



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2025) 2531 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

Brussels, 3 September 2025

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

of the 2531st meeting of the Commission

held in Brussels

(Berlaymont)

on Wednesday 2 July 2025

(morning)

PV(2025) 2531 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

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Single sitting: Wednesday 2 July 2025 (morning)

The sitting opened at 9.04 with Ms von der LEYEN, President, in the chair.

Present:

Ms von der LEYEN	President
Ms RIBERA	Executive Vice-President
Ms VIRKKUNEN	Executive Vice-President
Mr SÉJOURNÉ	Executive Vice-President
Ms KALLAS	High Representative / Vice-President
Ms MÎNZATU	Executive Vice-President
Mr FITTO	Executive Vice-President
Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Member
Ms ŠUICA	Member
Mr VÁRHELYI	Member
Mr HOEKSTRA	Member
Mr KUBILIUS	Member
Ms KOS	Member
Mr KADIS	Member
Ms ALBUQUERQUE	Member
Ms LAHBIB	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 ŠEFČOVIČ	Member
Mr SÍKELA	Member
Mr BRUNNER	Member

The following also sat in:

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	
Ms PETKOVA	Director of Coordination and Administration in the PRESIDENT's cabinet	
Mr VAN KEMSEKE	Adviser in the PRESIDENT's cabinet	Items 1 to 8
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) 2531/FINAL; SEC(2025) 2531/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) 2531)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Heads of Cabinet held on Monday 30 June 2025.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Commission decided to hold over approval of the minutes of its 2527th, 2528th, 2529th and 2530th meetings of 28 May and 4, 17 and 25 June 2025 until a later meeting.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(RCC(2025) 183)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (GRI) held on Friday 27 June 2025 (RCC(2025) 183).

The Commission approved the lines proposed for the following points:

- **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) 215.

- **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) 213.

- **Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/1093 of 22 May 2025 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards a list of countries that present a low or high risk of producing relevant commodities for which the relevant products do not comply with Article 3, point (a) – C(2025) 3279 – 2025/2379 (RSP)**

Line set out in SP(2025) 236.

- **Simplification: de-prioritisation of delegated and implementing acts prepared by DG FISMA**

Line set out in SI(2025) 217.

- **Review of the Interinstitutional Agreement on a mandatory Transparency Register: recommendation on a way forward**

Line set out in SPI(2025) 28.

5. COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL ACTION (RCC(2025) 223)

The Commission took note of the operational conclusions in RCC(2025) 223 of the meeting of the Group for External Coordination (EXCO) held on Wednesday 25 June 2025.

6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED

(SEC(2025) 185 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 23 and 29 June 2025.

6.2. EMPOWERMENT

(SEC(2025) 186 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 23 and 29 June 2025.

6.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS

(SEC(2025) 187 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedures between 23 and 29 June 2025 archived in Decide.

6.4. WRITTEN PROCEDURES SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED

(SEC(2025) 188 AND /2)

The Commission took note of the written procedures specifically identified for which the time limit expired between 30 June and 4 July 2025.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

(SEC(2025) 189 AND /2)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**(PERS(2025) 63 AND /2)**

During the meeting, Mr SERAFIN presented an additional proposal for an administrative decision, which was tabled directly to the College for approval.

It was proposed to transfer Mr Nils BEHRNDT from the post of Deputy Director-General for Digital Transition, Justice and Consumers at the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers to the post of Deputy Secretary-General for Policy Coordination (SG.DSG2) in the Secretariat-General.

7.1. *SECRETARIAT-GENERAL – TRANSFER IN THE INTEREST OF THE SERVICE 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 McGRATH, the Commission decided to transfer, in the interest of the service, under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations, Mr Nils BEHRNDT, currently Deputy Director-General for Digital Transition, Justice and Consumers (JUST.DDG1) at the Director-General for Justice and Consumers, to the post of Deputy Secretary-General for Policy Coordination (SG.DSG2) in the Secretariat-General.

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

7.2. *DG TRANSLATION – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR AT GRADE AD14*

(PERS(2024) 66 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 of the ‘Translation’ Directorate DGT.A at the Directorate-General for Translation (PERS(2024) 66 and /2).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 2 May and 19 June 2025 (PERS(2024) 66/3).

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 Ms Roxana Manuela ENCIU to the post.

