



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2024) 2484 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

Brussels, 10 April 2024

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

**of the 2484th meeting of the Commission
held in Strasbourg
(Winston Churchill building)
on Tuesday 27 February 2024
(afternoon)**

PV(2024) 2484 final

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Single sitting: Tuesday 27 February 2024 (afternoon)

The sitting opened at 13.04 with Ms von der LEYEN, President, in the chair.

Present:

Ms von der LEYEN	President	
Ms VESTAGER	Executive Vice-President	
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Executive Vice-President	
Ms JOUROVÁ	Vice-President	
Ms ŠUICA	Vice-President	
Mr SCHINAS	Vice-President	
Mr HAHN	Member	
Mr SCHMIT	Member	
Ms KYRIAKIDES	Member	
Mr REYNDERS	Member	
Ms JOHANSSON	Member	
Mr LENARČIČ	Member	Items 1 to 9.3 (in part)
Ms URPILAINEN	Member	
Ms SIMSON	Member	
Mr SINKEVIČIUS	Member	
Ms McGUINNESS	Member	Items 1 to 9.1 (in part)
Mr HOEKSTRA	Member	

Absent:

Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Executive Vice-President
Mr BORRELL i FONTELLES	High Representative/ Vice-President
Mr GENTILONI	Member
Mr WOJCIECHOWSKI	Member
Mr BRETON	Member
Ms FERREIRA	Member

Ms DALLI	Member
Ms VĂLEAN	Member
Mr VÁRHELYI	Member
Ms IVANOVA	Member

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

Ms LOTSON LÓPEZ	Policy coordinator in Mr BORRELL's cabinet
Mr BURCKHARDT	Member of Mr GENTILONI's cabinet
Mr BERUTTI	Member of Mr WOJCIECHOWSKI's cabinet
Mr KERR	Member of Ms DALLI's cabinet
Ms LUKANIUK	Member of Ms VĂLEAN's cabinet
Ms PETSCH	Member of Mr VÁRHELYI's cabinet
Ms ALEXANDROVA	Deputy Head of Cabinet to Ms IVANOVA

The following also sat in:

Mr SEIBERT	Head of Cabinet to the PRESIDENT
Mr CALLEJA CRESPO	Director-General, Legal Service
Ms SPINANT	Director-General, DG Communication
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 SEMLALI	Policy Assistant 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.

1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2024) 2484/FINAL; SEC(2024) 2484/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) 2484)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Heads of Cabinet held on Monday 26 February 2024.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Commission held over approval of the minutes of its 2479th, 2480th, 2481st, 2482nd and 2483rd meetings of 24 and 31 January 2024 and 6, 14 and 21 February 2024 for a later date.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(RCC(2024) 72)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (GRI) held on Friday 23 February 2024 (RCC(2024) 72).

The Commission approved the lines proposed for the following points:

- **Amendment of Directive 2009/18/EC establishing the fundamental principles governing the investigation of accidents in the maritime transport sector (Directive) – NAGTEGAAL report – 2023/0164 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2024) 137.

- **Amendment of Directive 2005/35/EC on ship-source pollution and on the introduction of penalties, including criminal penalties, for pollution offences (Directive) – MARINESCU report – 2023/0171 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2024) 138.

- **Amendment of Directive 2009/16/EC on port State control (Directive) – TAX report – 2023/0165 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2024) 110.

- **Amendment of Directive 2009/21/EC on compliance with flag State requirements (Directive) – TAX report – 2023/0172 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2024) 127.

- **Amendment of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards multiannual survey programmes, notifications concerning the presence of regulated non-quarantine pests, temporary derogations from import prohibitions and special import requirements and establishment of procedures for granting them, temporary import requirements for high-risk plants, plant products and other objects, the establishment of procedures for the listing of high-risk plants, the content of phytosanitary certificates, the use of plant passports and as regards certain reporting requirements for demarcated areas and surveys of pests (Regulation) – AGUILERA report – 2023/0378 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2024) 128.

