



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2025) 2524 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

Strasbourg, 17 June 2025

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

of the 2524th meeting of the Commission

held in Strasbourg

(Winston Churchill building)

on Tuesday 6 May 2025

(afternoon)

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Single sitting: Tuesday 6 May 2025 (afternoon)

The sitting opened at 13.09 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	Items 8 and 9
Ms MÎNZATU	Executive Vice-President	Items 1 to 9 (in part)
Mr FITTO	Executive Vice-President	
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Member	
Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Member	Items 8 (in part) and 9
Ms ŠUICA	Member	
Mr VÁRHELYI	Member	
Mr HOEKSTRA	Member	
Mr KUBILIUS	Member	
Ms KOS	Member	
Mr KADIS	Member	
Ms ALBUQUERQUE	Member	
Ms LAHBIB	Member	
Mr BRUNNER	Member	
Ms ROSWALL	Member	
Mr JØRGENSEN	Member	Items 1 to 9 (in part)
Ms ZAHARIEVA	Member	
Mr McGRATH	Member	
Mr HANSEN	Member	Items 1 to 9 (in part)
Mr MICALLEF	Member	

Absent:

Mr SÍKELA	Member
Mr SERAFIN	Member
Mr TZITZIKOSTAS	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 PODESTA	Deputy Chief Spokesperson of the Commission
Ms PETKOVA	Director of Coordination and Administration in the PRESIDENT's cabinet
Mr VAN KEMSEKE	Adviser 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) 2524/FINAL; SEC(2025) 2524/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) 2524)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Heads of Cabinet held on Monday 5 May 2025.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Commission held over approval of the minutes of its 2520th, 2521st, 2522nd and 2523rd meetings of 26 March and 1, 9 and 16 April 2025 until a later meeting.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(RCC(2025) 170)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (GRI) held on Wednesday 30 April 2025 (RCC(2025) 170).

The Commission approved the lines proposed for the following points:

- **Amendment of Council Decision 2003/17/EC as regards the equivalence of field inspections carried out in the Republic of Moldova on fodder plant seed-producing crops and on the equivalence of fodder plant seed produced in the Republic of Moldova, and as regards the equivalence of field inspections carried out in Ukraine on beet seed-producing crops and oil**

plant seed-producing crops and on the equivalence of beet seed and oil plant seed produced in Ukraine (Decision) – VRECIONOVÁ report – 2024/0027 (COD)

Line set out in SI(2025) 115.

- **Detergents and surfactants, amendment of Regulation (EU)2019/1020 and repeal of Regulation (EC) No 648/2004 (Regulation) – SBAI report – 2023/0124 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 109/2.

- **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) 98.

- **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)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 116.

- **European statistics on population and housing, amendment of Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 and repeal of Regulations (EC) No 763/2008 and (EU) No 1260/2013 (Regulation) – PEREIRA report – 2023/0008 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 120.

- **Objection pursuant to Rule 115(2) and (3) of the Rules of Procedure of the**

European Parliament – Draft Commission Implementing Decision authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified soybean MON 87705 × MON 87708 × MON 89788 pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council – D105678/03 – 2025/2647 (RSP)

Line set out in SP(2025) 165.

- **Amendment of Directive 2006/112/EC as regards VAT rules relating to taxable persons who facilitate distance sales of imported goods and the application of the special scheme for distance sales of goods imported from third territories or third countries and special arrangements for declaration and payment of import VAT (Council Directive) – CHASTEL report – 2023/0158 (CNS)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 119.

- **Oral Question O-000012/2025 – Old challenges and new commercial practices in the internal market**

Line set out in SP(2025) 167.

The Commission took note of the following points:

- **Screening of foreign investments in the Union and repeal of Regulation (EU) 2019/452 of the European Parliament and of the Council (Regulation) – GLUCKSMANN report – 2024/0017 (COD)**

Information set out in SP(2025) 164.

- **Public interface connected to the Internal Market Information System for the declaration of posting of workers and amending Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 (Regulation) – DANIELSSON & SCHWAB report –**

2024/0301 (COD)

Information set out in SI(2025) 110.

- **Amendment of Regulation (EC) No 261/2004 establishing common rules on compensation and assistance to passengers in the event of denied boarding and of cancellation or long delay of flights and Regulation (EC) No 2027/97 on air carrier liability in respect of the carriage of passengers and their baggage by air (Regulation) – NOVAKOV report – 2013/0072 (COD)**

Information set out in SI(2025) 121.

**5. COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL ACTION
(RCC(2025) 215)**

The Commission took note of the operational conclusions in RCC(2025) 215 of the meeting of the Group for External Coordination (EXCO) held on Wednesday 30 April 2025.

6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

**6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED
(SEC(2025) 120 ET SEQ.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 14 April and 4 May 2025.

