



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2025) 2529 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

Brussels, 16 July 2025

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

of the 2529th meeting of the Commission

held in Strasbourg

(Winston Churchill building)

on Tuesday 17 June 2025

(afternoon)

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Attendance list	6-7
1. AGENDAS (OJ(2025) 2529/FINAL; SEC(2025) 2529/FINAL)	8
2. WEEKLY MEETING OF HEADS OF CABINET (RCC(2025) 2529 AND /2).....	8
3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (PV(2025) 2523; PV(2025) 2523, PART II; PV(2025) 2524; PV(2025) 2525).....	8
4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS (RCC(2025) 181)	8
5. COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL ACTION (RCC(2025) 221).....	11
6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS.....	12
6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED (SEC(2025) 170 ET SEQ.).....	12
6.2. EMPOWERMENT (SEC(2025) 171 ET SEQ.)	12
6.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS (SEC(2025) 172 ET SEQ.)	12
6.4. WRITTEN PROCEDURES SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED (SEC(2025) 173 AND /2).....	12
7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS (SEC(2025) 174 AND /2).....	13
7.1. DG ENVIRONMENT – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR-GENERAL AT GRADE AD15/16 (PERS(2025) 30 TO /3)	13
7.2. DG MIGRATION AND HOME AFFAIRS – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR- GENERAL AT GRADE AD15/16 (PERS(2024) 37 TO /3)	13
7.3. JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR-GENERAL AT GRADE AD15/16 (PERS(2025) 18 TO /3)	14

PV(2025) 2529 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

EN

7.4. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL / REGULATORY SCRUTINY BOARD – EXTENSION OF THE TERM OF OFFICE OF AN EXTERNAL MEMBER OF THE REGULATORY SCRUTINY BOARD	15
7.5. OFFICE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND LOGISTICS IN LUXEMBOURG – CLOSURE OF A SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR A DIRECTOR POST AT GRADE AD14/15.....	15
7.6. DG FINANCIAL STABILITY, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND CAPITAL MARKETS UNION – ADOPTION OF A SHORTLIST OF CANDIDATES FOR THE POST OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE AUTHORITY FOR ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AND COUNTERING THE FINANCING OF TERRORISM (PERS(2025) 59 AND /2).....	15
7.7. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL ADVISER (PERS(2025) 60).....	16
7.8. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL – EUROPEAN COMMISSION DECISIONS ON POST TERM-OF-OFFICE ACTIVITIES OF FORMER MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION (C(2025) 9016; C(2025) 9017; C(2025) 9018)	17
7.9. ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE COMMISSION MEDIATION SERVICE FOR 2024 (SEC(2025) 163)	17
7.10. COMMISSION REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU BORROWING, DEBT MANAGEMENT AND RELATED LENDING OPERATIONS AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE HIGH LEVEL RISK AND COMPLIANCE POLICY (SEC(2025) 177)	17
8. REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS: ANNUAL MANAGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE EU BUDGET – 2024 FINANCIAL YEAR (COM(2025) 824 AND /2; RCC(2025) 50).....	18
9. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ON PHASING OUT RUSSIAN NATURAL GAS IMPORTS, IMPROVING MONITORING OF POTENTIAL ENERGY DEPENDENCIES AND AMENDING	

REGULATION (EU) 2017/1938 (COM(2025) 828 TO /3; SWD(2025) 830 AND /3; RCC(2025) 53)	20
10. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL – DEFENCE READINESS OMNIBUS (COM(2025) 820 TO /3; RCC(2025) 49).....	23
11. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ON THE ACCELERATION OF PERMIT-GRANTING FOR DEFENCE READINESS PROJECTS (COM(2025) 821 AND /2; RCC(2025) 49).....	23
12. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING REGULATIONS (EC) NO 1907/2006, (EC) NO 1272/2008, (EU) NO 528/2012, (EU) 2019/1021 AND (EU) 2021/697 AS REGARDS DEFENCE READINESS AND FACILITATING DEFENCE INVESTMENTS AND CONDITIONS FOR DEFENCE INDUSTRY (COM(2025) 822 AND /2; RCC(2025) 49).....	24
13. PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING DIRECTIVES 2009/43/EC AND 2009/81/EC, AS REGARDS THE SIMPLIFICATION OF INTRA-EU TRANSFERS OF DEFENCE-RELATED PRODUCTS AND THE SIMPLIFICATION OF SECURITY AND DEFENCE PROCUREMENT (COM(2025) 823 TO /3; RCC(2025) 49)	24
14. COMMISSION NOTICE ON THE APPLICATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE FINANCE FRAMEWORK AND THE CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY DUE DILIGENCE DIRECTIVE TO THE DEFENCE SECTOR (C(2025) 3800 AND /2; RCC(2025) 49)	24

15. COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION AMENDING
COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) 2020/1818 AS
REGARDS THE DEFINITION OF CONTROVERSIAL WEAPONS
(C(2025) 3801 AND /2; RCC(2025) 49) 24
16. COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION AMENDING
COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) 2021/1078 AS
REGARDS STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS IN THE FIELD OF
DEFENCE SET OUT IN THE INVESTMENT GUIDELINES FOR THE
INVESTEU FUND (C(2025) 3802 AND /2; RCC(2025) 49).....24
17. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING REGULATION
(EU) 2017/2402 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE
COUNCIL OF 12 DECEMBER 2017 LAYING DOWN A GENERAL
FRAMEWORK FOR SECURITISATION AND CREATING A
SPECIFIC FRAMEWORK FOR SIMPLE, TRANSPARENT AND
STANDARDISED SECURITISATION (COM(2025) 826 AND /2;
SWD(2025) 825; SWD(2025) 826; SEC(2025) 825; RCC(2025) 51) 29
18. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING REGULATION
(EU) NO 575/2013 ON PRUDENTIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CREDIT
INSTITUTIONS AS REGARDS REQUIREMENTS FOR
SECURITISATION EXPOSURES (COM(2025) 825 AND /2;
SWD(2025) 825; SWD(2025) 826 SEC(2025) 825; RCC(2025) 51).....29

Single sitting: Tuesday 17 June 2025 (afternoon)

The sitting opened at 13.05 with Ms RIBERA in the chair.

Present:

Ms RIBERA	Executive Vice-President	
Ms VIRKKUNEN	Executive Vice-President	
Mr SÉJOURNÉ	Executive Vice-President	
Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Member	Items 7 (in part) to 18
Ms ŠUICA	Member	
Mr KUBILIUS	Member	
Ms KOS	Member	
Mr SÍKELA	Member	
Mr KADIS	Member	
Ms ALBUQUERQUE	Member	
Ms LAHBIB	Member	
Mr BRUNNER	Member	Items 1 to 10/16 (in part)
Mr SERAFIN	Member	
Mr JØRGENSEN	Member	
Ms ZAHARIEVA	Member	
Mr McGRATH	Member	Items 1 to 10/16 (in part)
Mr TZITZIKOSTAS	Member	Items 1 to 10/16 (in part)
Mr MICALLEF	Member	

Absent:

Ms von der LEYEN	President
Ms KALLAS	High Representative / Vice-President
Ms MÎNZATU	Executive Vice-President
Mr FITTO	Executive Vice-President
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Member
Mr VÁRHELYI	Member
Mr HOEKSTRA	Member
Ms ROSWALL	Member
Mr HANSEN	Member

The following also sat in:

Mr CALLEJA CRESPO	Director-General, Legal Service	
Ms ERIKSSON WATERSCHOOT	Deputy Director-General, DG Communication	
Mr DE KEERSMAECKER	Deputy Chief Spokesperson of the Commission	
Ms KAŹMIERCZAK	Director-General IAS	Items 1 to 9
Mr ADAM	Deputy Head of Cabinet to the PRESIDENT	
Ms PETKOVA	Director of Coordination and Administration in the PRESIDENT's cabinet	
Mr LUNAU	Defence Adviser in the PRESIDENT's cabinet	
Ms REILLY	Member of the PRESIDENT's cabinet	
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) 2529/FINAL; SEC(2025) 2529/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) 2529 AND /2)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Heads of Cabinet held on Monday 16 June 2025.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

(PV(2025) 2523; PV(2025) 2523, PART II; PV(2025) 2524; PV(2025) 2525)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 2523rd, 2524th and 2525th meetings of 16 April and 6 and 14 May 2025, and held over approval of the minutes of its 2526th, 2527th and 2528th meetings of 21 and 28 May and 4 June 2025 for a later date.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(RCC(2025) 181)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (GRI) held on Friday 13 June 2025 (RCC(2025) 181).

The Commission approved the lines proposed for 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)

Line set out in SI(2025) 177.

- **Combatting 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 (ex-STRUGARIU report) – 2023/0135 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 178/2.

- **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) 179/2.

- **Amendment of Regulation (EU) 2023/956 as regards simplifying and strengthening the carbon border adjustment mechanism (Regulation) – DECARO report – 2025/0039 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 180.

- **Application of a generalised scheme of tariff preferences and repeal of Regulation (EU) No 978/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council (Regulation) – LANGE report (ex-HAUTALA report) – 2021/0297 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 181.

