



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2024) 2507 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

Brussels, 29 November 2024

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

**of the 2507th meeting of the Commission
held in Strasbourg
(Winston Churchill building)
on Tuesday 26 November 2024
(afternoon)**

PV(2024) 2507 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

EN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Attendance list	5-6
1. AGENDA (OJ(2024) 2507/FINAL)	7
2. WEEKLY MEETING OF HEADS OF CABINET (RCC(2024) 2507).....	7
3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (PV(2024) 2504; PV(2024) 2505, PV(2024) 2505, PART II; PV(2024) 2506)	7
4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS (RCC(2024) 151)	7
5. COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL ACTION (RCC(2024) 43).....	10
6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS.....	10
6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED (SEC(2024) 270 ET SEQ.).....	10
6.2. EMPOWERMENT (SEC(2024) 271 ET SEQ.)	10
6.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS (SEC(2024) 272 ET SEQ.)	10
6.4. SIGNIFICANT WRITTEN PROCEDURES (SEC(2024) 273 AND /2)	11
7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS (SEC(2024) 274/3)	11
7.1. DG COMPETITION – APPOINTMENT OF A DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL AT GRADE AD15/AD16 (PERS(2024) 72 TO /3).....	11
7.2. DG COMPETITION – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR AT GRADE AD14/AD15 (PERS(2024) 72 TO /3).....	12
7.3. DG INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMEs – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR AT GRADE AD14/AD15 (PERS(2024) 73 TO /3).....	12

7.4. DG JUSTICE AND CONSUMERS – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR AT GRADE AD14/AD15 (PERS(2024) 14 TO /3).....	13
7.5. DG ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS – NOMINATION FOR THE POST OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT FUND (PERS(2024) 27 TO /4).....	13
7.6. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL / REGULATORY SCRUTINY BOARD – TRANSFER OF AN AD14 OFFICIAL UNDER ARTICLE 7 OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS	14
7.7. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL / REGULATORY SCRUTINY BOARD – TRANSFER OF AN AD14 OFFICIAL UNDER ARTICLE 7 OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS	14
7.8. DG COMMUNICATION – AUTHORISATION FOR THE INTERNAL AND INTERINSTITUTIONAL PUBLICATION AT GRADE AD14/AD15, AND EXTERNAL PUBLICATION AT GRADE AD14, OF A PRINCIPAL ADVISER POST (PERS(2024) 74).....	15
7.9. DG TRANSLATION – AUTHORISATION FOR THE INTERNAL AND INTERINSTITUTIONAL PUBLICATION, AT GRADE AD15/AD16, AND EXTERNAL PUBLICATION, AT GRADE AD15, OF A POST OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL (PERS(2024) 75).....	15
7.10. DG TRANSLATION – AUTHORISATION FOR THE INTERNAL AND INTERINSTITUTIONAL PUBLICATION, AT GRADE AD14/AD15, AND EXTERNAL PUBLICATION, AT GRADE AD14, OF A DIRECTOR POST (PERS(2024) 76).....	16
7.11. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – PROMOTION OF SENIOR MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS HOLDING A BASIC POST OF DIRECTOR- GENERAL OR DIRECTOR (PERS(2024) 77).....	16
7.12. DG ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS – AMENDMENT OF THE ORGANISATION CHART.....	17
7.13. DG EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND INCLUSION – AMENDMENT OF THE ORGANISATION CHART	17
7.14. DG FINANCIAL STABILITY, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND CAPITAL MARKETS UNION – AMENDMENT OF THE ORGANISATION CHART	18
7.15. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – AMENDMENT OF THE ORGANISATION CHART.....	18
7.16. DG MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT – AMENDMENT OF THE ORGANISATION	

CHART.....	18
7.17. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL – COMMISSION DECISIONS ON POST TERM-OF-OFFICE ACTIVITIES OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION (C(2024) 9002; C(2024) 9003; C(2024) 9004; C(2024) 9005; C(2024) 9006)	19
8. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK – 2025 EUROPEAN SEMESTER – BRINGING THE NEW ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK TO LIFE (COM(2024) 705 TO /3; RCC(2024) 153)	19
9. COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS ENDORSING MEMBER STATES' NATIONAL MEDIUM-TERM FISCAL-STRUCTURAL PLANS (COM(2024) 710 TO /3; COM(2024) 711 TO /3; COM(2024) 712 TO /3; COM(2024) 713 TO /3; COM(2024) 714 TO /3; COM(2024) 715 TO /3; COM(2024) 716 AND /2; COM(2024) 717 TO /3; COM(2024) 718 TO /3; COM(2024) 719 TO /3; COM(2024) 720 TO /3; COM(2024) 721 TO /3; COM(2024) 722 TO /3; COM(2024) 723 TO /3; COM(2024) 724 TO /3; COM(2024) 725 TO /3; COM(2024) 726 TO /3; COM(2024) 727 TO /3; COM(2024) 728 TO /3; COM(2024) 729 AND /2; COM(2024) 730 AND /2)	19
10. OTHER BUSINESS.....	26
10.1. ANNUAL BUDGET 2025	26
10.2. OUTCOME OF THE 29 TH UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE.....	27
10.3. USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA DURING ELECTIONS	29
10.4. LAST MEETING OF THE COLLEGE.....	30

