



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2024) 2478 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

Brussels, 14 February 2024

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

of the 2478th meeting of the Commission

held in Brussels

(Berlaymont)

on Wednesday 10 January 2024

(morning)

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PV(2024) 2478 final

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Single sitting: Wednesday 10 January 2024 (morning)

The sitting opened at 10.00 with Ms von der LEYEN, President, in the chair.

Present:

Ms von der LEYEN	President	
Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Executive Vice-President	
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Executive Vice-President	
Ms JOUROVÁ	Vice-President	
Ms ŠUICA	Vice-President	
Mr SCHINAS	Vice-President	
Mr SCHMIT	Member	
Mr GENTILONI	Member	
Mr WOJCIECHOWSKI	Member	
Mr BRETON	Member	
Ms FERREIRA	Member	
Mr REYNDERS	Member	
Ms DALLI	Member	
Mr LENARČIČ	Member	
Ms VÁLEAN	Member	Items 8 and 9
Mr VÁRHELYI	Member	
Ms SIMSON	Member	
Mr SINKEVIČIUS	Member	
Ms McGUINNESS	Member	
Ms IVANOVA	Member	
Mr HOEKSTRA	Member	

Absent:

Ms VESTAGER	Executive Vice-President
Mr BORRELL i FONTELLES	High Representative / Vice-President
Mr HAHN	Member
Ms KYRIAKIDES	Member
Ms JOHANSSON	Member
Ms URPILAINEN	Member

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

Ms CANENBLEY	Deputy Head of Cabinet to Ms VESTAGER
Mr MULLER	Head of Cabinet to Mr HAHN
Mr ROSSIDES	Head of Cabinet to Ms KYRIAKIDES
Ms WEBBER	Head of Cabinet to Ms JOHANSSON

The following also sat in:

Mr SEIBERT	Head of Cabinet to the PRESIDENT
Mr CALLEJA CRESPO	Director-General, Legal Service
Mr MAMER	Head of the Spokesperson's Service and Chief Spokesperson of the Commission
Ms PODESTA	Deputy Chief Spokesperson of the Commission
Ms PETKOVA	Director of Coordination and Administration in the PRESIDENT's cabinet
Ms REICHSTEIN	Policy Coordinator in the PRESIDENT's cabinet
Ms ALLOUIS-LE LOSTEC	Head of Unit in the Secretariat-General
Mr CHARLES	Secretariat-General

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

The PRESIDENT opened the meeting by asking those present to hold a minute's silence in tribute to Mr Jacques DELORS, a visionary leader who had worked tirelessly to further the European project. Serving as President of the European Commission from 1985 to 1995, he had led the continent through periods of upheaval, notably those linked to the collapse of the Soviet Union and conflicts in the Balkans. The hallmarks of his time as President of the European Commission were a profound commitment to freedom, social justice and solidarity, values that were now firmly rooted in our Union. His democratic ideals had driven him to promote European enlargement, making Europe stronger and more united.

Mr DELORS's commitment to what was now called the social market economy had given rise to the single market, the euro and the Schengen agreements, promoting both economic prosperity and social cohesion. He had sought to strengthen the social pillar and this legacy lived on, two notable examples being the current Commission's launch of the SURE instrument and NextGenerationEU. His passion for education and lifelong learning had led to the creation of the flagship Erasmus programme, which had been of benefit to millions of European citizens. Moreover, he had paved the way for gender equality within the College by welcoming the first woman Commissioner, a major step forward at the time and now the norm in the Commission.

In conclusion, the PRESIDENT said that Mr DELORS's legacy was testament to his leadership, enlightened views and unwavering dedication to democracy, social justice and European unity. His memory is honoured by continuing the fight for a more united, more prosperous and fairer Europe.