- **Amendment of Regulation (EU) 2018/1806 as regards the revision of the suspension mechanism (Regulation) – NEMEC report – 2023/0371 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 184.

- **Statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations (Regulation – recast) – VINCZE & GOERENS report (ex-WIELAND & GOERENS report) – 2021/0375 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 186.

- **Amendment of Regulation (EU) 2023/1542 as regards obligations of economic operators concerning battery due diligence policies (Regulation) – 2025/0129 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 189.

- **Oral Question O-000020/2025 – Clean Industrial Deal**

Line set out in SP(2025) 183.

- **Broad package of Agreements for the consolidation and further development of EU-Switzerland relations**

Line set out in SPI(2025) 27.

- **EU position for the consultations with Norway to agree on fishing opportunities for Northern shrimp in the Skagerrak, Kattegat and Northern North Sea in the Norwegian deep for the period from July 2025 to June 2026**

Line set out in SI(2025) 193.

The Commission took note of the following points:

- **The welfare of dogs and cats and their traceability (Regulation) – VRECIANOVA report – 2023/0447 (COD)**

Information set out in SP(2025) 228.

- **Establishment of the Union Customs Code and the European Union Customs Authority, and repeal of Regulation (EU) No 952/2013 (Regulation) – GOTINK report (ex-CLUNE report) – 2023/0156 (COD)**

Information set out in SI(2025) 182.

- **Amendment of Directives 2006/43/EC, 2013/34/EU, (EU) 2022/2464 and (EU) 2024/1760 as regards certain corporate sustainability reporting and due diligence requirements (Directive) – WARBORN report – 2025/0045 (COD)**

Information set out in SI(2025) 192/2.

- **Amendment of Regulations (EU) 2021/1058 and (EU) 2021/1056 as regards specific measures to address strategic challenges in the context of the mid-term review (Regulation) – BENEIA report – 2025/0084 (COD) / Amendment of Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 establishing the European Social Fund + (ESF+) as regards specific measures to address strategic challenges (Regulation) – MAIJ report – 2025/0085 (COD)**

Information set out in SI(2025) 173.

- **European Defence Industry Programme and framework of measures to ensure the timely availability and supply of defence products – GLUCKSMANN & BELLAMY report (ex-BELLAMY report) – 2024/0061 (COD)**

Information set out in SI(2025) 195.

5. COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL ACTION (RCC(2025) 221)

The Commission took note of the operational conclusions in RCC(2025) 221 of the

meeting of the Group for External Coordination (EXCO) held on Wednesday 11 June 2025.

6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED

(SEC(2025) 170 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 9 and 15 June 2025.

6.2. EMPOWERMENT

(SEC(2025) 171 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 9 and 15 June 2025.

6.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS

(SEC(2025) 172 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedures between 9 and 15 June 2025 archived in Decide.

6.4. WRITTEN PROCEDURES SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED

(SEC(2025) 173 AND /2)

The Commission took note of the written procedures specifically identified for which the time limit expired between 16 and 20 June 2025, and of the finalisation written procedure.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

(SEC(2025) 174 AND /2)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

(PERS(2025) 58 AND /2)

During the meeting, Mr SERAFIN presented three additional proposals for administrative decisions, which were submitted directly to the College for adoption. It was proposed to appoint Mr Eric MAMER as Director-General of DG Environment, Ms Beate GMINDER as Director-General of DG Migration and Home Affairs, and Mr Bernd MAGENHANN as Director-General of the Joint Research Centre. These appointments would take effect on 1 July 2025.

7.1. DG ENVIRONMENT – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR-GENERAL AT GRADE AD15/16

(PERS(2025) 30 TO /3)

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Director-General of DG Environment (PERS(2025) 30 and /2).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 13 May and 5 June 2025 (PERS(2025) 30/3).

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 Mr Eric MAMER to the post.

This decision would take effect on 1 July 2025.

7.2. DG MIGRATION AND HOME AFFAIRS – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR-GENERAL AT GRADE AD15/16

(PERS(2024) 37 TO /3)

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii), Article 29(1)(b) and Article 29(2) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Director-General of DG Migration and Home Affairs (PERS(2024) 37 and /2).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 10 December 2024 and 11 June 2025 (PERS(2024) 37/3).

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 Mr BRUNNER, it then decided to appoint Ms Beate GMINDER to the post.

This decision would take effect on 1 July 2025.

**7.3. JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR-GENERAL AT GRADE AD15/16
(PERS(2025) 18 TO /3)**

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Director-General of the Joint Research Centre (PERS(2025) 18 and /2).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 8 April and 27 May 2025 (PERS(2025) 18/3).

