



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2019) 2318 final

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

Strasbourg, 14 January 2020

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

**of the 2318th meeting of the Commission
held in Brussels
(Berlaymont)
on Wednesday 11 December 2019
(morning)**

PV(2019) 2318 final

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Single sitting: Wednesday 11 December 2019 (morning)

The sitting opened at 10.05, with Ms von der LEYEN, President, in the chair.

Present:

Ms von der LEYEN	President	
Mr TIMMERMANS	Executive Vice-President	
Ms VESTAGER	Executive Vice-President	
Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Executive Vice-President	
Mr BORRELL i FONTELLES	High Representative / Vice-President	
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Vice-President	
Ms JOUROVÁ	Vice-President	
Ms ŠUICA	Vice-President	
Mr SCHINAS	Vice-President	Items 1 to 8 (in part)
Mr HAHN	Member	
Mr HOGAN	Member	
Ms GABRIEL	Member	
Mr SCHMIT	Member	
Mr GENTILONI	Member	
Mr WOJCIECHOWSKI	Member	
Mr BRETON	Member	
Ms FERREIRA	Member	
Ms KYRIAKIDES	Member	
Ms DALLI	Member	
Ms JOHANSSON	Member	Items 1 to 8 (in part)
Mr LENARČIČ	Member	
Ms VÁLEAN	Member	
Mr VÁRHELYI	Member	
Ms URPILAINEN	Member	
Ms SIMSON	Member	
Mr SINKEVIČIUS	Member	

Absent:

Mr REYNDERS

Member

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

Ms PERIGNON Deputy Chef de cabinet to Mr REYNDERS

The following also sat in:

Mr SEIBERT	Chef de cabinet to the PRESIDENT	
Mr ROMERO REQUENA	Director-General, Legal Service	
Ms AHRENKILDE HANSEN	Director-General, DG Communication	
Mr MAMER	Head of the Spokesperson's Service and Chief Spokesperson of the Commission	
Mr LEARDINI	Deputy Secretary-General	
Ms GAUER	Deputy Secretary-General	Items 8 (in part) and 9
Ms RISO	Deputy Chef de cabinet to the PRESIDENT	
Ms PETKOVA	Director of Coordination and Administration in the PRESIDENT's Office	
Mr FLOSDORFF	Adviser in the PRESIDENT's Office	
Mr VANDENBERGHE	Adviser in the PRESIDENT's Office	
Mr SMITH	A member of the PRESIDENT's staff	Items 8 (in part) and 9
Ms SPANOU	Chef de cabinet to Mr SCHINAS	Items 8 (in part) and 9
Ms WEBBER	Chef de cabinet to Ms JOHANSSON	Items 8 (in part) and 9
Mr VALERO LADRON	Secretariat-General	
Ms SPINANT	Commission Spokesperson's Service	

Secretary: Ms JUHANSONE, Acting Secretary-General, assisted by Mr AYET PUIGARNAU, Director in the Secretariat-General.

1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2019) 2318/FINAL/2; SEC(2019) 2318/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

The Commission considered the Acting Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 9 December 2019.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2317TH MEETING
(4 DECEMBER 2019)**

The Commission held over approval of the minutes of its 2317th meeting for a later date.

**4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS
(RCC(2019) 123)**

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (IRG) held on Friday 6 December 2019 (RCC(2019) 123).

It paid particular attention to the following points.

4.1. HORIZONTAL MATTERS

- i) 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework – Trilogues**
(point 1.1.1 of the IRG record)

- European Solidarity Corps programme and repeal of [European Solidarity Corps Regulation] and Regulation (EU) 375/2014 (Regulation) – ŠOJDROVÁ report – 2018/0230 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 739.

- Creative Europe programme (2021 to 2027) and repeal of Regulation (EU) 1295/2013 (Regulation) – SMERIGLIO report – 2018/0190 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 740.

- Common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum and Migration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Border Management and Visa Instrument (Regulation) – NOVAKOV / KREHL report – 2018/0196 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 741.

- Specific provisions for the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) supported by the European Regional Development Fund and external financing instruments (Regulation) – ARIMONT report – 2018/0199 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 742.

- European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund (Regulation) – COZZOLINO report – 2018/0197 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 748.

