



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2025) 2520 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

Brussels, 14 Mai 2025

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

of the 2520th meeting of the Commission

held in Brussels

(Berlaymont)

on Wednesday 26 March 2025

(morning)

PV(2025) 2520 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

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Single sitting: Wednesday 26 March 2025 (morning)

The sitting opened at 9.01 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 KUBILIUS	Member
Ms KOS	Member
Mr SÍKELA	Member
Mr 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

Items 1 to 9 (in part)

Absent:

Mr VÁRHELYI	Member
Mr HOEKSTRA	Member

The following also sat in:

Mr SEIBERT	Head of Cabinet to the PRESIDENT
Mr LADENBURGER	Deputy Director-General, Legal Service
Ms SPINANT	Director-General, DG Communication
Ms PINHO	Head of the Spokesperson's Service and Chief Spokesperson of the Commission
Ms PETKOVA	Director of Coordination and Administration in the PRESIDENT's cabinet
Mr TAQUET-GRAZIANI	Acting Head of Unit in the Secretariat-General
Ms BUKA	Secretariat-General

The following sat in for the Security College:

Mr MARKIĆ	Director of the European Union Intelligence and Situation Centre (EU-INTCEN) in the European External Action Service (EEAS)
Ms BOSTYN	Administrator-General of the Belgian State Security (VSSE)
Mr SALMI	Deputy Director-General, DG Human Resources and Security
Ms BELLONI	Chief Diplomatic Adviser in the PRESIDENT's cabinet

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

1. SECURITY COLLEGE

The Commission had held the first meeting of its Security College, with the participation of Mr Daniel Markić, Director of the European Union Intelligence and Situation Centre (EU-INTCEN), and Ms Francisca Bostyn, Administrator-General of the Belgian State Security (VSSE). The meeting had been dedicated to an exchange of views and information on the assessment of the global threat and of security in Belgium.

2. AGENDAS

(OJ(2025) 2520/FINAL; SEC(2025) 2520/FINAL)

The Commission took note of that day's agenda and of the tentative agendas for forthcoming meetings.

3. WEEKLY MEETING OF HEADS OF CABINET

(RCC(2025) 2520)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Heads of Cabinet held on Monday 24 March 2025.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Commission held over approval of the minutes of its 2517th, 2518th and 2519th meetings of 5, 11 and 19 March 2025 for a later date.

5. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(RCC(2025) 165)

The Commission took note of the outcome of the written exchange of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (GRI) for the week from 17 to 21 March 2025 (RCC(2025) 165).

The Commission approved the lines proposed for the following points:

- **Compulsory licensing for crisis management and amendment of Regulation (EC) 816/2006 (Regulation) – VÁZQUEZ LÁZARA report – 2023/0129 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 57.

- **Framework for Financial Data Access and amendment of Regulations (EU) No 1093/2010, (EU) No 1094/2010, (EU) No 1095/2010 and (EU) No 2022/2554 (Regulation) – VANOVERVELDT report – 2023/0205 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 46.

- **Combating corruption, replacement of Council Framework Decision 2003/568/JHA and the Convention on the fight against corruption involving officials of the European Communities or officials of Member States of the European Union and amendment of Directive (EU) 2017/1371 of the European Parliament and of the Council (Directive) – GARCÍA HERMIDA-VAN DER WALLE report – 2023/0135 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 58.

- **Driving licences, amendment of Directive (EU) 2022/2561 of the European Parliament and of the Council and 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 report –**

2023/0053 (COD)

Line set out in SI(2025) 59/2.

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

Line set out in SI(2025) 60.

- **Amendment of Regulation (EU) 2025/202 fixing for 2025 and 2026 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters (Council Regulation) – 2025/0049 (NLE)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 63.

- **Common rules for exports: suspending certain parts of Regulation (EU) 2015/478 as regards imports of Ukrainian products into the European Union (Regulation) – 2025/0056 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 68.

