



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2024) 2508 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

Brussels, 15 January 2025

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

**of the 2508th meeting of the Commission
held in Brussels
(Berlaymont)
on Wednesday 4 December 2024
(morning)**

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Single sitting: Wednesday 4 December 2024 (morning)

The sitting opened at 9.00 with Ms von der LEYEN, President, in the chair.

Present:

Ms von der LEYEN	President	
Ms RIBERA	Executive Vice-President	
Ms VIRKKUNEN	Executive Vice-President	
Mr SÉJOURNÉ	Executive Vice-President	
Ms KALLAS	High Representative / Vice-President	
Ms MÎNZATU	Executive Vice-President	
Mr FITTO	Executive Vice-President	
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Member	
Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Member	
Ms ŠUICA	Member	
Mr VÁRHELYI	Member	Items 7 to 13
Mr HOEKSTRA	Member	
Mr KUBILIUS	Member	
Ms KOS	Member	
Mr SÍKELA	Member	
Ms KADIS	Member	
Ms ALBUQUERQUE	Member	
Ms LAHBIB	Member	
Mr BRUNNER	Member	
Ms ROSWALL	Member	
Mr SERAFIN	Member	
Mr JØRGENSEN	Member	
Ms ZAHARIEVA	Member	
Mr McGRATH	Member	
Mr TZITZIKOSTAS	Member	
Mr HANSEN	Member	
Mr MICALLEF	Member	

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 PINHO	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
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) 2508/FINAL; SEC(2024) 2508/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) 2508)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Heads of Cabinet held on Monday 2 December 2024.

3. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(RCC(2024) 155)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (GRI) held on 28 November 2024 (RCC(2024) 155).

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) 394/2.

- **Fixing of the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Mediterranean and Black Seas for 2025 (Council Regulation) – 2024/0225 (NLE)**

Line set out in SI(2024) 392.

- **Fixing for 2025 and 2026 of the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks,**

applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters (Council Regulation) – 2024/0285 (NLE)

Line set out in SI(2024) 393.

- **VAT and/or excise duty exemption certificate – electronic version: amendment of Directive 2006/112/EC as regards the electronic value added tax exemption certificate (Council Directive) – 2024/0152 (CNS) / Amendment of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 282/2011 as regards the electronic value added tax exemption certificate (Council Implementing Regulation) – 2024/0153 (NLE)**

Line set out in SI(2024) 395.

- **Revision of the 2010 Framework Agreement on relations between the European Parliament and the European Commission – Commission mandate for the negotiations between the European Parliament and the Commission**

Line set out in SP(2024) 602.

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 October II 2024 and November I 2024 part-sessions

Line set out in SP(2024) 597.

The Commission took note of the following points:

- **Harmonisation of certain aspects of insolvency law (Directive) – RADEV report – 2022/0408 (COD)**

Information set out in SI(2024) 390.

- **Prevention of plastic pellet losses to reduce microplastic pollution (Regulation) – LUENA report – 2023/0373 (COD)**

Information set out in SI(2024) 391.

- **Combat against sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child sexual abuse material and replacing Council Framework Decision 2004/68/JHA (Directive – recast) – LENAERS report – 2024/0035 (COD)**

Information set out in SI(2024) 384.

4. COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL ACTION (RCC(2024) 44)

The Commission took note of the operational conclusions in RCC(2024) 44 of the meeting of the Group for External Coordination (EXCO) held on Wednesday 27 November 2024.

5. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

5.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED (SEC(2024) 283 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 25 November and 1 December 2024.

5.2. EMPOWERMENT (SEC(2024) 284 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 25 November and 1 December 2024.

**5.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS
(SEC(2024) 285 ET SEQ.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedures between 25 November and 1 December 2024 archived in Decide.

