



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

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

Brussels, 1st March 2017

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

of the 2200th meeting of the Commission

held in Strasbourg

(Winston Churchill building)

on Tuesday 14 February 2017

(afternoon)

PV(2017) 2200 final

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Single sitting: Tuesday 14 February 2017 (afternoon)

The sitting opened at 13.25 with Mr JUNCKER, President, in the chair.

Present:

Mr JUNCKER	President	
Mr TIMMERMANS	First Vice-President	
Mr ANSIP	Vice-President	
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Vice-President	
Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Vice-President	Items 1 to 8 (in part)
Mr KATAINEN	Vice-President	
Mr OETTINGER	Member	
Mr HAHN	Member	Items 1 to 8 (in part)
Ms MALMSTRÖM	Member	
Mr MIMICA	Member	
Mr ARIAS CAÑETE	Member	
Mr VELLA	Member	
Mr ANDRIUKAITIS	Member	
Mr AVRAMOPOULOS	Member	Items 1 to 8 (in part)
Ms THYSSEN	Member	
Mr MOSCOVICI	Member	Items 1 to 8 (in part)
Mr STYLIANIDES	Member	
Mr HOGAN	Member	
Ms BULC	Member	
Ms BIENKOWSKA	Member	
Ms JOUROVÁ	Member	
Mr NAVRACSICS	Member	
Ms CREȚU	Member	
Ms VESTAGER	Member	
Mr MOEDAS	Member	
Sir Julian KING	Member	

Absent:

Ms MOGHERINI

High Representative /
Vice-President

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

Mr PETROCELLI	A member of Ms MOGHERINI's staff
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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 MARTÍNEZ ALBEROLA	Deputy Chef de cabinet to the PRESIDENT	
Ms ROUCH	Adviser in the PRESIDENT's Office	Item 8 (in part)
Ms SILLAVEE	PRESIDENT's Office	
Ms SUTTON	Deputy Chef de cabinet to Mr TIMMERMANS	Items 1 to 7
Mr WYNANDS	Chef de cabinet to Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Item 8 (in part)
Ms ANDREEVA	Commission Spokesperson's Service	

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

1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2017) 2200/FINAL; SEC(2017) 85/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(2017) 2200)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 13 February.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2198TH AND 2199TH COMMISSION MEETINGS (1 AND 8 FEBRUARY)

The Commission held over approval of the minutes of its 2198th and 2199th meetings for the following week.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(RCC(2017) 14)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (IRG) held on Friday 10 February (RCC(2017) 14).

It paid particular attention to the following points.

4.1. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

i) Trilogue meeting

(point 3.1 of the IRG record)

- Establishment of a Union programme to support specific activities enhancing the involvement of consumers and other financial services end-users in Union policy making in the field of financial services for the period of 2017-2020 (Regulation) – LAMBERTS / FORD report – 2016/0182 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2017) 32/2.

ii) European Parliament dossier – February II part-session

(point 3.2 of the IRG record)

Special legislative procedure

- Report of the European Parliament on the draft Council Implementing Decision amending Decision 2009/935/JHA as regards the list of third States and organisations with which Europol shall conclude agreements – DÍAZ DE MERA GARCÍA CONSUEGRA report – 2016/0823 (CNS)

The Commission took note of the European Parliament report in SP(2017) 106.

iii) Council dossiers

(point 3.3 of the IRG record)

- Participation of the Union in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) jointly undertaken by several Member States (Decision) – SAKORAFI report – 2016/0325 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2017) 35.

- Amendment of Directive (EU) 2016/1164 as regards hybrid mismatches with third countries (Council Directive) – LUDVIGSSON report – 2016/0339 (CNS)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2017) 36.

- Amendment of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 as regards specific measures to provide additional assistance to Member States affected by natural disasters (Regulation) – MIHAYLOVA report – 2016/0384 (COD)

The Commission took note of the state of the discussions, as set out in SI(2017) 40.

- Amendment of Council Regulation (EC) 1683/1995 of 29 May 1995 laying down a uniform format for visas (Regulation) – KAUFMANN report – 2015/0134 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2017) 41/2.

4.2. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL

iv) Programming of Council business

(SI(2017) 44)

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2017) 44 on the Council meetings between 16 February and 1 March.