Single sitting: Tuesday 26 November 2024 (afternoon)

The sitting opened at 13.10 with Ms von der LEYEN, President, in the chair.

Present:

Ms von der LEYEN	President	
Ms VESTAGER	Executive Vice-President	
Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Executive Vice-President	
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Executive Vice-President	Items 8/9 (in part) to 10
Ms JOUROVÁ	Vice-President	
Ms ŠUICA	Vice-President	
Mr SCHINAS	Vice-President	
Mr HAHN	Member	Items 1 to 7
Mr SCHMIT	Member	
Mr GENTILONI	Member	
Mr WOJCIECHOWSKI	Member	
Ms FERREIRA	Member	
Ms KYRIAKIDES	Member	Items 7 (in part) to 10
Mr REYNDERS	Member	
Ms DALLI	Member	
Ms JOHANSSON	Member	
Ms SIMSON	Member	
Ms McGUINNESS	Member	
Mr HOEKSTRA	Member	

Absent:

Mr BORRELL i FONTELLES	High Representative / Vice-President
Mr LENARČIČ	Member
Mr VÁRHELYI	Member
Ms URPILAINEN	Member
Ms IVANOVA	Member

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

Ms LOTSON LÓPEZ	Expert in Mr BORRELL's cabinet	
Ms PAJNKIHAR	Deputy Head of Cabinet to Mr LENARČIČ	
Mr ROSSIDES	Head of Cabinet to Ms KYRIAKIDES	Items 1 to 7 (in part)
Mr KRISTÓFFY	Head of Cabinet to Mr VÁRHELYI	
Ms LEINONEN	Member of Ms URPILAINEN's cabinet	
Ms BRUNO	Expert in Ms IVANOVA'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
Mr MAMER	Head of the Spokesperson's Service and Chief Spokesperson of the Commission
Mr ADAM	Deputy Head of Cabinet to the PRESIDENT
Ms PETKOVA	Director of Coordination and Administration in the PRESIDENT's cabinet
Ms HOPMEIER	Member of the PRESIDENT's cabinet
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. AGENDA

(OJ(2024) 2507/FINAL)

The Commission took note of that day's agenda.

2. WEEKLY MEETING OF HEADS OF CABINET

(RCC(2024) 2507)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Heads of Cabinet held on Monday 25 November 2024.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

(PV(2024) 2504; PV(2024) 2505, PV(2024) 2505, PART II; PV(2024) 2506)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 2504th, 2505th and 2506th meetings of 22 and 30 October and 13 November 2024.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(RCC(2024) 151)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (IRG) held on Friday 22 November 2024 (RCC(2024) 151).

The Commission approved the lines proposed for the following points:

- **Amendment of Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 as regards provisions relating to the date of application (Regulation) – 2024/0249 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2024) 378.

- **Improvement and enforcement of working conditions of trainees and**

PV(2024) 2507 final

**combating regular employment relationships disguised as traineeships
(Directive) – 2024/0068 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2024) 379.

- **Execution of driving disqualifications with a Union-wide effect (Directive) – RICCI report – 2023/0055 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2024) 380/2.

- **Better protection for passengers: amendment of Regulations (EC) No 261/2004, (EC) No 1107/2006, (EU) No 1177/2010, (EU) No 181/2011 and (EU) 2021/782 as regards enforcement of passenger rights in the Union (Regulation) – RICCI report – 2023/0437 (COD) / Passenger rights in the context of multimodal journeys (Regulation) – GIESEKE report – 2023/0436 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2024) 381/2.

- **Energy Charter Treaty and Conference: position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the Energy Charter Conference (Council Decision) – 2024/0296 (NLE) / Approval of the position to be taken on behalf of Euratom in the Energy Charter Conference (Council Decision) – 2024/0293 (NLE)**

Line set out in SI(2024) 383.

- **Authorisation for the opening of negotiations for an agreement between the European Union and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on youth mobility (Council Decision) – COM(2024) 169 final**

Line set out in SI(2024) 374.

