



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2025) 2522 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

Brussels, 14 May 2025

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

of the 2522nd meeting of the Commission

held in Brussels

(Berlaymont)

on Wednesday 9 April 2025

(morning)

PV(2025) 2522 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

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Single sitting: Wednesday 9 April 2025 (morning)

The sitting opened at 9.07 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	Items 8 (in part) and 9
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Member	
Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Member	
Ms ŠUICA	Member	
Mr VÁRHELYI	Member	
Mr KUBILIUS	Member	
Ms KOS	Member	
Mr SÍKELA	Member	
Mr KADIS	Member	
Ms ALBUQUERQUE	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:

Mr HOEKSTRA	Member
Ms LAHBIB	Member
Mr BRUNNER	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(2025) 2522/FINAL; SEC(2025) 2522/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) 2522)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Heads of Cabinet held on Monday 7 April 2025.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Commission held over approval of the minutes of its 2519th, 2520th and 2521st meetings of 19 and 26 March and 1 April 2025 for a later date.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(RCC(2025) 167)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (GRI) held on Friday 4 April 2025 (RCC(2025) 167).

The Commission approved the lines proposed for the following points:

- **Safety of toys and repeal of Directive 2009/48/EC (Regulation) – WALSMANN report – 2023/0290 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 85.

- **Substantiation and communication of explicit environmental claims (Green**

**Claims Directive) (Directive) – BURKHARDT & GOZI report
(ex-ENGERER & ANSIP report) – 2023/0085 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 86/2.

- **Preventing plastic pellet losses to reduce microplastic pollution
(Regulation) – LUENA report (ex-ALBUQUERQUE report) –
2023/0373 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 90.

The Commission took note of the following points:

- **Amendment of Regulation (EU) 2017/1938 as regards the role of gas storage
for securing gas supplies ahead of the winter season (Regulation) – BUDKA
report – 2025/0051 (COD)**

Information set out in SI(2025) 87/2.

- **Establishment of the Security Action for Europe (SAFE) through the
reinforcement of European defence industry instrument (Council
Regulation) – 2025/0122 (NLE)**

Information set out in SI(2025) 91.

5. COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL ACTION (RCC(2025) 213)

The Commission took note of the operational conclusions in RCC(2025) 213 of the meeting of the Group for External Coordination (EXCO) held on Wednesday 2 April 2025.

6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED

(SEC(2025) 103 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 31 March and 6 April 2025.

6.2. EMPOWERMENT

(SEC(2025) 104 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 31 March and 6 April 2025.

6.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS

(SEC(2025) 105 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedures between 31 March and 6 April 2025 archived in Decide.

6.4. WRITTEN PROCEDURES SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED

(SEC(2025) 106 AND /2)

The Commission took note of the written procedures specifically identified for which the time limit expired between 7 and 11 April 2025.

6.5. COMMISSION DECISION GRANTING AN EMPOWERMENT RELATING TO A COMMON ORGANISATION OF THE MARKETS IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

(C(2025) 2193)

The Commission decided to empower the Members of the Commission with responsibility for competition, and for agriculture and food, respectively, to

adopt, on behalf of the Commission and under its responsibility, acts issuing opinions and sending them under Article 210a(6), first subparagraph, of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products, subject to the conditions laid down in Articles 2 to 5 of this Decision.

The Commission adopted the Decision in C(2025) 2193.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

(SEC(2025) 107/3)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

(PERS(2025) 35/3)

During the meeting, Mr SERAFIN presented an additional proposal for an administrative decision, which was tabled directly to the College for approval, and which concerned the transfer in the interest of the service of Mr Morten FJALLAND to the post of Director of the Office for Infrastructure and Logistics in Brussels.

7.1. OFFICE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND LOGISTICS IN BRUSSELS – TRANSFER OF AN AD15 OFFICIAL UNDER ARTICLE 7 OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS

On a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Ms VIRKKUNEN, the Commission decided to transfer, in the interest of the service, under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations, Mr Morten FJALLAND, currently Director of the ‘Resources and Support’ Directorate in DG Communication Networks, Content and Technology, to the post of Director of the Office for Infrastructure and Logistics in Brussels.

This decision would take effect on 1 May 2025.