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 ZAHARIEVA, it then decided to appoint Mr Bernard MAGENHANN to the post.

This decision would take effect on 1 July 2025.

**7.4. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL / REGULATORY SCRUTINY BOARD –
EXTENSION OF THE TERM OF OFFICE OF AN EXTERNAL
MEMBER OF THE REGULATORY SCRUTINY BOARD**

On a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, the Commission decided, under Article 3(4) of the Decision of the President (P(2020) 2), to extend by one year the term of office of Mr Philippe MENGAL as a member of the Regulatory Scrutiny Board (RSB), as well as his contract as a temporary staff member.

This decision would take effect on 1 September 2025.

**7.5. OFFICE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND LOGISTICS IN
LUXEMBOURG – CLOSURE OF A SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR A
DIRECTOR POST AT GRADE AD14/15**

On a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, the Commission decided to close, with immediate effect, the selection procedure for the post of Director of the Office for Infrastructure and Logistics in Luxembourg, without making an appointment.

This decision would take effect immediately.

**7.6. DG FINANCIAL STABILITY, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND CAPITAL
MARKETS UNION – ADOPTION OF A SHORTLIST OF CANDIDATES
FOR THE POST OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE AUTHORITY
FOR ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AND COUNTERING THE
FINANCING OF TERRORISM
(PERS(2025) 59 AND /2)**

The Commission took note of the information set out in point 3 of PERS(2025) 58 and, on a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Ms ALBUQUERQUE, decided:

- to adopt the shortlist of candidates proposed for the post of Executive Director of the Authority for Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AMLA), in Frankfurt, and to consider this list as the Commission proposal;
- to task Ms ALBUQUERQUE, the Member of the Commission responsible, with communicating this decision to AMLA's Executive Board.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

7.7. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL ADVISER
(PERS(2025) 60)

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

- to appoint Ms Ylva JOHANSSON as Special Envoy for Ukrainians in the European Union;
- to recruit Ms Ylva JOHANSSON as a special adviser placed under the direct responsibility of Mr BRUNNER, the Member of the Commission responsible. Her contract as a special adviser would be remunerated and would cover the period from the date of closure of the notification to the Budgetary Authority to 31 March 2026, with a maximum of 42 days of work, including 12 mission days. Her contract could be renewed. For the duration of the procedure laid down in Article 123(2) of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants, an unpaid contract could be concluded;
- to instruct the Director-General of DG Budget to immediately inform the Budgetary Authority of the intention to conclude this special adviser contract;

- to authorise the Director-General of DG Human Resources and Security to implement this decision by signing the contract on behalf of the authority empowered to conclude contracts of employment.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

**7.8. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL – EUROPEAN COMMISSION DECISIONS
ON POST TERM-OF-OFFICE ACTIVITIES OF FORMER MEMBERS
OF THE COMMISSION**

(C(2025) 9016; C(2025) 9017; C(2025) 9018)

The Commission decided that the professional activities envisaged by Mr Johannes HAHN and Ms Kadri SIMSON after leaving office as Members of the Commission were 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 Decisions set out in C(2025) 9016, C(2025) 9017 and C(2025) 9018.

**7.9. ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE COMMISSION MEDIATION
SERVICE FOR 2024**

(SEC(2025) 163)

The Commission took note of the 2024 General Activity Report of the Mediation Service of the European Commission set out in SEC(2025) 163.

**7.10. COMMISSION REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
EU BORROWING, DEBT MANAGEMENT AND RELATED LENDING
OPERATIONS AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE HIGH LEVEL RISK
AND COMPLIANCE POLICY**

(SEC(2025) 177)

Mr SERAFIN presented to the College the third report by Ms Iliyana TSANOVA, Chief Risk Officer of the Commission, for the period from 1 October 2023 to 31 December 2024. It took stock of the borrowing and lending operations of the EU, and also of the management of its debt and liquidity. It provided an overview of the approach adopted by the Union to face the financial risks identified, while assessing the effectiveness of the mitigation measures put in place.

The Commission took note of the report set out in SEC(2025) 177.

**8. REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS: ANNUAL MANAGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE EU BUDGET – 2024 FINANCIAL YEAR
(COM(2025) 824 AND /2; RCC(2025) 50)**

Ms RIBERA asked Mr SERAFIN to present to the College the Commission's Annual Management and Performance Report for the EU budget for 2024. She stressed the importance that the Commission attached to rigorous financial management, pointing out that the EU budget was a key means by which to implement the EU's political priorities.