- Establishment of the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA III) (Regulation) – ZOVKO & PICULA report – 2018/0247 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 744.

ii) Interinstitutional exchange of views under Article 16 of Regulation 883/2013 of 11 September 2013 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) (Brussels, 11 December 2019)

(point 1.2 of the IRG record)

The Commission took note of SPI(2019) 54.

4.2. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

iii) Trilogues

(point 3.1 of the IRG record)

- Establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment (Regulation) – PIETIKÄINEN & EICKHOUT report – 2018/0178 (COD)

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2019) 746.

- European Crowdfunding Service Providers (ECSP) for Business (Regulation) – JURZYCA report – 2018/0048 (COD) / Amendment of Directive 2014/65/EU on markets in financial instruments (Directive) – NAGTEGAAL report – 2018/0047 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 749/2.

- Visa Information System and visa processing – Amendment of Regulation (EC) 767/2008, Regulation (EC) 810/2009, Regulation (EU) 2017/2226, Regulation (EU) 2016/399, Regulation (EU) XX/2018 [Interoperability Regulation], and Decision 2004/512/EC and repeal of Council Decision 2008/633/JHA (Regulation) – RANGEL report – 2018/0152 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 747.

iv) European Parliament dossier – December II 2019 part-session

(point 3.2 of the IRG record)

Special legislative procedure

- Amendment of Directive 2006/112/EC as regards introducing certain requirements for payment service providers (Council Directive) – PEREIRA report – 2018/0412 (CNS) / Amendment of Regulation (EU) 904/2010 as regards measures to strengthen administrative cooperation in order to combat VAT fraud (Council Directive) – PEREIRA report – 2018/0413 (CNS)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2019) 690.

v) Council dossier

(point 3.3 of the IRG record)

- Fixing for 2020 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters (Council Regulation) – 2019/0235 (NLE)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 745.

4.3. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL

vi) Programming of Council business

(SI(2019) 755)

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2019) 755 on the Council meetings between 12 and 23 December 2019.

vii) Legislative matters

(point 4.1 of the IRG record)

- Draft Union submission to be submitted to the 7th of the Sub-Committee on Ship Systems and Equipment (SSE 7) of the IMO in London from 2 to

6 March 2020 concerning the review of SOLAS Chapter II-2 and associated Codes to minimize the incidence and consequences of fires on ro-ro spaces and special category spaces of new and existing ro-ro passenger ships

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 743.

- Draft Union submission to be submitted to the 7th session of the Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR 7) of the IMO in London from 17 to 21 February 2020 concerning additional information to assist PPR7 to support the inclusion of cybutryne in annex 1 to the AFS Convention and Union submission to be submitted to the 7th session of the Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR 7) of the IMO in London from 17 to 21 February 2020 concerning a proposal containing aspects to consider for the evaluation and the development of harmonized rules and guidance on discharge waters from Exhaust Gas Cleaning Systems (EGCS)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2019) 752.

4.4. RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT

viii) Results of Parliament's November II 2019 part-session

(point 5.8.1 of the IRG record)

The Commission took note of the information on the proceedings of the part-session of Parliament held in Strasbourg from 25 to 28 November 2019, as set out in SP(2019) 652.

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

(SP(2019) 658)

The Commission decided to empower the Members of the Commission responsible for the sectors in question, in agreement with the PRESIDENT

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(2019) 658, drawn up following the November II 2019 part-session of Parliament, the contents of which were noted.

**5. COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS
(RCC(2019) 126)**

The Commission took note of the operational conclusions in RCC(2019) 126 of the meeting of Group for External Coordination (EXCO) held on Wednesday 4 December 2019 (RCC(2019) 126).

6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

**6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED
(SEC(2019) 427 ET SEQ.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 2 and 6 December 2019.

**6.2. EMPOWERMENT
(SEC(2019) 428 ET SEQ.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 2 and 6 December 2019.

**6.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS
(SEC(2019) 429 ET SEQ.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedure between 2 and 6 December 2019 archived in Decide.

6.4. SIGNIFICANT WRITTEN PROCEDURES
(SEC(2019) 431/2 AND /3)

The Commission took note of the significant written procedures for which the time limit expired between 9 and 13 December 2019 and of the finalisation of the written procedure initiated following the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet on Monday 9 December 2019.