- **Question time (Commission) – Challenges in the implementation of cohesion policy 2021-2027**

Information set out in SP(2024) 594.

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 part-session of September 2024**

Line set out in SP(2024) 588.

The Commission took note of the following points:

- **Objection pursuant to Article 114 – Commission delegated regulation (EU) .../... amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 as regards measures to reduce incidental catches of common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*) and other small cetaceans in the Bay of Biscay – C(2024) 6800**

Information set out in SP(2024) 593.

- **Laying-down of minimum rules to prevent and counter the facilitation of unauthorised entry, transit and stay in the Union, and replacing of Council Directive 2002/90/EC and Council Framework Decision 2002/946 JHA – SIPPEL report – 2023/0439 (COD)**

Information set out in SI(2024) 382.

- **RESTORE – Regional Emergency Support to Reconstruction amending Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 and Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 (Regulation) – 2024/0275 (COD)**

Information set out in SI(2024) 386.

- **2025 budgetary procedure – Outcome of the conciliation**

Information set out in SP(2024) 584.

**5. COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL ACTION
(RCC(2024) 43)**

The Commission took note of the operational conclusions in RCC(2024) 43 of the meeting of the Group for External Coordination (EXCO) held on Wednesday 20 November 2024.

6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

**6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED
(SEC(2024) 270 ET SEQ.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 11 and 24 November 2024.

**6.2. EMPOWERMENT
(SEC(2024) 271 ET SEQ.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 11 and 24 November 2024.

**6.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS
(SEC(2024) 272 ET SEQ.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedures between 11 and 24 November 2024 archived in Decide.

6.4. SIGNIFICANT WRITTEN PROCEDURES

(SEC(2024) 273 AND /2)

The Commission took note of the significant written procedures for which the time limit expired between 25 and 29 November 2024.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

(SEC(2024) 274/3)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

(PERS(2024) 71/3)

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 Anthony WHELAN to the post of Deputy Director-General of State Aid in DG Competition (DG COMP). Mr HAHN highlighted Mr WHELAN's wide range of professional experience and his skills and merits in relation to the post to be filled.

7.1. DG COMPETITION – APPOINTMENT OF A DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL AT GRADE AD15/AD16

(PERS(2024) 72 TO /3)

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Deputy Director-General in charge of State Aid in DG Competition (PERS(2024) 78).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 19 September and 19 November 2024 (PERS(2024) 78/2 and /3).

The Commission then examined the applicants' qualifications for the post. On a proposal from Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after

consulting Ms VESTAGER, it then decided to appoint Mr Anthony WHELAN to the post.

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

**7.2. DG COMPETITION – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR AT GRADE AD14/AD15
(PERS(2024) 72 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’ Directorate in DG Competition (PERS(2024) 72).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 23 October and 14 November 2024 (PERS(2024) 72/2 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 VESTAGER, it then decided to appoint Ms Stina SOEWARTA to the post.

This decision would take effect on 1 December 2024.

**7.3. DG INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMEs – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR AT GRADE AD14/AD15
(PERS(2024) 73 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 ‘Ecosystems III – Construction, machinery and standardisation’ Directorate in DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (PERS(2024) 73).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 22 August and 24 October 2024 (PERS(2024) 73/2 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 VESTAGER, it then decided to appoint Ms Barbara BONVISSUTO to the post.

This decision would take effect on 1 December 2024.

**7.4. DG JUSTICE AND CONSUMERS – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR
AT GRADE AD14/AD15
(PERS(2024) 14 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 'Equality and non-discrimination' Directorate in DG Justice and Consumers (PERS(2024) 14).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 9 and 11 January 2024 (PERS(2024) 14/2 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 DALLI and Mr REYNDERS, it then decided to appoint Ms Ana Carla PEREIRA to the post.

This decision would take effect on 1 December 2024.

**7.5. DG ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS – NOMINATION FOR
THE POST OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE
EUROPEAN INVESTMENT FUND
(PERS(2024) 27 TO /4)**

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

- to endorse the nomination of Ms Merete CLAUSEN to the post of Deputy Chief Executive of the European Investment Fund in Luxembourg, and to consider her as the Commission proposal;
- to ask Mr DOMBROVSKIS, the Member of the Commission responsible, to communicate this decision to the Board of Directors of the European Investment Fund.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

**7.6. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL / REGULATORY SCRUTINY BOARD –
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 and Ms VESTAGER, the Commission decided to transfer, in the interest of the service, under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations, Mr Alexander GEMBERG-WIESIKE – currently Principal Adviser for Enforcement of digital policies in DG Communication Networks, Content and Technology – to the post of Principal Adviser/Member of the Regulatory Scrutiny Board.