4.3. RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT

v) Non-legislative dossier

(point 5.1 of the IRG record)

- European Parliament's Committee of Inquiry into 'Money Laundering, Tax Evasion and Tax Fraud' (PANA) – Access to documents

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2017) 65.

vi) Written questions – monitoring procedure

- European Parliament written questions to the Commission in 2016 and outlook for 2017

The Commission took note of documents SP(2017) 75 and /2.

vii) Action taken on legislative opinions and non-legislative resolutions adopted by Parliament at its November I and II 2016 part-sessions
(point 5.6.2 of the IRG record)

The Commission approved the document SP(2017) 8/2 on action taken on legislative opinions and non-legislative resolutions adopted by Parliament at its November I and II 2016 part-sessions, further to SP(2017) 8, which it had already approved on 17 January, and decided to transmit both documents to Parliament.

5. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

5.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED
(SEC(2017) 86 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 6 and 10 February.

5.2. EMPOWERMENT

(SEC(2017) 87 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 6 and 10 February.

5.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS

(SEC(2017) 88 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedure between 6 and 10 February, as archived in Decide.

5.4. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES

(SEC(2017) 89 AND /2)

The Commission took note of the sensitive written procedures for which the time limit expired between 13 and 17 February and of the finalisation written procedure initiated following the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet on Monday 13 February.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

(SEC(2017) 90)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

(PERS(2017) 3)

**6.1. DG INTERPRETATION – TERMINATION OF INTERNAL SELECTION
PROCEDURE AND APPOINTMENT OF AD14/15 DIRECTOR**

(PERS(2016) 95 TO /3)

On a proposal from Mr OETTINGER, in agreement with the PRESIDENT,

the Commission decided:

- to terminate, with immediate effect, internal selection procedure COM/2016/929 for the post of Director of the ‘Provision of Interpretation’ Directorate in DG Interpretation, without making an appointment;
- to fill that post by transferring in the interest of the service under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations, Mr Filip MAJCEN, an AD14 official and currently Director of the DGT.B ‘Translation’ Directorate in DG Translation.

Unless indicated otherwise, these decisions would take effect on 16 March 2017.

6.2. DG MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT – EXTENSION OF THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE JOINT UNDERTAKING TO DEVELOP THE NEW GENERATION EUROPEAN AIR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (SESAR)

The Commission took note of the information in point 2 of PERS(2017) 3 and, on a proposal from Mr OETTINGER, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and having consulted Ms BULC and also Mr ŠEFČOVIČ and Mr KATAINEN, decided:

- to propose to the Administrative Board of the Joint Undertaking to Develop the New Generation European Air Traffic Management System (SESAR) that the term of office of Mr Florian GUILLERMET as Executive Director of the SESAR Joint Undertaking be extended for a period of five years from 1 April 2017;
- to propose to the Administrative Board of the SESAR Joint Undertaking that Mr Florian GUILLERMET’s contract be reclassified to grade AD15,

subject to the approval by the budgetary authority of the amendment of the establishment plan;

- to instruct Ms BULC to notify the Administrative Board of the SESAR Joint Undertaking of this decision.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

6.3. DG MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT – EXTENSION OF THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY (EMSA) AT GRADE AD15

The Commission took note of the information in point 3 of PERS(2017) 3 and, on a proposal from Mr OETTINGER, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and having consulted Ms BULC and also Mr ŠEFČOVIČ and Mr KATAINEN, decided:

- to propose to the Administrative Board of the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) that the term of office of Mr Markku MYLLY as Executive Director of the Agency at grade AD15 be extended for a maximum of two years from 1 September 2017;
- to instruct Ms BULC to notify the Administrative Board of the European Maritime Safety Agency of this decision.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

7. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING REGULATION (EU) 182/2011 LAYING DOWN THE RULES AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES CONCERNING MECHANISMS FOR CONTROL BY MEMBER STATES OF

THE COMMISSION'S EXERCISE OF IMPLEMENTING POWERS (COM(2017) 85 TO /3; RCC(2017) 16)

Mr TIMMERMANS explained that, in line with the conclusions of the College's policy debate of 1 February, the Commission proposed making a limited number of very targeted amendments to the Regulation laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (Regulation (EU) 182/2011).

The PRESIDENT noted the Members' agreement with the proposal for a Regulation submitted for decision.

The Commission adopted the proposal for a Regulation in COM(2017) 85/3 for transmission to Parliament, the Council and the national parliaments.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

8.1. 2017 WINTER ECONOMIC FORECASTS

Mr DOMBROVSKIS explained that the winter economic forecasts published the previous day formed the framework for a series of analytical reports on the situation in each Member State, which the Commission would present next week on 22 February, in a new cycle of the European Semester for the coordination of economic and budgetary policies.

