – STATE OF PLAY AND THE POSSIBLE WAYS FORWARD AS REGARDS THE SITUATION OF NON-RECIPROCITY WITH CERTAIN THIRD COUNTRIES IN THE AREA OF VISA POLICY (FOLLOW-UP OF THE COMMUNICATION OF 12 APRIL)**

(COM(2016) 481 AND /2)

Mr AVRAMOPOULOS presented the second package of proposals to reform the Common European Asylum System (items 9, 10 and 11 of the minutes), which

complemented the first package adopted in May concerning the reform of the Dublin system, the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) and the regulation on the EU asylum fingerprint database (EURODAC).

One of the key objectives of the package of measures proposed that day was to strengthen the Union's ability to deal quickly and effectively with a growing number of asylum applications. While adopting a generous approach in terms of respect for its international and moral obligations to protect all the refugees who needed it, the Union would discourage secondary movements and any abuse of the asylum procedure. While not weakening the existing rules, the proposals were designed to ensure that migrants received appropriate assistance only in the Member State in which they had to reside, and for the necessary period of time.

The common rules would enable a fully effective, fair and humane European asylum system to be set up. He illustrated this point with three specific examples. Firstly, the reform simplified and shortened asylum procedures so that applications by migrants who were not clearly in any danger would be processed within two months. It strengthened guarantees for genuine asylum seekers, by reinforcing the availability of free legal assistance from the start of the procedure. Secondly, EU protection would be given only for the period of time for which it was necessary, with the obligation to review the status of beneficiaries to take account of changes in their country of origin. The new Regulation on the conditions to be met by asylum seekers also clarified the rights of recognised refugees to social assistance and social security, while indicating that some forms of social assistance could be conditional on participation in integration actions in the Member State responsible, in accordance with the Dublin system. Thirdly, the reform of the Dublin system was based on the principle that asylum seekers remained in the country responsible for their application. Member States would now be able to assign a specific place of residence to asylum seekers who attempted to abscond or were preparing to do so.

Lastly, he stressed the fact that asylum seekers would now be entitled to high-

standard reception conditions which included housing, access to healthcare and education for children. With a view to promoting rapid integration of refugees, it was proposed to facilitate access to the labour market for asylum seekers. This raft of proposed measures was a balanced package that should be presented to the public as such.

Turning to the proposed resettlement measures (item 12 of the minutes), Mr AVRAMOPOULOS explained that the proposed arrangements would create, for persons who had to be resettled in a country outside the Union, a common framework based on the experience acquired both in the first resettlement scheme of 2015 and in cooperation with the Turkish authorities in the area of migration. This common framework would enable the Union to speak with one voice to the third countries with which it had concluded partnerships and on the international stage in general. However, at this point, the legislative proposal on resettlement did not contain any figures. It would be for the Member States to give their agreement and indicate how many refugees they were prepared to resettle in order to achieve the overall figure set by the Union. Union funding for resettlement, amounting to €10 000 per refugee, would be made available exclusively to those Member States taking part in the resettlement scheme.

He also provided figures for relocation and resettlement (item 13 of the minutes). Progress was being made, albeit slowly, with a steady increase in relocations from Greece. More specifically, 776 migrants had been relocated in June, bringing the total number of relocations to 3 056, of which 2 213 were from Greece and 843 from Italy. Of the 22 000 migrants envisaged in the scheme set up in July 2015, 8 268 had been resettled. Although this was a positive trend, work had to continue and the pace of resettlement should be accelerated. Lastly, he raised the very worrying situation of unaccompanied minors, only six of whom had been resettled to date. These minors should be a priority for Member States.

Mr AVRAMOPOULOS wound up by taking stock of the situation of

non-reciprocity with certain third countries in the area of visa policy (item 14 of the minutes). He noted that the Commission did not propose suspending the visa waiver for citizens of the United States and Canada. However, the Commission could point to good prospects for progress with Canada in particular. The political process was starting to bear fruit following meetings held on 11 July with the relevant Canadian, Bulgarian and Romanian Ministers. The Canadian Minister for Immigration, Mr John McCallum, had undertaken to brief him in early autumn on developments in the talks with Bulgaria and Romania and on the timetable for introducing visa exemption for those two countries. In the light of those factors, it might be possible to resolve the visa issue in time for the EU-Canada Summit in October.