**6.5. AD HOC EMPOWERMENT TO ADOPT THE NECESSARY
PROTECTIVE MEASURES IN THE EVENT OF THE COUNCIL'S
FAILURE TO ACT WHEN FIXING FOR 2020 THE FISHING
OPPORTUNITIES FOR CERTAIN FISH STOCKS AND GROUPS OF
FISH STOCKS, APPLICABLE IN UNION WATERS AND, FOR UNION
VESSELS, IN CERTAIN NON-UNION WATERS**
(C(2019) 8892)

The Commission decided to empower Mr SINKEVIČIUS, the Member of the Commission responsible for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, on behalf of the Commission and under its responsibility, to adopt the necessary protective measures, in the event of the Council's failure to act when fixing for 2020 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union vessels, in certain non-Union waters, in accordance with the terms set out in C(2019) 8892.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS
(SEC(2019) 430 AND /2)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
(PERS(2019) 111)

At the invitation of the PRESIDENT, Mr HAHN presented eight proposals for decisions that were being submitted directly to the College for approval.

Mr HAHN explained that, following changes to the organisation chart and the publication of the post of Secretary-General of the Commission the previous week, these new proposals, drawn up in agreement with the PRESIDENT and the members of the Commission concerned, related to four proposals for transfers within the institution's senior management and the publication of four vacancy notices for Director-General posts.

It was therefore proposed to transfer four current Directors-General to new Director-General posts, namely: (i) Mr Olivier GUERSENT, currently Director-General of DG Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union (DG FISMA), to the post of Director-General of DG Competition (DG COMP), (ii) Mr Timo PESONEN, currently Director-General of DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW), to the post of Director-General of DG Defence Industry and Space (DG DEFIS), created the previous week, (iii) Ms Paraskevi MICHOU, currently Director-General of DG Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME), to the post of Director-General of DG European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), as well as (iv) Ms Monique PARIAT, currently Director-General of DG European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), to the post of Director-General of DG Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME).

He then proposed that the College authorise the internal publication of four Director-General posts in the Directorates-General for (i) Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union (DG FISMA), (ii) Agriculture and

Rural Development (DG AGRI), (iii) Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW), and lastly, (iv) Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE).

Mr HAHN ended his presentation by stating that the proposals made that day marked the beginning of a process, given that 18 senior management posts were currently vacant in the institution.

**7.1. DG COMPETITION – APPOINTMENT OF AD16
DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

On a proposal from Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Ms VESTAGER, the Commission decided to transfer in the interest of the service, under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations, Mr Olivier GUERSENT, currently Director-General of DG Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union, to the post of Director-General of DG Competition.

This decision would take effect on a date to be fixed later.

**7.2. DG DEFENCE INDUSTRY AND SPACE – APPOINTMENT OF AD16
DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

On a proposal from Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Mr BRETON, the Commission decided to transfer in the interest of the service, under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations, Mr Timo PESONEN, currently Director-General of DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, to the post of Director-General of DG Defence Industry and Space.

This decision would take effect on a date to be fixed later.

7.3. DG EUROPEAN CIVIL PROTECTION AND HUMANITARIAN AID OPERATIONS – APPOINTMENT OF AD16 DIRECTOR-GENERAL

On a proposal from Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Mr LENARČIČ, the Commission decided to transfer in the interest of the service, under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations, Ms Paraskevi MICHOU, currently Director-General of DG Migration and Home Affairs, to the post of Director-General of DG European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations.

This decision would take effect on a date to be fixed later.

7.4. DG MIGRATION AND HOME AFFAIRS – APPOINTMENT OF AD16 DIRECTOR-GENERAL

On a proposal from Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Ms JOHANSSON, the Commission decided to transfer in the interest of the service, under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations, Ms Monique PARIAT, currently Director-General of DG European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, to the post of Director-General of DG Migration and Home Affairs.

This decision would take effect on a date to be fixed later.

7.5. DG FINANCIAL STABILITY, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND CAPITAL MARKETS UNION – INTERNAL PUBLICATION OF THE VACANCY NOTICE FOR AN AD15/16 DIRECTOR-GENERAL (PERS(2019) 112)

On a proposal from Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Mr DOMBROVSKIS, the Commission decided to authorise the internal publication, under Article 29(1)(a)(i) of the Staff Regulations, of the vacancy notice in PERS(2019) 112 for the post of Director-General of DG Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union.

