



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2025) 2523 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

Brussels, 17 June 2025

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

of the 2523rd meeting of the Commission

held in Brussels

(Berlaymont)

on Wednesday 16 April 2025

(morning)

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Single sitting: Wednesday 16 April 2025 (morning)

The sitting opened at 9.16 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 1 to 9 (in part)
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Member	
Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Member	
Ms ŠUICA	Member	
Mr HOEKSTRA	Member	
Mr KUBILIUS	Member	
Ms KOS	Member	
Mr KADIS	Member	
Ms ALBUQUERQUE	Member	
Mr BRUNNER	Member	
Ms ROSWALL	Member	
Mr JØRGENSEN	Member	
Ms ZAHARIEVA	Member	
Mr McGRATH	Member	Items 1 to 9 (in part)
Mr TZITZIKOSTAS	Member	Items 1 and 9 (in part)
Mr HANSEN	Member	
Mr MICALLEF	Member	

(16 April 2025)

Absent:

Mr VÁRHELYI	Member
Mr SÍKELA	Member
Ms LAHBIB	Member
Mr SERAFIN	Member

The following also sat in:

Mr LADENBURGER	Deputy Director-General, Legal Service
Ms ERIKSSON WATERSCHOOT	Deputy Director-General, DG Communication
Ms BELLONI	Defence Adviser in the PRESIDENT's cabinet
Mr LUNAU	Member of the PRESIDENT's cabinet
Mr TAQUET-GRAZIANI	Acting Head of Unit in the Secretariat-General
Ms BUKA	Secretariat-General

The following sat in at the Security College:

Mr ROSIN	Director-General of the Estonian Foreign Intelligence Service
Mr KADHI	Director of the Cybersecurity Service for the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies (CERT-EU)
Mr SALMI	Deputy Director-General, DG Human Resources and Security
Mr MARKIĆ	Director of the European Union Intelligence and Situation Centre (EU-INTCEN) in the European External Action Service (EEAS)

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

1. SECURITY COLLEGE

The Commission held its second meeting of the Security College with the participation of Mr Kaupo Rosin, Director-General of the Estonian Foreign Intelligence Service, and Mr Saâd Kadhi, Director of the Cybersecurity Service for the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies (CERT-EU). The meeting was dedicated to an exchange of views and information on cybersecurity.

2. AGENDAS (OJ(2025) 2523/FINAL; SEC(2025) 2523/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) 2523)**

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Heads of Cabinet held on Monday 14 April 2025.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
(PV(2025) 2519)**

The Commission approved the minutes of its 2519th meeting of 19 March 2025 and decided to hold over approval of the minutes of its 2520th, 2521st and 2522nd meetings of 26 March and 1 and 9 April 2025 until a later meeting.

5. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS (RCC(2025) 168)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (GRI) held on Friday 11 April 2025 (RCC(2025) 168).

The Commission approved the lines proposed for the following points:

- **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 report – 2023/0053 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 77.

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

Line set out in SI(2025) 84.

- **Amendment of Regulation (EU) No 806/2014 as regards early intervention measures, conditions for resolution and financing of resolution action (Regulation) – TINAGLI report – 2023/0111 (COD) / Amendment of Directive 2014/59/EU as regards early intervention measures, conditions for resolution and financing of resolution action (Directive) – NIEDERMAYER report – 2023/0112 (COD) / Amendment of Directive 2014/49/EU as regards the scope of deposit protection, use of deposit guarantee schemes funds, cross-border cooperation and transparency (Directive) – PETER-HANSEN report – 2023/0115 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 94.

- **Provision of macro-financial assistance to the Arab Republic of Egypt (Decision) – IMART report – 2024/0071 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 95.

- **Amendment of Regulation (EU) 2018/196 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 February 2018 on additional customs duties on imports of certain products originating in the United States of America (Regulation) – LANGE report – 2025/0012 (COD)**

Line set out in SP(2025) 138.

