



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2024) 2503 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

Brussels, 30 October 2024

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

**of the 2503rd meeting of the Commission
held in Strasbourg
(Winston Churchill building)
on Tuesday 8 October 2024
(afternoon)**

PV(2024) 2503 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

EN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Attendance list	4-5
1. AGENDAS (OJ(2024) 2503/FINAL; SEC(2024) 2503/FINAL)	6
2. WEEKLY MEETING OF HEADS OF CABINET (RCC(2024) 2503).....	6
3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (PV(2024) 2500; PV(2024) 2501).....	6
4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS (RCC(2024) 136)	6
5. COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL ACTION (RCC(2024) 36).....	7
6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS.....	7
6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED (SEC(2024) 232 ET SEQ.).....	8
6.2. EMPOWERMENT (SEC(2024) 233 ET SEQ.)	8
6.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS (SEC(2024) 234 ET SEQ.)	8
6.4. SIGNIFICANT WRITTEN PROCEDURES (SEC(2024) 235 AND /2)	8
7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS (SEC(2024) 236)	8
7.1. DG FINANCIAL STABILITY, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND CAPITAL MARKETS UNION – ADOPTION OF A LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR THE POST OF CHAIR OF THE AUTHORITY FOR ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AND COUNTERING THE FINANCING OF TERRORISM (AMLA) (PERS(2024) 58 TO /3)	8
7.2. DG ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS – AMENDMENT OF ORGANISATION CHART, TRANSFER OF AN AD14 OFFICIAL UNDER ARTICLE 7 OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS AND SECONDMENT IN THE INTEREST OF THE SERVICE UNDER ARTICLES 37 AND 38 OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS.....	9

8.	PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ESTABLISHING AN APPLICATION FOR THE ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION OF TRAVEL DATA ('EU DIGITAL TRAVEL APPLICATION') AND AMENDING REGULATIONS (EU) 2016/399 AND (EU) 2018/1726 OF THE EUROPEAN PRLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AND COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) N° 2252/2004, AS REGARDS THE USE OF DIGITAL TRAVEL CREDENTIALS (COM(2024) 670; SWD(2024) 670; SWD(2024) 671; SWD(2024) 672; SEC(2024) 670; RCC(2024) 137)	10
9.	PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION ON THE ISSUANCE OF AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR DIGITAL TRAVEL CREDENTIALS BASED ON IDENTITY CARDS (COM(2024) 671; SWD(2024) 671; SWD(2024) 672; RCC(2024) 137).....	10
10.	OTHER BUSINESS.....	13
	<i>LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN EXTERNAL RELATIONS</i>	13

Single sitting: Tuesday 8 October 2024 (afternoon)

The sitting opened at 13.06 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
Mr BORRELL i FONTELLES	High Representative / Vice-President
Ms JOUROVÁ	Vice-President
Ms ŠUICA	Vice-President
Mr SCHINAS	Vice-President
Mr HAHN	Member
Mr WOJCIECHOWSKI	Member
Mr REYNDERS	Member
Ms DALLI	Member
Ms JOHANSSON	Member
Mr LENARČIČ	Member
Mr VÁRHELYI	Member
Ms SIMSON	Member
Ms McGUINNESS	Member
Mr HOEKSTRA	Member

Absent:

Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Executive Vice-President
Mr SCHMIT	Member
Mr GENTILONI	Member
Ms FERREIRA	Member
Ms KYRIAKIDES	Member
Ms URPILAINEN	Member
Ms IVANOVA	Member

PV(2024) 2503 final

The following attended the meeting in the absence of Members of the Commission:

Ms BERTULESSI	Deputy Head of Cabinet to Mr SCHMIT
Mr BURCKHARDT	Member of Mr GENTILONI's cabinet
Ms LEINONEN	Member of Ms URPILAINEN's cabinet
Mr SCHULTE	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
Mr ADAM	Deputy Head of Cabinet to the PRESIDENT
Mr TAQUET-GRAZIANI	Acting 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) 2503/FINAL; SEC(2024) 2503/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) 2503)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Heads of Cabinet held on Monday 7 October 2024.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

(PV(2024) 2500; PV(2024) 2501)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 2500th and 2501st meetings of 11 and 17 September 2024, and decided to hold over approval of the minutes of its 2502nd meeting of 2 October 2024 for a later meeting.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(RCC(2024) 136)

The Commission took note of the outcome of the written exchange of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (GRI) for the week from 30 September to 4 October 2024 (RCC(2024) 136).