- **Packaging and packaging waste, amendment of Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 and Directive (EU) 2019/904, and repeal of Directive 94/62/EC (Regulation) – RIES report – 2022/0396 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2024) 129.

- **Collection and transfer of advance passenger information (API) for enhancing and facilitating external border controls, amendment of Regulation (EU) 2019/817 and Regulation (EU) 2018/1726, and repeal of Council Directive 2004/82/EC (Regulation) – OETJEN report – 2022/0424 (COD) / Collection and transfer of advance passenger information for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of terrorist offences and serious crimes, and amendment of Regulation (EU) 2019/818 (Regulation) – KANKO report – 2022/0425 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2024) 130.

- **Prohibition of products made with forced labour on the Union market (Regulation) – LEITÃO-MARQUES & RAFAELA report – 2022/0269 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2024) 131/3.

- **Extension of Directive [XXXX] to third country nationals legally residing in a Member State (Directive) – MANDERS & KUHNKE report – 2023/0393 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2024) 135.

- **Faster and safer relief of excess withholding taxes (Council Directive) – DORFMANN report – 2023/0187 (CNS)**

Line set out in SP(2024) 118/2.

- **Implementation of the Single European Sky (Regulation – recast) – MARINESCU report – 2013/0186 (COD) / Amendment of Regulation (EU) 2018/1139 as regards the capacity of the European Union Aviation**

Safety Agency to act as performance review body of the Single European Sky (Regulation) – LIBERADZKI report – 2020/0264 (COD)

Line set out in SI(2024) 126.

- **Amendment of Regulation (EU) 2019/1242 as regards strengthening the CO₂ emission performance standards for new heavy-duty vehicles and integrating reporting obligations, and repeal of Regulation (EU) 2018/956 (Regulation) – JADOT report – 2023/0042 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2024) 134.

- **Temporary trade-liberalisation measures supplementing trade concessions applicable to Ukrainian products under the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Ukraine, of the other part (Regulation) – 2024/0028 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2024) 142/2.

- **Ghent Declaration on the challenges and common actions for European Public Administrations**

Line set out in SI(2024) 139.

- **Major interpellation G-001002/2023 – Ongoing migration crisis**

Line set out in SP(2024) 140.

- **Resolution of the European Parliament under Article 225 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) – Digitalisation and administrative law – MELCHIOR report – 2021/2161 (INL)**

Line set out in SP(2024) 92.

- **Establishing the Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans (Regulation) – RESSLER & PICULA report – 2023/0397 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2024) 144.

- **EU position for consultations on fishing opportunities on stocks shared with the UK and Norway**

Line set out in SI(2024) 133.

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 December 2023 part-sessions**

Line set out in SP(2024) 120/2.

The Commission approved the line proposed for the following point, for transmission to the Chair of the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs (COSAC):

- **Commission draft reply to the contribution of the LXX plenary meeting of the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC), 26-28 November 2023**

Line set out in SNP(2024) 3.

The Commission approved the line proposed for the following point, for transmission to the European Economic and Social Committee:

- **Follow-up to opinions of the European Economic and Social Committee – Plenary session of October 2023**

Line set out in SC(2024) 7/2.

The Commission took note of the following points:

- **Amendment of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2093 laying down the Multiannual Financial Framework for the years 2021 to 2027 (Council Regulation) – OLBRYCHT & MARQUES report – 2023/0201 (APP)**

Compromise text in SP(2024) 115, further to note SP(2024) 90, which the Commission had already approved on 21 February 2024.

- **Establishment of the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (‘STEP’) and amendment of Directive 2003/87/EC and of Regulations (EU) 2021/1058, (EU) 2021/1056, (EU) 2021/1057, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) 2021/1060, (EU) 2021/523, (EU) 2021/695, (EU) 2021/697 and (EU) 2021/241 (Regulation) – FERNANDES & EHLER report – 2023/0199 (COD)**

Compromise text in SP(2024) 116, further to note SI(2024) 103, which the Commission had already approved on 14 February 2024.