**6.2. EMPOWERMENT
(SEC(2025) 121 ET SEQ.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 14 April and 4 May 2025.

6.3. *DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS*
(SEC(2025) 122 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedures between 14 April and 4 May 2025 archived in Decide.

6.4. *WRITTEN PROCEDURES SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED*
(SEC(2025) 123 AND /2)

The Commission took note of the written procedures specifically identified for which the time limit expired between 5 and 9 May 2025, and of the finalisation written procedure.

7. *ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS*
(SEC(2025) 124)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
(PERS(2025) 41)

***7.1. DG EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND INCLUSION –
 EXTENSION OF THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE
 DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN LABOUR AUTHORITY, AT GRADE
 AD15***

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

- to propose to the Management Board of the European Labour Authority (ELA) to extend the term of office of Mr Cosmin BOIANGIU in the post

of Executive Director of the ELA, for a period of five years, with effect from 16 December 2025, in accordance with Article 31(5) of Regulation (EU) 1149/2019;

- to ask Ms MÎNZATU, the Member of the Commission responsible, to communicate this decision to ELA's Management Board.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

7.2. DG FINANCIAL STABILITY, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND CAPITAL MARKETS UNION – APPOINTMENT OF AN INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE AUTHORITY FOR ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING

On a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and after consulting Ms ALBUQUERQUE, the Commission decided to appoint Mr Dominique THIENPONT, currently an AD14 official and Deputy Head of the 'Anti-Money Laundering Authority' Task Force in DG Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union, to the post of interim Executive Director of the Authority for Anti-Money Laundering (AMLA). He would perform these duties in addition to his current post, until the appointed Executive Director of the AMLA took up the post.

This decision would take effect on 16 May 2025.

**7.3. DG MIGRATION AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS – ADOPTION OF A SHORTLIST OF CANDIDATES TO THE POST OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN UNION DRUGS AGENCY, AT GRADE AD14
(PERS(2025) 42 AND /2)**

The Commission took note of the information set out in point 3 of PERS(2025) 41 and, on a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and after consulting Mr BRUNNER, decided:

- to approve the shortlist of candidates proposed for the post of Executive Director of the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA), and to consider this list as the Commission proposal;
- to ask Mr BRUNNER, the Member of the Commission responsible, to communicate this decision to EUDA's Management Board.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

**7.4. DG MIGRATION AND HOME AFFAIRS – ADOPTION OF A SHORTLIST OF CANDIDATES FOR THE POST OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR THE OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT OF LARGE-SCALE IT SYSTEMS IN THE AREA OF FREEDOM, SECURITY AND JUSTICE, AT GRADE AD14
(PERS(2025) 43 AND /2)**

The Commission took note of the information set out in point 4 of PERS(2025) 41 and, on a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and after consulting Mr BRUNNER, decided:

- to approve the shortlist of candidates proposed for the post of Executive Director of the European Union Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (eu-LISA), and to consider this list as the Commission proposal;
- to ask Mr BRUNNER, the Member of the Commission responsible, to communicate this decision to eu-LISA's Management Board.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

7.5. DG COMPETITION – AUTHORISATION TO RECRUIT A TEMPORARY STAFF MEMBER, UNDER ARTICLE 2(A) OF THE

***CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT OF OTHER SERVANTS OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION, AND EXTERNAL PUBLICATION OF A
VACANCY NOTICE FOR DIRECTOR POST AT GRADE AD14
(PERS(2025) 44)***

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

- to authorise the recruitment of a temporary staff member at grade AD14, under Article 2(a) of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union, with a view to filling the Director-level post of Chief Technology Officer in DG Competition, for a period of three years, renewable once for a maximum of two years;
- to authorise the external publication of the vacancy notice set out in PERS(2025) 44.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

***7.6. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL – EUROPEAN COMMISSION DECISION
ON POST TERM-OF-OFFICE ACTIVITY OF A FORMER MEMBER OF
THE COMMISSION
(C(2025) 9013)***

The Commission decided that the professional activity envisaged by Mr Margaritis Schinas, after leaving office as a Member of the Commission, was compatible with Article 245(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and with the Code of Conduct for Commissioners, subject to certain conditions and obligations.

The Commission adopted the decision in C(2025) 9013.

8. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – ROADMAP TOWARDS ENDING RUSSIAN ENERGY IMPORTS

(COM(2025) 440 TO /3; RCC(2025) 31)

The PRESIDENT introduced the roadmap for ending Russian energy imports, paving the way for the EU's full energy independence from Russia. The roadmap provided for a gradual end to Russian gas and oil imports and, ultimately, to imports of nuclear energy of Russian origin, while ensuring security of energy supply in the EU and limiting the impact on prices and markets.