- **Adoption by the Union of the Agreement on the interpretation and application of the Energy Charter Treaty between the European Union, the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States (*inter se* agreement) (Decision) – CAVAZZINI & BUDKA report – 2024/0148 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 69.

- **Amendment of Directives (EU) 2022/2464 and (EU) 2024/1760 as regards the dates from which Member States are to apply certain corporate sustainability reporting and due diligence requirements (Directive) – 2025/0044 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 70.

6. COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL ACTION
(RCC(2025) 211)

The Commission took note of the operational conclusions in RCC(2025) 211 of the meeting of the Group for External Coordination (EXCO) held on Wednesday 19 March 2025.

7. MONITORING THE APPLICATION OF EUROPEAN UNION LAW

STATE AID AND OTHER COMPETITION RULES
(C(2025) 1791; RCC(2025) 26 /2)

On a proposal from the PRESIDENT, the Commission confirmed that the Commission Decision set out in C(2025) 1791 would be formally adopted by finalisation written procedure, the deadline for which was initially set at Thursday 27 March 2025 (PE/2025/1735), and that it would then be notified to the parties concerned.

8. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

8.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED
(SEC(2025) 85 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 17 and 23 March 2025.

8.2. EMPOWERMENT
(SEC(2025) 86 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 17 and 23 March 2025.

8.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS
(SEC(2025) 87 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedures between 17 and 23 March 2025 archived in Decide.

8.4. WRITTEN PROCEDURES SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED
(SEC(2025) 88 AND /2)

The Commission took note of the written procedures specifically identified for which the time limit expired between 24 and 28 March 2025, and of the finalisation written procedure.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS
(SEC(2025) 89/3 AND /4)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
(PERS(2025) 25/3 AND /4)

During the meeting, Mr SERAFIN presented three additional proposals for administrative decisions, which were submitted directly to the College for approval.

It was thus proposed to close the selection procedure for the post of Director-General of the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA), without making an appointment, and to transfer to that post Ms Florika FINK-HOOIJER, currently Director-General of DG Environment. The post of Director-General of DG Environment would be published internally, at

grade AD15/16, as would the post of Director-General of DG Agriculture and Rural Development.

**9.1. HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE
AUTHORITY – CLOSURE OF THE SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR
THE POST OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL AT GRADE AD15/16 AND
TRANSFER IN THE INTEREST OF THE SERVICE OF AN AD16
OFFICIAL UNDER ARTICLE 7 OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS**

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

- to close with immediate effect the selection procedure for the post of Director-General of the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA), without making an appointment;
- to transfer to that post, in the interest of the service, under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations, Ms Florika FINK-HOOIJER, currently Director-General of DG Environment.

Unless otherwise indicated, these decisions would take effect on 1 April 2025.

**9.2. DG AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT –
AUTHORISATION OF THE INTERNAL PUBLICATION OF THE POST
OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL AT GRADE AD15/16
(PERS(2025) 29)**

On a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Mr HANSEN, the Commission decided to authorise the internal publication, at grade AD15/16, of the vacancy notice for the post of Director-General of DG Agriculture and Rural Development, as set out in PERS(2025) 29, under Article 29(1)(a)(i) of the Staff Regulations.

This decision would take effect immediately.

9.3. DG ENVIRONMENT – AUTHORISATION OF THE INTERNAL PUBLICATION OF THE POST OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL AT GRADE AD15/16

(PERS(2025) 30)

On a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Ms ROSWALL, the Commission decided to authorise the internal publication, at grade AD15/16, of the vacancy notice for the post of Director-General of DG Environment, as set out in PERS(2025) 30, under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations.

This decision would take effect immediately.

9.4. DG ENVIRONMENT – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR AT GRADE AD14/15

(PERS(2025) 26 AND /2)

The Commission had before it applications for the post of Director of the ‘General Affairs, Knowledge and Resources’ Directorate in DG Environment (PERS(2025) 26).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 3 December 2024 and 13 February 2025 (PERS(2025) 26/2).