This decision would take effect immediately.

**7.6. DG AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT –
AUTHORISATION OF INTERNAL PUBLICATION OF THE VACANCY
NOTICE FOR AN AD15/16 DIRECTOR-GENERAL
(PERS(2019) 113)**

On a proposal from Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Mr WOJCIECHOWSKI, the Commission decided to authorise the internal publication, under Article 29(1)(a)(i) of the Staff Regulations, of the vacancy notice in PERS(2019) 113 for the post of Director-General of DG Agriculture and Rural Development.

This decision would take effect immediately.

**7.7. DG INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND
SMES – INTERNAL PUBLICATION OF THE VACANCY NOTICE FOR
AN AD15/16 DIRECTOR-GENERAL
(PERS(2019) 114)**

On a proposal from Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Mr BRETON, the Commission decided to authorise the internal publication, under Article 29(1)(a)(i) of the Staff Regulations, of the vacancy notice in PERS(2019) 114 for the post of Director-General of DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs.

This decision would take effect immediately.

**7.8. DG MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES – AUTHORISATION OF
INTERNAL PUBLICATION OF THE VACANCY NOTICE FOR AN
AD15/16 DIRECTOR-GENERAL
(PERS(2019) 115)**

On a proposal from Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Mr SINKEVIČIUS, the Commission decided to authorise the

internal publication, under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations, of the vacancy notice in PERS(2019) 115 for the post of Director-General of DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.

This decision would take effect immediately.

**7.9. ACTIVITIES OF A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION AFTER LEAVING OFFICE
(C(2019) 9004)**

The Commission adopted the Decision set out in C(2019) 9004.

The Commission decided in this case that the activity envisaged by Mr MOEDAS after leaving office as a Member of the Commission was compatible with Article 245(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) and with the Code of Conduct for Commissioners, subject to certain specific conditions and obligations.

**7.10. DG BUDGET – ALLOCATION OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND DECENTRALISED ADMINISTRATIVE APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2020
(SEC(2019) 465)**

The Commission adopted the communication in SEC(2019) 465.

**8. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL
(COM(2019) 640 TO /4; RCC(2019) 124)**

The PRESIDENT opened the debate on the proposal for the European Green Deal being launched that day addressed to the European Union and its citizens. She began by highlighting the historic nature of this blueprint for the future, which would open

a whole new chapter and be a landmark in European integration. Pointing out that the current Commission had only been in office for a few days, she felt that the timing of this Communication launching the Green Deal sent a powerful message about the political will of the College to act without delay and to roll out a far-reaching plan over a number of years with the aim of influencing the course of climate changes that would soon become irreversible.

Given the importance of this initiative, she announced that she would be presenting it to the European Parliament that very afternoon, alongside Mr TIMMERMANS, and to the European Council on 12 December. She warmly thanked all those in the cabinets and departments who had helped to produce this very ambitious document.

The PRESIDENT stressed that the **European Green Deal** marked the start of a complex process that would lead the Union to a target of climate neutrality by 2050, by focusing on three key elements.

First, the European Green Deal would prompt the Union to rethink its production and consumption. A new growth strategy would therefore be put in place to use fewer raw materials and to give a bigger role to renewable energy. Connected with this, she pointed to the vital role that businesses would play in this process and welcomed the positive reactions of private stakeholders who were willing to devote around €600 billion to funding this transition.

Second, she highlighted the social dimension of the European Green Deal. In order to achieve the targets that had been set, a Just Transition Mechanism would be set up to promote re-skilling for the people and sectors that would be most affected by the transition. The College would examine the proposal to create a Just Transition Fund in mid-January 2020.

Third, the PRESIDENT pointed to the international ambition of the European Green Deal. She hoped that the Green Deal would not be confined to the European Union but, by putting Europe at the forefront of the fight against global warming, would inspire other countries to rethink their model of consumption and production too.

She stressed that the roadmap being presented that day was not an end in itself but just the beginning of a process that would also enable the Commission itself to become a climate neutral institution by 2030.

