



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2017) 2211 final

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

Brussels, 24 May 2017

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

of the 2211th meeting of the Commission

held in Brussels

(Berlaymont)

on Wednesday 10 May 2017

(morning)

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Single sitting: Wednesday 10 May 2017 (morning)

The sitting opened at 10.10 with Mr JUNCKER, President, in the chair.

Present:

Mr JUNCKER	President	
Mr TIMMERMANS	First Vice-President	
Mr ANSIP	Vice-President	
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Vice-President	Items 1 to 7
Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Vice-President	Item 8
Mr KATAINEN	Vice-President	
Mr OETTINGER	Member	
Mr HAHN	Member	Items 1 to 8 (in part)
Mr MIMICA	Member	
Mr ARIAS CAÑETE	Member	
Mr VELLA	Member	
Mr AVRAMOPOULOS	Member	
Ms THYSSEN	Member	
Mr MOSCOVICI	Member	
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	

Absent:

Ms MOGHERINI	High Representative / Vice-President
Ms MALMSTRÖM	Member
Mr ANDRIUKAITIS	Member
Sir Julian KING	Member

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

Mr FERNÁNDEZ SHAW	Expert in Ms MOGHERINI's office
Mr BURGSMÜLLER	A member of Ms MALMSTRÖM's staff
Mr VINČIŪNAS	Chef de cabinet to Mr ANDRIUKAITIS
Mr MORRISON	Chef de cabinet to Sir Julian KING

The following also sat in:

Ms MARTÍNEZ ALBEROLA	Deputy Chef de cabinet to the PRESIDENT	
Ms BANKS	Deputy 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 ROUCH	Adviser in the PRESIDENT's Office	Items 1 to 6
Mr THOLONIAT	Adviser in the PRESIDENT's Office	Item 8 (in part)
Ms ARKI	PRESIDENT's Office	
Mr SMIT	A member of Mr TIMMERMANS's staff	Item 7
Mr GREN	Expert in Mr ANSIP's office	Items 1 to 6
Mr NOCIAR	Chef de cabinet to Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Item 8
Mr WYNANDS	Chef de cabinet to Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Items 1 to 7
Mr ROMAkkANIEMI	Chef de cabinet to Mr KATAINEN	Item 7
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) 2211/FINAL; SEC(2017) 219/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) 2211)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 8 May.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2209TH AND 2210TH MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION (26 APRIL AND 3 MAY)

(PV(2017) 2209)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 2209th meeting and decided to hold over approval of the minutes of its 2210th meeting for the following week.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(RCC(2017) 45)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (IRG) held on Friday 5 May (RCC(2017) 45).

It paid particular attention to the following points.

4.1. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

i) Trilogues

(item 3.1 of the IRG record)

- Follow-up to the Marrakech Treaty – Permitted uses of works and other subject-matter protected by copyright and related rights for the benefit of persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled, and amendment of Directive 2001/29/EC on the harmonisation of certain aspects of copyright and related rights in the information society (Directive) / Cross-border exchange between the Union and third countries of accessible format copies of certain works and other subject-matter protected by copyright and related rights for the benefit of persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled (Regulation) – ANDERSSON reports – 2016/0278 (COD) / 2016/0279 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2017) 168.

- Amendment of Regulation (EU) 345/2013 on European venture capital funds and Regulation (EU) 346/2013 on European social entrepreneurship funds (Regulation) – PIETIKÄINEN report – 2016/0221 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2017) 180/2.

- Amendment of Regulation (EU) 99/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European statistical programme 2013-2017, by extending it to 2018-2020 (Regulation) – GUALTIERI report – 2016/0265 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2017) 181/2.

- Amendment of Decision 466/2014/EU granting an EU guarantee to the European Investment Bank against losses under financing operations supporting investment projects outside the Union (Decision) – GARDIAZABAL RUBIAL report – 2016/0275 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2017) 196/2.

ii) European Parliament dossier – May I part-session

(item 3.2 of the IRG record)

- Cross-border portability of online content services in the internal market (Regulation) – CAVADA report – 2015/0284 (COD)

The Commission took note of the information in SP(2017) 283, further to note SI(2017) 16/2, which it had already approved on 1 February.

iii) Council dossiers

(item 3.3 of the IRG record)

- Amendment of Directive 2010/13/EU on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in Member States concerning the provision of audiovisual media services (Directive) – VERHEYDEN / KAMMEREVERT report – 2016/0151 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2017) 182/2.

- Amendment of Regulation (EC) 1920/2006 as regards information exchange, early warning system and risk assessment procedure on new psychoactive substances (Regulation) – BONI report – 2016/0261 (COD) / Amendment of Council Framework Decision 2004/757/JHA of 25 October 2004 laying down minimum provisions on the constituent elements of criminal acts and penalties in the field of illicit drug

trafficking, in order to include new psychoactive substances into the definition of drugs (Directive) – JIMÉNEZ-BECERRIL BARRIO report – 2013/0304 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2017) 188.