**6. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS
(SEC(2024) 287)**

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
(PERS(2024) 79)**

**6.1. DG FINANCIAL STABILITY, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND CAPITAL
MARKETS UNION – PROPOSAL FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE
CHAIR OF THE AUTHORITY FOR ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AND
COUNTERING THE FINANCING OF TERRORISM (AMLA)**

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

- to approve the proposal for the appointment of Ms Bruna SZEGO as chair of the Authority for Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism;
- to ask Ms ALBUQUERQUE, the Member of the Commission responsible, to communicate this decision to the European Parliament and to inform the Council.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

**6.2. DG BUDGET – AMENDMENT OF THE ORGANISATION CHART AND AUTHORISATION FOR THE INTERNAL AND INTERINSTITUTIONAL PUBLICATION OF A DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL POST AT GRADE AD15/AD16, AND A DIRECTOR POST AT GRADE AD14/AD15
(SEC(2024) 308; PERS(2024) 80; PERS(2024) 81)**

On a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, the Commission decided to amend the organisation chart of DG Budget. The changes involved:

- renaming the post of Deputy Director-General in charge of Directorate C, also Accounting Officer of the Commission (BUDG.DDG1), to Deputy Director-General for ‘Financial rules, controls and reporting’, responsible for Directorates C, D and E (BUDG.DDG);
- creating a permanent post of *hors classe* Adviser with the title ‘Chief Risk Officer’ (BUDG.CRO) who would report directly to the Commissioner responsible for Budget and would receive the administrative support of the newly created Risk Management Unit (BUDG.CRO.01). This unit would have a functional reporting line to the Chief Risk Officer, who, along with the unit, would receive administrative support from DG Budget with regard to human resources, IT and budgetary matters;
- transferring Ms Iliyana TSANOVA – currently Deputy Director-General in charge of units E1 and E3 (BUDG.DDG2) – to this newly created post of *hors classe* Adviser, in the interest of the service, under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations;
- abolishing the post of Deputy Director-General in charge of units E1 and E3 (BUDG.DDG2);

- transferring the role of Accounting Officer of the Commission from the post of Deputy Director-General in charge of Directorate C, also Accounting Officer of the Commission (BUDG.DDG1), to the post of Director of Directorate BUDG.C, renamed ‘Treasury, accounting, financial control and recoveries’;
- appointing Ms Maria Beatriz SANZ REDRADO, Director of the ‘Treasury, accounting, financial control and recoveries’ Directorate (BUDG.C), as Accounting Officer of the Commission. It was confirmed that she had the competence required by Article 78(1) of the Financial Regulation (Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509);
- creating a Directorate ‘Accountability, transparency and protection of the Union’s financial interests’ (BUDG.D), composed of four units, under the authority of the Deputy Director-General (BUDG.DDG);
- renaming the post of ‘Principal Adviser – Legal and financial issues, rule of law, fraud prevention and EDES’, currently reporting to the Director-General, as ‘Principal Adviser – Legal affairs: financial rules, controls and reporting’ and creating a reporting line to the new post of Deputy Director-General for Financial rules, controls and reporting, in charge of Directorates C, D and E (BUDG.DDG);
- transferring Mr Olivier WAELBROECK to this post of Principal Adviser;
- authorising, with immediate effect, the internal and interinstitutional publication of the vacancy notice for the post of Deputy Director-General for Financial rules, controls and reporting, in charge of Directorates C, D and E, in accordance with Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) and 29(1)(b) of the Staff Regulations;
- authorising, with immediate effect, the internal and interinstitutional publication of the vacancy notice for the post of Director of the ‘Revenue

and Multiannual Financial Framework' Directorate, in accordance with Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) and 29(1)(b) of the Staff Regulations;

- approving the new organisation chart set out in SEC(2024) 308.

Following the restructuring, the total number of directorates in DG Budget would increase from 6 to 7 and the number of units would remain unchanged.

Unless indicated otherwise, these decisions would take effect on 16 December 2024.