This decision would take effect on 1 December 2024.

**7.7. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL / REGULATORY SCRUTINY BOARD –
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 and Ms URPILAINEN, the Commission decided to transfer, in the interest of the service, under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations, Ms Arianna VANNINI – currently Principal Adviser for Strategic foresight and Chief Economist in DG International Partnerships – to the post of Principal Adviser/Member of the Regulatory Scrutiny Board.

This decision would take effect on 1 December 2024.

**7.8. DG COMMUNICATION – AUTHORISATION FOR THE INTERNAL AND INTERINSTITUTIONAL PUBLICATION AT GRADE AD14/AD15, AND EXTERNAL PUBLICATION AT GRADE AD14, OF A PRINCIPAL ADVISER POST
(PERS(2024) 74)**

On a proposal from Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, the Commission decided to authorise the internal and interinstitutional publication, at grade AD14/AD15, and external publication, at grade AD14, of the vacancy notice set out in PERS(2024) 74 for the post of Principal Adviser for Relations with stakeholders, civil society, think tanks and outreach in DG Communication, 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.

**7.9. DG TRANSLATION – AUTHORISATION FOR THE INTERNAL AND INTERINSTITUTIONAL PUBLICATION, AT GRADE AD15/AD16, AND EXTERNAL PUBLICATION, AT GRADE AD15, OF A POST OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL
(PERS(2024) 75)**

On a proposal from Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, the Commission decided to authorise the internal and interinstitutional publication, at grade AD15/AD16, and external publication, at grade AD15, of the vacancy notice set out in PERS(2024) 75 for the post of Deputy Director-General responsible for Directorates A, B, C, D and Unit DGT.03 in DG Translation, 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.

7.10. DG TRANSLATION – AUTHORISATION FOR THE INTERNAL AND INTERINSTITUTIONAL PUBLICATION, AT GRADE AD14/AD15, AND EXTERNAL PUBLICATION, AT GRADE AD14, OF A DIRECTOR POST (PERS(2024) 76)

On a proposal from Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, the Commission decided to authorise the internal and interinstitutional publication, at grade AD14/AD15, and external publication, at grade AD14, of the vacancy notice set out in PERS(2024) 76 for the post of Director of the ‘Resources’ Directorate in DG Translation, 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.

7.11. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – PROMOTION OF SENIOR MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS HOLDING A BASIC POST OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL OR DIRECTOR (PERS(2024) 77)

Having noted the procedure followed, as set out in point 10 of PERS(2024) 71/2, and taken into account the opinion of the Consultative Committee on Promotion for Senior Officials (CC-PSO) (PERS(2024) 77), and having considered the comparative merits of the persons concerned with regard to the selection criteria set out in the ‘Principles and Procedures’, the Commission decided, on a proposal from Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT:

- to promote to grade AD16 the following officials, listed in alphabetical order, holding a basic post of Director-General or equivalent, with effect from 1 January 2024: Mr Mihail DUMITRU, Ms Kerstin JORNA, Mr Bernard MAGENHANN, Mr Olivier ONIDI, Ms Genoveva RUIZ CALAVERA, Ms Andriana SUKOVA and Ms Elisabeth WERNER;

- to promote to grade AD15 the following officials, listed in alphabetical order, holding a basic post of Director or equivalent, with effect from 1 January 2024: Mr Benjamin ANGEL, Ms Antoaneta ANGELOVA-KRASTEVA, Mr Emanuele BALDACCI, Ms Mona BJORKLUND HARRATI, Mr Niall BOHAN, Ms Flaminia BUSSACCHINI, Ms Martine DEPREZ, Mr Morten FJALLAND, Ms Sabine HENZLER, Mr Richard KUEHNEL, Ms Cristina LOBILLO BORRERO, Mr Johannes LUEBKING, Mr Joaquim NUNES DE ALMEIDA, Mr Andreas PAPAConstantinou, Mr Gianluca PECCHI, Ms Paula PINHO, Mr Bernhard SCHIMA, Mr Michael SHOTTER, Ms Pernilla SJÖLIN and Mr Jacob WERKSMAN.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

7.12. DG ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS – AMENDMENT OF THE ORGANISATION CHART

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 amendment concerned the abolition of the post of Principal Adviser for Economic research and analysis (ECFIN.PA01).

This decision would take effect on 1 December 2024.

7.13. DG EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND INCLUSION – AMENDMENT OF THE ORGANISATION CHART

On a proposal from Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Ms DALLI and Mr SCHMIT, the Commission decided to amend the organisation chart of DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. The amendment concerned the abolition of the post of Principal Adviser EMPL.PA.

