



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2016) 2183 final

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

Brussels, 12 October 2016

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

of the 2183rd meeting of the Commission

held in Brussels

(Berlaymont)

on Wednesday 28 September 2016

(morning)

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

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Single sitting: Wednesday 28 September 2016 (morning)

The sitting opened at 10.20 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	Items 1 (in part) to 7
Mr ANSIP	Vice-President	
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Vice-President	
Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Vice-President	
Mr KATAINEN	Vice-President	Items 1 to 13
Mr OETTINGER	Member	
Mr HAHN	Member	
Ms MALMSTRÖM	Member	
Mr MIMICA	Member	
Mr ARIAS CAÑETE	Member	
Mr VELLA	Member	Items 1 (in part) to 7
Mr ANDRIUKAITIS	Member	
Mr AVRAMOPOULOS	Member	
Ms THYSSEN	Member	Items 9 to 14
Mr MOSCOVICI	Member	
Mr STYLIANIDES	Member	
Mr HOGAN	Member	
Ms BIEŃKOWSKA	Member	Items 1 to 9/13 (in part)
Ms JOUROVÁ	Member	
Mr NAVRACSICS	Member	
Ms CREȚU	Member	
Ms VESTAGER	Member	
Mr MOEDAS	Member	

Sir Julian KING

Member

Absent:

Ms BULC

Member

The following sat in to represent an absent Member of the Commission:

Ms OEN	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Ms BULC
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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 MICHOU	Deputy Secretary-General	
Ms MARTÍNEZ ALBEROLA	Deputy Chef de cabinet to the PRESIDENT	
Ms SILLAVEE	PRESIDENT's Office	
Ms SUTTON	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Mr TIMMERMANS	Items 1 to 13
Ms WERNER	Chef de cabinet to Ms GEORGIEVA	Item 7
Mr MÜLLER	Chef de cabinet to Mr VELLA	Items 1 (in part) and 8 to 14
Ms SCHMITT	Chef de cabinet to Mr AVRAMOPOULOS	Items 1 to 13
Ms PASERMAN	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Ms THYSEN	Items 1 to 8
Mr HUSAK	Chef de cabinet to Ms BIEŃKOWSKA	Items 9/13 (in part) and 14
Ms ANDREEVA	Commission Spokesperson's Service	
Mr RUETE	Director-General, DG Migration and Home Affairs	Items 9 to 13

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

1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2016) 2183/FINAL; (SEC(2016) 387)

The Commission took note of that day's agenda and of the tentative agendas for forthcoming meetings. It also noted the addition to the agenda of that day's meeting of items 7.1 to 7.3 on three administrative decisions.

Following a discussion, the Commission referred to some initiatives mentioned in SEC(2016) 387, the approval of which had been programmed for a period running until the end of the year.

2. WEEKLY MEETING OF CHEFS DE CABINET

(RCC(2016) 2183)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 26 September.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2181ST AND 2182ND COMMISSION MEETINGS (13 AND 21 SEPTEMBER)

(PV(2016) 2181)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 2181st meeting and decided to hold over approval of the minutes of its 2182nd meeting for the following week.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(RCC(2016) 110)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (IRG) held on Friday 23 September (RCC(2016) 110).

It paid particular attention to the following points.

4.1. HORIZONTAL ISSUES

- i) Interinstitutional Working Group on resources of decentralised agencies – Contribution from the Commission to the next meeting on 19 October and mandate for drafting recommendations**

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2016) 351.

- ii) Commission Work Programme 2016 – Information note on the monitoring framework for the Next Steps for a sustainable European future**

The Commission took note of the information note in SI(2016) 352 and /3.

4.2. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

- iii) Trilogue**

(point 3.1 of the IRG record)

- Amendment of Council Directive 91/477/EEC on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons (Directive) – FORD report – 2015/0269 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2016) 357/2.

iv) European Parliament dossiers – October I part-session

(point 3.2 of the IRG record)

Ordinary legislative procedure – First reading

- Provisional legal aid for suspects or accused persons deprived of liberty and legal aid in European arrest warrant proceedings (Directive) – DE JONG report – 2013/0409 (COD)

The Commission took note of the compromise text in SP(2016) 603, further to note SI(2016) 282/2, which it had already approved on 27 June.