- 7. COMMISSION DECISION ESTABLISHING THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COMMISSION AND AMENDING DECISION C(2000) 3614 (C(2024) 10000; RCC(2024) 157)**
- 8. COMMISSION DECISION ON TRANSPARENCY MEASURES CONCERNING MEETINGS HELD BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION AND INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES, AND REPEALING DECISION 2014/839/EU, EURATOM (C(2024) 11500)**
- 9. COMMISSION DECISION ON TRANSPARENCY MEASURES CONCERNING MEETINGS HELD BETWEEN COMMISSION STAFF HOLDING MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONS AND INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES AND REPEALING DECISION 2014/838/EU, EURATOM (C(2024) 11000)**
- 10. COMMUNICATION TO THE COMMISSION ON THE WORKING METHODS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION (P(2024) 5)**

**11. DECISION OF THE PRESIDENT ON THE ORGANISATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION
(P(2024) 6)**

**12. COMMUNICATION TO THE COMMISSION ON THE RULES GOVERNING THE COMPOSITION OF THE CABINETS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION AND OF THE SPOKESPERSON'S SERVICE
(P(2024) 7)**

The PRESIDENT opened the first meeting of the new College by pointing out that, during the previous term of office, the College had met 191 times, including 49 times in Strasbourg and once in Luxembourg.

She said that Europe was the bond between the Members of the College and stressed the importance of working as a team and going beyond national or political affiliations. She pointed out that the Members of the Commission served neither a Member State nor a political group, but acted exclusively in the interest of the European Union. As guardians of the Treaties, they had to show complete independence and resist external pressures. Members would soon be taking an oath before the Court of Justice of the European Union in Luxembourg, thereby reaffirming their commitment to respect the Treaties.

With regard to the Commission's decision-making process, the PRESIDENT stressed the central role of the principle of collegiality, which ensured that all decisions were taken collectively. She pointed out that the votes of the Members of the College carried the same weight irrespective of the individual Member's title or responsibilities. She then highlighted the role of the Members responsible for an initiative, who had to present it at meetings of the College. Lastly, she stressed the importance of preserving the confidentiality of discussions within the College, which was an essential condition for ensuring free, constructive and open exchanges.

The PRESIDENT then presented the priority files of the new Commission, particularly during its first 100 days. She highlighted the ‘Competitiveness Compass’, which would draw on the reports of Mr Mario Draghi on competitiveness and Mr Enrico Letta on the Single Market as a strategic framework to guide the Commission’s action over the next five years. Among the flagship initiatives at the beginning of the Commission’s term of office, she mentioned the Clean Industry Pact, the Skills Union, the White Paper on defence, and the vision for agriculture and food. She pointed out that this list was not exhaustive but provided a clear direction for the coming months. In conclusion, the PRESIDENT encouraged the Members of the Commission to take ownership of these initiatives and to contribute actively to their preparation.

The Secretary-General then presented the items on the agenda of this College meeting. She referred, first, to the points for adoption by the Commission, namely (i) the Commission Decision establishing the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, (ii) the Commission Decision on transparency measures concerning meetings held between Members of the Commission and interest representatives, and (iii) the Commission Decision on transparency measures concerning meetings held between Commission staff holding management functions and interest representatives.

Second, she referred to the items for information, which were the decisions adopted by the PRESIDENT on 1 December: (i) the Decision on the organisation of responsibilities of the Members of the Commission, (ii) the Communication to the Commission on the Working Methods of the European Commission, and (iii) the Communication to the Commission on the rules governing the composition of the Cabinets of the Members of the Commission and of the Spokesperson’s Service.

She stressed that all these decisions set out the main rules on how the Commission will work, both internally, for the College and for the Commission departments, and externally, whether in the Commission’s relations with other EU institutions or in its interactions with EU businesses, citizens and civil society.

First, with regard to the internal functioning of the Commission, the Secretary-General underlined the importance of the principle of collegiality, which governed how the Members of the College worked together. This principle was enshrined in the Commission's new Rules of Procedure, which cover the organisation of the Commission, the decision-making process and the cooperation between Commission departments, and which include, as an annex, the rules on access to documents.

The Secretary-General then outlined the way in which the Commission had to work with the other EU institutions. She pointed out that, here again, the principle of collegiality required the Commission to fully assume all its responsibilities in relation to its EU institutional counterparts. This meant that the Members of the College had to play an active role in all relevant sessions of the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and other EU institutions and bodies, and respond in a timely manner to all parliamentary questions.

