



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2024) 2504 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

Brussels, 28 November 2024

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

**of the 2504th meeting of the Commission
held in Strasbourg
(Winston Churchill building)
on Tuesday 22 October 2024
(afternoon)**

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Single sitting: Tuesday 22 October 2024 (afternoon)

The sitting opened at 13:08 with Ms von der LEYEN, President, in the chair.

Present:

Ms von der LEYEN	President
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Executive Vice-President
Ms ŠUICA	Vice-President
Mr HAHN	Member
Mr SCHMIT	Member
Ms FERREIRA	Member
Ms KYRIAKIDES	Member
Mr REYNDERS	Member
Ms DALLI	Member
Mr LENARČIČ	Member
Mr VÁRHELYI	Member
Ms SIMSON	Member
Ms IVANOVA	Member

Absent:

Ms VESTAGER	Executive Vice-President
Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Executive Vice-President
Mr BORRELL i FONTELLES	High Representative / Vice-President
Ms JOUROVÁ	Vice-President
Mr SCHINAS	Vice-President
Mr GENTILONI	Member
Mr WOJCIECHOWSKI	Member
Ms JOHANSSON	Member
Ms URPILAINEN	Member
Ms McGUINNESS	Member
Mr HOEKSTRA	Member

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

Ms DYRSKJØT	Member of Ms VESTAGER's cabinet
Ms LOTSON LÓPEZ	Expert in Mr BORRELL's cabinet
Ms MUSILOVÁ	Member of Ms JOUROVÁ's cabinet
Mr IORDANIDIS	Policy Assistant in Mr SCHINAS's cabinet
Mr BURCKHARDT	Member of Mr GENTILONI's cabinet
Mr OCHMANSKI	Deputy Head of Cabinet to Mr WOJCIECHOWSKI
Ms WEBBER	Head of Cabinet to Ms JOHANSSON
Ms LEINONEN	Member of Ms URPILAINEN's cabinet
Ms REILLY	Head of Cabinet to Ms McGUINNESS
Ms LUKANIUK	Member of Mr HOEKSTRA's cabinet

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 TAQUET-GRAZIANI	Acting Head of Unit in the Secretariat-General

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

1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2024) 2504/FINAL; SEC(2024) 2504/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) 2504)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Heads of Cabinet held on Monday 21 October 2024.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Commission held over approval of the minutes of its 2502nd and 2503rd meetings of 2 and 8 October 2024 for a later date.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(RCC(2024) 141)

The Commission took note of the outcome of the written exchange of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (GRI) for the week from 14 to 18 October 2024 (RCC(2024) 141).

The Commission approved the line proposed for the following point:

- **Administrative agreement with the Committee of the Regions:
EU Councillors' Network**

Line set out in SR(2024) 18/2.

The Commission took note of the following points:

- **Amended proposal on a mechanism to resolve legal and administrative obstacles in a cross-border context (Regulation) – GOZI report – 2018/0198 (COD)**

Information set out in SI(2024) 344.

- **Thematic discussions in the Council Working Party on the United Kingdom on strengthened cooperation with the United Kingdom**

Information set out in SI(2024) 351.

- **Meetings of the European Parliament Committee Chairs, the Hungarian Presidency and the Commission representative (Brussels, 26 September - 3 October 2024: meetings with European Parliament Committees)**

Information set out in SPI(2024) 29.

5. COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL ACTION (RCC(2024) 38)

The Commission took note of the operational conclusions in RCC(2024) 38 of the meeting of the Group for External Coordination (EXCO) held on Wednesday 16 October 2024.

6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED (SEC(2024) 240 ET SEQ.)

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The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 7 and 20 October 2024.

6.2. EMPOWERMENT
(SEC(2024) 241 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 7 and 20 October 2024.

6.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS
(SEC(2024) 242 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedures between 7 and 20 October 2024 archived in Decide.

6.4. SIGNIFICANT WRITTEN PROCEDURES
(SEC(2024) 243 TO /3)

The Commission took note of the significant written procedures for which the time limit expired between 14 and 25 October 2024.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS
(SEC(2024) 244 AND /2)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
(PERS(2024) 59 AND /2)

During the meeting, Mr HAHN presented an additional proposal for an administrative decision, which was tabled directly to the College for approval.

It was proposed to appoint Mr Colin SCICLUNA as Deputy Director-General of DG Interpretation (DG SCIC). Mr HAHN highlighted Mr Colin SCICLUNA's rich

professional background and his skills and merits in relation to the post to be filled.

Mr HAHN took the opportunity to mention that, the previous week, he had attended the ceremony to launch the works on the new Commission conference centre in Brussels. The centre was expected to be ready at the end of 2027, which would coincide with the 70th anniversary of the Rome Treaties. He also informed the College of the completion of work on the construction of a highly secure meeting room in the Berlaymont building.

