



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2022) 2425 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

Brussels, 7 September 2022

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

of the 2425th meeting of the Commission

held in Strasbourg

(Winston Churchill building)

on Tuesday 5 July 2022

(afternoon)

PV(2022) 2425 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

EN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Attendance list	4-5
1. AGENDAS (OJ(2022) 2425/FINAL; SEC(2022) 2425/FINAL)	6
2. WEEKLY MEETING OF CHEFS DE CABINET (RCC(2022) 2425)	6
3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES	6
4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS (RCC(2022) 148)	6
5. COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL ACTION (RCC(2022) 28).....	8
6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS.....	8
6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED (SEC(2022) 264 ET SEQ.).....	8
6.2. EMPOWERMENT (SEC(2022) 265 ET SEQ.)	9
6.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS (SEC(2022) 266 ET SEQ.)	9
6.4. SIGNIFICANT WRITTEN PROCEDURES (SEC(2022) 267)	9
7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS (SEC(2022) 268)	9
7.1. DG ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR AT GRADE AD14/15 (PERS(2022) 43 TO /3).....	9
7.2. DG COMMUNICATION – SECONDMENT OF AN AD15 OFFICIAL IN THE INTEREST OF THE SERVICE UNDER ARTICLES 37 AND 38 OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS.....	10
7.3. EUROPEAN ANTI-FRAUD OFFICE – DEPUTISING FOR THE DIRECTOR- GENERAL.....	10
7.4. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL – 2021 GENERAL ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE MEDIATION SERVICE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION (SEC(2022) 275)	11

8.	COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – A NEW EUROPEAN INNOVATION AGENDA (COM(2022) 332 TO /3; SWD(2022) 187 AND /2; RCC(2022) 151)	11
9.	OTHER BUSINESS.....	15
9.1.	<i>OUTCOME OF RECENT EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT MEETINGS.....</i>	<i>15</i>
9.2.	<i>EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION IN EUROPE</i>	<i>17</i>

Single sitting: Tuesday 5 July 2022 (afternoon)

The sitting opened at 13.06 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 ŠEFČOVIČ	Vice-President	
Ms JOUROVÁ	Vice-President	
Ms ŠUICA	Vice-President	
Mr SCHINAS	Vice-President	
Mr HAHN	Member	
Ms GABRIEL	Member	
Mr GENTILONI	Member	Items 8 (in part) and 9
Mr WOJCIECHOWSKI	Member	
Mr BRETON	Member	
Ms FERREIRA	Member	
Ms KYRIAKIDES	Member	
Mr REYNDERS	Member	
Ms DALLI	Member	
Ms JOHANSSON	Member	
Mr LENARČIČ	Member	
Ms SIMSON	Member	
Mr SINKEVIČIUS	Member	
Ms McGUINNESS	Member	

The following sat in by videoconference:

Ms URPILAINEN	Member
---------------	--------

Absent:

Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Executive Vice-President
Mr BORRELL i FONTELLES	High Representative / Vice-President
Mr SCHMIT	Member
Ms VĂLEAN	Member
Mr VÁRHELYI	Member

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

Ms LOTSON LÓPEZ	Policy assistant in Mr BORRELL's Office
Ms NØRLUND-MATTHIESSEN	Policy assistant in Ms VĂLEAN's Office
Mr HORVÁTH	Expert in Mr VÁRHELYI's Office

The following also sat in:

Mr SEIBERT	Chef de cabinet to the PRESIDENT	
Mr CALLEJA CRESPO	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	
Ms PETKOVA	Director of Coordination and Administration in the PRESIDENT's Office	
Mr VANDENBERGHE	Adviser in the PRESIDENT's Office	Item 8
Mr VALERO	Secretariat-General	

Secretary: Ms JUHANSONE, Secretary-General, assisted by Ms DEPREZ, Director in the Secretariat-General.

1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2022) 2425/FINAL; SEC(2022) 2425/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(2022) 2425)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 4 July 2022.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Commission held over approval of the minutes of its 2420th, 2421st, 2422nd, 2423rd and 2424th meetings of 1, 7, 13/17, 22 and 29 June 2022 for a later date.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(RCC(2022) 148)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (IRG) held by videoconference on Thursday 30 June 2022 (RCC(2022) 148).