The Commission approved the lines proposed for the following points:

- **Establishing the Ukraine Loan Cooperation Mechanism and provision of exceptional macro-financial assistance to Ukraine (Regulation) – 2024/0234 (COD) / Ukraine – Assets joint proposal – Joint Proposal for a Council Implementing Regulation (Council Implementing Regulation) – JOIN(2024) 24 final**

Line set out in SI(2024) 341.

- **Question time (Commission) – Situation of animal health in Europe – How to prevent and prepare for future sanitary crises in agriculture**

Line set out in SP(2024) 464.

The Commission approved the line proposed for the following point, for transmission to the Committee of the Regions:

- **Commission replies to the opinions adopted by the Committee of the Regions – Plenary session of June 2024**

Line set out in SP(2024) 17/2.

5. COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL ACTION (RCC(2024) 36)

The Commission took note of the operational conclusions in RCC(2024) 36 of the meeting of the Group for External Coordination (EXCO) held on Wednesday 2 October 2024.

6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED
(SEC(2024) 232 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 30 September and 6 October 2024.

6.2. EMPOWERMENT
(SEC(2024) 233 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 30 September and 6 October 2024.

6.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS
(SEC(2024) 234 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedures between 30 September and 6 October 2024 archived in Decide.

6.4. SIGNIFICANT WRITTEN PROCEDURES
(SEC(2024) 235 AND /2)

The Commission took note of the significant written procedures for which the time limit expired between 7 and 11 October 2024.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS
(SEC(2024) 236)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
(PERS(2024) 57)

7.1. DG FINANCIAL STABILITY, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND CAPITAL
MARKETS UNION – ADOPTION OF A LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR

***THE POST OF CHAIR OF THE AUTHORITY FOR ANTI-MONEY
LAUNDERING AND COUNTERING THE FINANCING OF
TERRORISM (AMLA)***

(PERS(2024) 58 TO /3)

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

- to approve the list of candidates set out in point 1 of PERS(2024) 57, for the post of Chair of the Authority for Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AMLA), in Frankfurt, and to consider this list as the Commission proposal;
- to ask Ms McGUINNESS, the Member of the Commission responsible, to communicate this decision to the European Parliament and to inform the Council;
- to ask Ms McGUINNESS to present to the Commission in good time, following feedback from the European Parliament, the proposal for the appointment of the Chair of the Authority for Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AMLA), for transmission to the European Parliament for its approval.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

***7.2. DG ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS – AMENDMENT OF
ORGANISATION CHART, TRANSFER OF AN AD14 OFFICIAL
UNDER ARTICLE 7 OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS AND
SECONDMENT 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, and after consulting Mr GENTILONI, the Commission decided to amend the organisation chart of DG Economic and Financial Affairs. The amendments

concerned:

- the creation of a temporary post of Principal Adviser, reporting directly to the Director-General of DG Economic and Financial Affairs; this post would be abolished upon departure of the jobholder;
- the transfer to the newly created post, in the interest of the service, under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations, of Mr Jakob Wegener FRIIS, currently Director of the ‘Economies of the Member States I’ Directorate in DG Economic and Financial Affairs;
- the secondment of Mr Jakob Wegener FRIIS in the interest of the service, under Articles 37 and 38 of the Staff Regulations, to the Cabinet of the President of the European Council until 31 May 2027. During this secondment, all expenses would be borne by the Council.

These decisions would take effect on 1 November 2024.

- 8. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ESTABLISHING AN APPLICATION FOR THE ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION OF TRAVEL DATA (‘EU DIGITAL TRAVEL APPLICATION’) AND AMENDING REGULATIONS (EU) 2016/399 AND (EU) 2018/1726 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AND COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) N° 2252/2004, AS REGARDS THE USE OF DIGITAL TRAVEL CREDENTIALS
(COM(2024) 670; SWD(2024) 670; SWD(2024) 671; SWD(2024) 672; SEC(2024) 670; RCC(2024) 137)**
- 9. PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION ON THE ISSUANCE OF AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR DIGITAL TRAVEL CREDENTIALS BASED ON IDENTITY CARDS
(COM(2024) 671; SWD(2024) 671; SWD(2024) 672; RCC(2024) 137)**

Mr SCHINAS introduced the two proposals for Regulations on the digitalisation of travel documents, pointing out that these would be the last legislative acts on border management proposed by the current Commission. He highlighted the significant progress made over the past 5 years, in particular the development of a robust regulatory framework, the establishment of effective crisis management methods on the ground and closer relations with migrants' countries of origin and transit. He ended by expressing his deep gratitude to Ms JOHANSSON for her continued commitment in this field and to the Commission departments concerned for the considerable progress that had been achieved.