**7.1. DG INTERPRETATION – APPOINTMENT OF A DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL AT GRADE AD15/16
(PERS(2023) 67 TO /4)**

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii), Article 29(1)(b) and Article 29(2) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Deputy Director-General responsible for Corporate Conference and Meeting Room Management – Head of Directorate C in DG Interpretation (PERS(2023) 67 and /2).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 12 February and 24 April 2024 (PERS(2023) 67/3 and /4).

The Commission proceeded to compare the applicants' qualifications for the post. On a proposal from Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, it then decided to appoint Mr Colin SCICLUNA to the post.

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

**7.2. DG TRADE – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR AT GRADE AD14/15
(PERS(2024) 24 TO /4)**

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii), Article 29(1)(b) and Article 29(2) of the Staff Regulations for the post of

Director of the ‘Multilateral Affairs, Strategy, Analysis, Evaluation’ Directorate in DG Trade (PERS(2024) 24 and /2).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 26 August and 12 September 2024 (PERS(2024) 24/3 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 DOMBROVSKIS, it then decided to appoint Ms Myrto ZAMBARTA to the post.

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

7.3. DG TRADE – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR AT GRADE AD14/15 (PERS(2024) 60 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 ‘Neighbouring Countries, Industry, Goods, Regulatory Cooperation and Public Procurement’ Directorate in DG Trade (PERS(2024) 60).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 24 July and 12 September 2024 (PERS(2024) 60/2 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 DOMBROVSKIS, it then decided to appoint Mr Léon DELVAUX to the post.

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

**7.4. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – APPOINTMENT OF A
PRINCIPAL ADVISER AT GRADE AD14/15
(PERS(2023) 70 TO /4)**

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii), Article 29(1)(b) and Article 29(2) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Principal Adviser for HR Strategic Foresight and Innovation at DG Human Resources and Security (PERS(2023) 70 and /2).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 30 May and 6 June 2024 (PERS(2023) 70/3 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 ŠEFČOVIČ, it then decided to appoint Mr David MÜLLER to the post.

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

**7.5. EUROPEAN ANTI-FRAUD OFFICE – AUTHORISATION FOR
EXTERNAL PUBLICATION AT GRADE AD15 OF THE VACANCY
NOTICE FOR A DIRECTOR-GENERAL POST
(PERS(2024) 61)**

On a proposal from Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, the Commission decided to authorise the external publication of the vacancy notice in PERS(2024) 61 for the post of Director-General of the European Anti-Fraud Office, who would be recruited following the selection procedure as a member of the temporary staff, in accordance with Article 2(a) of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union.

This decision would take effect immediately.

**7.6. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL / REGULATORY SCRUTINY BOARD –
AUTHORISATION FOR EXTERNAL PUBLICATION AT GRADE AD14
OF THE VACANCY NOTICE FOR A PRINCIPAL ADVISER POST
(PERS(2024) 62)**

On a proposal from Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, the Commission decided to authorise the external publication of the vacancy notice in PERS(2024) 62 for the post of Principal Adviser / Member of the Regulatory Scrutiny Board (RSB) at the Secretariat-General, with a view to drawing up a shortlist of candidates who could be recruited as a member of the temporary staff, in accordance with Article 2(a) of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union.

This decision would take effect immediately.

**7.7. DG JUSTICE AND CONSUMERS – AUTHORISATION FOR THE
INTERNAL AND INTERINSTITUTIONAL PUBLICATION AT GRADE
AD14/15, AND EXTERNAL PUBLICATION AT GRADE AD14, OF A
PRINCIPAL ADVISER POST
(PERS(2024) 63)**

On a proposal from Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Mr REYNDERS, the Commission decided to authorise the internal and interinstitutional publication (at grade AD14/15) and external publication (at grade AD14) of the vacancy notice in PERS(2024) 63 for the post of Principal Adviser in charge of Strategies for the Development of Justice Policies in DG Justice and Consumers, 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.

7.8. DG MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES – AMENDMENT OF THE ORGANISATION CHART AND TRANSFER OF AN AD14 OFFICIAL UNDER ARTICLE 7 OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS

On a proposal from Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, the Commission decided to amend the organisation chart of DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. The amendments concerned:

- the removal of the temporary post of Principal Adviser for Digitalisation and Innovation of Ocean Policies and Blue Economy;
- the creation of a temporary post of Principal Adviser to provide strategic support for the European Oceans Pact, reporting directly to the Director-General of DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries; this post would be abolished upon departure of the jobholder;
- the transfer to this post, in the interest of the service, under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations, of Mr Stefaan DE RYNCK, currently Principal Adviser for Relations with Stakeholders, Civil Society, Think Tanks and Outreach at DG Communication.

These decisions would take effect on 1 November 2024.