- **Amendment of Council Directive 92/43/EEC as regards the protection status of the wolf (*Canis lupus*) (Council Directive) – 2025/0058 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 96.

- **Amended Memorandum of Understanding for the Baltic Energy Market Interconnection Plan High-Level Group**

Line set out in SI(2025) 92.

The Commission took note of the following point:

- **Amendment of Regulations (EU) 2015/1017, (EU) 2021/523, (EU) 2021/695 and (EU) 2021/1153 as regards increasing the efficiency of the EU guarantee under Regulation (EU) 2021/523 and simplifying reporting requirements (Regulation) – SALLA & TINAGLI report – 2025/0040 (COD)**

Information set out in SI(2025) 93.

**6. COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL ACTION
(RCC(2025) 214)**

The Commission took note of the operational conclusions in RCC(2025) 214 of the meeting of the Group for External Coordination (EXCO) held on Wednesday 9 April 2025.

7. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

**7.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED
(SEC(2025) 110 ET SEQ.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 7 and 13 April 2025.

**7.2. EMPOWERMENT
(SEC(2025) 111 ET SEQ.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 7 and 13 April 2025.

**7.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS
(SEC(2025) 112 ET SEQ.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedures between 7 and 13 April 2025 archived in Decide.

**7.4. WRITTEN PROCEDURES SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED
(SEC(2025) 113 AND /2)**

The Commission took note of the written procedures specifically identified for which the time limit expired between 14 April and 2 May 2025.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS
(SEC(2025) 114/2)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
(PERS(2025) 36/2)

**8.1. EUROPEAN PERSONNEL SELECTION OFFICE – APPOINTMENT OF
A DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE AT GRADE AD14**
(PERS(2025) 37 AND /2)

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 European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO) (PERS(2025) 37).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 21 February and 14 March 2025 (PERS(2025) 37/2).

The Commission proceeded to compare the applicants' qualifications for the post. On a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, it then decided to appoint Mr Olivier SALLES to the vacant post as a member of the temporary staff, in accordance with Article 2(a) of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union.

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

**8.2. OFFICE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND LOGISTICS IN
LUXEMBOURG – DEPUTISING FOR THE DIRECTOR**

On a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, the Commission decided that, upon the retirement of the current acting Director, Mr Jose MIRANDA-VIZUETE, currently Head of Unit of ‘Building projects – EMAS – Transport – Space management’ (OIL.01), would deputise for the Director of the Office for Infrastructure and Logistics in Luxembourg, in accordance with Article 52 of the Commission’s Rules of Procedure.

This decision would take effect on 1 May 2025.

8.3. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN FISCAL BOARD (PERS(2025) 38)

The Commission took note of the information set out in point 3 of PERS(2025) 36/2 and, on a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and after consulting Mr DOMBROVSKIS, decided:

- to appoint Mr Pieter F. HASEKAMP to the post of Chair of the European Fiscal Board, and Mr Eckhard JANEBA, Mr George KOPITS, Ms Benedicta MARZINOTTO and Ms Lucía RODRÍGUEZ MUÑOZ to the posts of Members of the Board for a duration of three years, renewable once. During their term of office, they would have the status of special advisers to Mr DOMBROVSKIS;
- 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.

8.4. DG MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES – EXTENSION OF THE SECONDMENT IN THE INTEREST OF THE SERVICE, UNDER ARTICLES 37 AND 38 OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS, OF AN AD16 OFFICIAL

On a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Mr KADIS, the Commission decided to extend the secondment in the interest of the service, under Articles 37 and 38 of the Staff Regulations, of Mr João AGUIAR MACHADO, to the European External Action Service (EEAS). This extension, for an additional period of 7 months, would take effect on 1 September 2025 and end on 31 March 2026.

The Commission also confirmed that, during his secondment, all expenses would be covered by the European External Action Service.