The Commission proceeded to compare the applicants’ qualifications for the post. On a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Ms ROSWALL, it then decided to appoint Ms Valérie DREZET-HUMEZ to the post.

This decision would take effect on 1 April 2025.

9.5. DG ENVIRONMENT – CLOSURE OF A SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR A POST OF DIRECTOR AT GRADE AD14/15

On a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Ms ROSWALL, the Commission decided to close the selection procedure for the post of Director of the ‘Green Diplomacy and Multilateralism’ Directorate in DG Environment, without making an appointment.

This decision would take effect immediately.

9.6. DG DEFENCE INDUSTRY AND SPACE – AMENDMENT OF THE ORGANISATION CHART AND AUTHORISATION OF THE INTERNAL AND INTERINSTITUTIONAL PUBLICATION, AT GRADE AD14/15, AND EXTERNAL PUBLICATION, AT GRADE AD14, OF A DIRECTOR POST

(PERS(2025) 27; SEC(2025) 102)

On a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Mr KUBILIUS, the Commission decided to amend the organisation chart of DG Defence Industry and Space, and to approve:

- the creation of a temporary ‘SAFE’ Task Force, attached to the Director-General, for an initial period until 30 June 2027, which could be extended;
- the creation of a temporary post of Head of the Task Force at Deputy Director-General level;
- the creation of a new DEFIS.A Directorate for ‘Defence Policy’, attached to the Deputy Director-General and composed of three units;
- the internal, interinstitutional and external publication, with immediate effect, of the vacancy notice for the post of Director for ‘Defence Policy’ (DEFIS.A), in accordance with Article 29(1)(a) (i) and (iii), Article 29(1)(b) and Article 29(2) of the Staff Regulations;

- the renaming of the current Directorate DEFIS.A ‘Defence Industry’ to DEFIS.B ‘Industrial Defence Programmes’;
- the renaming of the Directorate DEFIS.C ‘Satellite Navigation and Earth Observation’ to DEFIS.D ‘Space Policy, Satellite Navigation and Earth Observation’;
- the renaming of the Directorate DEFIS.R ‘Resources and General Affairs’ to DEFIS.R ‘General Affairs and Resources’;
- the new organisation chart set out in SEC(2025) 102.

Unless otherwise indicated, these decisions would take effect on 16 April 2025.

9.7. DG DEFENCE INDUSTRY AND SPACE – CLOSURE OF THE SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR A POST OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL AT GRADE AD15/16

On a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Mr KUBILIUS, the Commission decided to close, with immediate effect, the selection procedure for the post of Deputy Director-General in charge of Directorates B and C in DG Defence Industry and Space, without making an appointment.

This decision would take effect immediately.

9.8. DG RESEARCH AND INNOVATION – EXTENSION OF THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH EXECUTIVE AGENCY

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

- the term of office of Mr Marc TACHELET as Director of the European Research Executive Agency (REA) from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, by way of derogation from Section 6.3 of the Annex to Commission Decision C(2022) 9328;
- the secondment of Mr Marc TACHELET in the interest of the service under Articles 37 and 38 of the Staff Regulations to the European Research Executive Agency for the same period.

These decisions would take effect on 1 April 2025.

9.9. DG RESEARCH AND INNOVATION – AMENDMENT OF THE ORGANISATION CHART AND TRANSFER OF AN AD14 OFFICIAL UNDER ARTICLE 7 OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS

On a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Ms ZAHARIEVA, the Commission decided to amend the organisation chart of DG Research and Innovation, and to approve:

- the creation of a temporary post of Principal Adviser on Simplification and Financial Instruments in DG Research and Innovation, directly attached to the Director-General, which would be abolished upon departure of the jobholder;
- the transfer to that post in the interest of the service, under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations, of Mr Jean-David MALO, currently Principal Adviser in DG Research and Innovation, and seconded as Director of the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA).

These decisions would take effect on 1 April 2025.