The Commission approved the lines proposed for the following points:

- **Specific and temporary measures, in view of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, concerning driver documents issued by Ukraine in accordance with its legislation (Regulation) – MARINESCU report – 2022/0204 (COD)**

Line set out in SP(2022) 430.

- **Objection pursuant to Rule 111(3) of Parliament’s Rules of Procedure – Technical standards for the application of position limits to commodity derivatives and procedures for applying for exemption from position limits – 2022/2640 (DEA)**

Line set out in SP(2022) 431.

- **Fit for 55 – Amendment of Regulation (EU) 2019/631 as regards strengthening the CO2 emission performance standards for new passenger cars and new light commercial vehicles in line with the Union’s increased climate ambition – HUITEMA report – 2021/0197 (COD) – Commission statement related to the general approach adopted in the Environment Council of 28 June 2022**

Line set out in SI(2022) 260.

- **Oral question O-0000025/2022 – Developing an EU Cycling Strategy**

Line set out in SP(2022) 377.

The Commission approved the lines proposed for the following points, for transmission to Parliament:

- **Commission replies to the legislative resolutions (and list of non-legislative resolutions without formal reply) adopted by Parliament at its June I 2022 part-session**

Line set out in SP(2022) 412.

- **Commission replies to the non-legislative resolutions adopted by Parliament at its part-session of May I 2022 (Part I)**

Line set out in SP(2022) 413/2.

The Commission took note of the following points:

- **Fit for 55 – Ensuring a level playing field for sustainable air transport (Regulation) – GADE report – 2021/0205 (COD)**

Information set out in SP(2022) 396.

- **Horizontal approach on common technical specifications complementary to harmonised European standards**

Information set out in SI(2022) 259.

5. COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL ACTION (RCC(2022) 28)

The Commission took note of the operational conclusions in RCC(2022) 28 of the meeting of the Group for External Coordination (EXCO) held on Wednesday 29 June 2022.

6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED (SEC(2022) 264 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 27 June and 3 July 2022.

6.2. EMPOWERMENT

(SEC(2022) 265 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 27 June and 3 July 2022.

6.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS

(SEC(2022) 266 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedures between 27 June and 3 July 2022 archived in Decide.

6.4. SIGNIFICANT WRITTEN PROCEDURES

(SEC(2022) 267)

The Commission took note of the significant written procedures for which the time limit expired between 4 and 8 July 2022.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

(SEC(2022) 268)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

(PERS(2022) 42)

**7.1. DG ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS – APPOINTMENT OF A
DIRECTOR AT GRADE AD14/15**

(PERS(2022) 43 TO /3)

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Director of the 'Investment, Growth and Structural Reforms' Directorate in DG Economic and Financial Affairs (PERS(2022) 43).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 1 and 2 June 2022 (PERS(2022) 43/2 and /3).

The Commission then examined the applicants' qualifications for the post. It also considered their ability, efficiency and conduct in the service. On a proposal from Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and after consulting Mr GENTILONI, it then decided to appoint Ms Géraldine MAHIEU to the post.

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

7.2. *DG COMMUNICATION – SECONDMENT OF AN AD15 OFFICIAL IN THE INTEREST OF THE SERVICE UNDER ARTICLES 37 AND 38 OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS*

On a proposal from Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, the Commission decided to second in the interest of the service, under Articles 37 and 38 of the Staff Regulations, Mr Gabor ZUPKO, an AD15 official and currently Principal Adviser for 'Relations with stakeholders, civil society, think tanks and outreach' in DG Communication, to the Hungarian Government, for an initial period of 28 months, until 31 December 2024.

This decision would take effect on 1 September 2022.

7.3. *EUROPEAN ANTI-FRAUD OFFICE – DEPUTISING FOR THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL*

The Commission took note of the information in point 3 of PERS(2022) 42, and on a proposal from Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, decided to repeal, with effect from 16 June 2022, its decision of 17 June 2020 (PV(2020) 2342) on deputising for the Director-General of the European Anti-Fraud Office, and to apply the order of deputies set out in Article 27(1) of its Rules of Procedure.

This decision would take effect immediately.

7.4. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL – 2021 GENERAL ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE MEDIATION SERVICE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION (SEC(2022) 275)

The Commission took note of the 2021 General Activity Report of the Mediation Service of the European Commission distributed as SEC(2022) 275.

8. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – A NEW EUROPEAN INNOVATION AGENDA (COM(2022) 332 TO /3; SWD(2022) 187 AND /2; RCC(2022) 151)

At the invitation of the PRESIDENT, Ms VESTAGER presented the Communication entitled ‘A new European innovation agenda’. She began by stressing that the new agenda drew on the extensive work carried out by the Commission in the area of innovation over the last decade, both in financial terms with the European Innovation Council, and from the Single Market angle with legislation aimed at promoting innovation, as well as with the industrial strategy for Europe.

These efforts had borne fruit, since they had allowed Europe to make progress in a number of areas. The EU was among the fastest growing regions for capital investment, with faster growth than China and the US in recent years. European start-ups now accounted for 33% of the capital invested globally, which was close to the US figure of 35%. However, these were very early stage, pre-IPO investments. Unfortunately, Europe was not doing so well when it came to increasing these investments to foster the growth of such start-ups.

Ms VESTAGER also pointed out that the EU had experienced the largest performance improvement in venture capital investments, which had increased by 68% compared to the 2014 average. In addition, the European Innovation Council Fund was set to become the largest early-stage breakthrough innovation investor in Europe thanks to a budget of 10 billion euros, allowing it to mobilise an additional 30 to 50 billion euros from private investors, if all conditions were met.

Europe had a strong talent base with over 17.5 million individuals in tertiary education and more than one million researchers. EU companies were among the global leaders on high-value green patents and green patents in energy-intensive industries.

In this context, the Single Market was the EU's strongest asset, and she stressed how important it was for it to function properly, at all times and in all circumstances.

Ms VESTAGER felt that the Communication proposed that day was particularly important because, first and foremost, it provided an overarching policy view and brought together the different dimensions of policy action on innovation.

Although the EU was doing much better than it used to when it came to innovation, some shortcomings remained, for example in terms of patent applications and business expenditure on R&D.

The EU had an innovation gap and, although not all regions needed to follow the same path and there was no 'one size fits all' solution, there was still plenty of work to do to unlock innovation potential and excellence in many parts of Europe. This was also the responsibility of the Member States, which needed to implement the right reforms to realise their full potential.

She also referred to the new challenges that needed to be tackled, the most important of which was the COVID-19 pandemic, which had very much confirmed the need for the EU to speed up the twin transition and strengthen its resilience. The

war in Ukraine had also shed more light than ever about how important, necessary and urgent it had become to roll out innovation on a large scale and rapidly achieve results, for example in breaking Europe's dependency on fossil fuels and ensuring a sound and secure digital economy.

Ms VESTAGER explained that this Communication was built on a broad reflection and consultation exercise which had begun more than a year earlier, and thanked all participants for their highly constructive approach. In conclusion, she explained that the Communication did not aim to provide an exhaustive list of solutions but that it shed light on five key areas which could benefit from further commitment to accelerate innovation on the ground, while building on the great deal of work that had already been carried out at EU level.

Ms GABRIEL in turn thanked the other members of the College who had contributed to the preparation of the Communication presented that day. She pointed out that innovation in Europe was not only a technological question, but also political and cross-cutting in nature, since it affected the portfolios of all the Commissioners, in particular, competition policy, digital policy, the Capital Markets Union, regional policy, the internal market, industrial policy and the European Green Deal.

She stressed that this new European innovation agenda was being presented mid-term, after the major initiatives had been adopted (the European Green Deal, RePowerEU and Europe's Digital Decade), precisely because these initiatives were innovation policies. It was technological innovation that would allow Europe to be a competitive continent for the next wave of innovation – the deep-tech wave.

She considered that this new agenda was intended not only for the EU's businesses and regions but also for its people – its youth and innovation community – to show them that the EU wanted not only to support them but also to encourage them to be bold and innovative.

She welcomed the fact that the Communication highlighted Europe's innovation

strengths, especially its scientific excellence, the quality of its research, its industrial fabric with essential components for developing deep tech, its engineering talent pool and lastly its Single Market, which allowed the EU to link up and leverage its regional innovation ecosystems.

Ms GABRIEL explained that, to boost these competitive advantages, the new European innovation agenda would revolve around five key initiatives.