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

7.3. DG HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY – EXTENSION OF THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY, AT GRADE AD15

The Commission took note of the information set out in point 2 of PERS(2025) 63 and, on a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Mr VÁRHELYI, decided:

- to propose to the Management Board of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) to extend the term of office of Ms Emer COOKE as Executive Director of the European Medicines Agency (EMA), at grade AD15, from 16 November 2025 to 30 April 2027, in accordance with Article 64 of Regulation (EC) No 726/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004;
- to task Mr VÁRHELYI, the Member of the Commission responsible, with communicating this decision to EMA's Management Board.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

**7.4. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR AT GRADE AD14
(PERS(2025) 64 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 ‘External Relations’ Directorate (SG.G) in the Secretariat-General (PERS(2025) 64).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 16 and 19 June 2025 (PERS(2025) 64/2).

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 Stefano GRASSI to the post.

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

**7.5. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL – APPOINTMENT OF A PRINCIPAL ADVISER AT GRADE AD14
(PERS(2024) 91 TO /3)**

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Principal Adviser/Head of the Task Force on the Future of the European Union’s Competitiveness (SG.DSG2.TF) at the Secretariat-General (PERS(2024) 91 and /2).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 15 and 20 May 2025 (PERS(2024) 91/3).

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 Heinz JANSEN to the post.

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

8. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING REGULATION (EU) 2021/1119 ESTABLISHING THE FRAMEWORK FOR ACHIEVING CLIMATE NEUTRALITY

(COM(2025) 524 TO /3; SWD(2025) 524; RCC(2025) 58)

The PRESIDENT introduced the College's discussion on the proposed framework for achieving climate neutrality by highlighting the Commission's legal obligation to set a climate target for 2040 under the European Climate Law, as well as the institutional obligation resulting from the commitment to that effect made in the Commission's political guidelines for 2024-2029.

She added that the EU was a pioneer in clean technologies and that the proposed framework would contribute to the modernisation of the economy, a prerequisite for achieving climate objectives. She also stressed that industry and investors wanted to stay on course to achieve neutrality by 2050 and needed predictability. It was therefore important to confirm the EU's commitment to decarbonising the European economy.

The PRESIDENT also pointed out that this was a priority objective not only from a climate and economic point of view, but also as regards European strategic autonomy. One of the key factors for the EU's competitiveness was the price of energy, which remained structurally high in Europe. It was therefore necessary to move decisively towards an energy mix that could ensure the EU's competitiveness, economic security and energy autonomy. She concluded by recalling that while the objective was clear, the path to achieving it had to remain flexible, pragmatic and technologically neutral.

Ms RIBERA explained that the proposal made that day was an amendment to the European Climate Law, setting a 2040 climate target for the EU to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by 90% compared to 1990 levels. This objective provided stability and predictability for investors and innovation, and would strengthen the

industrial leadership of European companies and the EU's energy security. With this objective, the EU also sent a signal to the global community: it would maintain its course as regards climate change and implement the Paris Agreement.

Ms RIBERA also pointed out that the latest Eurobarometer survey had shown that European citizens strongly supported the EU's climate action, giving it a strong mandate to continue the clean energy transition. Climate policies were key to achieving the EU's social and economic objectives and helped to ensure the security and prosperity of citizens and businesses.

She noted that the EU was on track to meet its 2030 target of 55%, according to statistics showing a reduction in emissions in line with expectations. She added that a central element of the proposal made that day was the introduction of flexibilities between sectors in order to help achieve the objectives in a cost-effective and socially fair way. She concluded by noting that with this ambitious proposal, the EU reaffirmed its commitment to a fair, ambitious and competitive green transition.

Mr HOEKSTRA stressed that the target for 2040 would help the EU stay on course as regards the transition to a clean industry. The 90% target was based on scientific evidence. The EU would thus have a comprehensive plan on how to complete this transition and achieve not only its climate objectives, but also the ambitions for competitiveness and strategic autonomy.

The aim was to create a stable and conducive environment for achieving the climate objectives, to implement the Clean Industrial Deal and to provide the EU with the necessary flexibility to accomplish this. He highlighted the success factors: the development of green technologies, the necessary regulatory simplification and a level playing field.

Mr HOEKSTRA explained that the proposed framework gave industry and Member States a clear direction for their investment plans, while ensuring that Europe met the deadlines set to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. He highlighted the flexibilities that the Commission would introduce when designing future

legislative instruments with a view to reaching this 2040 climate target. This included the possibility of limited use of high-quality international carbon credits from 2036 onwards, the inclusion of permanent carbon removals at national level under the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) and increased flexibilities across all strategic sectors.