This decision would take effect on 1 September 2025.

**8.5. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – APPROVAL OF LISTS OF CANDIDATES FOR POSTS OF HEAD AND DEPUTY HEAD OF EUROPEAN UNION DELEGATIONS
(PERS(2025) 39)**

The Commission took note of the information in point 5 of PERS(2025) 36/2 and, on a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, decided to approve:

- the 3 lists of candidates for the posts of Head of the European Union Delegations to Argentina, Serbia and South Korea, at grades AD14-15/AD14;
- the 37 lists of candidates for the posts of Head of the European Union Delegations to Azerbaijan, Barbados, Burkina Faso, Burma/Myanmar,

Cabo Verde, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea-Conakry, Guyana, Haiti, Israel, Côte d'Ivoire, Lesotho, Malawi, Moldova, Morocco, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Singapore, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Yemen and Zimbabwe, at grades AD9-14/AD12;

- the list of candidates for the post of Deputy Head of the European Union Delegation to Russia, at grades AD9-14/AD12.

The competent authority of the European External Action Service would make the final appointments on the basis of these lists, as set out in PERS(2025) 39.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

8.6. DG JUSTICE AND CONSUMERS – PUBLICATION OF AN OPEN CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE POST OF EUROPEAN CHIEF PROSECUTOR
(PERS(2025) 40)

The Commission took note of the information set out in point 6 of PERS(2025) 36/2 and, on a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and after consulting Mr McGRATH, decided:

- to authorise the publication of the open call for applications for the post of European Chief Prosecutor;
- to instruct the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers to arrange for its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.1. *LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN EXTERNAL RELATIONS*

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

Regarding the situation in Ukraine, she mentioned the numerous meetings that had taken place the previous week, including the EU-Ukraine Association Council on 9 April, the meeting of Coalition of the Willing Defence Ministers on 10 April, and the meeting of the Ukraine Defence Contact Group, in Ramstein format, on 11 April. She noted that the first three months of 2025 had been the deadliest since the beginning of the conflict, particularly for the Ukrainian civilian population. In this context, she stressed the importance of the EU preserving its unity in the face of geopolitical developments and maintaining its role as a reliable partner in terms of both trade and security.

She then mentioned the first high-level political dialogue between the EU and the Palestinian Authority, which had taken place on 14 April, and the announcement, following this meeting, of a multiannual support programme of EUR 1.6 billion for recovery and resilience. She reaffirmed the EU's continued commitment to supporting the Palestinian Authority, UNRWA and humanitarian initiatives in the region.

Ms KALLAS also drew the attention of the College to the ongoing tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan, stressing the need to prevent any escalation. Finally, she referred to the dinner held on 13 April with the foreign affairs ministers of the countries of the Western Balkans, which had been followed by a discussion on the region in the Foreign Affairs Council the following day.

She concluded by highlighting the talks between Iran and the United States, reminding the College of the historic role of the EU as a mediator in these discussions.

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

- the complex geopolitical situation and the crucial role of the EU;
- the importance of supporting the Palestinian Authority and the need for Israel to free up the tax revenues for the Palestinian Authority;
- developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the relations between Belgrade and Pristina.

Ms KALLAS highlighted the EU's continued efforts regarding the situation in the Middle East while recognising the magnitude of the challenges to be overcome in order to put an end to the violence. She nevertheless welcomed the consensus within the EU for a two-state solution and stressed that the EU's Arab partners were in favour of an increased role for the EU on the basis of mutual trust and the balanced approach that the EU continued to promote.

With regard to Bosnia and Herzegovina, she reiterated the crucial importance of respecting the current constitutional order. She stressed that the parties had to meet the essential requirements of the EU accession process. Finally, she mentioned the need to make progress towards a normalisation of relations between Serbia and Kosovo*.

The Commission took note of this information.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

9.2. EU-US TRADE RELATIONS

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

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 11.47.