The first initiative would improve access to financing for European start-ups and scale-ups, in particular by using untapped sources of private capital and through the benefits to be gained from simplifying financial market access rules.

The second initiative would allow offering opportunities for innovators to work in an isolated environment where they could test out their new ideas (i.e. sandboxes).

The third initiative would create one hundred deep-tech innovation valleys to connect innovators across Europe, especially in the regions lagging furthest behind.

The fourth initiative would forge careers in close cooperation with the European Institute of Innovation and Technology and train one million deep-tech talents over the next three years.

And, lastly, the fifth initiative would improve the regulatory framework to support innovation ecosystems, in particular through a better understanding of their needs and assistance for Member States.

In conclusion, Ms GABRIEL expressed her conviction that this new agenda would be able to help make Europe the future cradle of innovation. In this connection, she emphasised the need to incorporate specific initiatives promoting the role of women to fully exploit their research potential, and the importance of working inclusively, not only within the Commission but also with the Member States and with the EU's start-up community, universities and research centres.

In the course of the brief discussion that followed, the Commission raised the

following main points:

- innovation's vital contribution for bridging the gap that existed between different regions and for stimulating production;
- a reminder that the guidelines on managing European funds were being updated, which would help boost production and create jobs in Europe.
- the importance of equality between men and women in the area of innovation, and the fact that women were still largely under-represented in the European financial landscape and were therefore an under-used resource.

Following the presentation, the Commission approved the Communication in COM(2022) 332/3 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions and, for information, to the national parliaments.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.1. OUTCOME OF RECENT EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT MEETINGS

The PRESIDENT reported back to the College on the outcome of the most recent European and international summit meetings which she had attended, in particular the meeting of leaders of the EU and of the Western Balkan countries (on 23 June in Brussels), the European Council and the Euro summit (on 23 and 24 June in Brussels), the G7 summit (from 26 to 28 June at Schloss Elmau) and the NATO summit (from 28 to 30 June in Madrid).

She noted that two common subjects had been raised at these summits, namely (i) the unprecedented feeling of unity, not only within the EU and among its 27 Member States, but also among countries with similar values,

and (ii) the clear commitment of the leaders of those countries to support Ukraine for as long as necessary.

The main subject of discussion at the European Council had been the granting of candidate country status to Ukraine and Moldova and the European perspective of Georgia. At the meeting with the Western Balkan countries the issues raised included the obstacles that had to be overcome in order to launch an inter-governmental conference on negotiations for the accession of Albania and North Macedonia to the EU. She explained that the French Presidency of the Council had already put forward proposals on North Macedonia and decisions on these could be taken in the next few days. The meeting had also made it possible to address the situation in Montenegro and Serbia.

The PRESIDENT noted that the other major subject dealt with by the European Council, as well as at the G7 and NATO summits, had been the impact of sanctions on Russia: they had had a considerable effect on the country's public finances and its industrial base, including in terms of supplies of military equipment, which demonstrated that the EU had taken the right decisions and needed to stay on track by preventing any slippage.

As regards the Euro and G7 summits, she said that discussions had largely focused on the current economic situation and the difficulty in forecasting, given, in particular, rising energy prices and the looming food crisis and their corresponding impact on a certain number of basic prices. For these reasons, two primary objectives were emphasised, firstly stepping up implementation of the three pillars of the REPowerEU plan, namely the transition to clean energy, a reduction in energy spending and diversification of supply sources, and secondly the increased role for European coordination in the energy sector. She announced that the College would discuss an overarching EU emergency plan in the energy field at its meeting on 20 July.

As regards the NATO summit, the PRESIDENT welcomed Turkey's decision not to block the accession of the two new members – Sweden and Finland. She explained that the accession was part of a more general process of bolstering NATO's presence in the countries on its eastern flank, which was exactly the opposite of what Russia hoped to achieve through its aggression war on Ukraine.

The Commission took note of this information.

9.2. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION IN EUROPE

At the PRESIDENT's request, Ms KYRIAKIDES gave an update on the increasing number of cases of infection with the monkeypox virus and the resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As of 30 June, more than 3 300 confirmed cases of monkeypox had been reported in 25 countries within the EU and the European Economic Area (EEA).

The Commission services were monitoring the situation very closely, in close cooperation with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), the European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA), the World Health Organization (WHO) and, of course, the Member States.