Mr HOEKSTRA concluded by recalling that it was also an important tool in the EU's diplomatic relations, since it aimed to reduce emissions by developing carbon markets in particular under the Paris Agreement and the 30th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 30), which would take place in Belém, Brazil, from 10 to 21 November 2025.

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

- support for the objective of achieving climate neutrality by 2050 and the need to enshrine in the European Climate Law the ambitious target of reducing emissions by 90% by 2040, while boosting the EU's competitiveness;
- the enabling environment to be created and the financial resources to be mobilised to support the clean transition and, in this respect, the numerous calls on the Commission to ensure regulatory stability allowing long-term investments to be considered;
- the balance to be struck between the EU's ambitious climate, competitiveness and energy security objectives, in particular through the development of new technologies, such as carbon capture and storage, which had enabled a substantial reduction in energy prices in some EU countries at the height of the energy crisis;
- the priority to be given to a fair transition, taking into account the different starting points of the Member States, and to the diminution of any dependence on third countries by further reducing imports of fossil fuels;

- the reoccurrence of natural disasters linked to global warming and a reminder of the opinions of scientists, in particular the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), who stressed the need to commit to negative emissions in order to keep global warming below 1.5 C;
- the significant financial risks related to climate change, as set out in the analyses of the European Investment Bank;
- the importance of communicating on this proposal, with a focus on its benefits for businesses, competitiveness and citizens, and compliance with the EU's international commitments;
- the fact that the European Climate Law enabled the EU to be prepared for the future, in particular as regards the development of clean technologies, in line with the priorities set out in the Competitiveness Compass and the Clean Industrial Deal;
- opportunities in the maritime domain, such as blue carbon credits;
- the example of technological developments in the field of waste incineration, which had made it possible to rethink the use of waste for the production of clean energy;
- the importance of leading by example at global level in order to generate a knock-on effect among the EU's partners;
- as regards high-quality international credits, the belief that they would also help unlock the potential of partner countries, in particular in North Africa and the Gulf;
- the importance of establishing a robust regulatory framework and impact assessment in order to prevent any possible slippage in the use of these credits, which was now conditional on the achievement of objectives and on taking climate action aligned with the objectives of the Paris Agreement;

- concerns expressed by some about the implications of this new ambitious 2040 target for European industry and the required levels of EU investment and, in this context, the difficult political and interinstitutional discussions that lay ahead, including as part of the negotiations on the next Multiannual Financial Framework;
- the need to attract long-term private investment, including through tax incentives to encourage investments in clean technologies and industrial decarbonisation;
- the risk that EU investments in clean technology might finance non-EU companies that had free access to the single market, rather than EU companies;
- the attention to be paid to the social impact of the proposal, in line with the recommendations made in Mr Draghi's report calling for the EU to address the competitive disadvantage caused by the price of energy in Europe and the financial burden it represented for the most vulnerable citizens.

In response to the comments made during the debate, Ms RIBERA pointed out that the proposal put in place a coherent and socially equitable framework. She reminded the College of the need to ensure that the process of economic convergence was speeded up and to create the necessary conditions for strengthening the EU's resilience and capacity to innovate while establishing partnerships with Mediterranean countries and countries in other regions.

Mr HOEKSTRA noted the need for a broader debate on economic growth in the EU and confirmed the importance of ensuring economic convergence between all Member States so that clean industry could benefit all European citizens.

The PRESIDENT stressed the importance of complying with legal obligations and international agreements in order to meet the challenges of global warming. She also pointed out that the inclusion of the 90% target for 2040 in the European Climate Law was set out in the political guidelines on the basis of which

the Commission had secured a majority in the European Parliament when it was voted in.

The PRESIDENT considered that the aim of the Green Deal was not only to decarbonise the economy, but also to boost industry and increase competitiveness. She argued that the data showed that reducing emissions went hand in hand with the growth of the best-performing and innovative sectors of European industry, as well as with increased investment.

Although decarbonisation could be seen as an objective in itself, it was nevertheless necessary to ensure a just transition and a social level playing field. This was notably the objective of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and the public procurement rules that took into account qualitative aspects, such as sustainability, and thus protected European companies from unfair external competition. The PRESIDENT stressed that the Competitiveness Compass and the Clean Industrial Deal formed the strategic plan for enabling the EU to reach the emission reduction target by 2040. She noted that Mr Draghi's report also included a chapter on decarbonisation and competitiveness.