- **Establishment of the Ukraine facility (Regulation) – GAHLER & GARDIAZABAL RUBIAL report – 2023/0200 (COD)**

Compromise text in SP(2024) 117, further to note SI(2024) 105, which the Commission had already approved on 14 February 2024.

- **Amendment of Decision (EU) 2017/1324 as regards the continuation of the Union’s participation in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) under Horizon Europe (Decision) – BORCHIA report – 2023/0207 (COD)**

Compromise text in SP(2024) 106, further to note SI(2023) 579, which the Commission had already approved by written procedure on 19 December 2023.

**5. COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL ACTION
(RCC(2024) 10)**

The Commission took note of the operational conclusions in RCC(2024) 10 of the meeting of the Group for External Coordination (EXCO) held on Wednesday 21 February 2024.

6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

**6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED
(SEC(2024) 66 ET SEQ.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 19 and 25 February 2024.

**6.2. EMPOWERMENT
(SEC(2024) 67 ET SEQ.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 19 and 25 February 2024.

**6.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS
(SEC(2024) 68 ET SEQ.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedures between 19 and 25 February 2024 archived in Decide.

**6.4. SIGNIFICANT WRITTEN PROCEDURES
(SEC(2024) 69 AND /2)**

The Commission took note of the significant procedures for which the time limit expired between 26 February and 1 March 2024.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

(SEC(2024) 70)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

(PERS(2024) 21)

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

(PERS(2024) 22 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 with the prerogatives of Director-General of the Euratom Supply Agency (ENER.AAE) at the Directorate-General for Energy, pursuant to Article 53 of the Euratom Treaty (PERS(2024) 22).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 23 November 2023 and 25 January 2024 (PERS(2024) 22/2 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 Ms SIMSON, it then decided to appoint Mr Michael HUEBEL to the post.

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

7.2. DG HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR AT GRADE AD14/15

(PERS(2022) 73; PERS(2022) 73/8 TO /10)

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii), Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Director of the ‘Policy and Administrative Support’ Directorate at the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (PERS(2022) 73 and PERS(2022) 73/8).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 5 and 6 June 2023 (PERS(2022) 79/3 and /10).

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 Ms KYRIAKIDES, it then decided to appoint Ms Gabriella FESUS to the post.

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

8. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – ADVANCED MATERIALS FOR INDUSTRIAL LEADERSHIP (COM(2024) 98 AND /2; RCC(2024) 75)

Ms VESTAGER thanked Ms IVANOVA, who was unfortunately absent that day, for the joint work on this Communication on advanced materials for the EU’s industrial leadership.

The Communication had been requested by the Member States and industry, and represented the first step in a common European approach to advanced materials, laying the groundwork for further action. In essence, the aim was to create the right ecosystem to maintain a strong materials science community in Europe and turn this knowledge into industrial leadership in these critical technologies.

Ms VESTAGER felt that materials with new enhanced properties could make a real

difference in many areas, in particular for the green and digital transition. They could (i) enhance energy conversion in solar panels, (ii) increase circularity of composite materials in aeroplanes and wind turbines, and (iii) improve electrical conductivity and save energy through using novel materials for power electronic applications.

By way of example, Ms VESTAGER presented a sample of high-tech fibres capable of extracting drinking water from fog, and of electrically conductive paper made of recycled fibres which could resist up to 120 degrees Celsius, and which protected against electrical and magnetic radiation.

The Communication presented that day highlighted 14 concrete actions to support the European ecosystem of advanced materials from early-stage research all the way up to market uptake, and including infrastructure, skills development and standardisation. In this context, transformative industries such as electronics, energy, mobility and construction should speed up research and technology developments in advanced materials.

Advanced materials also offered solutions to make the European economy more resilient and less dependent on third country imports. The proposed strategy was also about the EU's economic security and future resilience, and would reinforce Europe's own capacities in these critical areas.