Mr SERAFIN reminded the College that, through this report, the Commission took political ownership of how it managed the EU budget. The report was the Commission's main contribution to the 2024 budget discharge procedure. It contained detailed data on the financial support provided for the EU's main priorities, including the twin green and digital transitions, competitiveness, defence, migration management, support for Ukraine and humanitarian aid in the Middle East. It also took stock of the implementation of NextGenerationEU, which had continued to support economic recovery and reforms in all Member States.

Mr SERAFIN noted that the EU budget had continued to deliver results and respond to crises in 2024. In terms of financial management, the report concluded that the EU budget had generally been well protected.

He also referred to the Report on the Internal Audit and the Report of the Audit Progress Committee presented together with the annual report. He noted that the Internal Audit Service had issued a positive overall conclusion on the Commission's financial management in 2024. He thanked the members of the Audit Progress Committee, which guaranteed the quality and independence of the work of the Internal Audit Service and ensured the effective implementation of its recommendations by Commission departments. This year, the Committee had welcomed the high rate of implementation of audit recommendations. Mr SERAFIN also praised the work carried out by Ms Agnieszka Kaźmierczak, the Commission's Internal Auditor, whose involvement had contributed to these good results.

He concluded by inviting the Members of the College to use this annual report as a communication tool, as it contained concrete examples of Commission achievements made possible by the EU budget.

Following this presentation, the Commission:

- approved the Annual Management and Performance Report for the EU Budget – 2024 financial year, set out in COM(2025) 824/2, for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Court of Auditors, and, for information, to the national parliaments, indicating the link to all the Annual Activity Reports (https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/annual-activity-reports_en);
- took note of the fact that each Member of the Commission had been made aware of the Annual Activity Report and of the declaration presented by their Director(s)-General or Head(s) of Service, and that a reference to this dialogue was specifically mentioned in each Annual Activity Report;

- took note of the fact that the declarations of assurance contained in the Annual Activity Reports did not cover the Members' cabinets and their expenditure;
- authorised Mr SERAFIN, the Member of the Commission with responsibility for the Budget and Human Resources, to present the Annual Management and Performance Report to the discharge authority;
- took note of the supporting documents, namely (i) the Annual Report of the Audit Progress Committee for the period from June 2024 to May 2025, set out in SEC(2025) 824; (ii) the Annual Report on the Internal Audit for 2024, distributed under Ares(2025) 2158173; and (iii) the general opinion of the Internal Auditor for 2025 and the related working document.

9. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ON PHASING OUT RUSSIAN NATURAL GAS IMPORTS, IMPROVING MONITORING OF POTENTIAL ENERGY DEPENDENCIES AND AMENDING REGULATION (EU) 2017/1938 (COM(2025) 828 TO /3; SWD(2025) 830 AND /3; RCC(2025) 53)

Ms RIBERA introduced the proposal for a Regulation to implement the REPowerEU roadmap, in line with the European Council guidelines, with a view to phasing out Russian gas and oil imports into the EU.

She stressed the urgent need to reduce the EU's energy dependence and prevent the purchase of energy products from contributing, even indirectly, to the financing of Russia's war efforts. She also pointed out that, despite diplomatic efforts, Russia had not shown any real will to end its war against Ukraine.

She then asked Mr JØRGENSEN to present in more detail the proposal for a Regulation being put forward for adoption by the Commission that day.

Mr JØRGENSEN pointed out that the EU had already significantly reduced its dependence on Russian imports of coal, oil and gas since the beginning of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine in 2022.

As regards gas, he explained that the proposed measures were of a commercial nature and that the proposed ban would be applied in a gradual and coordinated manner for both pipeline gas and liquefied natural gas (LNG). Russian gas imports under new contracts would thus be prohibited as of 1 January 2026. Imports under existing spot contracts would have to cease by mid-2026, with the exception of certain pipeline deliveries to landlocked countries. Imports under long-term contracts would have to stop by the end of 2027.

With regard to oil, Mr JØRGENSEN said that two Member States currently had derogations under the sanctions regime and that they would have to submit a plan for phasing out imports by the end of the year.

He added that care had been taken to ensure that the legal risks for companies with long-term contracts would be limited. In this regard, he explained that in the proposal the prohibition was classified as force majeure, thus ensuring strong legal protection for the operators concerned.

As regards the economic impact of these measures, he was confident that they would not have a significant impact either on energy prices or on security of supply. EU gas consumption was projected to decrease further by 2028, while the global market was expected to be able to compensate with additional volumes of gas.

Mr JØRGENSEN also stated that Member States would have to present diversification plans with clear milestones, and that the Commission, in conjunction with the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER), would closely monitor their implementation. In the event of a threat to security of supply, emergency measures had also been provided for.

Finally, as regards the nuclear sector, the Commission had been working with the Member States to identify and secure alternative suppliers, ahead of any additional proposal in this area.