Ms JOUROVÁ said that these proposals were a response to the expectations of European citizens who wanted to travel more smoothly and more quickly within the Schengen area and beyond. To achieve this, it was proposed to create digital versions of both passports and identity cards, the two documents used to travel in the European Union. The eu-LISA agency would be responsible for the development, operation and maintenance of a European digital travel application, based on standardised travel credentials. Ms JOUROVÁ stressed that the use of these digital instruments would be entirely voluntary and free of charge, and that people would still be able to opt for paper-based travel documents if they so wished.

She added that the proposals would pave the way for new digital services and applications, thus helping to achieve the Digital Decade targets by 2030. They would also serve to cut red tape and boost European competitiveness, in line with the ambition of a European Union where people could travel smoothly and quickly between Member States and easily carry out administrative procedures online.

Ms JOHANSSON said that the two proposed Regulations were designed to reconcile two essential objectives, namely to make European borders more secure and ensure the smooth flow of persons. They would enable travellers, including third-country nationals, to present their digital passports before their arrival, making it easier for border guards to verify their identity. Border guards could then focus on cases requiring closer scrutiny, making checks at the EU's external borders faster

and more efficient. She estimated that the time taken to check each traveller should fall from a current average of 30-90 seconds to less than 10 seconds. This would reduce queues and speed up border crossings for all travellers.

Ms JOHANSSON said that, as a first step, participating States would have to offer citizens who so request the possibility of obtaining a digital version of the passport alongside the traditional paper document. People would be able to store their digital passport and identity card either in the EU Digital Identity Wallet or in the digital travel application, which should be developed by 2030 and would also be open for use by third-country nationals. In a second step, Member States would be required to allow all travellers to use digital passports to cross their external borders. This was currently not possible, so a very targeted amendment of the Schengen Borders Code was also being proposed.

Mr REYNDERS pointed out that, just before the summer, the Commission had adopted a new proposal on physical identity cards. This had followed a ruling of the Court of Justice of the European Union in March 2024 that the original Regulation on physical identity cards had been adopted on an incorrect legal basis. This meant that the proposals on identity cards would now have to be adopted unanimously by the Council, whereas before a qualified majority had been sufficient, and that the European Parliament would be consulted. In accordance with the European Treaties, Denmark was not concerned by these provisions, while Ireland could choose to opt in and had already expressed its interest in doing so.

As regards the protection of personal data, Mr REYNDERS noted that the application would use strong encryption methods, in compliance with the general data protection framework and the consent rules. Finally, he highlighted the importance of carefully examining the implications of using digital passports and identity cards, in particular the risks associated with ‘golden’ passport or visa schemes. He ended by stressing that these proposals would contribute not only to safer and smoother travel within the EU, but also to the development of a more competitive European digital economy.

Following these presentations, the Commission:

- adopted the proposal for a Regulation in COM(2024) 670 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Data Protection Supervisor and the national parliaments, together with the Staff Working Document, the impact assessment, the summary thereof and the opinion of the Regulatory Scrutiny Board in SWD(2024) 670, SWD(2024) 671, SWD(2024) 672 and SEC(2024) 670, the contents of which were noted;
- adopted the proposal for a Council Regulation in COM(2024) 671 for transmission to the Council and the European Data Protection Supervisor, and, for information, to the European Parliament and the national parliaments, together with the impact assessment and the summary thereof in SWD(2024) 671 and SWD(2024) 672, the contents of which were noted.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Mr BORRELL began by stressing the increasingly urgent need to provide Ukraine with the support it required following Russia's aerial attacks in order to prevent a collapse of Ukraine's energy grid before the winter. This issue had been discussed at the meeting of G7+ foreign ministers in New York and would be discussed again at the upcoming Foreign Affairs Council. Bolstering Ukraine's military capabilities and strengthening security guarantees would also be on the agenda of the Ukraine Defence Contact Group summit to be held on 12 October in Ramstein, Germany.

He then noted that the conflict resolution proposal put forward by China and Brazil at a meeting of the 'Friends of Peace' group held in the margins of the UN General Assembly in September had secured limited backing, as only 13 countries had signed the communiqué and Ukraine and Russia were not among them. He considered that the EU needed to redouble its strategic communication

efforts to better highlight the risks associated with such proposals, as they could be to Russia's advantage. In his view, the next challenge in this area would be the summit of major emerging economies (BRICS) to be held on 23-24 October in Kazan, Russia.

