



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

**PV(2023) 2446 final**

*- English translation of the French version which is authentic -*

Brussels, 22 March 2023

# TEXTE EN

## MINUTES

**of the 2446<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Commission**

**held in Strasbourg**

**(Winston Churchill building)**

**on Tuesday 14 February 2023**

**(afternoon)**

—

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**Single sitting: Tuesday 14 February 2023 (afternoon)**

The sitting opened at 13.05 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 |
| Ms JOUROVÁ       | Vice-President           |
| Ms ŠUICA         | Vice-President           |
| Mr SCHINAS       | Vice-President           |
| Mr HAHN          | Member                   |
| Ms GABRIEL       | Member                   |
| Mr WOJCIECHOWSKI | Member                   |
| Mr BRETON        | Member                   |
| Ms FERREIRA      | Member                   |
| Mr REYNDERS      | Member                   |
| Mr LENARČIČ      | Member                   |
| Ms VÁLEAN        | Member                   |
| Mr VÁRHELYI      | Member                   |
| Ms SIMSON        | Member                   |
| Mr SINKEVIČIUS   | Member                   |

**Absent:**

|                           |                                         |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Mr DOMBROVSKIS            | Executive Vice-President                |
| Mr BORRELL<br>i FONTELLES | High Representative /<br>Vice-President |
| Mr ŠEFČOVIČ               | Vice-President                          |
| Mr SCHMIT                 | Member                                  |
| Mr GENTILONI              | Member                                  |

|               |        |
|---------------|--------|
| Ms KYRIAKIDES | Member |
| Ms DALLI      | Member |
| Ms JOHANSSON  | Member |
| Ms URPILAINEN | Member |
| Ms McGUINNESS | Member |

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

|               |                                            |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Ms LOTSON     | Policy coordinator in Mr BORRELL's cabinet |
| Mr ASTERIADI  | Deputy Head of Cabinet to Mr ŠEFČOVIČ      |
| Ms BERTULESSI | Deputy Head of Cabinet to Mr SCHMIT        |
| Mr PIANTINI   | Expert in Mr GENTILONI's cabinet           |
| Mr ROSSIDES   | Head of Cabinet to Ms KYRIAKIDES           |
| Mr VELLA      | Head of Cabinet to Ms DALLI                |
| Ms VIRTANEN   | Member of Ms URPILAINEN's cabinet          |

The following also sat in:

|                      |                                                                        |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mr CALLEJA CRESPO    | Director-General, Legal Service                                        |
| Ms AHRENKILDE HANSEN | Director-General, DG Communication                                     |
| Ms PETKOVA           | Director of Coordination and Administration in the PRESIDENT's cabinet |
| Mr VAN KEMSEKE       | Adviser in the PRESIDENT's cabinet                                     |
| Ms SPINANT           | Deputy Chief Spokesperson of the Commission                            |
| Mr VALERO            | Secretariat-General                                                    |

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

**1. AGENDAS**

**(OJ(2023) 2446/FINAL; SEC(2023) 2446/FINAL)**

The Commission took note of that day's agenda and of the tentative agendas for forthcoming meetings.

**2. WEEKLY MEETING OF HEADS OF CABINET**

**(RCC(2023) 2446)**

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Heads of Cabinet held on Monday 13 February 2023.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**(PV(2022) 2439; PV(2022) 2439, 2<sup>ND</sup> PART; PV(2022) 2440; PV(2022) 2440, 2<sup>ND</sup> PART; PV(2022) 2441; PV(2022) 2441, 2<sup>ND</sup> PART; PV(2023) 2442; PV(2023) 2443)**

The Commission approved the minutes of its 2439<sup>th</sup>, 2440<sup>th</sup>, 2441<sup>st</sup>, 2442<sup>nd</sup> and 2443<sup>rd</sup> meetings of 30 November, 7 and 13 December 2022, and 17 and 25 January 2023, and held over approval of the minutes of its 2444<sup>th</sup> and 2445<sup>th</sup> meetings of 1 and 8 February 2023 for a later date.

**4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS**

**(RCC(2023) 64)**

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (IRG) held by videoconference on Friday 10 February 2023 (RCC(2023) 64).

The Commission approved the lines proposed for the following points:

- **‘Fit for 55’ – Use of renewable and low-carbon fuels in maritime transport and amendment of Directive 2009/16/EC (Regulation) – WARBORN report – 2021/0210 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2023) 25.

- **European Year of Skills 2023 (Decision) – FOURLAS report – 2022/0326 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2023) 26.

The Commission approved the line proposed for the following point, for transmission to the European Parliament:

- **Commission replies to the non-legislative resolutions adopted by the European Parliament at its November II 2022 and December 2022 part-sessions**

Line set out in SP(2023) 79/4.

The Commission took note of the following points:

- **Amendment of Regulation (EU) 2021/241 as regards REPowerEU chapters in recovery and resilience plans and amendment of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, Regulation (EU) 2021/2115, Directive 2003/87/EC and Decision (EU) 2015/1814 (Regulation) – MUREŞAN, GARDIAZABAL RUBIAL & PÎSLARU report – 2022/0164 (COD)**

Compromise text in SP(2023) 60, further to note SI(2022) 515 already approved by the Commission on 21 December 2022 by written procedure.