Mr TIMMERMANS, who was going to Madrid later that day for the UN climate conference (COP25), said that the eyes of the world were on the European Union and that it had already started discussing the European Green Deal. In his view, the stakes were high and the goals the Union had set for tackling climate change made this one of the most important projects since the creation of the Single Market. The Green Deal responded to one of the main concerns of Europe's youngest citizens by tackling not only climate change, biodiversity, air and water quality and energy efficiency, but also individual well-being and quality of life. For this reason he regarded it as a social contract with Europe's citizens to implement a new strategy of sustainable and inclusive growth to prepare Europe for a prosperous, fair and environmentally-friendly future. This Green Deal expressed a collective ambition, based on a specific timetable of measures to transform the vision into reality.

He reiterated the need to limit the rise in temperatures to +1.5° C and to develop a strategy in close cooperation with all stakeholders from civil society and industry to accompany what he regarded as a fourth industrial revolution. He acknowledged the scale of the changes to be introduced, which would permanently and profoundly transform society and our ways of life through instruments of governance that were vectors of a transition that was fair and beneficial to all citizens. He returned to the creation of the Just Transition Fund, whose purpose would be not so much to promote the transition as to ensure that it was fair. In any event, he believed that the Union could not afford to remain inactive and must, instead, mobilise all its energy to prevent the threatened catastrophe.

Finally, Mr TIMMERMANS believed that by aiming to become the first climate neutral continent by 2050, the European Union was setting an example which could encourage other regions of the world to follow the same path.

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

The historic nature of the European Green Deal

- the pride that Members of the College took in the presentation of this European Green Deal, with its unprecedented level of ambition and its goal of achieving climate neutrality in the European Union by 2050, and in the vital step this represented not only in the history of the Union but also at global level;
- the many reasons why this pride was justified, particularly the display of solidarity with future generations that it embodied; the common vision and goal set out by the Deal; the major collective project it represented; the way it could mobilise support for Europe among EU citizens, particularly the young;
- the humanism at the heart of the Green Deal, which aimed to protect not only the planet but also the health and quality of life of Europe's citizens and invited those citizens to be part of the dialogue, as would also be the case at the conference on the future of Europe;
- the exemplary spirit of collegiality that had presided over the drafting of the European Green Deal, which was an intrinsically collective project, and the need to maintain that spirit throughout its roll-out;
- the extremely positive signal sent out by the European Parliament by holding an extraordinary plenary session devoted to the Green Deal that same day;
- sincere thanks for the significant work done by the cabinets and departments across the entire Commission in drawing up this communication, which had been completed successfully in record time so that it could be presented before the closure of the 25th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP25) and before the European Council on 12 and 13 December;

On the financial aspects

- the scale of the investments that would be needed to achieve the ambitions of the European Green Deal and the importance of mobilising public and private funds that matched the needs and the ambitions;
- the measures proposed to accomplish this, in particular the Sustainable Europe Investment Plan, the renewed sustainable finance strategy and the review of the European economic governance framework;
- the desire to ‘green’ the Union budget and national budgets; the comment that the Commission had proposed the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework before presenting the European Green Deal;
- the need to defend this Multiannual Financial Framework, beyond any possible divergences of views between Member States;

On the vital need for a just transition

- the fact that the transition resulting from the European Green Deal would inevitably have an impact, albeit to varying degrees, on some very vulnerable regions and sectors;
- hence the absolute need for the Union not to leave any individual, sector or region behind and to accompany the transformation with supporting measures in order to mitigate the feeling that transitions on this scale created winners and losers;
- justification for the essential need for public intervention to facilitate these supporting measures;
- the importance of stressing the role of the Just Transition Mechanism and the Just Transition Fund that the Commission would soon be proposing as part of its Sustainable Europe Investment Plan;

- a note of caution concerning the cumulative effects of the European Green Deal and the digital transition on certain levels of society and certain regions;
- a call to grasp the opportunity of the European Green Deal and the resulting transition in order to boost equality;

On implementation of the European Green Deal

- the importance of stressing that the effective roll-out of the Green Deal would now be a common theme running through all the Commission's future proposals and the internal workings of the Commission;
- the need to allow a degree of flexibility in rolling out the Green Deal in order to take account of possible changes in circumstances;
- the case for drawing on existing technologies and employing existing levers to help implement the Green Deal;
- the need to ensure that the Union's efforts were not cancelled out by carbon leakage that would also be damaging to the Union's global competitiveness, something the Green Deal was seeking to promote;
- the call to launch the impact assessments as soon as possible so that the initiatives proposed by the Green Deal could be delivered in good time;