She reminded the College that this dependency, which had grown over the years, had been exploited as a political lever by Russia following its illegal invasion of Ukraine. However, President Putin's unilateral decision to suspend gas supplies to certain Member States, which led to a ten-fold increase in energy prices in the EU, had, paradoxically, helped Member States reach a consensus in favour of independence from Russian energy.

The PRESIDENT highlighted the results already achieved thanks to the REPowerEU plan launched in May 2022, pointing out that Russian gas imports had decreased from 45% in 2021 to 19% in 2024 while Russian oil imports had decreased from 27% at the beginning of 2022 to 3% today. Meanwhile, Russian coal imports had been banned outright as part of the EU sanctions imposed on Russia. She nevertheless stressed the need for continued efforts, particularly as Russian fossil fuels, including liquefied natural gas (LNG), were reappearing on the EU market.

Ms RIBERA confirmed the effectiveness of the measures already implemented and explained that the roadmap approved that day, and the nine actions it contained, aimed to put an end to the remaining dependencies without jeopardising

European competitiveness or citizens' purchasing power. She highlighted the need for a gradual approach, closely coordinated with the Member States, in order to guarantee security of supply, limit the economic impact and support relevant stakeholders.

Ms RIBERA stressed the importance of a clear legal framework and robust economic impact assessments to protect companies from potential contractual disputes or collateral effects resulting from the implementation of sanctions.

Mr JØRGENSEN reminded the College that the end of the EU's dependence on Russian fuels met a twofold requirement: to reduce exposure to an unreliable supplier and put a stop to any direct or indirect contribution to the financing of Russia's war against Ukraine. While acknowledging the significant progress made since the beginning of the conflict, he nevertheless pointed out that in 2024 the EU had still paid Russia over EUR 20 billion for energy imports, illustrating a residual dependency which remained a source of concern for the Commission.

To remedy this situation, the EU would adopt a gradual but determined approach based on new transparency obligations and the development of national plans. By the end of 2025, the Member States would have to submit plans listing their contracts with Russian energy suppliers and outlining their diversification strategies and their deadlines for the complete phase-out of these flows.

A legislative proposal would be presented shortly to ban all imports under new contracts with Russian gas suppliers and existing spot contracts. This ban should take effect at the latest by the end of 2025, thereby ensuring a reduction by one third of the remaining Russian gas supplies. It would also be proposed to terminate long-term contracts, and thus all residual imports of Russian gas (pipeline and LNG), by the end of 2027.

With regard to nuclear energy, Mr JØRGENSEN noted that most of the Member States concerned already had alternatives. Trade measures would be introduced to make Russian imports less attractive and to support the

European supply chain. Additional legislation would also prohibit the conclusion of new contracts for nuclear fuel. Finally, the roadmap included strengthened provisions to deal with the Russian shadow fleet transporting oil and the circumvention of sanctions.

Mr JØRGENSEN considered that the impact of these measures on European industry and European citizens would be limited. He noted that gas consumption was decreasing each year, while new supply capacities from the United States, Qatar, North Africa, Norway and Canada should largely compensate for the fall in Russian deliveries. Although some price fluctuations could not be excluded, current projections did not suggest a significant impact on energy prices.

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

- strong support for the objectives of the initiative, in particular the end of the EU's dependence on Russian fossil fuels, the purchase of which helped finance Russia's war in Ukraine;
- a call to set an even more ambitious timetable for eliminating Russian oil and gas imports;
- the importance of also addressing the nuclear issue, notably by supporting the establishment of alternative supply chains and the implementation of gradual reduction measures;
- the need to continue with the decarbonisation strategy in order to sustainably reduce dependence on fossil fuels while avoiding new vulnerabilities;
- a call for proactive and coordinated energy diplomacy to secure supply, improve infrastructure capacities such as pipelines, and strengthen the overall resilience of the energy system;

- the importance of diversifying energy sources and partners, with a particular focus on neighbouring countries, the Black Sea region and the Eastern corridor;
- some reservations about the geopolitical implications, including the redirection of Russian exports to other markets and the medium-term strategic balance;
- concerns about the potential impact of the measures on energy prices, along with a call for in-depth economic assessments;
- a wish to further strengthen measures to combat the Russian shadow fleet and the circumvention of sanctions;
- the potential contribution of the agricultural and forestry sectors to energy security, notably through the production of alternative fertilisers and the bioeconomy strategy.

Following the discussion, the PRESIDENT stressed that the exchanges had highlighted the high cost that the European Union continued to bear as a result of its dependence on fossil fuels. She called for the development of an energy landscape based on decarbonised energy sources, which would generate jobs in the EU and benefit the environment. She also referred to the challenges faced at the beginning of the war in Ukraine, including the abrupt disruption of Russian gas supplies, and stressed that the EU would not have been able to meet these challenges without the decisive support of its partners.