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1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2024) 2478/FINAL; SEC(2024) 2478/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(2024) 2478)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Heads of Cabinet held on Monday 8 January 2024.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

(PV(2024) 2474; PV(2024) 2474, PART II)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 2474th meeting of 21 November 2023 and decided to hold over approval of the minutes of its 2475th, 2476th and 2477th meetings of 29 November and 6 and 12 December 2023 until a later meeting.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(RCC(2024) 1)

The Commission took note of the outcome of the written exchange concerning the GRI files for the week of 1 to 5 January (RCC(2024) 1).

The Commission approved the lines proposed for the following points:

- **Asset recovery and confiscation (Directive) – VINCZE report – 2022/0167 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2024) 1.

- **Amendment of Regulation (EU) 2016/399 on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Regulation) – GUILLAUME report – 2021/0428 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2024) 2/2.

- **Transparency and integrity of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) rating activities (Regulation) – LALUCQ report – 2023/0177 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2024) 3/2.

- **Amendment of Regulations (EU) 2019/943 and (EU) 2019/942 as well as Directives (EU) 2018/2001 and (EU) 2019/944 to improve the Union's electricity market design (Regulation) – GONZÁLEZ CASARES report – 2023/0077 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2024) 4/2.

- **Laying down of rules on a debt-equity bias reduction allowance and on limiting the deductibility of interest for corporate income tax purposes (Council Directive) – NIEDERMAYER report – 2022/0154 (CNS)**

Line set out in SP(2024) 1.

- **Draft Council Decision on the full application of the provisions of the Schengen acquis in the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania**

Line set out in SI(2023) 596.

- **Establishment of the Authority for Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism and amendment of Regulations (EU) N° 1093/2010, (EU) N° 1094/2010, (EU) N° 1095/2010 (Regulation) – RADEV report – 2021/0240 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2024) 6.

The Commission took note of the following points:

– **Gas emissions:**

- **Substances that deplete the ozone layer and repeal of Regulation (EC) N° 1005/2009 – POLFJÄRD report – 2022/0100 (COD)**
- **Fluorinated greenhouse gases: Amendment of Directive (EU) 2019/1937 and repeal of Regulation (EU) N° 517/2014 (Regulation) – EICKHOUT report – 2022/0099 (COD)**

Compromise texts in SP(2024) 2 and SP(2024) 3, further to notes SI(2023) 382 and SI(2023) 388, already approved by the Commission on 17 October 2023.

- **Amendment of Directives 2005/29/EC and 2011/83/EU as regards empowering consumers for the green transition through better protection against unfair practices and better information (Directive) – BORZAN report – 2022/0092 (COD)**

Compromise text in SP(2024) 4, further to note SI(2023) 355 already approved by the Commission on 3 October 2023.

– **Capital Markets Union package:**

- **Amendment of Regulation (EU) N° 600/2014 as regards enhancing market data transparency, removing obstacles to the emergence of a consolidated tape, optimising the trading obligations and prohibiting receiving payments for forwarding client orders (Regulation) – HÜBNER report – 2021/0385 (COD)**
- **Amendment of Directive 2014/65/EU on markets in financial instruments (Directive) – HÜBNER report – 2021/0384 (COD)**

Compromise texts in SP(2024) 5 and SP(2024) 6, further to note SI(2023) 295, already approved by the Commission on 11 July 2023.

**5. COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL ACTION
(RCC(2024) 3)**

The Commission took note of the operational conclusions in RCC(2024) 3 of the meeting of the Group for External Coordination (EXCO) held on Wednesday 13 December 2023.

6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

**6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED
(SEC(2023) 421 ET SEQ.; SEC(2024) 1 ET SEQ.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 11 December 2023 and 7 January 2024.

**6.2. EMPOWERMENT
(SEC(2023) 422 ET SEQ.; SEC(2024) 2 ET SEQ.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 11 December 2023 and 7 January 2024.

**6.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS
(SEC(2023) 423 ET SEQ.; SEC(2024) 3 ET SEQ.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedures between 11 December 2023 and 7 January 2024 archived in Decide.