This decision would take effect on 1 December 2024.

**7.14. DG FINANCIAL STABILITY, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND CAPITAL
MARKETS UNION – AMENDMENT OF THE ORGANISATION CHART**

On a proposal from Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Ms McGUINNESS, the Commission decided to amend the organisation chart of DG Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union. The amendment concerned the abolition of the post of Principal Adviser FISMA.PA01.

This decision would take effect on 1 December 2024.

**7.15. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – AMENDMENT OF THE
ORGANISATION CHART**

On a proposal from Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, the Commission decided to amend the organisation chart of DG Human Resources and Security. The amendment concerned the abolition of the post of Principal Adviser for Luxembourg site coordination (HR.PA01).

This decision would take effect on 1 December 2024.

**7.16. DG MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT – AMENDMENT OF THE
ORGANISATION CHART**

On a proposal from Mr HAHN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Mr HOEKSTRA, the Commission decided to amend the organisation chart of DG Mobility and Transport. The amendment concerned the abolition of the post of Principal Adviser for Digitalisation and smart mobility (MOVE.PA).

This decision would take effect on 1 December 2024.

7.17. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL – COMMISSION DECISIONS ON POST TERM-OF-OFFICE ACTIVITIES OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

(C(2024) 9002; C(2024) 9003; C(2024) 9004; C(2024) 9005; C(2024) 9006)

The Commission decided that the professional activities envisaged by Ms Margrethe VESTAGER, Ms Věra JOUROVÁ, Ms Elisa FERREIRA and Ms Mairead McGUINNESS after leaving office as Members of the Commission were compatible with Article 245(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) and with the Code of Conduct for Commissioners, subject to certain specific conditions and obligations.

The Commission adopted the Decisions set out in C(2024) 9002, C(2024) 9003, C(2024) 9004, C(2024) 9005 and C(2024) 9006.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

8. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK – 2025 EUROPEAN SEMESTER – BRINGING THE NEW ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK TO LIFE

(COM(2024) 705 TO /3; RCC(2024) 153)

9. COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS ENDORSING MEMBER STATES' NATIONAL MEDIUM-TERM FISCAL-STRUCTURAL PLANS

(COM(2024) 710 TO /3; COM(2024) 711 TO /3; COM(2024) 712 TO /3; COM(2024) 713 TO /3; COM(2024) 714 TO /3; COM(2024) 715 TO /3; COM(2024) 716 AND /2; COM(2024) 717 TO /3; COM(2024) 718 TO /3; COM(2024) 719 TO /3; COM(2024) 720 TO /3; COM(2024) 721 TO /3; COM(2024) 722 TO /3; COM(2024) 723 TO /3; COM(2024) 724 TO /3;

**COM(2024) 725 TO /3; COM(2024) 726 TO /3; COM(2024) 727 TO /3;
COM(2024) 728 TO /3; COM(2024) 729 AND /2; COM(2024) 730 AND /2)**

Mr DOMBROVSKIS presented the European Semester autumn package. He stressed the importance of this package, which was the first step in implementing the most ambitious and comprehensive reform of the EU's economic governance since the global economic and financial crisis more than a decade ago. The new fiscal rules would contribute to strengthening fiscal sustainability whilst promoting sustainable and inclusive growth. Indeed, the rules were aimed at improving the coordination of economic and fiscal policies between Member States in order to respond to shared policy priorities, namely strengthening economic and social resilience, the green and digital transition, and improving the EU's security capabilities. This would require structural reforms and huge investment, both private and public, to meet the current and future challenges and boost the EU's competitiveness. He stressed the need to reduce the high levels of public debt in several Member States, exacerbated by considerable government support to households and businesses hit first by the pandemic and then by high energy prices.

In this context, Mr DOMBROVSKIS explained that the cornerstone of the new rules was the medium-term fiscal-structural plan that each Member State had to prepare. The national plan set out the country's fiscal trajectory, priority investments and growth-enhancing reforms for the coming years. The plan also reflected shared EU priorities and country-specific recommendations issued in the context of the European Semester. The trajectories took account of the fiscal situation of each country, focusing on reducing public debt where it was high. Mr DOMBROVSKIS clarified that the Commission was working closely with Member States to enable them to prepare their plans in the best possible way, in accordance with the national situation and in line with the new fiscal rules.

He welcomed the fact that 22 Member States had already submitted their medium-term fiscal-structural plans. Five plans, namely those of Germany, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria and Lithuania, would be submitted at a later date owing to national

elections and the formation of new governments. The package included the Commission's assessment for 21 of the plans received so far; Hungary's plan, submitted on 4 November, was still being assessed.