Turning to research, Ms VESTAGER also noted that national and Horizon Europe investments should be aligned and increased. The Communication already proposed an outline of preliminary priority areas for applications, identified through consultation with Member States.

Analysis of substitution needs would be stepped up, in line with the scope of the Critical Raw Materials Act. Priority areas would also be updated regularly to take account of socio-economic, scientific and technological developments, and in line with the results of further studies to identify common needs for joint action.

Ms VESTAGER considered that the Communication provided a solid basis for working with Member States and industry on advanced materials. She concluded by saying that the Technology Council formed by Member States and industry would make sure that the strategy was implemented swiftly and coherently, and that it delivered the expected results.

Following the presentation, the Commission approved the Communication in COM(2024) 98/2 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.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.1. *RULE OF LAW IN POLAND*

Mr REYNDERS explained that, at Poland's initiative, on 10 February the General Affairs Council had taken stock of the country's progress in the context of the procedure under Article 7(1) of the Treaty on European Union (TEU). The discussion focused on the action plan presented by the new Polish Minister for Justice, Adam Bodnar, who had been a fervent defender of the rule of law in his previous role as Polish Ombudsman.

Mr REYNDERS said that the proposed action plan fully addressed the main issues raised by the Commission in its reasoned proposal of 20 December 2017 on judicial reform and judicial independence in Poland. He pointed out that nine areas of persistent concern had been identified by the Commission, even though the previous Polish government had initiated certain measures to comply with the rule of law requirements.

He stressed that the assessment carried out by the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST) on these nine areas of concern had concluded that all the requirements had been met. He noted in particular the

establishment of a clear separation between the functions of Minister for Justice and Prosecutor-General, the reform of the disciplinary regime for judges, respect for the primacy of EU law, as well as full implementation of the judgments of the Court of Justice of the European Union and the European Court of Human Rights. He also highlighted Poland's recent request to join the European Public Prosecutor's Office, which had encouraged other non-participating Member States to make similar commitments.

Mr REYNDERS said that the Polish action plan, drawn up in close consultation with the Commission, proposed a gradual approach to the adoption of measures in the short and medium term, marking an important step towards the potential closure of the ongoing procedure under Article 7 TEU. He welcomed the very broad support expressed in this regard by the vast majority of Member States at the General Affairs Council meeting.

Some of those measures were also covered by the milestones contained in Poland's recovery and resilience plan and by the 'horizontal enabling conditions' relating to compliance with the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights in the context of cohesion policy. However, the milestones relating to justice represented only part of the criteria that had to be met in order for payments to be made, since the other objectives and conditions were being assessed separately by the relevant Commission departments.

Mr REYNDERS added that this was not the end of the road and stressed the need now to implement the measures set out in the action plan proposed by Poland. Finally, he underlined the importance of the implementation process itself taking place in full respect of the rule of law.

Ms JOUROVÁ stressed the fragility of democracy and the real risk of an independent judicial system, built over the course of decades, being

compromised from one day to the next. In response to this risk, the Commission had responded decisively, including by initiating infringement procedures and stressing the need for Poland to fully apply the judgments of the Court of Justice of the European Union. In this regard, she noted with satisfaction that the Court of Justice had consistently ruled in favour of the Commission in the cases before it concerning rule of law in Poland.

She acknowledged the complexity of the task of the new Polish government, which had to restore a fragile judicial system while adhering to the principles of the rule of law. She stressed the importance for the Commission of continuing to carry out an objective assessment of the initiatives proposed by the Polish Government in order to take informed decisions in the context of the procedure under Article 7 TEU. She concluded by reaffirming the Commission's commitment to offer full support to Poland in the implementation of the action plan proposed by Mr Bodnar.

The PRESIDENT expressed her deep appreciation for the excellent work carried out by the Commission services. She welcomed the re-establishment of a constructive dialogue with the Polish authorities on protecting democracy and strengthening the rule of law. She considered that the reform of the judicial system needed to be carried out with caution to ensure full compliance with the principles of the rule of law.