6.4. SIGNIFICANT WRITTEN PROCEDURES

(SEC(2024) 4 AND /2)

The Commission took note of the significant written procedures for which the time limit expired between 8 and 12 January 2024.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

(SEC(2024) 5)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

(PERS(2024) 1)

**7.1. DG ENVIRONMENT – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR AT GRADE
AD14/15**

(PERS(2024) 2 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 ‘General Affairs, Knowledge and Resources’ Directorate in DG Environment (PERS(2024) 2).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 8 and 9 November 2023 (PERS(2024) 2/2 and /3).

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 SINKEVIČIUS, it then decided to appoint Ms Claudia FUSCO to the post.

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

**7.2. DG MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES – APPOINTMENT OF A
DIRECTOR AT GRADE AD14/15**

(PERS(2024) 3 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 ‘Fisheries Policy - Mediterranean and Black Sea’ Directorate in DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (PERS(2024) 2).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 27 September and 16 November 2023 (PERS(2024) 3/2 and /3).

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 SINKEVIČIUS, it then decided to appoint Mr Stylianos MITOLIDIS to the post.

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

**7.3. DG RESEARCH AND INNOVATION – ADOPTION OF A LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR THE POST OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CLEAN HYDROGEN JOINT UNDERTAKING (CBE JU), AT GRADE AD14
(PERS(2024) 4 TO /3)**

On a proposal from Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Ms IVANOVA, the Commission decided:

- to approve the list of three candidates, presented in alphabetical order, set out in point 3 of PERS(2024) 4, for the post of Executive Director of the Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (CBE JU) in Brussels and to consider this list as the Commission proposal;
- to ask the Member of the Commission responsible, Ms IVANOVA, to communicate this decision to the Governing Board of the Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (CBE JU).

These decisions would take effect immediately.

7.4. DG SANTE – ADOPTION OF A LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL (ECDC), AT GRADE AD14 (PERS(2024) 5 TO /3)

On a proposal from Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Ms KYRIAKIDES, the Commission decided:

- to approve the list of two candidates, presented in alphabetical order, set out in point 4 of PERS(2024) 5, for the post of Director of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) in Stockholm and to consider this list as the Commission proposal;
- to ask the Member of the Commission responsible, Ms KYRIAKIDES, to communicate this decision to the Management Board of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).

These decisions would take effect immediately.

7.5. DECISION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION AMENDING COMMUNICATION FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION P(2019) 5 AS REGARDS I.D.E.A. – INSPIRE, DEBATE, ENGAGE AND ACCELERATE ACTION (P(2024) 1)

The Commission took note of the Decision of the PRESIDENT set out in P(2024) 1.

8. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF

**THE REGIONS ON THE EUROPEAN YEAR OF YOUTH 2022
(COM(2024) 1 AND /2; SWD(2024) 1 AND /2; RCC(2023) 206)**

Mr SCHINAS introduced that day's Communication, thanking Ms IVANOVA for the quality of the follow-up to the 2022 European Year of Youth and the other Members of the College for their involvement in the numerous events organised and their contributions to youth actions.

He felt that the Communication represented an excellent opportunity to encourage more young people to participate in the next European elections. Among the various age groups, young people were the most supportive of the European project, which provided them with tangible benefits, for example in terms of mobility and studies.

Mr SCHINAS then briefly presented the Communication, which described the successes of the European Year of Youth 2022 and proposed ways to give young people a stronger voice in the European decision-making process and better integrate their concerns into European policies. The different pathways focused on five areas that lent themselves to greater involvement of young Europeans and that were close to their hearts: health and well-being, climate and environment, education and learning, international cooperation and European values, and employment and inclusion.

Ms IVANOVA said that, with this Communication, the Commission was demonstrating its commitment to giving young people a greater say in EU policy-making. It was through concrete actions that the Commission aimed to ensure the participation of young people in the democratic process, thus responding to the wishes expressed by young people during the European Year of Youth 2022 as well as to the call made by the European Parliament and European youth organisations.