Progress in talks with the United States on a visa waiver for Bulgarian and Romanian citizens had been less satisfactory as a result of the impending presidential election and Congress's intransigence on security issues. He explained the Commission's decision not to suspend the visa waiver for US citizens as a sign of willingness to find a solution.

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

- the broad support of the Commission Members for this important set of legislative proposals, which completed the reform of the Common European Asylum System by harmonising and further simplifying EU asylum procedures;
- the balance achieved in the package, which strengthened the rights and obligations of beneficiaries of international protection, on the one hand, while clarifying the rules for combating abuse, on the other;
- a reminder of the basic distinction to be made, as soon as possible after their arrival in Europe, between persons in need of international protection and other migrants in order to achieve an efficient, fair and humane asylum policy; the desirability of a wider reflection on this issue at international level; the

suggestion that consideration be given at international level to developing mechanisms, already being used in some Member States, to make it easier to identify the countries of origin of persons without identity documents through language and dialect;

- for persons entitled to international protection, the case for reducing the time limit for access to the labour market from nine to six months, as well as for access to assistance or social security and learning arrangements, in particular language classes, all of which furthered integration and social cohesion;
- in order to enhance the protection of vulnerable persons, the need to monitor the increase in the number of minors, particularly unaccompanied minors, among the migrants arriving in the Union and to put appropriate solutions in place; the determination of the justice ministers of the Member States to speed up adoption and implementation of the guardianship agreements needed to ensure the legal protection of unaccompanied minors in the EU;
- the need to take systematic account of the right to health care of persons benefiting from international protection and the conditions for accessing health care; the indissoluble link between access to education and access to health care, in particular preventive health care;
- the vital importance of the right of minors to education, even in cases where they were only temporarily present in an EU Member State; the need for an in-depth debate on the education of refugees in the EU;
- the Union's commitment to making the right of access to education a reality for minors benefiting from international protection outside the EU; hence the case for stepping up the initiatives already taken in this field by the Commission by mobilising significant additional funding from the EU budget earmarked for education in emergency situations;

- the suggestion that a specific, budgeted EU contribution be drawn up which could be presented at the international conferences on migration in September in New York; in this context, the need for synergies with existing European educational programmes under the responsibility of Mr NAVRACSICS; the possibility for the Union to participate in the international 'Save Schools' initiative launched by the NGO Save the Children;
- with regard to the Fifth Report on Relocation and Resettlement, the need to speed up implementation of the Member States' commitments in respect of the two relevant programmes; in particular, the urgent need to accelerate relocation procedures in order to ensure better outcomes for persons entitled to international protection who were currently in Greece or Italy.

Mr AVRAMOPOULOS thanked the Members for their support and expressed his gratitude to Mr Timmermans and the Commission departments for the considerable work achieved in such a short time. To put an end to the confusion between migrant status and asylum seeker status, he stressed the importance of identifying people precisely. This required close cooperation with third countries, in particular with a view to introducing a civil registry and mandatory systematic fingerprinting. Finally, he explained that identifying the origin of migrants by their language or dialect required the use of specialists and was not totally reliable.

With regard to the conference on migrants and refugees convened by the UN in New York on 19 September and the Summit of Heads of State on refugees to be held at the initiative of the US President Barack Obama, Mr AVRAMOPOULOS felt that it was important for the EU to make a substantial contribution to the discussions so that consideration could be given to developing international legislation on migration. He recommended explaining the action taken by the EU on management of migratory flows at international level and drawing attention to the priority to be given, for example, to receiving unaccompanied minors. Lastly, he called on the Members of the Commission to communicate the Union's migration

policy in the Member States.

In addition to the departments placed under the authority of Mr TIMMERMANS, Mr AVRAMOPOULOS thanked the PRESIDENT's Cabinet, the Secretariat General and the Legal Service for what he described as the Herculean task performed by all those who had been contributing for months to drawing up a substantial set of proposals on migration and asylum.

He highlighted the political and legal importance for the Union and the Member States of this new legislative package, which involved transforming certain directives into regulations. He believed that in the current climate, the quality of the Commission's work, even when facing tight deadlines, was the best response.