- **Amendment of Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe, as regards the Chips Joint Undertaking (Council Regulation) – MAYDELL report – 2022/0033 (NLE)**

Information set out in SP(2023) 67.

- **Data collection and sharing relating to short-term accommodation rental services and amendment of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 (Regulation) – VAN SPARRENTAK report – 2022/0358 (COD)**

Information set out in SI(2023) 29.

- **Results of the Extraordinary Plenary Session of the European Parliament of 9 February 2023**

Information set out in SP(2023) 87.

## **5. COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL ACTION (RCC(2023) 10)**

The Commission took note of the operational conclusions in RCC(2023) 10 of the meeting of the Group for External Coordination (EXCO) held on Wednesday 8 February 2023.

## **6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS**

### **6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED (SEC(2023) 85 ET SEQ.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 6 and 12 February 2023.

**6.2. EMPOWERMENT**

**(SEC(2023) 86 ET SEQ.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 6 and 12 February 2023.

**6.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS**

**(SEC(2023) 87 ET SEQ.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedures between 6 and 12 February 2023 archived in Decide.

**6.4. SIGNIFICANT WRITTEN PROCEDURES**

**(SEC(2023) 88 AND /2)**

The Commission took note of the significant written procedures for which the time limit expired between 13 and 17 February 2023 and of a finalisation written procedure.

**7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS**

**(SEC(2023) 89 AND /2)**

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**(PERS(2023) 18 AND /2)**

**7.1. DG EUROPEAN CIVIL PROTECTION AND HUMANITARIAN AID  
OPERATIONS – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR-GENERAL AT  
GRADE AD15/16**

**(PERS(2021) 112 TO /4)**

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Director-General of DG European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (PERS(2021) 112 and /2).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 10 and 23 February 2023 (PERS(2021) 112/3 and /4).

The Commission proceeded to compare the applicants' qualifications for the post. On a proposal from Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Mr LENARČIČ, it then decided to appoint Mr Maciej POPOWSKI to the post.

This decision would take effect on 1 March 2023.

**7.2. DG BUDGET – AUTHORISATION OF THE INTERNAL AND INTERINSTITUTIONAL PUBLICATION, AT GRADE AD14/15, AND EXTERNAL PUBLICATION, AT GRADE AD14, OF A DIRECTOR POST (PERS(2023) 19)**

On a proposal from Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, the Commission decided to authorise the internal and interinstitutional publication, at grade AD14/15, and external publication, at grade AD14, of the vacancy notice set out in PERS(2023) 19 for the post of Director of the 'Expenditure' Directorate in DG Budget, in accordance with Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii), Article 29(1)(b) and Article 29(2) of the Staff Regulations.

This decision would take effect immediately.

**7.3. DG BUDG – CHANGE IN THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF A DECISION TO APPOINT A DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

On a proposal from Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, the Commission decided, for service-related reasons, to change the effective date

of its decision of 1 February 2023 (PV(2023) 2444) regarding the appointment of Ms Stéphanie RISO to the post of Director-General of DG Budget, changing the date in question to 1 March 2023.

This decision would take effect immediately.

**7.4. RISK MANAGEMENT EXERCISE FOR 2023**  
(SEC(2023) 39)

The Commission took note of the information in SEC(2023) 39.

**8. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING REGULATION (EU) 2019/1242 AS REGARDS STRENGTHENING THE CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSION PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR NEW HEAVY-DUTY VEHICLES AND INTEGRATING REPORTING OBLIGATIONS, AND REPEALING REGULATION (EU) 2018/956**  
(COM(2023) 88 TO /3; SWD(2023) 88; SWD(2023) 89; SEC(2023) 100; RCC(2023) 66)

The PRESIDENT asked Mr TIMMERMANS to present the proposal for a Regulation on strengthening the CO<sub>2</sub> emission performance standards for new heavy-duty vehicles.

Mr TIMMERMANS began by welcoming the European Parliament's approval that day of the new CO<sub>2</sub> reduction targets for new cars and light commercial vehicles as part of the 'Fit for 55' legislative package. The agreement was historic and would bring clarity to the Member States and to European industry.

With regard to the proposal for a Regulation presented for adoption that day, he pointed out that trucks and buses accounted for over one-quarter of road transport emissions and 6% of total greenhouse gas emissions in Europe. The Commission

was therefore proposing to cut emissions from new heavy-duty vehicles by 45% from 2030, 65% from 2035 and 90% from 2040, compared to 2019 levels. All new city buses would have to be zero-emission by 2030. This strengthening of emission standards would ensure that this segment of the road transport sector contributed to the shift to zero-emission mobility and the EU's climate and zero pollution objectives.

Beyond the climate ambition of the initiative, Mr TIMMERMANS pointed out that its broad scope would contribute to the reduction in air pollution, thus improving the air quality and health of European citizens. The proposed measures would also speed up the energy transition, reducing demand for imported fossil fuels and improving energy efficiency in the European transport sector.