Responding to some of the points raised during the discussion, Mr JØRGENSEN noted that, while the objective of ending Russian gas imports by 2027 was ambitious, the EU was well on track, and the Commission would actively support the Member States in this transition. He mentioned the cooperation already underway, which was evidence of the EU's capacity to deal with energy disruptions. The increase in liquefied natural gas production would also help compensate for the reduction in Russian gas supplies.

With regard to nuclear energy, he highlighted the diversity of national situations and pointed out that the EU would adopt a pragmatic approach, supporting the diversification efforts of countries still dependent on Russian imports and making these imports gradually less attractive through appropriate trade measures.

In conclusion, Mr JØRGENSEN reminded the College that the roadmap was part of a broader strategy that was not limited to ending dependence on Russian fossil fuels. It would also contribute to the economic plan set out in the Competitiveness Compass, the Clean Industrial Deal and the Affordable Energy Action Plan, which showed how an energy system based on efficient, clean and renewable energy solutions could help boost the economy while also helping to realise Europe's decarbonisation ambitions.

Following these presentations, the Commission approved the Communication in COM(2025) 440/3 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. LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN EXTERNAL RELATIONS

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

She began by noting that Europe Day would be celebrated by Ukraine on 9 May in Lviv, in the presence of EU Foreign Ministers. The event would also bring together Ministers from other countries, including the United Kingdom, Norway and Moldova, as well as the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, on the occasion of the official establishment of the Special Tribunal for the crimes of aggression committed by Russia since its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

EU Foreign Ministers would also hold an informal meeting on 8 May in Warsaw, Poland, in Gymnich format, where they would discuss recent diplomatic progress and ways in which the EU could continue to help strengthen Ukraine's position. Ms KALLAS also praised the adoption by the Commission that day of proposals for a 17th package of sanctions against Russia, and the conclusion of the agreement between the United States and Ukraine on 30 April on the creation of the Reconstruction Investment Fund.

As regards the Middle East, she expressed her concern at the humanitarian aid blockade in Gaza, which she raised during her exchanges with the Israeli Foreign Minister. She also highlighted the continued fragility of the situation in Syria, where security and stability remained threatened by internal tensions and external actions that could undermine the country's territorial integrity and sovereignty. She added that discussions on a possible lifting of sanctions were continuing in the Council.

With regard to Iran, she referred to the ongoing bilateral discussions between Tehran and Washington to reach a new deal over Iran's nuclear programme, while stressing the importance of not neglecting other key issues for the EU and safeguarding European interests.

Ms KALLAS then turned to the issue of rising tensions between India and Pakistan, reaffirming the EU's strong condemnation of terrorism and the importance of restraint, dialogue and commitment to a peaceful solution. She stressed that all channels of communication had to remain open in order to allow for the settlement of disputes, in line with the relevant UN resolutions.

Lastly, Ms KALLAS welcomed the encouraging signs of improvement in relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan, illustrated by the continuation of discussions between the two parties.

A brief discussion followed, during which the Commission expressed deep concern about the situation in Gaza and reiterated the importance of ensuring

full respect for humanitarian principles, in particular the neutrality and independence of aid.

The Commission took note of this information.

9.2. LAUNCH OF THE ‘CHOOSE EUROPE FOR SCIENCE’ INITIATIVE

Ms ZAHARIEVA explained that the unprecedented initiative ‘Choose Europe for Science’ had been launched the day before in Paris from the University of Sorbonne, with the aim of attracting researchers and entrepreneurs from all over the world to Europe. She made special mention of the speeches made on this occasion in favour of science, democracy and freedom. She emphasised that the EU's greatest asset was its talent. The measures announced would enable the EU to become a more attractive and safe research area, guaranteeing scientists a working environment free from political interference.

She indicated that new calls worth over €1.25 billion in 2025 under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) opened doors for new talents. She stressed the importance of accompanying measures to facilitate the arrival of researchers and their teams, such as visa procedures, access to housing, and employment opportunities for their families. These measures would be implemented in close cooperation with the Member States.

Finally, Ms ZAHARIEVA drew attention to the crucial issue of access to data, particularly in key areas such as health and climate change, and the need to ensure they are protected in the long-term by means of European storage and management facilities, including through cloud infrastructure.

The PRESIDENT stressed that this was a historic opportunity for the EU to assert its values of freedom, openness and collaboration, applied here to scientific research. She felt that research should not have a political dimension or a passport and highlighted the excellence of European research

infrastructure. She noted that efforts should nevertheless be made to facilitate the translation of fundamental research into marketable products.

She concluded by saying that the time had come for the EU to make its commitment to science heard, citing the researcher-led European Research Council as a prime example of the academic freedom that characterised the European Research Area.

The Commission took note of this information.

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The meeting closed at 14.31.