4.3. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL

v) Programming of Council business

(SI(2016) 359)

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2016) 359 on the Council meetings between 29 September and 12 October.

vi) Preparation of the extraordinary ‘Environment’ Council (Brussels, 30 September 2016)

(point 4.2.3 of the IRG record)

- Conclusion on behalf of the European Union of the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Council Decision) – 2016/0184 (NLE)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2016) 355.

4.4. RELATIONS WITH NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS, THE OTHER INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

vii) Relations with national parliaments

(point 6.1 of the IRG record)

- Reply of the Commission to the questionnaire sent by the Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight of the Irish Parliament

The Commission approved the line set out in SNP(2016) 51 and decided to send the replies in its annex to the Irish Parliament.

5. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

5.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED

(SEC(2016) 388 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 19 and 23 September.

5.2. EMPOWERMENT

(SEC(2016) 389 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 19 and 23 September.

5.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS

(SEC(2016) 390 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedure between 19 and 23 September, as archived in Decide.

5.4. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES

(SEC(2016) 391 AND /2)

The Commission took note of the sensitive written procedures for which the time limit expired between 26 and 30 September and of the finalisation written procedure initiated following the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet on Monday 26 September.

6. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL SETTING UP A UNION REGIME FOR THE CONTROL OF EXPORTS, TRANSFER, BROKERING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRANSIT OF DUAL-USE ITEMS (RECAST)

(COM(2016) 616 TO /3; SWD(2016) 315 TO /3; SWD(2016) 314 TO /3; (SEC(2016) 385; RCC(2016) 111)

The Commission adopted the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council in COM(2016) 616/3, for transmission to Parliament, the Council, and the national parliaments, together with the impact assessment and the summary thereof in staff working documents SWD(2016) 315/3 and SWD(2016) 314/3, the contents of which were noted.

It also took note of the opinion of the Regulatory Scrutiny Board in SEC(2016) 385.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

(SEC(2016) 392 AND /2)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**(PERS(2016) 89 AND /2)**

Ms GEORGIEVA informed the Commission of the Bulgarian government's decision to formally nominate her under the current selection procedure as a candidate for the position of Secretary General of the United Nations. She said she was honoured by the support shown to her by the authorities of her country and confirmed that she would participate in that selection procedure. She added that, as a consequence, she intended to withdraw from the work of the Commission and had asked to take unpaid electoral leave of one month starting from 1 October in order to be able to focus on the selection procedure.

The PRESIDENT congratulated Ms GEORGIEVA. He informed the Commission that he had agreed to the unpaid electoral leave requested by Ms GEORGIEVA and that he had decided that the responsibilities coming under her portfolio would be entrusted to Mr OETTINGER for the duration of her leave. The President said he would also inform the European Parliament and the Council of these decisions.

In addition, Ms GEORGIEVA presented three other proposals to the meeting for approval by the College (see points 7.1 to 7.3 of these minutes).

**7.1. SECRETARIAT GENERAL – CHANGE TO THE MISSION
ENTRUSTED TO A DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

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

- to change the mission entrusted to Mr Jonathon FAULL, Director-General at the Secretariat General, following the College's decision of 27 June 2016 to dissolve the Task Force for Strategic Issues related to the UK Referendum;

- to appoint Mr Jonathon FAULL as Director-General at the Secretariat General responsible for assisting, in particular, with work concerning the European Solidarity Corps.

Mr Jonathon FAULL would retain the right to the management step as foreseen in Article 44 of the Staff Regulations.

This decision would take effect on 1 October 2016.

**7.2. DG MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT – APPOINTMENT OF AN AD15
DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL
(PERS(2015) 107 TO /6)**

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(2) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Deputy Director-General in Mobility and Transport (PERS(2015) 107 to /4).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 4 and 12 July 2016 (PERS(2015) 107/5 and /6).

The Commission proceeded to compare the applicants' qualifications for the post. On a proposal from Ms GEORGIEVA, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and after consulting Ms BULC and also Mr ŠEFČOVIČ and Mr KATAINEN, the Commission decided to appoint Ms Maja BAKRAN MARCICH to the post.