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

- broad support for the gradual ban on Russian gas and oil imports, which was seen as a foreseeable and essential step to put an end to any indirect financing of Russia's war against Ukraine, with some regret that the timeline was not more ambitious;
- an assessment of the soundness of the legal basis chosen, based on trade rules rather than on the sanctions regime;
- recognition of the significant progress made in reducing energy dependency on Russia, as illustrated in particular by the case of Czechia, which had recently completely eliminated these supplies, thus demonstrating the feasibility of this EU-wide target;
- a reminder that some of the concerns expressed by Member States were mainly economic considerations linked to the loss of transit income;
- the observation that alternative infrastructure and sources of supply were now able to respond effectively to the challenges that had arisen, and that the allowances granted took account of specific national circumstances;
- a call to consider measures against Member States or candidate countries that continued to deepen their energy ties with Russia, as such steps would undermine the coherence of the collective European response;
- a reminder of the broader geopolitical context, marked by Russia's continued weaponisation of energy used to leverage pressure, in particular against

third countries such as Moldova, and of the support provided by the EU to its most exposed partners through sustained investments in energy efficiency;

- support for the idea of addressing the issue of nuclear dependence on Russia as a second step through a subsequent Commission proposal.

In response to some of the points raised during the debate, Ms RIBERA confirmed that the proposed measures related to trade, and thus were subject to adoption by a qualified majority in the Council.

Mr JØRGENSEN said that, at the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council meeting the previous day, most delegations had welcomed the REPowerEU roadmap adopted by the Commission on 6 May 2025. He added that the Commission was continuing its dialogue with those Member States which had expressed concerns. In conclusion, he underlined the active commitment of the Danish Presidency to ensuring swift adoption of the proposal.

Following these presentations, the Commission approved the proposal for a Regulation set out in COM(2025) 828/3, for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the national parliaments, together with the staff working document SWD(2025) 830/2, the contents of which were noted.

10. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL – DEFENCE READINESS OMNIBUS

(COM(2025) 820 TO /3; RCC(2025) 49)

11. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ON THE ACCELERATION OF PERMIT-GRANTING FOR DEFENCE READINESS PROJECTS

(COM(2025) 821 AND /2; RCC(2025) 49)

- 12. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING REGULATIONS (EC) NO 1907/2006, (EC) NO 1272/2008, (EU) NO 528/2012, (EU) 2019/1021 AND (EU) 2021/697 AS REGARDS DEFENCE READINESS AND FACILITATING DEFENCE INVESTMENTS AND CONDITIONS FOR DEFENCE INDUSTRY
(COM(2025) 822 AND /2; RCC(2025) 49)**
- 13. PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING DIRECTIVES 2009/43/EC AND 2009/81/EC, AS REGARDS THE SIMPLIFICATION OF INTRA-EU TRANSFERS OF DEFENCE-RELATED PRODUCTS AND THE SIMPLIFICATION OF SECURITY AND DEFENCE PROCUREMENT
(COM(2025) 823 TO /3; RCC(2025) 49)**
- 14. COMMISSION NOTICE ON THE APPLICATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE FINANCE FRAMEWORK AND THE CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY DUE DILIGENCE DIRECTIVE TO THE DEFENCE SECTOR
(C(2025) 3800 AND /2; RCC(2025) 49)**
- 15. COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION AMENDING COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) 2020/1818 AS REGARDS THE DEFINITION OF CONTROVERSIAL WEAPONS
(C(2025) 3801 AND /2; RCC(2025) 49)**
- 16. COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION AMENDING COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) 2021/1078 AS REGARDS STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS IN THE FIELD OF DEFENCE SET OUT IN THE INVESTMENT GUIDELINES FOR THE INVESTEU FUND
(C(2025) 3802 AND /2; RCC(2025) 49)**

Ms RIBERA introduced this fifth omnibus simplification package in the field of defence, stating that it was now more pressing than ever to make swift progress on developing Europe's defence and deterrence capabilities to deal with the threat from

Russia. The ambitious package being presented that day was based on the White Paper for European Defence – Readiness 2030, as well as a wide-ranging public consultation, policy dialogues with the sector and in-depth discussions with the Member States.

Ms VIRKKUNEN thanked the Members of the Commission, their cabinets and the departments concerned for their contributions to the proposals being presented. She stressed the importance of boosting investment in what was a crucial sector for the EU in order to make up for lost time, and called for the proposals to be adopted swiftly by the co-legislators.