On this basis, 20 of the national plans analysed presented a credible path to ensure fiscal sustainability in the medium term. The Commission was therefore proposing that the Council endorse the fiscal trajectories set out in those plans. However, for the Netherlands a net-expenditure path based on the technical information provided by the Commission in June was recommended.

Mr DOMBROVSKIS stressed that the positive assessment of almost all plans reflected the proper functioning of the new system, and concluded that the approach taken, based on each Member State taking ownership of its fiscal policy, had borne fruit.

More generally, he pointed out that, although the Member States were being asked to make a fiscal adjustment, this should not result in a reduction in investment. He welcomed the fact that 5 Member States had chosen a more gradual fiscal adjustment path, spread over 7 years, while committing to investments and reforms that would boost their growth potential and improve fiscal sustainability. In the light of these efforts, the Commission was planning a continuous increase in public investment the following year in almost all Member States.

In this context, Mr DOMBROVSKIS recalled the historic importance of the Recovery and Resilience Facility, the implementation of which had brought public investment across the EU to its highest level in more than a decade. It was now up to the Member States to deliver on the commitments set out in their medium-term plans; the Commission would closely monitor these commitments in the next cycles of the European Semester.

He then turned to the other elements of the package presented that day. First, he referred to the excessive deficit procedures against 8 Member States: Belgium, France, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. The Commission had

postponed the implementation of corrective fiscal trajectories to the autumn, so that they could be aligned with each country's medium-term budgetary plan. As a result, for most of the countries concerned, the Commission had been able to base the corrective trajectories on those set out in the respective Member States' plans. Given that Belgium had not yet submitted a plan and that Hungary's plan was still being assessed, for these two countries the Commission was proposing a corrective trajectory based on a reference trajectory.

Second, the Commission had analysed the overruns of the reference value of 3% of gross domestic product (GDP) foreseen for that year for Austria and Finland. For Finland, it was not necessary to open an excessive deficit procedure at this stage, as its deficit in the following year was already expected to be below 3% of GDP. In the case of Austria, the budget deficit was expected to remain above 3% in the coming years, and the Commission would therefore consider proposing the opening of an excessive deficit procedure. However, Austria intended to present, before the Economic and Financial Affairs Council in January 2025, measures which should bring its deficit below 3%; the Commission would take these into account in the next steps in the procedure.

Finally, Mr DOMBROVSKIS pointed out that that day's package also included the Commission's opinions on the euro area Member States' draft budgetary plans for 2025, which would be presented by Mr GENTILONI. He concluded by thanking the Members of the Commission and the departments involved for the work done in the context of the European Semester.

Mr GENTILONI stressed that Member States' commitment to the new economic governance framework was also reflected in the 2025 draft budgetary plans for euro area countries. The plans set out the first year of the medium-term paths for those Member States and the planned fiscal adjustments. The drafts were broadly in line with the medium-term plans submitted by those Member States and with the fiscal recommendations adopted by the Council in July.

Of the 20 euro area countries, 17 had submitted their draft budgetary plans, while Austria, Belgium and Spain had not yet done so. Eight of the plans submitted were considered to be in line with the fiscal recommendations and complied with the net expenditure growth ceilings set out in their medium-term paths. Seven others were not considered to be fully compliant, as the ceilings were slightly exceeded or measures to phase out energy subsidies by winter 2024/25 were missing. Only one draft budgetary plan, from the Netherlands, was not considered compliant, while Lithuania's was at risk of non-compliance but was likely to be updated by the new government.

Mr GENTILONI stressed the symbolic importance of this first stage of applying the EU's new economic governance rules. He highlighted the forward-looking approach of the new governance framework, which focused on the medium term in sharp contrast to the short-termism often favoured by Member States, especially in times of political turmoil. He therefore welcomed the cooperation between the Commission and national administrations, which had led to substantial progress.

Although the new framework was the result of a political compromise, he felt that it was a clear improvement on the previous rules. He highlighted the introduction of key elements, such as the balance between realistic fiscal consolidation and continued public investment. In particular, he welcomed the mechanism for extending plans from four to seven years for Member States with significant fiscal consolidation needs, which fostered public investment.

Mr GENTILONI also welcomed the bigger role played by Member States in the process, with each country being free to draw up its own reform plan within a common but flexible framework. Member States could spread their efforts as they wished and extend their budgetary plans for up to seven years, provided they committed to strategic reforms and investments. Lastly, he emphasised the Commission's enhanced coordination role, while pointing out the challenges faced by some Member States, particularly in terms of political instability. He hoped to

see rapid progress in overcoming these obstacles and ensuring effective implementation of the new framework.