This decision would take effect on 1 December 2016.

7.3. DG MIGRATION AND HOME AFFAIRS – AMENDMENT OF THE ORGANISATION CHART, APPOINTMENT OF A DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND INTERNAL PUBLICATION OF THE VACANCY NOTICE FOR ANOTHER AD15/16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL (SEC(2016) 409; PERS(2016) 90)

On a proposal from Ms GEORGIEVA, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and after consulting Mr AVRAMOPOULOS and Mr TIMMERMANS, the Commission decided:

- to create a post for a Deputy Director-General for Security in DG Migration and Home Affairs;
- to fill this new post by transferring in the interest of the service, under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations, Mr Olivier ONIDI, currently Deputy Director-General in charge of Migration and Asylum in the same Directorate General. This decision would take effect on 1 December 2016;
- to authorise the publication under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations of the vacancy notice in PERS(2016) 90 for the post of Deputy Director-General in charge of Migration and asylum in the Directorate General for Migration and Home Affairs;
- to approve the net creation of two units;
- to adopt the new organisation chart set out in SEC(2016) 409.

Following the reorganisation, the number of units in the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs would increase by 2, from 17 to 19.

Unless indicated otherwise, these decisions would take effect on 1 October 2016.

7.4. OFFICE FOR ADMINISTRATION AND PAYMENT OF INDIVIDUAL ENTITLEMENTS – APPOINTMENT OF AD14 DIRECTOR

On a proposal from Ms GEORGIEVA, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, the Commission decided to fill the post of Director of the Office for Administration and Payment of Individual Entitlements (PMO) by transferring in the interest of the service, under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations, Ms Veronica GAFFEY, currently Director of the Directorate ‘Budget and General Affairs’ in the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy.

This decision would take effect on 1 October 2016.

**7.5. ACTIVITIES OF A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION AFTER LEAVING OFFICE
(C(2016) 6262)**

The Commission adopted the decision set out in C(2016) 6262.

The Commission:

- decided that the contract that the former Member of the Commission, Lord Jonathan HILL, wished to sign with Chartwell Speakers and Literary Agency concerning speaking engagements at conferences was compatible with the second paragraph of Article 245 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), provided that Lord Hill complied with his obligations, under Article 245 and Article 339 TFEU and the Code of Conduct for Commissioners, to protect collective responsibility and the confidentiality of matters dealt with by the Commission during his term of office as a Member of the Commission, and that he refrained from any engagement that could conflict with these obligations;

- noted Lord HILL's intention to resume his functions as a Member of the House of Lords;
- instructed the Secretary-General to inform Lord HILL of this decision and the conditions applicable.

**8. PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERINSTITUTIONAL AGREEMENT ON A MANDATORY TRANSPARENCY REGISTER
(COM(2016) 627 AND /2; RCC(2016) 113)**

Mr TIMMERMANS submitted for approval the proposal for an interinstitutional agreement on a mandatory transparency register common to the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission. He believed that, as is the case for all governments, both regional and national, the European Union and its institutions should take specific steps to bolster citizens' confidence by being more transparent about working methods and decision-making processes, in particular with regard to knowing who was trying to influence them, which was an important part of responding to citizens' expectations.

He pointed out that the Commission had made transparency one of its main political priorities and that it now had a solid track record to its credit, which explained why it was ranked second on the list of the most transparent European 'governments' published by the organisation Transparency International and first among the Union's institutions.

He explained that the Commission was building on the current non-mandatory transparency register of the European Parliament and the Commission to propose that day an interinstitutional agreement to set up a strong transparency system for lobbying activities that would be applicable to all three of the Union's institutions, including the Council, and would enable them to apply the same standards. He

specified that as a result of this proposal, meetings with decision makers in the three institutions could not be held until they had first been registered in the transparency register. He also noted that since the Commission had introduced this rule for its own relations with stakeholders in November 2014, around 4 000 new entries had been made in its register.