On external aspects

- the comment that the ambitions of the Green Deal could not be realised if the Union acted alone and that it was therefore essential for it to set an example for its international partners to follow;
- hence the need to establish 'Green Deal diplomacy';
- the encouraging signs of the discussions that had already been launched outside Europe with a view to progressing towards climate neutrality;

- the positive opportunities which the Green Deal offered to countries neighbouring the EU, although care would have to be taken in communications concerning the mechanism against carbon leakage;
- the need to think about giving sustainable development aspects a bigger role in partnership agreements;

On communication

- emphasis of the decisive role that communication would play in the success of the European Green Deal; the need to address all citizens and to provide very practical answers to their questions, in particular regarding spending on energy, food and transport;
- the importance of conveying a positive message and kindling enthusiasm, and of giving a say to economic or industrial champions that had already begun working towards climate neutrality and supported the Green Deal;
- the invitation to all Members of the College to communicate actively regarding the European Green Deal throughout the coming weeks, ensuring that their messages were consistent;
- a warning against the disinformation campaigns that would certainly be spread about the Deal, particularly in view of the inevitable resistance to change.

The PRESIDENT responded to the points raised in the discussion. She reported that the Commission would present a European climate law in March 2020, which would set in stone the Union's target of climate neutrality by 2050. This law would take account of the in-depth impact analysis which would be carried out in parallel in order to assess the consequences of increasing the 2030 target for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, in view of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that would take place in November 2020 in Glasgow.

With regard to the financing of the European Green Deal, the PRESIDENT explained that there were three contributing elements. The first, the **Just Transition Fund**, would be implemented within the framework of cohesion policy and would be accompanied by customised technical assistance for regions in transition, which would benefit from a certain degree of regulatory flexibility. It would therefore be aimed in particular at regions that were highly dependent on carbon-intensive activities. It would provide support for the citizens most vulnerable to the green transition by giving them access to re-skilling programmes and employment opportunities in new economic sectors. The second element, the **Just Transition Mechanism**, would be aimed at facilitating investments of around EUR 100 billion in these regions under the next Multiannual Financial Framework. It would draw on and combine various sources of financing – the Union budget, the budgets of the Member States through co-financing, the European Investment Bank, and incentives for private investment. It would thus deal with State aid. Finally, the third element, the **Sustainable Europe Investment Plan**, which the Commission would present at the beginning of 2020, would also make it possible to respond to direct financing needs. At least 25% of the Union's Multiannual Financial Framework should be devoted to combatting climate change, and the European Investment Bank would also lend its support. The Commission would also present a green financing strategy to encourage the private sector to contribute to financing the climate transition.

Mr TIMMERMANS returned to the impact assessments, which had become established practice within the space of five years and whose great advantage lay in speeding up the process of adoption of proposals by the co-legislators. All the proposals to be put forward under the European Green Deal would be subject to in-depth impact assessments, and the stakeholders would be involved right from the drafting stage.

Moreover, he highlighted the need to maintain some degree of flexibility in the Commission's future proposals, to allow them to be adapted to currently unforeseeable circumstances, such as trends in world coal prices.

Finally, the European Green Deal would certainly create jobs, but these jobs would be different from current ones, requiring training, re-skilling and possibly relocation measures, to which the Just Transition Fund would contribute.

The PRESIDENT thanked the Members of the College for the richness of the discussion. She also paid tribute to all those in the cabinets and departments who had participated in the development of this major project and put in a substantial amount of work, thanking in particular Ms Céline GAUER, Deputy Secretary-General, Mr Björn SEIBERT, her Chef de cabinet, and Mr Diederik SAMSOM, Mr TIMMERMANS' Chef de cabinet.

Looking at the scale of the task that awaited the Union over the course of the next few years, in order to put into practice step by step the political vision that had been presented that day, the PRESIDENT asked all Members of the College – the ambassadors of the European Green Deal – to get in touch with their contacts and stakeholders to provide them with information, using the excellent documentation prepared to this end (the factsheets), and to start the work of communication on social networks immediately. She went on to say that they should never lose sight of the great political project for Europe that was now starting to take shape.