Without wishing to be overly optimistic, he noted a number of positive trends, for example the continuing economic recovery in Europe for the fifth consecutive year, job creation, falling unemployment and, in addition, the reduction in budget imbalances, albeit at different speeds in different the Member States. Moreover, this year the Commission had, for the first time, held prior consultations with the Member States on the economic analysis

relating to them in order to enable them to make any factual corrections if necessary.

He attributed these positive results to the Union's economic strategy centred around the virtuous triangle of investment, structural reforms and responsible fiscal policies. However, he pointed out that the challenges remained significant and that the economic and financial crisis had had a marked impact on certain population groups and in certain sectors of the European economy, with unemployment rates that were still high in certain Member States and specific weaknesses in one part of the banking sector that was affected by the stock of non-performing loans accumulated during the financial crisis. At the same time, internal and external political risks had also increased.

Mr DOMBROVSKIS considered that there was therefore still some way to go to ensure a degree of competitiveness and adaptability in the European economies that would enable them to achieve the objective of inclusive growth and to reduce budget deficits and levels of public debt that remained high.

He then referred to the report on the transposition of the fiscal compact, which was one of the documents in the package on the European Semester that the Commission would also present on 22 February. The Treaty on the Stability, Coordination and Governance of the Economic and Monetary Union adopted in 2012, which included the fiscal compact, conferred on the Commission the responsibility for drawing up this report, which focused on the legal aspects of the transposition. The draft report had been the subject of extensive consultations with stakeholders and its general conclusion was that the Member States had effectively amended their national legal frameworks to be able to incorporate the relevant provisions of the fiscal compact.

Lastly, Mr DOMBROVSKIS referred to the specific case of Italy, which would be the subject of a report under Article 126(3) of the Treaty on the

Functioning of the European Union for failure to comply with the government deficit and debt criteria. He and Mr MOSCOVICI had had frequent and regular contacts with the Italian authorities, which had given a formal commitment to an additional reduction in the government deficit of the order of 0.2% of gross domestic product, a reduction considered the minimum effort required to avoid the opening of an excessive deficit procedure. These measures had not yet taken the shape of legislative proposals, but the Italian Government had publicly stated that it would present them in April.

In order to give the general tone of the winter economic forecasts, Mr MOSCOVICI stressed that growth in the Union was holding firm for the fifth year in a row and that, despite the challenges it was facing, growth should be positive in the 28 Member States in 2017 and 2018, a first in ten years. In 2016, the Union's gross domestic product had increased by 1.9% and was expected to continue to grow by 1.8% in 2017 and 2018, while growth in the euro area would be 1.6% in 2017 and 1.8% in 2018.

He then set out the five key messages of these forecasts.

First, the resilience of the European economy had been supported by the relatively low oil price, the depreciation in the euro exchange rate, an accommodative monetary policy, a less restrictive fiscal policy and the structural reforms implemented in some Member States.

Second, the economic recovery was continuing to have a significant positive impact on employment, to which Ms THYSEN would return in more detail.

Third, investment had not yet actually picked up again, but some acceleration was expected next year, due in part to the implementation of the Investment Plan for Europe launched on the PRESIDENT's initiative.

Fourth, inflation was gradually returning to usual levels, since it was expected to reach 1.7% this year and 1.4% in 2018, even though that was due mainly to

the renewed increase in oil prices.

Fifth, the prospects for public finances were improving and the reduction in deficits was continuing. Mr MOSCOVICI expected a public deficit in the euro area of 1.4% of gross domestic product in 2017. He referred to the case of Member States currently under the excessive deficit procedure, which appeared to be on track to correct their excessive deficits in a sustainable manner and exit the procedure. The ratio of debt to gross domestic product was expected to fall this year, after the peak in 2014, reaching 89.2% in the euro area and 83.6% in the European Union in 2018.

Mr MOSCOVICI then remarked on certain Member States specifically, starting with the United Kingdom, whose growth outlook for 2017 had been upgraded from the Autumn 2016 forecast to 1.5%, thanks to the resilience of the UK economy. However, he pointed out that Britain's growth was projected to continue to decline, to 1.2% in 2018.

With regard to Italy, he explained that the government's policy commitments referred to by Mr DOMBROVSKIS, regarding the extra structural effort to be made to allow the country to meet all of the criteria under the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact in 2017, would be taken into account once they had been specified.

Lastly, he turned to Greece, which returned to growth in 2016 and should see a strong improvement in economic activity in 2017 and 2018. Although the situation in Greece was still difficult, he welcomed the country's overall results – such as the primary surplus achieved thanks to the assistance programme – which had well exceeded forecasts and should be kept on track. He added that the Commission was doing everything in its power to ensure that the second review of the programme could be concluded at the Eurogroup meeting on 20 February.