7.2. DG DEFENCE INDUSTRY AND SPACE – TRANSFER OF AN AD15 OFFICIAL UNDER ARTICLE 7 OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS

On a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Mr KUBILIUS and Mr TZITZIKOSTAS, the Commission decided to transfer, in the interest of the service, under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations, Mr Herald RUIJTERS, currently Deputy Director-General ‘Coordination of Directorate B’ in DG Mobility and Transport, to the post of Director of the Task Force Security Action for Europe (SAFE) in DG Defence Industry and Space.

This decision would take effect on 1 May 2025.

**7.3. DG ENLARGEMENT AND EASTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD – AMENDMENT OF THE ORGANISATION CHART
(SEC(2025) 118/2)**

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

- to change the name of the post of Deputy Director-General ‘responsible for coordination of financial instruments’ to Deputy Director-General ‘responsible for overall coordination of the strategy for Security and Migration, and the Eastern Neighbourhood and Türkiye’;
- to amend the reporting lines as set out in SEC(2025) 118/2.

These decisions would take effect on 1 May 2025.

7.4. DG ENLARGEMENT AND EASTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD – CLOSURE OF THE SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR THE POST OF DEPUTY

DIRECTOR-GENERAL AT GRADE AD15/16**(PERS(2024) 89)**

On a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Ms KOS, the Commission decided to close the selection procedure for the post of Deputy Director-General ‘responsible for coordination of financial instruments’ in DG Enlargement and Eastern Neighbourhood, without making an appointment.

This decision 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 – AI CONTINENT ACTION PLAN
(COM(2025) 165 TO /3; RCC(2025) 28)**

Ms VIRKKUNEN presented the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Continent Action Plan, which sought to position the EU as a global leader in this strategic sector and build on its many strengths. In this respect, she underlined the scale of the single market, the legal framework recently adopted guaranteeing trustworthy AI in line with EU values, as well as the EU ecosystem, which brought together a rich talent pool, a solid industrial base, state-of-the-art scientific research and a dynamic entrepreneurial fabric incorporating innovative start-ups and scale-ups.

The action plan set out five strategic areas to strengthen these EU AI capacities by: (i) developing computing infrastructure; (ii) providing access to high-quality data; (iii) developing algorithms and adopting AI in strategic sectors to stimulate innovation; (iv) strengthening skills and talents; and (v) simplifying regulatory compliance and implementing the AI Act.

As regards computing infrastructure, Ms VIRKKUNEN focused on the creation of a

wide network of AI factories, 13 of which were already being deployed around Europe's main supercomputers. These factories would support start-ups, researchers and industry to develop AI applications and innovative AI models.

The action plan also aimed to support the creation of AI gigafactories – large-scale facilities equipped with over 100 000 state-of-the-art AI chips, i.e. four times more than those of current AI factories. With this new-generation infrastructure, it would be possible to train complex AI models on an unprecedented scale. Ms VIRKKUNEN pointed out that the InvestAI programme would encourage private investment in the sector, with the aim of mobilising EUR 20 billion to set up five gigafactories of this kind in the EU.

She added that a new Cloud and AI Development Act would be proposed shortly, to strengthen the capacity of EU data centres in the years to come, while also responding to the environmental challenges linked to their water and energy consumption.

On access to data, she indicated that a new Data Union Strategy would be launched in 2025 to create a truly internal market for data that would improve the availability and user-friendliness of large volumes of data and boost interoperability between systems. Data labs would ensure access to reliable and diversified data, in compliance with the specific rules applying to each data space, in particular to provide the AI factories with the resources needed to train AI models.

As regards promoting the adoption of AI in the EU's strategic sectors, Ms VIRKKUNEN noted that, to date, only 13% of EU companies were using AI and that there were significant disparities between Member States. She explained that the Apply AI Strategy, which would be put forward in the coming months, was meant to speed up the adoption of AI technology to stimulate innovation and boost productivity in the EU's strategic sectors and in the public sector. Sectoral dialogues would be held with different industries to identify the obstacles that they ran into in their digital transitions and the ways in which the EU could help them.

In parallel with the action plan presented that day, the Commission was publishing a call for expressions of interest for gigafactories and was launching public consultations on the Apply AI Strategy, the Cloud and AI Development Act, and the Data Union Strategy.

On talent and skills development, Ms VIRKKUNEN stressed the vital importance of expanding the pool of AI specialists in the EU in order to ensure that there were enough skilled workers. In line with the Union of Skills, the action plan also sought to promote the education and training of the next generation of experts via the AI Skills Academy, to encourage European talent to stay in or return to the EU, and to attract skilled specialists from third countries.