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

- the effectiveness of the Commission's current procedures, based on a measured use of the available investigative tools;
- the opportunity to draw lessons from these experiences and reflect on strategies aimed at guaranteeing the protection of the rule of law in the future, by recognising the vulnerability of all Member States in the face of such challenges;

- questions concerning the tools that already existed for fighting disinformation, in particular the untruthful propaganda spread by Russia, and the importance in this connection of concrete actions to be taken by the EU;
- the need to be extremely vigilant with regard to hacking and cyberattacks, especially during election periods.

In reply to some of the points raised, Ms JOUROVÁ emphasised the measures taken by the Commission to fight disinformation, in particular with online platforms through the Digital Services Act (DSA). She stressed the importance of strengthening the EU's strategic communication in order to prevent disinformation. Election campaigns also had to be protected against the risks of potential abuse of the democratic system, such as deep fakes or AI-generated content, which could manipulate or mislead voters. A collective response, involving all EU actors, was essential to deal with these problems effectively.

At the request of the PRESIDENT, the Director-General for Communication, Ms SPINANT, presented the Commission's initiatives for fighting disinformation. She praised the excellent work carried out in cooperation with the digital platforms on managing online content, but stressed the need to improve disinformation follow-up, analysis, detection and response. To this end, a working group had been set up in the Directorate-General for Communication, ensuring continuous monitoring.

In addition to the typical disinformation campaigns carried out by parties such as Russia, particularly regarding the situation in Ukraine, the EU also had to tackle opportunist attempts at internal destabilisation. The Members of the College would be regularly updated about the latest developments in this field.

Lastly, she highlighted the importance of taking a proactive approach to

communication, by restating the facts where necessary, while at the same time not spreading the disinformation by repeating it. Steps were being taken in coordination with other EU institutions to provide a unified EU response, increase their visibility and help share information.

In conclusion, the PRESIDENT stressed the importance of protecting the very foundations of democracy in Europe. The EU had to step up its action to fight Russian attempts to disrupt European democracies by feeding popular discontent and exacerbating tensions. She therefore called for greater vigilance and increased efforts to effectively counter Russia's hybrid warfare strategies. In particular, she drew attention to the responsibility during election periods to prevent all attempts at destabilising the political landscape carried out by extremist forces encouraged by Russia.

As regards the false claims propagated by Russia about the alleged ineffectiveness of European sanctions, she pointed out that these sanctions were actually depriving Russia of access to Western innovation and technology. The sanctions had allowed the EU to reduce its Russian imports by EUR 100 billion and its exports to Russia by EUR 50 billion. The Russian economy was now vulnerable and unable to create value because of its focus on the war effort. She therefore concluded that Russia would be severely affected not only by the sanctions imposed on the country but also by the economic consequences of its war of aggression against Ukraine.

The Commission took note of this information.

9.2. *PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO KYIV*

The PRESIDENT reported to the College on her visit to Kyiv on 24 February to mark the second anniversary of the start of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. In this context, she attested to the extraordinary determination and resilience shown by the Ukrainians in resisting the Russian invasion.

At the same time, the G7 leaders had sent a strong message of their unwavering support for Ukraine. Key topics discussed during the meetings included the adoption by the EU of a EUR 50 billion support package for Ukraine, the call for the US to swiftly approve its own financial support, the need to accelerate military support to the country, and the fight against disinformation.

The PRESIDENT indicated that she had discussed two important topics with the President of Ukraine, Mr Zelenskyy, namely: (i) tensions with farmers on both sides of the EU-Ukraine border, and (ii) Ukraine's EU accession process.

Regarding the challenges faced by farmers, the EU had to listen to and support farmers who were directly affected by the current situation and who were seeking pragmatic solutions through constructive dialogue. In this connection, the EU had already taken certain measures to support European farmers, in particular by channelling Ukrainian grain to other Member States or to third countries, via the solidarity lanes, and through the automatic safeguard mechanism for imports of the most sensitive products (eggs, poultry, sugar) from Ukraine. Furthermore, a licensing system for agricultural exports from Ukraine to the EU was under discussion in order to make it possible to trace the production methods used.