4.2. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL

iv) Programming of Council business

(SI(2017) 195)

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2017) 195 on the Council meetings between 11 and 24 May.

v) Non-legislative dossiers

(item 4.1 of the IRG record)

- Conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Bilateral Agreement between the European Union and the United States of America on prudential measures regarding insurance and reinsurance (Council Decision) – 2017/0075 (NLE) / Signing, on behalf of the European Union, and provisional application of the Bilateral Agreement between the European Union and the United States of America on prudential measures regarding insurance and reinsurance (Council Decision) – 2017/0076 (NLE)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2017) 183.

- Political declaration on ‘Clean Energy for EU Islands’ (La Valette, 18 May)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2017) 184 and /2.

- United Nations Ocean Conference ‘Our oceans, our future: partnering for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14’ (New York, 5-9 June)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2017) 186 and /2.

- Joint Issues Paper – 10 Years of European Union and Cabo Verde Special Partnership – COM(2007) 641

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2017) 165/2.

- European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning and repeal of the Recommendation of the European Parliament and the Council of 23 April 2008 on the establishment of the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning (Council Recommendation) – 2016/0180 (NLE)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2017) 190.

- Position to be adopted on behalf of the European Union at the International Maritime Organization during the 98th session of the Maritime Safety Committee and the 71st session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee on the adoption of amendments to SOLAS Regulation II-1/23, SOLAS Regulation II-2/9.4.1.3, the 1994 and 2000 High Speed Craft Codes, the International Life-saving Appliance Code and to Appendix V of MARPOL Annex VI (Council Decision) – 2017/0080 (NLE)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2017) 191.

4.3. RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT

vi) Non-legislative dossier

(item 5.1 of the IRG record)

- European Parliament Committee of Inquiry into ‘Money Laundering, Tax Avoidance and Tax Evasion’ (PANA) – Follow-up to the hearing of 4 May of Mr MOSCOVICI, Member of the Commission – Replies to written questions

The Commission took note of the information in SP(2017) 293.

vii) Action taken on the non-legislative resolutions adopted by Parliament at its January 2017 part-session
(point 5.6.2 of the IRG record)

The Commission approved, for transmission to Parliament, documents SP(2017) 205 and /2 on the action taken on the non-legislative resolutions adopted by Parliament at its January part-session.

viii) Participation by Members of the European Parliament in international conferences
(item 5.7 of the IRG record)

- 11th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO)
(Buenos Aires, 11 to 14 December)

The Commission agreed to the request to the PRESIDENT from Mr Antonio TAJANI, the President of the European Parliament, concerning the attendance of ten Members of the European Parliament at the above-mentioned meeting, from 11 to 14 December as observers in the EU delegation, with a reminder about the procedure to be followed as set out in SP(2017) 285.

- 23rd Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Bonn, 6 to 17 November)

The Commission agreed to the request to the PRESIDENT from Mr Antonio TAJANI, the President of the European Parliament, concerning the attendance of twelve Members of the European Parliament at the above-mentioned meeting, from 6 to 17 November as observers in the EU delegation, with a reminder about the procedure to be followed as set out in SP(2017) 290.

5. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

5.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED

(SEC(2017) 220 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 1 and 5 May.

5.2. EMPOWERMENT

(SEC(2017) 221 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 1 and 5 May.

5.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS

(SEC(2017) 222 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedure between 1 and 5 May, as archived in Decide.

5.4. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES

(SEC(2017) 223 AND /2)

The Commission took note of the sensitive written procedures for which the time limit expired between 8 and 12 May.

6. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS ON THE MID-TERM REVIEW ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DIGITAL SINGLE MARKET STRATEGY – A CONNECTED DIGITAL SINGLE MARKET FOR ALL

(COM(2017) 228 TO /3; SWD(2017) 155 AND /2; RCC(2017) 49)

Mr ANSIP presented the Communication on the mid-term review on the implementation of the Digital Single Market Strategy. The strategy had been approved by the current Commission just two years ago. He explained that the document examined the progress made in the implementation of the strategy and identified the areas in need of additional effort or calling for new measures at Union level with regard to the development of the digital landscape.

He stressed the rapid development of the sector and the emergence of new situations that meant making adjustments to the defined strategy. This was notably the case for the challenges of cybersecurity – the implementation of procedures making it possible to treat, in particular, content inciting hatred and fake news online – the establishment of common rules applicable to online platforms and their promotion as responsible stakeholders in a fair internet, and the development of the European economy based on the free flow of data.

More generally, he highlighted the need to focus the Union's action on developing digital skills and expertise so that Europe could take full advantage of the ongoing industrial revolution.