The complexity of the proposal should however be underlined, given the extent of the climate challenge and the impact on EU competitiveness. He considered that the proposed measures would provide opportunities for the European clean technology industry and boost the EU's international competitiveness by establishing a common legal framework and sending a clear signal to investors that they should prioritise innovative zero-emission technologies in the long term.

Mr TIMMERMANS stated that the EU was a market leader in the manufacture of trucks and buses, and he highlighted the example of the rapid development of electric buses in Poland. Many national Recovery and Resilience Plans covered the purchase of clean buses and measures to boost the development of recharging and refuelling infrastructure. In addition to the electrification of vehicles, hydrogen engines and fuel cells could also prove to be useful for heavy-duty vehicles, for instance in particularly cold conditions and mountainous areas.

He stressed that it was important to continue with very ambitious environmental plans, even when the situation was less favourable. The compromise reached on a 90% emission reduction by 2040 was a good start given the existing constraints, but in the long term it would be necessary to move closer to the 100% target for new

zero-emission heavy-duty vehicles in order to achieve climate neutrality by 2050 in line with EU climate legislation.

Mr TIMMERMANS ended by saying that the measures proposed would make it possible to forge ahead with the implementation of the European Green Deal. Combating the climate crisis, improving the quality of life of European citizens and boosting the EU's industrial competitiveness all went hand in hand.

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

- general support for the proposal, which was regarded as balanced;
- the need to start now on practical steps to implement the ambitious targets set, in particular by underpinning the development of the necessary recharging and refuelling infrastructure, as well as reskilling of workers;
- the opportunity this transition represented for European industry, and the welcome clarity that legislation would bring to businesses;
- the importance, however, of proving to industry that electrification and the transition to hydrogen could be profitable, and of safeguarding European manufacturing in order to avoid having to rely on third countries such as China for the equipment needed for this transition;
- the significant difference between the booming market for electric cars and the production of only a few thousand low- and zero-emission trucks each year;
- the need to engage all stakeholders from the European automotive industry ecosystem and, in this connection, the work undertaken through the Route 35 platform, which was promoting exactly that kind of holistic approach;
- the costs of the proposal for small and medium-sized enterprises, which would be in the front line, and the importance therefore of applying the SME test to

evaluate the legislation's possible impact on the businesses likely to be affected and to mitigate that impact where possible;

- territorial impact assessments and rural proofing, which had to be strengthened, so that the needs and specificities of different EU territories were better taken into account;
- in this context, a call for the review clause to not only focus on the results obtained as a whole, but also to take account of the different circumstances within the EU;
- the need to take into account consumers and users of public transport, particularly in certain regions of Europe already lacking transport;
- the observation that the situation was different for short-distance transport in urban areas and long-distance goods transport in mountainous or less central regions, which did not necessarily have the required infrastructure;
- the contrast also between urban buses, which were already being electrified, and long-distance coaches, for which there was still no production at present and where significant progress was therefore needed before the set targets could be achieved;
- a reminder that these transformations would incur costs that would have to be borne at some level, and the observation that, although the hope was to actually lower prices in the longer term, the trend observed over the past few years was quite different.

In response to the various points raised, the PRESIDENT stressed the scale of the transition necessitated by the fight against climate change, which called for the boosting of both supply and demand and, at the same time, the development of the necessary technology and infrastructure. She nevertheless emphasised the vital need for these changes and pointed out that other industrialised countries were also

making inroads in this area.

In this respect, she highlighted the importance of a competitiveness-based approach and the need to consider how to deal with the awarding of massive grants, market access restrictions and the management of intellectual property rights by certain third countries, such as China.

For his part, Mr TIMMERMANS noted that the industry's concerns were focused less on the manufacturers themselves and more on the small transport operators who would have to buy heavy-duty vehicles producing low or no emissions, which were a lot more expensive at present.

Ultimately, however, the total cost of owning these vehicles would be more advantageous for operators particularly through reduced fuel costs, especially if production costs followed the trajectory set by electric vehicles. He asked that all the tools available to the EU be used to help the small businesses concerned manage this transition.

Lastly, Mr TIMMERMANS pointed out that long-distance coaches and rural transport were subject to the same arrangements as lorries, i.e. a 90% reduction in emissions by 2040, and not the requirements laid down for urban buses.

Following these presentations, the Commission adopted the proposal for a Regulation in COM(2023) 88/3, for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the national parliaments, together with the staff working documents and the opinion of the Regulatory Scrutiny Board in SWD(2023) 88, SWD(2023) 89 and SEC(2023) 100, the contents of which were noted.

## 9. OTHER BUSINESS

### ***ORIENTATION DEBATE OF THE COLLEGE (22 FEBRUARY 2023)***

The PRESIDENT informed the Commissioners that their meeting on 22 February would be given over to an orientation debate on the EU's competitiveness. Mr Fatih BIROL, the Executive Director of the International Energy Agency, would be invited to speak at the debate, given the considerable impact of energy prices on the general economic situation.

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 13.37.