**9.10. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL ADVISERS
(PERS(2025) 28)**

On a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, the Commission decided:

- to adopt the list of special advisers to the Commission set out in PERS(2025) 28;
- to authorise the Director-General of DG Human Resources and Security to implement this decision by signing contracts of employment on behalf of the authority empowered to conclude such contracts.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

10. JOINT COMMUNICATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS ON THE EUROPEAN PREPAREDNESS UNION STRATEGY (JOIN(2025) 130 TO /3; RCC(2025) 24)

Amid the increasing threats to the stability of the Union, Ms MÎNZATU stressed the urgent need to put in place an agile system to protect European citizens and ensure the continuity of essential societal functions. In this regard, she advocated for a proactive, united and comprehensive approach that incorporated all EU policies and covered all risks. She felt that a change of mindset was needed to anticipate and respond to threats, regardless of their nature.

The EU was already building on a solid basis, as demonstrated by the coordinated response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which had highlighted the added value of European support to Member States, in particular with regard to cross-border crisis management. Ms MÎNZATU welcomed the fact that a large majority of European citizens considered it important for the EU to contribute to crisis preparedness. She called for increased societal awareness, with a particular focus on supporting households, young people, vulnerable populations and businesses.

To achieve these goals, the roadmap proposed that day called for measures such as preparing 72-hour self-sufficiency kits, incorporating risk education into school curricula, and improving public warning and crisis communication systems. Ms MÎNZATU also stressed the importance of having qualified staff, particularly in emergency response and healthcare, in order to deal effectively with crises. This would involve developing specialised skills and facilitating the mobility of skilled labour, in close cooperation with Member States and social partners.

Ms KALLAS noted that the current international context, which was marked by unprecedented upheavals, made an EU preparedness strategy all the more urgent. She cited the growing challenges facing the EU, such as acts of sabotage and foreign interference, cyber-attacks and disinformation campaigns. Despite the absence of conventional war on its soil, the EU was not at peace and had to prepare for this new reality.

The strategy presented that day was aimed at improving foresight through a comprehensive and joint risk assessment, combining civilian and military resources for a coordinated response in times of crisis. Joint exercises were called for to optimise support mechanisms while promoting strategic partnerships, including with NATO.

Ms LAHBIB welcomed the excellent collaboration that had led to this first comprehensive European preparedness strategy, inspired by Mr Niinistö's report. She explained that the aim of this strategy was to improve the understanding and anticipation of threats, covering all risks, including unforeseen events. Its inclusive approach engaged all levels of government (local, regional, national and European) to promote cooperation, policy consistency and resource sharing. Enhanced cooperation was also encouraged between civil and defence authorities, in order to better integrate the internal and external dimensions. Ms LAHBIB added that the strategy's society-wide approach aimed to build a culture of preparedness and resilience by involving all stakeholders in society: citizens, local communities, civil society, businesses, social partners, and the scientific and academic communities.

The strategy proposed actions in seven key areas, namely foresight and anticipation, resilience of vital societal functions, population preparedness, public-private cooperation, civil-military cooperation, crisis response coordination, and resilience through external partnerships. Ms LAHBIB detailed the 30 actions structured around these areas, with crisis preparedness embedded into EU policies by design. The strategy also included a thorough cross-sectoral risk assessment based on scientific analysis.

A crisis dashboard that brought together sectoral rapid alert systems would also be set up to better coordinate decision-makers' efforts. The strategy promoted the creation of an inclusive preparedness culture and proposed guidelines to ensure population self-sufficiency of at least 72 hours in the event of extreme disruptions. Preparedness would be promoted in youth programmes, such as the European Solidarity Corps and Erasmus+, to strengthen resilience and civic engagement. In order to improve coordination and crisis response capacity, a crisis coordination hub would be established at EU level, building on the existing structures of the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC).

Ms LAHBIB concluded by highlighting the significant long-term benefits of the investments required, as they would improve the EU's resilience and reduce the costs of future crises. Incorporating these considerations into EU budgets by design was essential to reduce vulnerabilities and risk exposure, while optimising long-term competitiveness.