She stressed that the achievements of the European Year of Youth were the result of mobilisation at all levels and noted that the figures were very telling in this regard, with more than 13 000 activities proposed and more than 2 700 stakeholders involved in their organisation across the EU and even beyond. She added that the

Commission had identified more than 130 policy initiatives for young people in the context of the European Year, many of which had been developed in close cooperation with young people.

Based on the experiences acquired during the European Year, actions were being proposed that aimed to ensure that young people had a say in decisions that affected them and that their views were mainstreamed in all relevant policy areas.

Ms IVANOVA noted in this context that it was proposed to make full use of the potential of the current better regulation framework. In particular, when developing EU policies, the Commission would perform a ‘youth check’ of all relevant new initiatives in its annual work programme to ensure that the impact of these policies on young people was systematically taken into account. All better regulation tools would be used in this context, from public consultation to impact assessment.

She added that further actions would be carried out in the five areas, mentioned by Mr SCHINAS, which were of vital importance for young people. By way of example, she mentioned the organisation of regular dialogues between the Members of the College and young European citizens, as well as round tables linked to the Commission’s work programme. The accessibility of the European Youth Portal would be improved, and the new Youth Stakeholder Platform would serve as a permanent forum for dialogue between the Commission and youth organisations, youth researchers, representatives of Member States and other EU institutions. The Commission would also strengthen the EU Youth Dialogue, the largest youth participation mechanism in Europe, by aligning its focus more closely with the Commission’s work programme. Finally, an EU Youth Coordinator would be appointed in each of the Commission’s departments to enhance cross-sectoral cooperation and improve knowledge exchange.

In conclusion, Ms IVANOVA invited all Members of the College to get involved in the dialogue with young people. She highlighted the crucial importance of young people in the upcoming European elections. She also reminded the College that the

European Youth Week would take place in April 2024 and noted that, beyond the planned activities, existing actions would need to be continued and developed, in particular the reinforced Youth Guarantee.

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

- the College’s full support for the proposed Communication, and the opportunity it represented to mobilise young citizens, particularly in the coming year, which was marked by important elections in Europe and beyond;
- the high level of youth participation in the Conference on the Future of Europe;
- the call made in this context to reduce the voting age to 16, a measure already implemented in several Member States;
- the alignment of the Communication with the principles promoted by Mr DELORS, highlighting the crucial role of education and lifelong learning;
- the need for a change in the way society perceived ageing in order to highlight the positive aspects of longevity and healthy ageing, a process that should begin at an early age, in particular by taking advantage of the European guarantees for children and young people;
- the collective responsibility of the College for the effective implementation of the ‘youth check’ in all Commission policies;
- the importance of financial education and the acquisition of financial skills, given the significant impact of financial issues on young people, society as a whole and areas of particular interest to young people, such as physical and mental health;
- the focus on the crucial issue of youth employment, in particular through the Youth Employment Guarantee Scheme and the Youth Guarantee;

- the need to understand the aspirations and challenges of generation ‘Z’, in particular with regard to work-life balance, the difficulty of finding decent and affordable housing in some cities, and the prevalence of precarious employment among young people;
- in this context, the positive signal sent by the Commission with its efforts to promote quality traineeships, in line with young people’s expectations and needs.

Following these presentations, the Commission approved the Communication in COM(2024) 1/2 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, together with the staff working document distributed as SWD(2024) 206, the contents of which were noted.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

COLLEGE SEMINAR (12 JANUARY 2024)

The PRESIDENT informed the Members of the College of the two main topics that would be discussed at the seminar to be held on 12 January: (i) European competitiveness in a global context, based on a contribution from Mr Mario DRAGHI, and (ii) the reduction of the administrative burden.

On this second topic, she reminded the College of the political commitment made by the Commission in March 2023 to reduce by 25% the current reporting obligations at European level faced by businesses operating in the single market. She acknowledged the complexity of this process at administrative level, but stressed its importance and the need for the Commission to lead the way for a similar exercise at Member State level. Finally, she asked the Members of the College to prepare concrete proposals, within their respective spheres of competence, which could be discussed at the seminar.

The Commission took note of this information.

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The meeting closed at 10.29.