The AI Act, which had entered into force on 1 August 2024, was intended to strengthen people's trust in technology and provide investors and entrepreneurs with the legal certainty they needed to develop and deploy AI in Europe. However, the effectiveness of this regulation would depend on its practical application, clarity and ease of use, aspects that would be closely monitored. To make it easier to implement the AI Act, the Commission would set up an AI Act Service Desk in summer 2025 to help companies. The Commission was also planning to look specifically at support needs, in particular those of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), as part of the public consultation on the Apply AI Strategy.

In conclusion, Ms VIRKKUNEN reaffirmed her firm commitment to regulatory simplification and agile implementation of the AI Act, to boost European innovation and competitiveness.

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

- broad support for the action plan, deemed to be essential in the current geopolitical context to guarantee EU competitiveness in the field of AI;

- access to high-quality data as an essential requirement, and one regularly identified as a key challenge both for start-ups and established industry players, and the importance of advanced computing capacity to develop effective AI solutions;
- the synergies needed between traditional industries and innovative AI start-ups;
- European skills as an asset, since the EU benefited from the best-educated human capital in the world, and the need for substantial financial support from Horizon Europe and other dedicated programmes;
- the need – in addition to training experts – to engage in an inclusive dialogue with the whole population;
- the need to develop and apply AI in way that ensured an ethical and human-focused approach;
- the need for AI use and algorithmic management to be brought within the framework of working life, so that these technologies improved working conditions and productivity while at the same time safeguarding workers' rights;
- the importance of protecting intellectual property and private life;
- the need to keep a certain degree of regulatory flexibility in this fast-moving area, and to maintain a constructive dialogue with the social partners.

Following these presentations, the Commission approved the Communication in COM(2025) 165/3 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

9.1. EU-US TRADE RELATIONS

The PRESIDENT and Mr ŠEFČOVIČ reported to the Commission on the ongoing exchanges between the EU and the United States concerning trade and tariffs.

9.2. LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Ms KALLAS briefed the College on the latest developments in the EU's external relations.

She began by referring to her visit earlier that week to the Western Balkans, and in particular to Albania, Montenegro, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Special mention was made of the Defence and Security Partnership with Albania, as well as the stabilising role of the EU Operational Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR Althea).

She then turned to the situation in Ukraine, where Russian ballistic missile attacks were intensifying and causing many casualties among the civilian population. In this context, she referred to the meeting on 4 April between the foreign ministers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and their Ukrainian counterpart, Mr Andrii Sybiha, to the EU-Ukraine Association Council on 9 April, to the meeting of defence ministers of the coalition of the willing to support Ukraine on 10 April, and to the meeting of the Ukraine Defence Contact Group to be held, in Ramstein format, on 11 April.

Ms KALLAS also noted that a meeting between the diplomatic representatives of the United States and Russia was scheduled for 10 April in Istanbul.

She concluded by reaffirming the importance for the EU and its Member States to show unity in response to geopolitical developments.

The Commission took note of this information.

9.3. SITUATION REGARDING THE FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE EPIDEMIC

Mr VÁRHELYI briefed the College on the situation concerning the outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in Hungary and Slovakia. He pointed out that this was the most contagious and deadly zoonotic disease both for domestic animals (cattle, sheep, pigs, goats) and for wild animals. The infectious agent, which was particularly resistant, was transmitted mainly by air and caused devastating financial losses for the farmers affected.

However, he also shared the encouraging news that the outbreaks in Hungary and Slovakia had not spread to other Member States and that no new outbreaks had been detected for 10 days. He therefore felt that the situation was improving, pointing out that this positive trend could only be confirmed in approximately 10 days' time. He also noted that all health measures and protocols had been rigorously applied on the ground, with the technical support of EU veterinary emergency teams. Control arrangements and movement restrictions for animals remained strictly in place.

Mr VÁRHELYI highlighted the significant impact of animal slaughtering on producers in the Member States concerned and their effect on public opinion. He nevertheless commended the effectiveness of the regional cooperation established in response to the crisis, mentioning in particular the border protection measures put in place by Austria.

Lastly, he referred to the issue of European funding for these health crises, pointing out that the previous outbreaks of avian influenza and swine fever had led to a drastic reduction in the funds available, even though the EU had a responsibility to provide a concrete response to these challenges.

Mr VÁRHELYI concluded by stressing the need to strengthen preventive

measures and, in particular, to review European animal vaccination strategies.

A short discussion followed, during which the Commission mainly considered the different options available to Member States to mobilise the necessary resources to deal with such situations.

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 10.20.