Following this discussion, the Commission approved the Communication in COM(2019) 640/4 for transmission to Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions and, for information, to the national parliaments.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.1. PREPARATIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL (BRUSSELS, 12 AND 13 DECEMBER)

The PRESIDENT briefly mentioned the preparations for the European Council to be held on 12 and 13 December. The major issues to be

discussed by the EU leaders included, firstly, the long-term Union strategy on climate change, which would be submitted to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at the beginning of 2020, and in particular the objective of achieving climate neutrality by 2050; and, secondly, the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021-2027, and above all the negotiating framework, with figures, drawn up by the Finnish Presidency of the Council. She would inform the College of the outcome of the latter debate, which would affect in particular the rolling out of the European Green Deal that had been presented that day.

On 13 December a Euro Summit would be held with an inclusive format, and an extraordinary meeting of the European Council in ‘Article 50’ format would also take place, dealing with the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union in the light of the results of the UK general election on 12 December, and with the preparations for negotiations on the future relationship between the Union and the UK after its withdrawal.

The Commission took note of this information.

9.2. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN EXTERNAL POLICY

Mr BORRELL informed the College of the main outcomes of the first Foreign Affairs Council that he had attended as High Representative / Vice-President for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. He said that he had sent a letter before the meeting to the Member States’ Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Defence to set out the working method he intended to follow in order to make the Foreign Affairs Council meetings he chaired more efficient and more strategic.

In this context he began by highlighting the importance he would attach to the protection of fundamental rights and his determination to react to any serious violations of human rights in the world, in particular by providing the Union with legislation comparable to the Magnitsky Act in order to trigger sanctions

faster.

He also said that the Foreign Affairs Council had discussed relations between the Union and Africa with a view to preparing the forthcoming ministerial meetings between the Union and the African states as well as the summit of the heads of state or government of both sides. Regarding the latter, he stressed the importance of building a partnership on an equal footing and of working with the African countries to define a strategic approach to their relations.

Mr BORRELL then gave a brief account of the Normandy format talks held in Paris on 9 December between the leaders of France, Germany, Ukraine and Russia to find a political solution to the conflict between the latter two countries. He felt that although the meeting had been better than expected, there had been little progress with the implementation of the Minsk agreements to enable a peaceful resolution to the conflict. He therefore noted that there had been no change on the ground and informed the College of his forthcoming visit to the Ukraine to establish a dialogue with the President, Mr Volodymyr Zelensky.

As regards the recent meeting of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) leaders on 3 and 4 December in London, he felt it necessary to stress the importance which the EU attached to this key element of European defence policy, which was a reason for strengthening its European pillar. He also pointed out that from now on France wanted to involve the Union more closely in its mission to the Sahel, particularly in setting up State structures.

He also noted that Russia was open to stepping up its discussions with the Union on a wide range of subjects, which he had been able to cover with the Russian Foreign Minister, Mr Sergey Lavrov, during a bilateral meeting on 5 December.

Lastly he mentioned the agreement signed between Turkey and Libya on the

delimitation of their maritime jurisdictions and their cooperation in military and security matters, an agreement that might aggravate instability in the region and increase tension in the relations between the Union and Turkey.

To conclude, Mr BORRELL explained in general terms that he had taken the initiative to schedule a discussion on the Middle East at the last Foreign Affairs Council so that the Union could define over time a coherent approach to major current affairs issues and ensure that its positions were taken into account.

The Commission took note of this information.

9.3. *EU-AFRICA PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION WITH THE AFRICAN UNION*

The PRESIDENT informed the College of the outcome of her recent visit to Addis Ababa in Ethiopia on 7 December during which she had met the President of the African Union and the President and Prime Minister of Ethiopia. She took the opportunity to announce that the College would meet with the Commission of the African Union on 21 or 27 February, with the date to be confirmed shortly. The meeting would help to prepare the comprehensive strategy for relations between the Union and Africa that she had promised to present after three months in office with a view to the summit between the European Union and the African Union in the autumn of 2020. Before then she felt it was necessary to have an overview of the existing cooperation structures and to identify the solutions that had proven to be effective on the ground.

The Commission took note of this information.

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The meeting closed at 12.00.