As regards the way forward, the PRESIDENT pointed out that the changing geopolitical context and technological developments would have to be taken into account. Finally, she stressed the importance of introducing more flexibilities in the European Climate Law, which would nevertheless require close monitoring and increased vigilance on the part of the Commission during implementation.

Following these presentations, the Commission adopted the proposal for a Regulation set out in COM(2025) 524/3 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the national parliaments, together with the staff working document SWD(2025) 524, the contents of which were noted.

9. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL – QUANTUM EUROPE STRATEGY: QUANTUM EUROPE IN A CHANGING WORLD (COM(2025) 363 TO /3; RCC(2025) 59)

Ms VIRKKUNEN welcomed the adoption of Europe's first Quantum Strategy, noting that this key technology was mentioned in her mission letter, together with critical materials and semiconductors.

She explained that the strategy sought to make Europe a global leader in quantum by 2030. It would foster a resilient, sovereign quantum ecosystem that fuelled startup growth and transformed breakthrough science into market-ready applications, while maintaining Europe's scientific leadership.

Ms VIRKKUNEN stressed the importance of coupling public investment with private financing that supported startups in their development. In that connection, she referred to the 28 different legal systems that innovative companies were faced with and stressed that the Commission was actively working to reduce disparities and simplify procedures.

The strategy focused on five areas: research and innovation, quantum infrastructure, strengthening of ecosystems, space and dual-use technologies, and quantum skills. Ms VIRKKUNEN added that a legislative proposal on quantum technology (the Quantum Act) would be tabled for adoption in 2026 in order to accelerate investment and innovation.

She concluded by referring to the forthcoming meeting of the first Advisory Board bringing together scientists and experts, which would provide an opportunity to assess the level of expertise the EU needed in order to lead the way on this technology, opening up new avenues for the EU's industrial competitiveness and technological sovereignty.

Ms ZAHARIEVA noted that Europe had always been at the forefront of quantum

science, with a solid record of innovation and discoveries. The proposed strategy aimed to boost the share of global private funding that European quantum companies received, in order to stimulate the growth of European startups and scaleups and promote the uptake of European quantum solutions by Europe's industry.

Ms ZAHARIEVA concluded by noting that European researchers were already working on a future quantum computer and added that Horizon Europe would support this project over the coming years.

Following these presentations, the Commission approved the Communication in COM(2025) 363/3 for transmission to the European Parliament and the Council and, for information, to the national parliaments.

10. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – CHOOSE EUROPE FOR LIFE SCIENCES: A STRATEGY TO POSITION THE EU AS THE WORLD'S MOST ATTRACTIVE PLACE FOR LIFE SCIENCES BY 2030

(COM(2025) 525 TO /3; RCC(2025) 57)

Ms ZAHARIEVA presented to the College the EU's strategy to make Europe the world's most attractive place for life sciences by 2030. She explained that life sciences were essential not only for the health of European citizens, but also for the EU's environment and economy. Moreover, life sciences generated around EUR 1.5 trillion in added value for the EU economy and provided 29 million jobs EU-wide. The EU was systematically one of the best-performing regions in the world in terms of research and life-science publications and it was ranked second in terms of its share of global biotech patents (18%), behind the United States (39%).

Ms ZAHARIEVA pointed out that the strategy set out a coordinated approach covering the whole life-science value chain. Actions planned under the strategy included (i) pooling EU resources and hubs in the area of advanced therapies and microbiome research, (ii) launching an investment plan for clinical research, and (iii) launching a research and innovation data assembly that would give researchers recommendations on how to use research data in the development of artificial intelligence.

At the same time, the strategy sought to address a number of challenges. Over the last decade, the EU had lost ground in clinical trials at global level, particularly those relating to advanced gene and cell therapies, where other global players were making rapid progress. This created risks and dependencies and also resulted in lost high-tech growth opportunities.

In this respect, Ms ZAHARIEVA noted that the EU had a vibrant biotech startup community and that the European Innovation Council had provided EUR 625 million in funding for those companies over the current programming period.