In addition, each College Member would have to take part in structured dialogues with the Parliamentary committees on Parliament resolutions under Article 225 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) falling under their remit, and cooperate fully with the Parliament each time the Commission used Article 122 TFEU to adopt emergency measures.

Lastly, the Secretary-General touched on the Commission's interactions with EU businesses, citizens and civil society, and noted that this Commission would start a new era of dialogue with EU citizens and stakeholders. With this in mind, each College Member would have to organise a first edition of the annual Youth Policy Dialogues within the next 100 days of this Commission's term of office, regularly take part in Citizens' Dialogues throughout the EU, and be more present on the ground in more EU regions.

The Secretary-General also underlined the strengthening of the rules on transparency brought into effect by two of the decisions on the agenda. In addition

to the rule that Members of the College and their cabinets could meet only with interest representatives registered in the Transparency Register, they would also have to publish minutes of these meetings shortly thereafter. The same now applied to staff holding management positions in the Commission.

The Secretary-General concluded her presentation by pointing out that the PRESIDENT was committed to cutting red tape for businesses, simplifying EU rules and ensuring that the rules in force were implemented effectively in light of the reality on the ground. In this context, each College Member would have to help stress-test the EU acquis and reduce reporting obligations by at least 25% for businesses and 35% for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Moreover, each Member would have to organise at least two Implementation Dialogues a year with businesses and stakeholders and present annual progress reports on enforcement and implementation to their respective Parliamentary committees and Council formations.

Following these presentations, the Commission adopted the decisions set out in documents C(2024) 10000, C(2024) 11500 and C(2024) 11000, and took note of Decisions P(2024) 5, P(2024) 6 and P(2024) 7.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Mr ŠEFČOVIČ presented the guidelines for the negotiating mandate tabled for approval by the College that day with a view to revising the Framework Agreement on relations between the European Parliament and the Commission. The current agreement had been concluded in 2010 when the institutions had had to adapt their working relationship following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. He noted that, as part of the current revision process, the Parliament and the Commission had

carried out a joint technical assessment of the implementation of the Framework Agreement the previous spring. He further noted that four main objectives of the revision had been identified in the 2024-2029 Political Guidelines, namely to (i) strengthen joint political responsibility, (ii) improve dialogue between the two institutions, (iii) increase the flow of information and (iv) ensure greater transparency.

On 21 October, the PRESIDENT and Ms Metsola, the President of the European Parliament, had agreed on nine political principles to guide the revision process, and those principles formed the basis of the official mandate being presented that day to launch the negotiations. Mr ŠEFČOVIČ stressed that there was political will on both sides to define the scope of the revision and to conclude negotiations swiftly in order to have a renewed foundation for cooperation at the beginning of the new Parliamentary term. The Council was not party to the Framework Agreement but was watching closely with a view to preserving the balance of power between the institutions as set out in the Treaties. Moreover, the Council had asked to be kept informed of the state of play and the next steps in the process and had requested that the revision in question should not pre-empt discussions on the revision of existing trilateral institutional agreements.

In that connection, Mr ŠEFČOVIČ highlighted three key principles set out in the joint statement by the PRESIDENT and Ms Metsola. These principles encompassed: (i) strengthening the Commission's political responsibility, particularly by ensuring that Commissioners attended plenary debates, European Parliament committee meetings and trilogues; (ii) an undertaking by the Commission to provide the European Parliament with comprehensive justification for and information on the exceptional cases where Commission proposals were based on Article 122 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU); and (iii) the importance of applying Article 225 TFEU, with enhanced follow-up by the Commission of requests for legislative proposals made by the European Parliament, while adhering to the principles of better regulation, proportionality and subsidiarity.

In conclusion, Mr ŠEFČOVIČ noted that negotiations would begin immediately on the basis of those principles, the aim being to conclude the negotiations in the coming weeks.

The PRESIDENT noted that Mr ŠEFČOVIČ had already been the Commission's negotiator for the 2010 Framework Agreement and thanked him for his unwavering commitment to improving relations with the European Parliament. She also encouraged all Members of the Commission to be actively involved in Parliamentary debates.

The Commission took note of this information.

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The meeting closed at 9.30.