As regards next steps, Mr GENTILONI referred to the crucial importance of continued implementation of the new rules to demonstrate that they were operational and effective. He also called for greater involvement of the various stakeholders, especially national parliaments, which should play a key role since the medium-term plans served as a roadmap for Member States' budgetary decisions over a period of four to seven years. He highlighted the flexibility of the framework, which allowed Member States to adjust their plans in the event of a change of government. This meant plans could evolve according to the priorities of successive governments, while remaining aligned with the medium-term objectives.

Although the fiscal rules supported growth, they were not intended to directly address the EU's investment challenges. Their main aim was to limit risks, continue to be realistic and ensure fair treatment of Member States. The rules were not designed to tackle the issue of joint public investment after the expiry of NextGenerationEU. To meet Europe's considerable investment needs, the EU had to step up its efforts to attract private investors and engage in discussions on boosting joint investment in European priorities.

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

- congratulations for the reform of EU fiscal rules, which constituted a major improvement and was one of the main achievements during the current term of office;
- a reminder of the limits of the former fiscal framework, which was too rigid for the realities of economic cycles and weakened the European economy by imposing even stricter rules on Member States already in difficulty;

- the importance of ownership by Member States to ensure compliance and of the flexibility introduced in the new framework, allowing exceptional circumstances to be taken into account;
- the need to ensure effective and fair implementation of the rules for all Member States;
- recognition of the challenges linked to a forward-looking approach in the context of often short-term political realities, and of the importance of national parliaments being more involved;
- concerns about the progress made by the co-legislators on the Capital Markets Union, which was crucial for unlocking the financing potential of European markets and supporting much-needed investments in the EU.

The PRESIDENT concluded by warmly thanking Mr DOMBROVSKIS and Mr GENTILONI for their decisive role in the EU's smooth transition to a new economic governance framework. However, she expressed her concern at the continuing difficulties in some major EU economies, highlighting the potential impact on other Member States as a result of the interdependence of supply chains. Referring to the conclusions of Mr Draghi's recent report, she stressed the importance of easier access to capital markets for European firms and of increasing the share of private investment in innovation and scaling-up of disruptive technologies on the European market.

Following these presentations, the Commission:

- approved the Communication in COM(2024) 705/3 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Central Bank, and, for information, to the national parliaments;
- adopted the Recommendations for Council Recommendations in COM(2024) 710/3, COM(2024) 711/3, COM(2024) 712/3, COM(2024) 713/3,

COM(2024) 714/3, COM(2024) 715/3, COM(2024) 716/2, COM(2024) 717/3, COM(2024) 718/3, COM(2024) 719/3, COM(2024) 720/3, COM(2024) 721/3, COM(2024) 722/3, COM(2024) 723/3, COM(2024) 724/3, COM(2024) 725/3, COM(2024) 726/3, COM(2024) 727/3, COM(2024) 728/3, COM(2024) 729/2 and COM(2024) 730/2, for transmission to the Council and, for information, to the European Parliament, the European Central Bank, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions, the European Investment Bank and the national parliaments.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10.1. ANNUAL BUDGET 2025

Mr HAHN reported on the successful conclusion of the negotiations on the EU's annual budget for 2025, which set total commitments at almost EUR 200 million and payments at around EUR 150 million, excluding appropriations for special instruments outside the multiannual financial framework.

The final points resolved during the negotiations concerned mainly two issues, namely (i) the sources of financing to cover the interest on loans contracted under the NextGenerationEU programme, and (ii) the implementation of the proposal for Regional Emergency Support to Reconstruction (RESTORE), in particular the question of advance payments of EUR 300 million planned as from the following year. The Council had approved the agreement the day before, and the European Parliament was expected to take a decision the following day. Thanks to a fast-track procedure, the rules for using regional funding for RESTORE could be put in place already in December.

Mr HAHN then expressed his satisfaction with the evolution of gender parity

at all hierarchical levels, a priority objective set by the PRESIDENT during the Commission's term of office. This major achievement had been made possible by a substantial increase in the number of women in leadership positions. The share of women in senior and middle management positions had increased from 40.5% at the beginning of the term of office to 49.3% today. Women now accounted for 49.6% of middle managers, 48.1% of senior managers and 51.4% of Directors-General. These results placed the Commission among the most advanced administrations in Europe and the world in terms of gender parity in leadership positions.

Turning to another major achievement, Mr HAHN highlighted the measures aimed at increasing the attractiveness of the Luxembourg site for EU staff. In particular, the 2025 budget included a housing allowance to support staff in the lower salary brackets, who were most affected by the high housing costs in Luxembourg.