She added that this community of innovators needed two things in order to thrive, namely (i) more funding, which would be ensured by mobilising private capital under the European Scaleup Fund, accompanied by additional measures for accessing finance and infrastructure under the European Innovation Act, and (ii) more innovation-friendly regulation; in particular, this included the upcoming Biotech Act, simpler regulation for medical devices and less fragmented and shorter approval procedures overall.

The EU did not have the same structural dependencies in biotech value chains as it did for the production of digital chips. This provided an opportunity to create global champions in the EU, aligning research and innovation, value chains, funding and demand.

Concluding her presentation, Ms ZAHARIEVA noted that the implementation of this strategy required excellent coordination between the various Commission departments in order to align policies and create conditions that would spur demand and encourage market uptake of new technologies. That was why a Life Sciences Coordination Group would be set up to ensure internal coordination and begin preparations for implementing the strategy.

Mr VÁRHELYI highlighted the three challenges facing the biotechnology sector, namely international trade, innovation and financing.

In terms of trade, this was one of the EU's most significant export sectors, and the trade surplus in this area should be maintained or increased in the coming years. To achieve this, the EU had to increase investment and facilitate the development of technological innovation in products and therapies. The EU had a great competitive advantage in terms of research data in the field of biological innovation used by industries. The potential inherent in using and combining these data in various scientific fields should be fully exploited, including within the framework of trade negotiations with the United States.

With regard to innovation in the biotechnology sector, Mr VÁRHELYI mentioned some specific initiatives that the Commission intended to launch on the basis of the strategy, in particular revision of pharmaceutical legislation, revision of the Regulation on medical devices, the future biotechnology regulation, and the new cardiovascular health plan. All these initiatives would facilitate innovation and make authorisation procedures easier, allowing patients to benefit from new therapies resulting from technological innovation.

In terms of financing, the Commission was sending a clear signal on the need to increase investment in life sciences in Europe. For this reason, the strategy made provision for the mobilisation of EUR 10 billion per year from the current EU budget, alongside the development of an EU investment plan to facilitate the

funding of multinational clinical trials and strengthen European clinical research infrastructure.

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

- the College’s full support for the strategy and its objective of making the EU the most attractive place for life sciences by 2030;
- the observation that the various economic sectors concerned by the strategy offered multiple opportunities for jobs and talent development, in close collaboration with educational institutions and the public sector;
- a reminder of the magnitude and multiannual nature of the investments required in biotechnology and the bioeconomy, and the expectations of operators in these sectors regarding policy stability and regulatory clarity;
- in this context, the need to simplify and shorten the duration of authorisation procedures, in order to facilitate access to the market for innovative products;
- the limited development in the EU of new genome-editing technologies, and the need to review EU legislation in this area;
- the possibility of fully exploiting the potential of EU health data, including through artificial intelligence, and the relevance in this context of the forthcoming EU strategy regarding data.

The PRESIDENT closed the discussion by emphasising the strong foundations of life sciences in Europe, and the expediency of creating a favourable environment for their future development, in particular by streamlining authorisation procedures. In this respect, she welcomed the forthcoming presentation of the regulations on biotechnology and medical devices.

Following these presentations, the Commission approved the Communication in COM(2025) 525/3 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.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN EXTERNAL RELATIONS

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

With regard to the situation in Ukraine, she referred in particular to the recent Russian attacks on residential areas and civilian infrastructure, the conference on the reconstruction of Ukraine to be held in Rome on 10 and 11 July, and the ongoing work in the Council on the 18th package of sanctions against Russia.

On the Middle East, Ms KALLAS mentioned the EU's diplomatic efforts to convince Iran not to leave the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and to resume cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency. She also informed the College that a technical team was being sent to Israel under the leadership of the EU's Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process, to improve access to humanitarian aid in Gaza.

Ms KALLAS also reported on her recent visit to Armenia, during which the focus had been on strengthening relations with the EU and on the need to normalise relations between Armenia and several of its neighbours, in particular Türkiye.

Finally, China's Minister of Foreign Affairs was visiting Brussels that day with a view to preparing the EU-China summit at the end of July.

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

- agreement in principle on the revision of the EU-Ukraine Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA), which was aimed in particular at ensuring greater stability for both European and Ukrainian farmers;
- the ongoing negotiations with Israel on access to humanitarian aid in Gaza, and the need for international monitoring on the ground;
- the symbolic importance of the Budapest Pride event as a demonstration in support of a democratic society advocating freedom and solidarity.

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 11.21.