On 25 June, the WHO's Emergency Committee had concluded that monkeypox did not constitute a public health emergency of international concern, the highest level of alert that the WHO could issue. The Committee had nevertheless recognised that there was cause for concern about the international spread of monkeypox. In particular, the WHO considered the risk of infection in Europe to be high; the Emergency Committee would therefore review its position shortly.

Ms KYRIAKIDES reported that on 14 June, HERA had purchased over 100 000 doses of monkeypox vaccine, which would be made available to the EU Member States, Norway and Iceland in response to the current outbreak. The first vaccines had been sent to Spain the previous month, followed by the first deliveries to Germany and Portugal that week.

As had been the case for COVID-19 vaccines, the Commission was acting with and on behalf of the Member States, and vaccines were to be shared out among them pro rata.

However, the main difference was that, for the first time, the Commission was purchasing these vaccines directly using the EU budget, with funds from the EU4Health programme – Ms KYRIAKIDES described this as a historic moment for the institution.

Furthermore, she emphasised the importance of taking full account of the global situation; HERA had also set aside a substantial number of vaccines (5 000 doses) to support low- and middle-income countries through the WHO.

HERA was also about to launch a joint procurement procedure for monkeypox antivirals; to date, 24 Member States had expressed an interest in this.

Ms KYRIAKIDES then turned to the development of the COVID-19 pandemic, noting that the overall rates of notification of cases remained high and had increased over the last three weeks in the EU and the EEA, rising by 34% compared to the previous week.

This development signalled the start of a widespread wave driven by the BA.4 and BA.5 variants of concern, which were the dominant variants in seven of the ten countries reporting adequate sequencing volumes.

The notification rates both for infections and for deaths were expected to increase, whilst the rate of hospital admissions was expected to remain stable in the coming weeks.

For this reason, the Commission was carefully monitoring this new wave of COVID-19. Although no Member States had re-imposed mandatory measures, several of them had issued recommendations for people who might be infected by the virus.

In this context, Ms KYRIAKIDES stressed the importance of Member States continuing to facilitate vaccination, whilst being ready to intervene if case numbers increased rapidly

At present, only limited data were available on vaccine effectiveness for the Omicron variants BA.4 and BA.5. However, following a meeting of the International Regulatory Committee the previous week, the United States' Food and Drug Administration (FDA) had asked the companies Pfizer and Moderna to manufacture new vaccines adapted to the BA.4 and BA.5 variants.

These adapted vaccines would be used only for booster doses, not for initial vaccinations. It was likely that the FDA would authorise these vaccines for emergency use, i.e. without clinical trials. She pointed out that, within the EU, the advance purchase agreements guaranteed access to adapted vaccines only after they had been authorised. Thus far, Pfizer and Moderna had been developing and had already started producing a vaccine based on the BA.1 variant; these vaccines could be distributed to Member States from September.

Discussions were taking place with the Member States, the ECDC and the European Medicines Agency (EMA) in the light of the most recent developments. The first recommendations for a vaccination strategy for the autumn were expected to be published by the ECDC in a few weeks, in

(5 July 2022)

particular for vulnerable people and people over 60 years of age, and an overall vaccination strategy was to be prepared for the autumn on the basis of the vaccines available.

Ms KYRIAKIDES also emphasised the fundamental importance of implementing a vaccination strategy at EU level, in order to avoid a fragmented approach in which each Member State implemented its own vaccination strategy with disastrous effects on the functioning of the internal market and solidarity between Member States.

The PRESIDENT concluded the discussion by reminding the meeting of the considerable progress represented by the joint purchase of vaccines, begun under the COVID-19 pandemic and now to be used to combat the monkeypox epidemic – this would have been unimaginable only a few years previously.

It was important for the Commission to develop its own communication, distinct from that of the ECDC, on this new wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, with a particular emphasis on the ongoing work to develop new adapted vaccines. Moreover, she recommended that the Commission and the EU agencies continue to work closely with the US FDA, which was recommending simplified authorisation procedures in so far as new vaccines would use a technology already validated for the previous variants.

Finally, she considered it essential that decisions be taken as early as possible so that they could be implemented from the autumn and supported by appropriate communication campaigns.

The Commission took note of this information.

*

* *

The meeting closed at 14.03.