Mr HAHN concluded by mentioning the Commission's efforts to facilitate access to public health systems in all Member States for EU staff and their families. A proposal for a Regulation was therefore being drawn up to simplify this access and allow direct reimbursement of costs between the Member States and the EU institutions. However, the decision to adopt this proposal would be left to the next Commission.

The Commission took note of this information.

10.2. OUTCOME OF THE 29TH UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

Mr HOEKSTRA reported on the negotiations and the agreement reached at the 29th UN Climate Change Conference (COP29), held in Baku (Azerbaijan) from 11 to 22 November 2024. He stressed the challenges encountered in these negotiations and felt that the agreement eventually reached had made it possible to maintain a collective momentum despite diverging expectations.

With regard to the international financing of climate action, he noted that the announced amount of 300 billion dollars annually by 2035, although insufficient to respond to the scale of the problem, represented an important milestone and demonstrated a global commitment to continue the work initiated in 1992. He explained that this agreement would not lead to changes in funding levels for EU Member States, unless they wished to increase their contribution on a voluntary basis. In this regard, he emphasised the voluntary commitments made by some of the most advanced countries in the Global South, which helped broaden the funding base.

Mr HOEKSTRA felt that this conference had made it possible to preserve the achievements of previous conferences, a modest but indispensable step forward ahead of the 30th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) scheduled to take place in Belém, Brazil, at the end of 2025.

Finally, he welcomed the active and coordinated involvement of the EU, which had managed to speak with one voice throughout the negotiations. He thanked the Commission departments involved, the representatives of the Hungarian EU Presidency present at the conference and those of the other Member States for their valuable input upstream and on the ground.

The PRESIDENT reported on the 19th G20 summit held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 18 and 19 November 2024. She welcomed the positive results achieved and the central role played by the EU. Given the initial uncertainties about the prospects of adopting a joint declaration, she welcomed the strong commitment of Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva to achieving the consensus which eventually led to a positive outcome.

She also noted that the changing geopolitical context created a unique opportunity for medium-sized countries to strengthen their cooperation with the EU. Indeed, the EU was recognised as a reliable trading partner that complied with the rules and promoted stable and fair economic practices.

On the climate front, the PRESIDENT highlighted the creation, at the summit, of a forum dedicated to the implementation of the ambitious targets adopted at the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28), such as tripling renewable energy and doubling energy efficiency by 2030. She also stressed the high expectations for the next conference (COP30) to be held in Belém in 2025. It was expected to focus in particular on nature-related challenges, reflecting the Brazilian Presidency's commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable development.

The Commission took note of this information.

10.3. USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA DURING ELECTIONS

Ms JOUROVÁ raised the issue of the use of social media by certain candidates in national election campaigns, and mentioned in particular the recent presidential elections in Romania. She highlighted the risks of such use, particularly with younger voters, due to algorithms promoting the dissemination of unmoderated politicised content, as well as the need to use the regulatory and non-regulatory tools available to better understand and mitigate these risks.

A brief discussion followed, during which the following points were raised:

- a reminder of the investigations opened by the Commission into certain platforms;
- the fact that while there was no EU-level moderation of social media content, there were legal obligations at EU level for moderation under the national rules in force;
- recognition of the potentially negative impact of social media on young people's mental health;

- the importance for democracy and public health of effective implementation of the rules governing the digital domain.

The PRESIDENT stressed that these issues would be a priority for the next Commission, which would be able to take action on the basis of all the rules adopted by the current Commission over the past five years.

The Commission took note of this information.

10.4. LAST MEETING OF THE COLLEGE

The PRESIDENT concluded the last meeting of this College by highlighting some key figures, in particular the fact that 191 meetings had been held over the last five years, including 49 in Strasbourg.

She reminded the meeting that the College had proved capable of innovating in many respects, notably by organising virtual meetings for the first time during the COVID-19 pandemic and adapting to restrictive sanitary measures during face-to-face meetings. She also mentioned the diversity of high-level guests hosted by the College, mentioning in particular the exceptional participation of the King and Queen of the Belgians, the Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) and the Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

She highlighted two emblematic moments: the meeting of 24 December 2020 devoted to formalising the agreement on future cooperation with the United Kingdom after its departure from the European Union, and the historic visit of the College to Kyiv on 2 February 2023, a strong symbol of the Union's solidarity with Ukraine. Lastly, she referred to the numerous international visits made by the College during this term of office.

The PRESIDENT concluded the last meeting of the present College by expressing her deep gratitude for the collective commitment of the Members of the Commission to the achievement of the Commission's priorities over the

five years of its term of office.

The Commission took note of this information.

*

* *

The meeting closed at 14.13.