Mr MOSCOVICI concluded his presentation by emphasising the unusually high level of uncertainty surrounding these forecasts, mainly due to the apparent shift in traditional policy in the US, the international repositioning of China, the forthcoming withdrawal of the UK from the EU and the complex electoral situation in a number of Member States.

Ms THYSSEN then took the floor to highlight the encouraging employment forecasts. She welcomed the significant impact the economic recovery was still having on job markets after the comprehensive economic reforms implemented by several Member States and believed it should continue, albeit less vigorously in 2017 and 2018 than last year. The EU currently had 232 million people in work and according to the forecasts, the unemployment rate in the euro area was set to fall from 10% in 2016 to 9.6% this year and 9.1% in 2018. For the EU as a whole, the rate was projected to shrink from 8.5% in 2016 to 8.1% this year and 7.8% in 2018. In other words, these were the lowest unemployment figures since 2009, although they were still higher than those recorded in Spring of that year, before the financial crisis.

Against this backdrop, she reported two key positive trends that supported the Union's strategy of investing in young people and focusing on raising basic skill levels: (i) the fact that youth unemployment was falling faster than the rate among the general population, although at 18.6% it was still too high, and (ii) a fall in unemployment in the three education levels examined (low, medium and high), albeit slower among lower-skilled workers. In addition, the number of workers benefiting from open-ended and full-time contracts, with respective increases of 2.8 million and 4.5 million, was increasing seven times faster than the number of workers employed on temporary contracts, which had grown by 370 000.

She went on to explain that the financial situation of EU households was continuing to improve and that their gross disposable income in real terms had

increased in all Member States, although it was slightly below its 2009 peak in the euro area nations. With regard to poverty levels, although they were still high, the trend had reversed, falling from 25% in 2012 to 23.7% in 2015.

She concluded that, in all of these areas, the forecasts pointed to results that were moving in the right direction but were still too slow, and that this was the most pressing challenge ahead.

Ms THYSSEN also drew the attention of the College to a decision it would have to take the following week in the context of the European Semester. She explained that the effective enforcement of budgetary surveillance in the euro area required accurate, reliable data and that Regulation (EU) 1173/211 on this subject even provided the possibility of fining Member States that manipulated statistics on public deficit and debt. The procedures for the investigation that could be conducted by the Commission were set out in a delegated act.

Ms THYSSEN noted that, in May 2015, the Commission had for the first time adopted a technical report and a recommendation to the Council in order to impose a fine on Spain in a case concerning the misreporting of data on the deficit in the Autonomous Community of Valencia. Among the series of documents that would be adopted on 22 February, she would present a similar report and a similar recommendation concerning Austria with regard to data relating to the public debt of Salzburg province. She explained that the Commission's investigation had identified irregularities in relation to the compiling, checking and recording of transactions in the province over several years.

She described the method of calculating the fine, which would be subject to approval by the Commissioners, and the criteria that could be used to adjust the amount as defined in the delegated act referred to above, specifying that the fine could not exceed 0.2% of gross domestic product. She proposed that

the case be handled in the same way as the Spanish case in 2015.

Ms THYSSEN concluded by stressing that, since the Commission's investigation, the Austrian authorities had taken measures to put an end to the irregularities found and that the data on the country's public debt had been corrected as part of the excessive deficit notification procedure.

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

- the need to take advantage of the relatively favourable economic period currently being experienced by the EU to encourage Member States to launch or build on structural reforms; the observation that these reforms were bearing fruit, judging by the results obtained by certain Member States;
- the hope that the communication activities concerning the winter economic forecasts and the country reports that would soon be presented as part of the European Semester would focus not only on the challenges to be tackled but also on the objectively positive results of the structural reforms under way in the Member States;
- the suggestion to refer, in this positive communication, to the funding already granted to 300 000 small and medium-sized enterprises under the European Fund for Strategic Investments;
- in general, the need to remind the Member States that EU membership granted them rights but also entailed duties as set out in the Treaties; these rights and duties were inseparable and must be given equal respect.

In the interest of the Commission sending a consistent political message to Poland, Mr TIMMERMANS hoped that, as it had done in its opinions on the rule of law in Poland in 2016 and its recommendations to the Polish

government in July and December of the same year, the Commission would expressly state, in the summary and body of its report of 22 February on Poland, that the systemic threats to the rule of law in the country, and particularly the threats to the independence of the judiciary, were a major cause of uncertainty and could have very real negative economic consequences if left unchecked.