On the process of Ukraine's accession to the Union, the PRESIDENT noted that the Commission would present the proposal for a negotiating framework before the end of March. This proposal would then be forwarded to the Council with a view to the framework's possible adoption before the end of the Belgian Presidency of the Council.

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

- the importance of a collegial process for the Commission to find appropriate solutions to address farmers' concerns;

- in this context, the role of State aid in agriculture and fisheries.

The PRESIDENT wound up the debate by stressing the need for the Commission to work to find solutions to legitimate complaints from farmers, particularly in the context of the strategic dialogue on the future of agriculture in the EU. She pointed out that this dialogue had recently been launched, with full stakeholder involvement, in order to build a consensual vision of EU agriculture in the medium and long term.

The Commission took note of this information.

**9.3. COMMISSION REPLY TO A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 225 OF THE TREATY ON
THE FUNCTIONING OF THE EUROPEAN UNION –
DIGITALISATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW
(SP(2024) 92)**

Mr ŠEFČOVIČ presented the last reply by the present Commission to a European Parliament resolution pursuant to Article 225 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

He noted with satisfaction that the Commission had responded positively to 24 of the 25 resolutions adopted by Parliament, the only exception being a resolution that had become irrelevant as it called for the establishment of a contingency plan in the event of disagreement between the Member States on the revision of the EU's Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), a scenario which had not materialised. He therefore concluded that this Commission had jointly delivered on the commitment made by the PRESIDENT at the start of its term of office to follow up every one of these resolutions. Moreover, implementation of the initiatives adopted in this context was closely monitored.

As regards this last resolution on digitalisation and administrative law, Mr ŠEFČOVIČ explained that Parliament was calling for the tabling of a proposal for a Regulation on European administrative law under Article 298 TFEU, to be adopted before the second half of the next parliamentary term. Parliament had submitted a similar resolution in 2013; this time it was asking for the Commission proposal to take into account how digitalisation could be best used in interactions with EU citizens and businesses.

The Commission was therefore adapting its approach, without pre-empting the decisions to be taken by the next Commission, but indicating its openness and announcing preparatory work to enable the next Commission to decide on how best to follow up the resolution. The Commission's reply also listed examples of measures that had already been taken and pointed out that the preparatory work should look into concerns raised previously, such as legal certainty relating to existing sector-specific rules.

Mr ŠEFČOVIČ ended by noting that the Commission's reply also flagged the importance not only of legal provisions but of putting in place appropriate practices to simplify access to information, encourage engagement by the general public and reduce administrative burdens.

Mr HAHN highlighted the many initiatives in the digital field adopted during this Commission's term of office, for example the Commission's ambitious digital strategy adopted in November 2022, which addressed in particular Parliament's concerns about the development of skills.

He also mentioned the strategy on artificial intelligence which had been adopted more recently, covering the many applications of this new technology in administration and business for a wide range of tasks such as producing reports or the machine translation of texts. In 2023, 2.8 million pages in more

than 24 languages had been translated at the Commission by machine translation tools, thus reducing the number of staff needed by 30%.

Mr HAHN also mentioned the cybersecurity rules applicable to the EU institutions and the ongoing work on information security, in close cooperation with the Member States. In this context, he stressed the importance of continuing the efforts made to ensure EU-wide interoperability of digital networks. Lastly, he noted that EU policies and legislation promoted the emergence of digital governance methods and greater use of cooperation tools and digital portals by public institutions.

He therefore concluded that, during this term of office, the Commission had worked hard on its digital transformation by developing the necessary tools and regulatory framework; it would be up to the next Commission to continue these efforts.

Following these presentations, the Commission approved the approach set out in SP(2024) 92, including the draft letter to be sent by Mr ŠEFČOVIČ to the European Parliament.

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The meeting closed at 14.11.