He returned in particular to the need to distinguish as quickly as possible between refugees and migrants in general, which had been mentioned in the discussion. He reminded the meeting that all such persons would be able to apply for asylum, and that the European Union had international and moral obligations towards them which must be respected, even though some applicants were not entitled to international protection. He therefore felt it had to be possible to make this formal distinction in each case more quickly than in the past, which was one of the major objectives of the current reforms. He also noted that it was important for the arrangements for relocation, legal migration and return to work fully in parallel.

He concluded by saying that it was now for the Council and the European Parliament to decide on the Commission's set of proposals for a more balanced reworking of the European asylum system. More generally, he welcomed the progress made in managing the migrant crisis since the summer of 2015 and in putting in place a system that was now starting to work and to produce practical and positive results, although much remained to be done to remedy the situation in the southern Mediterranean.

Following this presentation, the Commission:

- adopted, subject to final linguistic revision, the proposal for a Regulation set out in COM(2016) 467/2 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and national parliaments, and, for information, to the European Data Protection Supervisor;
- adopted, subject to final linguistic revision, the proposal for a Regulation set out in COM(2016) 466/3 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and national parliaments, and, for information, to the European Data Protection Supervisor;
- adopted the proposal for a Directive set out in COM(2016) 465/3 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and national parliaments, and, for information, to the European Data Protection Supervisor;
- adopted the proposal for a Regulation set out in COM(2016) 468/2 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and national parliaments, and, for information, to the European Data Protection Supervisor;
- approved the report in COM(2016) 480/2, for transmission to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council and, for information, to the national parliaments;
- approved the communication in COM(2016) 481/2 for transmission to Parliament and the Council and, for information, to the national parliaments.

15. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING REGULATION (EU) NO 345/2013 ON EUROPEAN VENTURE CAPITAL FUNDS AND REGULATION (EU) NO 346/2013 ON EUROPEAN SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP FUNDS (COM(2016) 461 AND /2; SWD(2016) 228; SWD(2016) 229; SEC(2016) 326; RCC(2016) 96)

Lord HILL gave a brief presentation of the proposal for a Regulation that he was submitting to the Commission that day with a view to amending the Regulation on European venture capital funds and the Regulation on European social entrepreneurship funds which had been in force since 2013.

He pointed out first of all that the proposal constituted a fourth strand of the Capital Markets Union (CMU), which aimed in particular to construct a system that met the financing needs of European businesses at the various stages of their development.

Turning to that day's proposal, he stressed that it was designed to stimulate investment in venture capital and in the financing of social activities in the EU to enable it to catch up. He added that it placed particular emphasis on fast-growing and innovative companies, which generated growth and created employment.

He then went on to outline the planned changes to the existing legislation, which formed part of a set of ongoing Commission initiatives to support the funding of venture capital in the EU. He mentioned (i) the creation of a pan-European fund bringing together venture capital funds, under the authority of Mr MOEDAS, which would attract private capital, (ii) an examination of possible national tax incentives to encourage venture capital and 'business angels', under the authority of Mr MOSCOVICI, as a possible lever to encourage investment in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and start-ups, and (iii) the strategy drawn up by the Secretariat-General's Structural Reform Support Service (SRSS) for providing technical assistance to the Member States to help them develop their capital markets.

Lord HILL said he was sure that these changes would increase European investment capacity in growing businesses. He concluded his presentation by calling for further work on the very important Capital Markets Union project and encouraged the Commission to continue along this path.

A brief discussion ensued, during which the Commission noted with satisfaction the considerable progress achieved under the authority of Lord Hill during his time in office as regards the banking union, and in particular the proposal for a European Deposit Insurance Scheme (EDIS), and the Capital Markets Union, including the directives on securitisation and prospectuses, which were both very important and lasting initiatives for the liquidity and future of the markets.

Mr TIMMERMANS thanked Lord HILL for the proposal, which marked another milestone in the construction of the Capital Markets Union, one of the current Commission's key projects. He added that he could be proud of his achievements as a Member of the institution.

The Commission took note of this presentation and agreed, on a proposal from Mr TIMMERMANS, that the proposal for a Regulation currently set out in COM(2016) 461/2 would be formally adopted by finalisation written procedure, the deadline for which was set at 10.00 on Thursday 14 July 2016 (PE/2016/4780).

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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 10.01.