The PRESIDENT ended the discussion by firstly thanking Mr DOMBROVSKIS and Mr MOSCOVICI for their excellent handling of the difficult and complex situation affecting Greece, avoiding either an overzealous or a laissez-faire approach. He then emphasised that, although structural reforms were indeed beneficial for the recovery of the Member States implementing them, it was difficult for the governments concerned to get their citizens to accept the reforms, which was a political factor that should not be underestimated. Lastly, he fully agreed with Mr TIMMERMANS' suggestion concerning the report on Poland.

The Commission took note of these conclusions and this information.

8.2. VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

At the invitation of the PRESIDENT, Mr AVRAMOPOULOS reported on his visit to Washington on 8 February. Most notably, he met the U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security during his visit. Their discussions focused on transatlantic cooperation on the common challenges posed by the fight against terrorism, cybersecurity and the management of the refugee crisis. He noted the positive atmosphere in which the talks were held.

The PRESIDENT confirmed that the Vice-President of the United States of America, Mike Pence, would be visiting Brussels on Monday 20 February.

The Commission took note of this information.

**8.3. EURONEWS TELEVISION CHANNEL AND EURANET PLUS RADIO NETWORK – SITUATION AND OUTLOOK
(INFO(2017) 5)**

Mr ANSIP reported on the most recent developments concerning the *Euronews* television channel, following on from his briefing to the Commission on 21 December on a possible agreement between *Euronews* and the American network *NBC Universal*.

He pointed out that the Commission was not a shareholder in *Euronews* but did provide co-financing for the production of European current affairs programmes in several languages. He proposed in this connection that the amount of the co-financing for 2017 should be similar to the amount in 2016 – EUR 18 million – subject to certain conditions.

He said that *Euronews* for its part had provided the Commission with assurances regarding an agreement with *NBC Universal* and had undertaken to continue to produce high-quality, pluralist and independent journalism, preserve the principles of its editorial policy and continue to broadcast multilingual content. *Euronews* had also promised that this agreement would not have any direct negative consequences for its staff and that it would preserve the brand in the future.

On that basis, Mr ANSIP took the view that the partnership agreement between the Commission and *Euronews* covering the next four years could be signed in the next few days, thus allowing *Euronews*'s shareholders to officially confirm the taking of an equity participation by *NBC Universal* in the channel's capital on 24 February.

Mr ANSIP then turned to the situation of the European network *Euranet Plus*, which brought together some fifteen national and regional radio broadcasters and four partners distributing European current affairs content in

14 languages. This network, created in 2008, was supported out of the general EU budget under a service contract; the second such contract would expire on 7 March 2017 with no possibility of renewal.

In the 2017 general budget, the co-legislators had reached a compromise that would allow an increase in the appropriations for multimedia actions of EUR 3 million to support Pan-European networks. To ensure the continuity of the activities of the *Euranet Plus* network in 2017 and 2018, a transitional solution had been worked out in the form of a EUR 4.2 million grant. This solution would form part of the financing decision on multimedia action for 2017, which would be tabled for adoption by the Commission in mid-March. He also observed that the Commission needed to start thinking now about the funding of the network beyond 2018.

During a brief discussion, the members of the Commission noted (i) their support for the proposed approach in the case of *Euronews*, (ii) the importance of the guarantees provided by the network, particularly as regards editorial independence, (iii) the objective of promoting a European media area and the means of achieving it, and finally (iv) the need to explore all possible avenues with a view to the Commission's strategy on *Euronews* after 2020.

Mr ANSIP explained that *Euronews* needed investment to adapt and position itself more effectively in the digital media landscape. He considered that participation by *NBC Universal* in the form proposed would improve the quality of the services it offered and ensure its future viability. He confirmed that the Commission would monitor the situation closely and would consider the question of future funding.

The PRESIDENT agreed on the need to maintain the Commission's support for *Euronews's* activities, stressing the importance of ensuring that the network's policy of editorial independence and the linguistic diversity of its programmes were maintained. He emphasised the important European public

service that an independent pan-European news broadcaster should provide, and very much regretted that European public-service broadcasters were not interested in taking on the task. He wound up the discussion on this point by noting the Commission's agreement on the approach advocated by Mr ANSIP.

On the matter of *Euranet Plus*, the PRESIDENT thanked Mr ANSIP for his constructive approach, which made it possible to resolve the financing issue for the next two years.

The Commission took note of these conclusions, this information and the note distributed in INFO(2017) 5.

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The meeting closed at 14.59.