With regard to the ongoing legislative proposals, Mr ANSIP pointed out that the Commission had honoured its commitments by presenting the main initiatives paving the way for the creation of a Single Digital Market and that it was now up to the European Parliament and the Council to adopt them as soon as possible, which would boost jobs, business and innovation across the Union.

The PRESIDENT congratulated Mr ANSIP and the relevant Commission departments on the quality of their work.

At the end of this presentation, the Commission approved the Communication in COM(2017) 228/3 for transmission to Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, and, for information, to the national parliaments, together with the Commission staff working document distributed as SWD(2017) 155/2, the contents of which were noted.

7. REFLECTION PAPER ON HARNESSING GLOBALISATION (COM(2017) 240 AND /2 ; RCC(2017) 51)

Mr TIMMERMANS presented the reflection paper on harnessing globalisation, the main aim of which, following on directly from the White Paper on the Future of Europe published on 1 March, was to feed a broad public debate on the levers the Union and its Member States could use to shape globalisation in such a way as to anticipate its development and improve European living conditions.

Although globalisation had been beneficial to the European economy as a whole, he explained that its advantages needed to be spread more fairly. He felt that Europe should therefore make its contribution to the body of existing rules so that globalisation would bring lasting benefits to all Europeans. He pointed out in this respect that the Union and the Member States should focus their policies on the

teaching and skills they need to keep up with the development of the economy. He then stressed that a better redistribution would help to guarantee the social cohesion and solidarity on which the Union was based.

Mr KATAINEN felt that globalisation was of considerable benefit to Europe and the rest of the world but that it also brought with it many challenges. He explained that to preserve the advantages of opening up markets and at the same time to remedy the disadvantages, Europe must promote a stronger world order based on rules, use its external policies to fight unfair practices decisively and its internal policies to make European society more resilient and the EU economy more competitive in a rapidly changing environment.

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

- the unreserved support of the Commission for the tone of the reflection paper which examined openly and honestly what globalisation had brought the Union, whilst recognising that although globalisation had been of great benefit to Europe, it also brought with it many challenges about which citizens had legitimate concerns;
- the importance of the Union giving itself the means not just to harness globalisation but to shape it so that citizens and businesses could enjoy all its benefits;
- in this respect, the need to address citizens to explain the action and initiatives already undertaken by the Union specifically to influence the globalisation process and make it more just, fair and sustainable;
- the need to adopt a courageous, long-term approach to globalisation whilst making sure that common rules were adopted and implemented in accordance with the basic principle of reciprocity;

- the direct link that had to be established between the European pillar of social rights and the tools that needed to be developed to protect citizens from the harmful effects of globalisation and help them become independent by means of rigorous social policies and appropriate support in the areas of education and training;
- the need to rethink the assistance provided by the European Structural and Investment Funds to vulnerable regions and that provided by the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund to help workers who had been made redundant to find another job and alleviate the negative effects of globalisation.

Mr TIMMERMANS closed the discussion by stating that the response to the challenges of globalisation was not to be found either in protectionism or in a *laissez-faire* policy. He also said that the reflection paper clearly showed that globalisation could be beneficial if it was harnessed effectively. It was his view that the European Union should therefore ensure that its advantages were better spread by working together with the Member States and the regions as well as with its international partners and all stakeholders to shape globalisation in accordance with its values and interests.

The Commission approved the reflection paper in COM(2017) 240/2 for transmission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the Court of Justice of the European Union, the Court of Auditors, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, and, for information, to the national parliaments.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

8.1. THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN GREECE

(INFO(2017) 38)

The PRESIDENT invited Mr DOMBROVSKIS and Mr MOSCOVICI to report on the latest developments regarding the economic situation in Greece and the ongoing talks with the Greek authorities with a view to closing the second review of the financial assistance programme for Greece under the European Stability Mechanism.

The Commission took note of this information and of the information note in INFO(2017) 38.

8.2. BAN PLANNED BY THE US AUTHORITIES ON LAPTOPS IN CARRY-ON LUGGAGE ON ALL US-BOUND FLIGHTS

Mr AVRAMOPOULOS mentioned the ban imposed by the US Department of Homeland Security, as part of the fight against terrorism, on laptops as carry-on luggage on US-bound planes from certain third countries, which could be extended to flights from the European Union. He reported on the steps he had taken together with Ms BULC to react to this possibility, which would have commercial repercussions for the Union's airports and airlines. They had both sent an email the previous day to the US authorities regretting their unilateral initiative and calling on them to work together with the European Union in the fight against terrorism, which was a joint risk on both sides of the Atlantic.

Ms BULC confirmed this and expressed surprise that the European Union had not been consulted in view of its long-standing cooperation with the US under the Open Skies Agreement. She clarified that the Commission's email mentioned by Mr AVRAMOPOULOS was a friendly invitation to dialogue

and hoped that it would be understood as such. She said the Commission would be kept up to date with any developments.

The Commission took note of this information.

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

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The meeting closed at 11.01