Mr KUBILIUS pointed out that that day's package had been drawn up by the Commission at the request of the Council. The measures were based on feedback from the public consultation launched on 25 March, the strategic dialogue led by the PRESIDENT with stakeholders in the sector and the 'implementation dialogue' which Mr KUBILIUS himself had chaired in May. In his view, the EU was not at war, but nor was it at peace; this required a change of mindset and meant that the EU's regulatory framework needed to be adjusted in line with this new reality.

He then detailed the main measures proposed in the legislative acts and the Communication. First, the aim was to streamline the granting of permits for the construction of new manufacturing facilities through a single point of contact in each Member State and with a maximum window of 60 days, after which the permit would be considered granted.

Second, there was a need to clarify environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria to confirm that they were compatible with defence investments, while removing uncertainties surrounding the concept of 'controversial weapons'. This clarification was provided in the Commission notice on the application of the sustainable finance framework and the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive to the defence sector.

Third, Mr KUBILIUS considered it essential to ensure legal certainty when

applying the environmental acquis and rules on chemicals by making targeted amendments to existing derogations to meet the specific needs of the defence sector.

Further aims of the package were to, fourth, improve the economic and competitive conditions that applied to the sector and, fifth, review financial instruments to make them simpler and more flexible, by encouraging innovation, for example for intra-EU transfers.

Lastly, Mr KUBILIUS noted that, if appropriate, the application of working time rules to the armed forces would have to be reviewed. He concluded his presentation by calling for the package to be adopted swiftly, as he believed that this was a historic turning point and an opportunity to give the EU credible and operational defence capabilities.

Mr DOMBROVSKIS felt that this omnibus package of simplification measures sent the right message on ramping up European defence production and achieving the 2030 defence readiness target. He stressed the urgent need for rapid progress given the significant increase in Russia's military production capacity and the possibility that Russia could test the unity of Western allies in the years ahead.

The EU had mobilised up to EUR 800 billion in defence investment for the next four years under various financial instruments. However, it was vital to ensure that rules and regulations did not hinder these investments. It was also necessary to encourage private investment in the European defence industry. He welcomed the fact that the package was bringing about concrete progress, for example by simplifying permitting procedures, facilitating intra-EU transfers of defence products and clarifying the rules that applied to the use of key chemicals.

Mr DOMBROVSKIS also stressed the importance of the Commission Notice on the application of the sustainable finance framework and the corporate sustainability due diligence directive to the defence sector, which confirmed that investments in this sector could be compatible with sustainability objectives. The measures addressed the main demands for the development of the industry and had been

identified in close cooperation with stakeholders in the sector. He thanked Mr KUBILIUS for his very effective organisation of the ‘implementation dialogue’, which had made it possible to ensure that the proposals took account of the reality facing the sector.

He concluded by calling on the co-legislators to adopt this package swiftly, given the urgent need to act now to safeguard the EU’s security.

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

- its full support for the package presented, which was considered timely and essential;
- the importance of establishing fast-track procedures for defence-related projects, while taking into account the risk of litigation before national courts, which could increase the length of the procedures significantly;
- the advisability of using all the tools available to support innovative companies in the sector, including when preparing the next Horizon Europe programme for fundamental research.

Ms RIBERA welcomed the proposed simplifications for the granting of permits and stressed the importance of ensuring that they were properly understood by the general public, particularly with regard to security and safety issues. She also called for clear communication on how the issue of ‘controversial weapons’ would be addressed in the proposed measures.

Mr KUBILIUS explained that the terminology relating to weapons sometimes gave rise to ambiguities, particularly with regard to ‘controversial weapons’, and he pointed out that they were prohibited at international level and were therefore also excluded from the EU framework. He concluded by providing assurances that environmental standards were in no way called into question, and noted that the

proposals were designed to enable Member States to streamline and speed up their assessment procedures.

Following these presentations, the Commission:

- approved the Communication in COM(2025) 820/3 for transmission to the European Parliament and the Council and, for information, to the European Economic and Social Committee and the national parliaments;
- adopted the proposal for a Regulation in COM(2025) 821/2 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the national parliaments;
- adopted the proposal for a Regulation in COM(2025) 822/2 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council and the national parliaments and, for information, to the European Economic and Social Committee;
- adopted the proposal for a Directive in COM(2025) 823/3 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council and the national parliaments and, for information, to the European Economic and Social Committee;
- approved in principle the Commission Notice in C(2025) 3800/2 and, under Article 35 of the Rules of Procedure, empowered Mr KUBILIUS, the Member of the Commission responsible, to formally adopt the Notice, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, in all language versions as soon as they were available;
- approved in principle the Commission Delegated Regulation in C(2025) 3801/2 and, under Article 35 of the Rules of Procedure, empowered Mr KUBILIUS, the Member of the Commission responsible, to formally adopt the Delegated Regulation, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, in all language versions as soon as they were available;
- approved in principle the Commission Delegated Regulation in C(2025) 3802/2 and, under Article 35 of the Rules of Procedure, empowered Mr KUBILIUS, the

Member of the Commission responsible, to formally adopt the Delegated Regulation, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, in all language versions as soon as they were available.

