



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2025) 2515 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

Brussels, 19 March 2025

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

of the 2515th meeting of the Commission

held in Brussels

(Berlaymont)

on Wednesday 19 February 2025

(morning)

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PV(2025) 2515 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

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Single sitting: Wednesday 19 February 2025 (morning)

The sitting opened at 9.04 with Ms RIBERA in the chair.

Present:

Ms RIBERA	Executive Vice-President
Ms VIRKKUNEN	Executive Vice-President
Mr SÉJOURNÉ	Executive Vice-President
Ms MÎNZATU	Executive Vice-President
Mr FITTO	Executive Vice-President
Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Member
Ms ŠUICA	Member
Mr HOEKSTRA	Member
Mr KUBILIUS	Member
Ms KOS	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

Absent:

Ms von der LEYEN	President
Ms KALLAS	High Representative / Vice-President
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Member
Mr VÁRHELYI	Member
Mr SÍKELA	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	
Mr DE KEERSMAECKER	Deputy 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 VAN KEMSEKE	Adviser in the PRESIDENT's cabinet	Item 8
Mr TAQUET-GRAZIANI	Acting Head of Unit in the Secretariat-General	
Ms BUKA	Secretariat-General	

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

1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2025) 2515/FINAL; SEC(2025) 2515/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(2025) 2515)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Heads of Cabinet held on Monday 17 February 2025.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Commission held over approval of the minutes of its 2511th, 2512th, 2513th and 2514th meetings of 15 and 29 January, and 5 and 11 February 2025 for a later date.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(RCC(2025) 159)

The Commission took note of the outcome of the written exchange of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (GRI) for the week from 10 to 14 February 2025 (RCC(2025) 159).

The Commission approved the lines proposed for the following points:

- **Establishment of the Reform and Growth Facility for the Republic of Moldova (Regulation) – MIKSER & MUREȘAN report – 2024/0258 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 26/2.

- **Driving licences, amendment of Directive (EU) 2022/2561 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repeal of Directive 2006/126/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Commission Regulation (EU) No 383/2012 (Directive) – PAULUS (ex-DELLI) report – 2023/0053 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 27.

5. COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL ACTION (RCC(2025) 206)

The Commission took note of the operational conclusions in RCC(2025) 206 of the meeting of the Group for External Coordination (EXCO) held on Wednesday 12 February 2025.

6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED (SEC(2025) 55 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 10 and 16 February 2025.

6.2. EMPOWERMENT (SEC(2025) 56 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 10 and 16 February 2025.

6.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS
(SEC(2025) 57 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedures between 10 and 16 February 2025 archived in Decide.

6.4. WRITTEN PROCEDURES SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED
(SEC(2025) 58 AND /2)

The Commission took note of the written procedures specifically identified for which the time limit expired between 17 and 21 February 2025.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS
(SEC(2025) 59)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
(PERS(2025) 16)

7.1. DG FINANCIAL STABILITY, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND CAPITAL
MARKETS UNION / SINGLE RESOLUTION BOARD – PROPOSAL
FOR THE APPOINTMENT TO THE FUNCTION OF VICE-CHAIR
AND DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE CORPORATE
SERVICES OF THE SINGLE RESOLUTION BOARD AND FOR
SUPERVISING THE SINGLE RESOLUTION FUND

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

- to propose the appointment of Mr Miguel CARCAÑO SAENZ CENZANO to the function of Vice-Chair and Director responsible for

managing the corporate services of the Single Resolution Board and for supervising the Single Resolution Fund;

- 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.

7.2. DG FINANCIAL STABILITY, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND CAPITAL MARKETS UNION / SINGLE RESOLUTION BOARD – PROPOSAL FOR THE APPOINTMENT TO TWO FUNCTIONS OF MEMBER OF THE BOARD AND DIRECTOR OF RESOLUTION PLANNING AND DECISIONS AT THE SINGLE RESOLUTION BOARD

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

- to propose the appointment of Ms Slavka ELEY and Mr Radek URBAN to the functions of Member of the Board and Director of Resolution Planning and Decisions at the Single Resolution Board;
- 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.

8. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – A VISION FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD: SHAPING

**TOGETHER AN ATTRACTIVE FARMING AND AGRI-FOOD SECTOR
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS****(COM(2025) 75 TO /3; RCC(2025) 9 AND /2)**

Ms RIBERA introduced the Communication on the vision for agriculture and food by highlighting the key role of the agricultural sector in ensuring the security of the EU's food supply. She welcomed the Strategic Dialogue organised with the various stakeholders in the sector, which had enabled extensive consultations with the parties concerned on the future of the sector and had provided valuable insight into the next steps.