The PRESIDENT, while welcoming the progress made by the current Commission in terms of transparency, wished to avoid any possible risk of confusion among the public and the media, which would be only too ready to regard that day's proposal for an interinstitutional agreement as a response to the issues raised by the activities of certain Commissioners after leaving office. He therefore recommended that the information given out on this proposal should make it clear that the purpose of the agreement was not to respond to those issues, which came under the code of conduct applicable to commissioners, but rather formed part of the undertaking made by the current Commission, in its ten political priorities for 2014, to reinforce transparency.

In the course of the ensuing debate, the Commission discussed the following main points:

- the considerable progress made in terms of transparency with the application of common and binding rules by the three institutions to their relations with representatives of interest groups;
- the importance of focusing the transparency requirements laid down by the proposal for an interinstitutional agreement on the main actors in the EU's decision-making process;
- the need to make it clear that the proposal for an interinstitutional agreement came under the current Commission's political priorities in favour of increased transparency; a distinction should be drawn between this proposal and any responses that might be made to the issues raised by Commissioners' activities

after leaving office, which fell under the code of conduct applicable to Commissioners.

Following the debate, the Commission approved the proposal for an interinstitutional agreement on a mandatory transparency register in COM(2016) 627/2 for transmission to Parliament and the Council and, for information, to the national parliaments.

9. THIRD REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU-TURKEY STATEMENT

(COM(2016) 634 AND /2; RCC(2016) 114)

10. REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL ON THE APPLICATION OF COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING DECISION OF 12 MAY 2016 SETTING OUT A RECOMMENDATION FOR TEMPORARY INTERNAL BORDER CONTROL IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES PUTTING THE OVERALL FUNCTIONING OF THE SCHENGEN AREA AT RISK

(COM(2016) 635 AND /2; RCC(2016) 114)

11. COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION ADDRESSED TO THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC ON THE SPECIFIC URGENT MEASURES TO BE TAKEN BY GREECE IN VIEW OF THE RESUMPTION OF TRANSFERS UNDER REGULATION (EU) 604/2013

(C(2016) 6311 A /3; RCC(2016) 114)

12. SIXTH REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL ON RELOCATION AND RESETTLEMENT

(COM(2016) 636 A /3; RCC(2016) 114)

13. THE OPERATIONALISATION OF THE EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD REGULATION

(INFO(2016) 85; RCC(2016) 114)

Mr AVRAMOPOULOS presented the main conclusions of the reports on management of migration and borders in the European Union tabled that day for the Commission's approval. These reports monitored the progress made since summer 2015 in all aspects of management of the current crisis as a result of the common actions implemented at the Commission's initiative. These actions were closely interlinked and their effects combined with each other.

He began by hailing the fact that the EU-Turkey statement had given rise to specific positive results and that the Member States had stepped up their efforts in recent months in terms of relocation, with over 1 200 individuals relocated in September alone. In his view, this proved that it was possible to increase the momentum if the political will existed. The success of the common European approach was essential for the gradual return to the Dublin system of asylum management and the normal functioning of the Schengen Area. This was why the Commission was recommending that Greece, in applying the European approach, should take measures with a view to the gradual resumption of Dublin transfers from other Member States. He also reported on the temporary border controls re-introduced at internal Schengen borders under the Council recommendation of 12 May 2016.

He then turned to each one of this set of texts, starting with the third report on the progress made in the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement.

Mr AVRAMOPOULOS referred first to the main conclusion, a positive one that

showed that the cooperation established by this Statement was still working and that the two parties were resolved to translate it into concrete results. Most significantly, he drew attention to the fall in the number of people illegally crossing the Aegean Sea or losing their lives there, and noted that progress had been made in practically all areas of this cooperation. In particular, thanks to the efforts of Mr STYLIANIDES and Mr HAHN, the Commission had signed, not later than that day, two direct subsidies of €600 million for Syrian refugees and the communities receiving them in Turkey to cover education and health needs, under the special measure of €1.4 billion adopted by the Commission on 28 July.

In this connection, Mr STYLIANIDES reported on his recent visit to Turkey to launch the Emergency Social Safety Net initiative, the main humanitarian aid tool of the Facility for Refugees in Turkey. This programme would grant a basic income to a million refugees in Turkey to meet their basic needs – food, housing, education – in the form of monthly transfers via an electronic card. To this end, the Commission was making available €348 million and was cooperating with the World Food Programme and Turkish partners.