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

- general support for the proposed strategy and its objectives, as well as the urgent need to strengthen the EU's preparedness capacities in the current geopolitical context;
- appreciation of the detailed action plan and the 30 concrete actions proposed;

- a call for proactive rather than reactive measures and strong support for the integration of strategic foresight;
- the importance of accurate risk and threat assessments;
- the value of the crisis dashboard for effective monitoring and responses by decision-makers;
- the need to strengthen synergies with existing systems;
- the urgency of establishing reliable communication channels in order to address concerns about the use of platforms that were not secure;
- the continued threat of disinformation and the exploitation of vulnerabilities by malicious actors, as well as full support for the strategy's focus on countering foreign information manipulation and interference;
- the link with the upcoming European Democracy Shield initiative and the importance of democratic resilience for crisis preparedness;
- appreciation of the society-wide approach, with a focus on public awareness and engagement;
- the growing interest in preparedness among younger generations, and the role in this context of the European Solidarity Corps;
- the importance of taking into account the cultural context when communicating with citizens, and of promoting citizen solidarity;
- the benefits of including candidate and neighbouring countries in initiatives aimed at improving preparedness;
- the importance of developing foreign partnerships, particularly with the Mediterranean region, and the call for greater awareness and preparation in that region;

- the security challenges posed by the availability not only of food and energy but also of water;
- the need to improve the effectiveness of investment opportunities, including through public-private partnerships;
- the importance of increased coordination between Member States during crises;
- the resource needs related to the implementation of the preparedness strategy, and the difficult choices to be made in the European budget, in particular to finance defence spending in the context of a broader approach to security.

Following these presentations, the Commission approved the Communication in JOIN(2025) 130/3 for transmission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions and, for information, to the national parliaments.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

11.1. LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Ms KALLAS briefed the College on the latest developments in the EU's external relations. She referred in particular to the talks underway to establish a ceasefire in Ukraine. She reported to the College on her recent visits to Egypt, Israel and Palestine. She also mentioned her participation in the next summit between the European Union and five Central Asian countries.

In the brief discussion that followed, the Commission referred in particular to the geopolitical situation in Central Asia and the interest for the EU and European companies to invest in strategic and transformative projects through mutually beneficial collaboration.

The PRESIDENT said that she would also be travelling to Samarkand in Uzbekistan, on 3 and 4 April, together with the President of the European Council, Mr António Costa, for this first summit between the European Union and Central Asia.

The Commission took note of this information.

11.2. RISK MANAGEMENT EXERCISE 2025 (SEC(2025) 101)

Mr SERAFIN informed the College of the main results of the risk management exercise for 2025, an annual exercise undertaken by each Commission department in order to assess the perceived risks and indicate the envisaged mitigation measures.

He referred in particular to the 26 critical risks identified by 18 Commission departments for 2025, and made a comparison with the 29 critical risks mentioned for 2024 by 19 Commission departments. Out of the 29 critical risks identified for 2024, nine were no longer considered critical for 2025, while six new critical risks had been added.

Mr SERAFIN concluded his presentation by pointing out that several cross-cutting risks emerged from this assessment, in particular the geopolitical context, resource constraints, IT security, the physical security of Commission officials and staff in Brussels and abroad, and finally the implementation of restrictive measures under the 14th package of sanctions imposed on Russia.

The Commission took note of this information.

11.3. EU-US TRADE RELATIONS

Mr ŠEFČOVIČ informed the College of his recent visit to Washington D.C, United States, and of the main results of his discussions with his US counterparts on EU-US trade relations.

The PRESIDENT stressed the importance of unity among the Member States. At the same time, the EU had to prepare to react firmly to any new US tariffs, while remaining open to negotiations, expand its network of partnerships with third countries and strengthen its competitiveness.

The Commission took note of this information.

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The Commission's other discussions on certain agenda items are recorded in the special minutes.

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The meeting closed at 12.04.