She highlighted several key challenges, in particular the need for farmers to benefit from fair working conditions and to get the right price for their products and services, as well as the necessity to strengthen synergies between the common agricultural policy and environmental policy. In that regard, she pointed out that all sectors of the economy had to contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and combating climate change.

Mr FITTO then presented the Communication, praising the fruitful cooperation that had guided the preparation of the document. While it was imperative for the agricultural sector to become more competitive by 2040, it was equally essential to meet the needs of farmers, in line with the guidelines that had emerged from the Strategic Dialogue.

Given that agriculture was part of a wider economic and social system, he called for an integrated approach aimed at achieving a common vision. In particular, he stressed the importance of providing a rapid and strategic response to the needs of rural areas in order, among other aspects, to support the 'right to stay'. He also emphasised the need to make the agricultural sector more attractive, resilient and competitive by adapting it to the needs of tomorrow.

Mr FITTO concluded by stressing that a short-term vision would not suffice. The Communication thus proposed a vision looking ahead to 2040, preparing not only

the current but also future generations for future developments, and opening up new ways forward for all stakeholders.

Mr HANSEN welcomed the efforts made by the PRESIDENT to re-establish dialogue with the agriculture and food sector. The Communication proposed that day was based on the results of this Strategic Dialogue, which was set to be continued and developed. He pointed out that the sector also included fisheries and aquaculture, outermost regions and rural areas. Many Commission departments would need to be involved in the implementation of this Communication. He thus placed the vision in a broader strategic framework, stressing that it went beyond agriculture and food. The vision also dealt with the economic security, competitiveness and physical security of Europe and its citizens.

As regards food security and resilience, Mr HANSEN pointed out that the EU's food sovereignty should not be taken for granted. The ageing of the agricultural population and the gradual disappearance of farms were exacerbating an already worrying situation, and it was essential that new strategic dependencies for food imports be avoided.

He went on to mention the challenges linked to competitiveness, explaining that, in an unstable geopolitical context and in the face of the reluctance that certain free trade agreements were arousing in the Union, the chapter dedicated to competitiveness was essential for the continuation of the trade agenda while maintaining the support of society as a whole.

Mr HANSEN then turned to the issue of security, explaining that the section on rural areas was part of a broader European approach to security. In this context, he pointed out that the EU could not afford for its territories to become depopulated, particularly in the eastern border regions, which were a strategic line of defence.

With regard to the chosen time frame of 2040, Mr HANSEN stressed the importance of ensuring sufficient predictability to enable players in the sector to invest with confidence. He highlighted the potential of new technologies in moving

towards more sustainable production, and stressed the importance of exploring complementary sources of funding, such as carbon storage, in order to strengthen the economic resilience of the sector in a tight budgetary context.

In his view, future European agriculture needed to be competitive and resilient, supported by regulatory simplification and a reduction in reporting obligations. He also stressed the principle of reciprocal production standards, particularly as regards bans on plant protection products in the EU, which should also apply to imports. He believed that preparing agriculture for future challenges also required paying greater attention to soil and water quality and developing biopesticides to replace toxic pesticides.

Mr HANSEN concluded by highlighting the Agri Sustainability Compass, developed by the Commission, which would enable a better comparison between farms. He reiterated the importance of improving rural areas, in particular by strengthening services and infrastructure, and stepping up digitalisation and technological innovation.

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

- full support for the Communication's emphasis on dialogue with farmers and all the stakeholders concerned;
- the role of digitalisation and technology as drivers for agricultural innovation;
- the impact of demographic trends, and the challenges linked to people moving from rural areas to urban areas, which go beyond the farming sector;
- the need for a long-term vision to make rural areas sustainable and attractive for younger generations and to counter the risk of depopulation;
- the importance of the EU's eastern border regions and the vital role played by agricultural development in their future;

- the significance of the Mediterranean region not only for trade and energy but also for agriculture;
- in this context, the reference to a recent agreement with Jordan on the supply of phosphate as a possible step towards reducing the dependence on Russian fertilisers and strengthening European resilience;
- a reminder that farmers were particularly vulnerable to climate change and extreme weather events;
- recognition of the fact that, to date, emission reductions had mainly been achieved in the industrial and housing sectors, and the importance of identifying approaches tailored to the agricultural sector, taking account of its specific features and constraints, in order to further its contribution to climate targets;
- satisfaction with the emphasis placed on the crucial role played by young people and women in the agricultural sector, and with the references in the text to fisheries and aquaculture, the bioeconomy, the circular economy and the agrifood sector;
- lastly, the observation that the Communication did not address the issue of the Common Agricultural Policy budget, which would be discussed in the negotiations on the next Multiannual Financial Framework.