He welcomed this significant humanitarian programme, which had multiple benefits since (i) it allowed the Union to take a decisive step in meeting its commitments by allocating rapidly the funds pledged to refugees in Turkey, (ii) it would genuinely change the living conditions of refugees, many of whom were living in extreme poverty, (iii) it significantly improved the European model for supplying humanitarian aid, since 85 % of the sums mobilised would go directly to the refugees themselves, and lastly (iv) on the political front, it would help to rebuild trust between Turkey and the European institutions.

Mr AVRAMOPOULOS said that a final revision still had to be carried out of the report set out in COM(2016) 634/2. He then presented the other components of the package.

First, he referred to the report on temporary internal border control in exceptional

circumstances putting the overall functioning of the Schengen area at risk. He explained that within this document, the Commission concludes that the checks currently restored by Austria, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Norway remain in conformity with the conditions set out by the Council in its recommendation of May 2016. While it remained the Union's objective to lift all internal border controls and resume normal operations as quickly as possible, the position set out in the report did not pre-empt the decision to be taken on 12 November on whether to extend the authorisation for these temporary controls at the end of the six-month period, on the basis of objective information provided by the Member States concerned.

For information, he had sent the Members a draft Schengen Evaluation Report on Greece following comprehensive checks on the country's air, land and sea borders carried out in April. Although the Greek authorities still had work to do, the experts had not reported any serious shortcomings this time, which meant that coordination between Greece, the Commission, its agencies and the other Member States was bearing fruit.

Mr AVRAMOPOULOS turned to the third recommendation made by the Commission on the measures that Greece needed to take to have a well-functioning asylum system and to gradually resume transfers of asylum seekers, on a case by case basis, under the Dublin Regulation. Despite difficult circumstances in Greece, there had been continuous efforts and progress by the Greek authorities, assisted by the Commission, the European Asylum Support Office (EASO), the other Member States and international organisations to improve its asylum system since the adoption of the first recommendation in February 2016 and the second recommendation in June. However, the Member States had to respond as a matter of urgency to the call made by EASO for national experts to be seconded to help process asylum applications on the Greek islands efficiently.

With regard to the sixth report on European schemes for relocation and resettlement,

Mr AVRAMOPOULOS admitted that the figures were not yet as good as anticipated but noted that more than 1 200 persons had been relocated in the course of the month, the highest monthly figure to date and twice that recorded in the previous reference period. The system had been set up and now it should be used to its full potential. He was confident that relocation would intensify.

Significant progress had been made with resettlement, with more than 10 500 persons processed under the resettlement scheme of 20 July 2015. He hoped that this work would continue, because it meant that the legal channels of entry into the Union were operational, which in turn would reduce demand for the activities of people smugglers and the number of deaths at sea. He welcomed the fact that the political will now existed to tackle the issue.

With the aim of highlighting these results, Mr AVRAMOPOULOS described the work carried out in the space of just seven months to make the European Border and Coast Guard (EBCG) a reality and to ensure that it was operational by 6 October, when the relevant Regulation was due to enter into force. A briefing note had been produced on the work carried out to make this project operational, which he intended to update on a weekly basis. He would be travelling to Bulgaria on 6 October to launch the EBCG.

In the meantime, he pointed out that this new European corps had been deployed on the border between the Union and Turkey, in Bulgaria and Greece, and in Italy, but it would be available to all the Member States. He added that the terms of reference would be broader than those of the current Frontex agency and would cover all borders – air, land and sea. He ended by stressing that the Member States would have to step up to the plate and second national experts to the agency.

The PRESIDENT thanked Mr AVRAMOPOULOS for his presentation and took the opportunity to ask him about the discussions at the high-level summit held on 24 September in Vienna on migration along the Western Balkan route.

Mr AVRAMOPOULOS said that he had sent the Members a briefing note on 27 September concerning the summit, which had been attended by the leaders of Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, FYROM, Serbia and Slovenia, and the Romanian Minister of the Interior, the President of the European Council, Mr Donald Tusk, and himself, representing the PRESIDENT. Discussions had focused on two main issues: (i) protecting the external borders and (ii) applying the EU-Turkey statement.