**8. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA (ERA) – STRENGTHENING EUROPE’S RESEARCH AND INNOVATION: THE ERA’S JOURNEY AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS
(COM(2024) 490 AND /2; RCC(2024) 140)**

Ms IVANOVA presented the Communication on the implementation of the European Research Area (ERA), referring to the conclusions of Mr Draghi's report on the future of European competitiveness and the PRESIDENT's political guidelines 2024-2029, which both stressed the importance of putting research and innovation at the heart of the EU economy.

Ms IVANOVA pointed out that the European Research Area had been launched in 2000. Its objectives had been to build a robust and attractive research and innovation ecosystem, with excellent working conditions and top-tier research infrastructure for some two million European researchers. It had also been intended to foster an environment in which innovators could bring their ideas to market. Lastly, it had sought to create a space where researchers, knowledge and data moved freely, making Europe 'the place to be' for research.

Ms IVANOVA noted that the European research landscape of that time had looked very different from that of the present day. Member States had been focused on their own priorities, which could lead to the duplication of efforts and an inefficient use of resources. The mobility of researchers had also been limited, making access to top laboratories and the sharing of research findings more difficult. She underlined that, when the Commission had given a new push to the development of a European Research Area in 2020, this situation had been transformed. Now, four years later, it was time to take stock of the progress made and determine what still needed to be done to achieve the objectives that had been set.

As regards the first objective of modernising the European Research Area (i.e. prioritising investment and reforms), she welcomed the progress made since 2020 in coordinating research and innovation efforts within the EU. As a result, there had been an increase in both the volume and the effectiveness of funding – two aspects that had to go hand in hand. Nevertheless, there was still some way to go to meet the long-standing target of investing 3% of EU gross domestic product (GDP) in research and innovation. Noting that the Horizon Europe programme accounted for only a small part of overall funding, she explained that the main challenge was still not so

much a lack of public funds but rather a shortage of private investment, held back by regulatory, legal and administrative barriers imposed on investors and innovators.

Ms IVANOVA went on to explain that the second priority was to improve access to excellence. In this respect, she stressed that high-level research existed everywhere in Europe and underlined the role played by Horizon Europe in building cross-border and cross-sector cooperation networks through its collaborative projects. While the ‘Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area’ part of Horizon Europe had helped to strengthen research and innovation capacities in several Member States, it was still necessary to cut red tape, make life easier for researchers and better inform them about available opportunities.

The third aim was to ensure that breakthrough results made it to market. According to Ms IVANOVA, significant progress had been made in this direction, particularly through better guidance for Member States and joint technology roadmaps. The real gamechanger had been the launch of the European Innovation Council (EIC), which was now the biggest investor in deep tech in Europe. Each euro invested through the European Innovation Council brought in four more euros from private investment. One challenge remained, however: innovative European start-ups often failed to get through the scale-up phase. It was therefore necessary to facilitate access to venture capital to support breakthrough innovation. In this connection, she highlighted the opportunity afforded by the syndication of European investors, which had become a reality the previous day with the launch of the Trusted Investors Network in cooperation with the European Innovation Council.

Ms IVANOVA then referred to the fourth objective, which concerned the heart of the European Research Area – its people. She welcomed the progress made in improving researchers’ working conditions and career development, and the boost given to their mobility by Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions. She underlined the role of the European Research Area in strengthening research security, thus positioning Europe as a global role model. Through the European Research Area it had also been possible to promote gender equality and research integrity, boost open science and

data sharing, and ensure access to world-class research infrastructure in Europe. More needed to be done, however, in particular to increase support for European researchers and innovators and secure long-term funding of infrastructure.

She noted that the call for evidence launched ahead of the Communication and the recent European Research Area conference had confirmed that the goals set in 2000 were still relevant and that there was still a long way to go to fully achieve them. She considered that a strong foundation for future research and innovation policies and programmes had been laid during the current Commission's term office.

Ms IVANOVA pointed out that Horizon Europe was being expanded to include new partners, such as the United Kingdom and Canada, while ensuring the security of research activity. She also mentioned the strengthening of Europe's position in emerging technologies, particularly through the support provided to start-ups by the European Innovation Council, the use of EU programmes to help Ukraine, the coordination of EU actions in advanced materials, and the fact that the EU was guiding the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in science.

In conclusion, she stressed that, as the EU began a new political cycle, it was imperative to ensure that the shortcomings that had been identified were addressed. In order to prosper and remain competitive internationally, Europe had to unlock its full research and innovation potential.

The PRESIDENT thanked Ms IVANOVA for her unfailing commitment and the European Research Area's remarkable success. She highlighted Horizon Europe's growing international reputation, stressing that the programme was often at the heart of negotiations with third countries and was considered to be a major asset by the EU's partners.

In reply to a question from the PRESIDENT regarding the private sector's expected contribution to the 3% of EU GDP to be allocated to research and innovation, Ms IVANOVA stated that around two thirds was supposed to come from private investment.

Following the presentation, the Commission approved the Communication in COM(2024) 490/3 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions and, for information, to the national parliaments.

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The meeting closed at 13.29.