Mr BORRELL reported on the situation in the Middle East as the war raged on in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon. Humanitarian aid in Gaza was at its lowest level since the hostilities had begun. At the UN General Assembly on 27 September, Saudi Arabia had launched an international alliance for the establishment of a Palestinian state and the implementation of the two-state solution. He noted that the alliance's next meeting would be held in Riyadh and acknowledged the scale of the challenge ahead in terms of achieving a political settlement in the region. He also stressed the need to prevent an internal collapse of the Lebanese state, notably by ensuring that the EU continued to provide support for the country and that the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) remained in place. The forthcoming meetings of foreign ministers and of the leaders of the EU Member States, as well as meetings with representatives of members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, would provide a vital opportunity to engage in constructive discussions on how to improve the situation in the Middle East.

Mr BORRELL then referred to the situation in Tunisia, where the preliminary results of the presidential election pointed to a victory for the outgoing president, Kais Saied, who had secured just over 90% of the vote but with a turnout of only 20%. In his view, the results revealed a worrying democratic deficit in the country.

He also briefed the College on his recent visit to Mexico, where he had attended the inauguration ceremony for the new President, Claudia Sheinbaum, on 2 October. During the visit, he had reaffirmed the EU's commitment to strengthening ties with Mexico. With a new President taking office, there was widespread expectation that Mexico would pursue a more active international agenda and adopt a more pragmatic approach with regard to tackling violence, implementing judicial reforms and promoting foreign direct investment in the country. In that connection,

Mr BORRELL hoped that it would be possible to conclude the new Association Agreement between the European Union and Mexico quickly.

Lastly, as regards the recent adoption by the Commission of proposals related to deforestation and the use of immobilised Russian assets to support Ukraine, Mr BORRELL stressed the importance of procedures based on the principle of collegiality, as well as the need to pay particular attention to the external dimension of any decisions taken by the Commission.

For her part, Ms SIMSON highlighted the critical state of Ukraine's energy infrastructure following the attacks by Russia and presented the various strands of the EU's work to remedy the situation, namely (i) the provision of technical support to repair Ukrainian power plants, (ii) the supply of gas turbines to ensure that basic services could function, (iii) the distribution of solar panels, mainly for schools and hospitals, and (iv) increased electricity exports, the level of which would soon rise to 2 GW, with an additional amount of 200 MW that could be activated in an emergency if required. With this package of measures, the EU would be able to help make up for nearly 40% of the 9 GW of Ukraine's power-generation capacity that had been destroyed by Russia. With that in mind, she also stressed the need to strengthen Ukraine's air-defence capabilities to prevent any further destruction.

Mr LENARČIČ confirmed the seriousness of the humanitarian situation in Gaza, which was exacerbated by several factors, namely Israel's obstruction of access to humanitarian aid, the break-down of public order in Gaza and the ineffectiveness of the mechanisms for protecting humanitarian workers. In that connection, he emphasised how important it was for all parties to the conflict to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law.

He also informed the College of the measures taken by the EU to support Bosnia and Herzegovina, which had been dealing with floods since 3 October. For the first time, the country had called for the EU Civil Protection Mechanism to be activated, and eight Member States and five third countries participating in the

Mechanism had been quick to offer assistance with relief operations and the delivery of basic supplies. These interventions under the Mechanism had helped to increase the EU's visibility in the country, and the EU's support was greatly appreciated by civil society and local political leaders. As a candidate country, Bosnia and Herzegovina should be eligible for EU funding from the Emergency Aid Reserve and the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance to help with its reconstruction and with disaster preparedness and resilience.

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

- the scale of the devastation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which some considered comparable to the damage caused by the 2019 earthquake in Albania, and the options available to the Commission to mobilise existing EU funds to provide the country with financial support;
- the energy crisis in Ukraine and the urgent need to find solutions to secure the country's electricity supply over the winter;
- in that connection, the EU energy ministers' upcoming talks on winter preparedness and alternative energy supply routes for the country.

The PRESIDENT wrapped up the discussion by thanking Ms SIMSON and her services for their outstanding work to repair, reconnect and decentralise power-generation capabilities in Ukraine. She also expressed her hope that the new Association Agreement between the EU and Mexico could be concluded swiftly, subject to a breakthrough on energy-related discussions.

Lastly, as regards the Commission's recent proposals on deforestation and the use of immobilised Russian assets, she reminded those present that both topics had been discussed in a timely manner at College meetings. In that connection, she stressed once again that the proposal to extend the timetable for implementing the EU Deforestation Regulation did not call into question the objectives or content of

the Regulation, but rather took account of the legislation's potential impact on third countries.

The Commission took note of this information.

*

* *

The meeting closed at 13.57.