In response to some of the points raised, Mr HANSEN recognised the environmental impacts of agricultural production, particularly in terms of emissions, while stressing the steps already taken by the sector to mitigate them. He highlighted the progress made in recent years, which was sometimes more notable than in other sectors, and emphasised the need to support this transition through innovative solutions adapted to the realities of the farming sector.

He also underlined that agriculture was still dependent on imports, particularly of fertilisers. The sector would have to make better use of natural fertilisers to reduce

this dependence. He also noted the need for greater investment, stressing the importance of targeted loans for young farmers and women, and the potential of the export credit system.

Lastly, Mr HANSEN discussed budgetary constraints. While the procedure for preparing the next Multiannual Financial Framework was only just beginning, it would be worth looking closely at the different options. In conclusion he emphasised the importance of maintaining a constant dialogue with the farming sector.

Mr FITTO also believed that dialogue was indispensable and stressed the need for a collective approach within the Commission, since the farming sector was fundamental for the EU's future and was closely linked to many EU policies. He briefly summarised the main challenges, particularly for rural areas and in terms of demographics, and reiterated that only a concerted approach could address them effectively.

Ms RIBERA concluded the discussion by highlighting the fact that this ambitious roadmap on the future of agriculture and food in Europe was a priority. It covered all the major challenges, including, in particular, security, sustainability, water management, cohesion, rural development and innovation. The vision set out in the Communication illustrated the values of the Commission and therefore had to be defended in a collegiate manner by all its Members.

Following these presentations, the Commission approved the Communication in COM(2025) 75/3 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.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Ms RIBERA reported on the main developments on the European and international scene over the past week. In this context, she referred to the recent high-level political dialogues that had taken place at the Munich Security Conference. She considered that these dialogues had highlighted the importance for the EU not only of continuing to promote its unity and values, but also of asserting its role as a major political player on the international scene.

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

- the pivotal moment that the European Union was going through in the face of recent geopolitical developments and the need to anticipate these dynamics in the longer term;
- the need to preserve the unity of the EU and its capacity for collective action, in particular by speeding up decision-making on strategic priorities;
- the EU’s fundamental commitment to democracy, the rule of law and its values, which must remain at the heart of its work;
- the stabilising role played by the EU against a background of increased uncertainty, in particular for international organisations;
- the EU’s ability to manage crises through tailored tools and greater integration, as demonstrated by responses to recent challenges;
- the EU’s attractiveness for talent and investment, supported by a stable regulatory and economic framework, based on democratic values and predictable governance;
- the need for a strategic approach to external partnerships, in order to preserve the EU’s room for manoeuvre in the face of international power struggles;

- the central role of the economy in the EU's resilience and influence, which was based on the strength of its internal market, one of the most integrated in the world;
- the importance of a coherent and determined European economic policy, which did not change course depending on current events and which was based on competitiveness, innovation and the strengthening of industrial and technological capacities, while reducing dependencies and securing critical supplies;
- the importance of EU enlargement for the stability of the European continent, in accordance with the proven method for the integration of new Member States;
- the continued strong commitment to Ukraine, including efforts to accelerate its economic integration, rebuild the country and develop its defence capabilities, and, in this context, the value of being able to use frozen Russian assets;
- the immediate support that the EU must provide to Ukraine, by taking the necessary strategic decisions and strengthening defence capabilities to anticipate future security challenges;
- the adaptation and modernisation of European defence capabilities, by capitalising on the potential of industry, including in the civilian sector, and on enhanced cooperation between Member States.

In conclusion, Ms RIBERA pointed out that it was essential for the EU to adopt a united, calm and firm stance in the face of the recent statements by the new US administration. In this context, she stressed the importance of consolidating a shared European vision of geopolitical issues, coordinating messages addressed to key international players and pursuing the ambitious agenda linked to the EU's internal and external policies.

The Commission took note of this information.

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The meeting closed at 10.35.