- 17. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING REGULATION (EU) 2017/2402 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL OF 12 DECEMBER 2017 LAYING DOWN A GENERAL FRAMEWORK FOR SECURITISATION AND CREATING A SPECIFIC FRAMEWORK FOR SIMPLE, TRANSPARENT AND STANDARDISED SECURITISATION (COM(2025) 826 AND /2; SWD(2025) 825; SWD(2025) 826; SEC(2025) 825; RCC(2025) 51)**
- 18. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING REGULATION (EU) NO 575/2013 ON PRUDENTIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CREDIT INSTITUTIONS AS REGARDS REQUIREMENTS FOR SECURITISATION EXPOSURES (COM(2025) 825 AND /2; SWD(2025) 825; SWD(2025) 826 SEC(2025) 825; RCC(2025) 51)**

Ms RIBERA introduced the package of measures aimed at relaunching the EU securitisation framework, stressing that it was one of the priorities set out in the Commission Communication of March 2025 on the Savings and Investments Union Strategy. In particular, securitisation served as a strategic catalyst for boosting the investment needed by the EU economy. The current climate, characterised by more stable financial markets, gave the EU the opportunity to put forward targeted changes to its securitisation regulatory framework to support economic growth, innovation and employment.

Mr SÉJOURNÉ welcomed the balanced approach of the set of measures proposed. He noted that the legislative changes were part of the recommendations made by Mr Draghi in his report on the future of European competitiveness, and represented

a step further towards achieving the Savings and Investment Union, while maintaining the essential guarantees on financial stability.

Ms ALBUQUERQUE pointed out that it was the first legislative package to deliver on the Savings and Investment Union. Securitisation allowed banks to pool loans from their portfolios, in accordance with specific rules, in order to turn them into new financial products, which were then sold to other investors. This mechanism made it easier to free up capital on bank balance sheets, thus strengthening the ability of banks to grant new loans to households and businesses. Securitisation also helped to make the financial system more efficient, by reducing the cost of financing and spreading the credit risk in a more balanced way beyond the banking sector.

She noted that a very strict securitisation regulatory framework had been put in place following the 2008 financial crisis. The current framework, however, was too strict and put a brake on the market's development. She felt it was important to distinguish between the usefulness of the financial instrument itself and its abuse by certain operators. In the light of the experience gained in recent years, the proposed legislative changes were therefore aimed at recalibrating how securitisation was used, so as to maintain financial stability while at the same time strengthening the interconnection between the banking sector and the capital markets, for the benefit of the Savings and Investment Union.

As regards the content of the proposals, Ms ALBUQUERQUE explained that they included targeted changes to the Securitisation Regulation and the Capital Requirements Regulation (CRR), to introduce more risk sensitivity into the prudential framework applicable to banks issuing securitisations. The package of measures also included proposals to amend the Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) Delegated Regulation, which had been published that day on the 'Have Your Say' portal for a four-week consultation period. Lastly, in the weeks to come, the Commission also intended to publish, for consultation, proposals to amend the Solvency II Delegated Regulation on insurance.

In conclusion, Ms ALBUQUERQUE pointed out that the Commission was counting on the support of the financial industry to strengthen the EU securitisation market and that it used this fit-for-purpose framework to provide more funding to households and businesses, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

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

- the need to boost capital markets by using the securitisation instrument appropriately;
- the role played by this instrument in supporting innovative European companies;
- the Commission's commitment to further implementing the Savings and Investment Union, particularly by putting forward as quickly as possible the next proposals set out under this strategy.

Following these presentations, the Commission:

- adopted the proposal for a Regulation in COM(2025) 826/2 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Central Bank, the European Economic and Social Committee and the national parliaments, and, for information, to the Committee of the Regions, together with the impact assessment, the summary thereof and the opinion of the Regulatory Scrutiny Board in SWD(2025) 825, SWD(2025) 826 and SEC(2025) 825, the contents of which were noted;
- adopted the proposal for a Regulation in COM(2025) 825/2, for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Central Bank, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the national parliaments, together with the impact assessment, the summary thereof and the opinion of the Regulatory Scrutiny Board in SWD(2025) 825, SWD(2025) 826 and SEC(2025) 825, the contents of which were noted.

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The meeting closed at 14.21.