He explained that the participants had all acknowledged that the number of migrants arriving in Greece had fallen significantly since the conclusion of the agreement with Turkey, but they had called for action to be taken along the Balkan route where there was a constant flow of migrants still crossing the border illegally. He added that the participants had all been in favour of enhancing protection at the external borders and significantly increasing the Frontex agency's financial, material and human resources. The atmosphere had been generally positive during the talks and the main idea to come out of them centred on the need to ensure proper implementation of the agreement with Turkey.

On this same topic, Mr TIMMERMANS answered a question about the low number of irregular migrants sent back to Turkey from Greece. He explained that this was due to the fact that the local authorities in Greece were not always aware of the procedures and the European aid available to them. He stressed that, together with Mr AVRAMOPOULOS, he would communicate with the local Greek authorities directly from then on.

Furthermore, he alerted the Commission to the fact that Da'esh was conducting recruitment campaigns inside refugee camps in Europe, posing a risk to Europe's security.

He stated that he was naturally in favour of increasing the number of relocations, while deterring irregular migrants. However, he denounced the attitude of certain Member States that criticised Greece although they themselves were not

contributing to the joint relocation effort.

Mr AVRAMOPOULOS recalled that the European Union had allocated one billion euros to Greece, but problems had arisen because the relevant authorities in Greece were unable to ensure that all of the funding would be absorbed.

The PRESIDENT ended the discussion by thanking the participants for their contributions.

Following these presentations, the Commission:

- approved, subject to final linguistic revision, the report set out in COM(2016) 634/2 for transmission to Parliament, the European Council and the Council and, for information, to the national parliaments;
- approved the report in COM(2016) 635/2, for transmission to Parliament and the Council and, for information, to the national parliaments;
- adopted, in the authentic language (Greek), the recommendation in C(2016) 6311/3, and decided to notify the Hellenic Republic, publish it for information in the Official Journal of the European Union and transmit it, for information, to the European Parliament and the Council;
- approved the report in COM(2016) 636/3, for transmission to Parliament, the European Council and the Council and, for information, to the national parliaments;
- took note of the information notes INFO(2016) 85 and INFO(2016) 86.

14. OTHER BUSINESS***COMMISSION DECISION ON THE ADMISSIBILITY OF A PROPOSED CITIZENS' INITIATIVE 'MORE THAN EDUCATION – SHAPING ACTIVE AND RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS'******(C(2016) 6271)***

Mr TIMMERMANS recalled that on 13 April 2016 the Commission had already received a proposal to register a citizens' initiative called 'More than education – Shaping active and responsible citizens'. The Commission had examined the initiative at its meeting of 7 June and had decided to declare it admissible.

However, for technical reasons, the organisers of this initiative had withdrawn it following the Commission's decision, but then re-submitted it to the Commission on 6 August 2016.

Mr TIMMERMANS therefore briefly described the content of the initiative, which had not been modified, and explained that, under the procedure currently in place, the Commission at this stage had to give a view only on the legal admissibility of the proposal and therefore on its registration. He confirmed that, according to the assessment carried out by the departments, the legal conditions laid down by the current provisions were duly met in this case. He therefore proposed that the Members of the Commission should confirm the decision recording the formal registration of the initiative that day.

This registration would allow the organisers of the initiative to collect signatures from the citizens of the Member States of the Union for one year. In a second stage, if the initiative collected one million signatures in at least seven Member States, as laid down in the Treaties, the Commission would then carry out an in-depth analysis of the initiative and decide on the case for presenting a proposal.

The PRESIDENT thanked Mr TIMMERMANS for this information.

The Commission found, pursuant to Article 4(2) of Regulation (EU) 211/2011, that the conditions of admissibility of the citizens' initiative 'More than education – Shaping active and responsible citizens' were fulfilled. The Commission therefore decided to register the initiative, in accordance with document C(2016) 6271, and authorised Mr TIMMERMANS to sign the decision on its behalf and to notify the organisers of the initiative in the authentic language (English).

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

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The meeting closed at 11.51