



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2025) 2538 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

Strasbourg, 21 October 2025

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

of the 2538th meeting of the Commission

held in Brussels

(Berlaymont)

on Wednesday 17 September 2025

(morning)

PV(2025) 2538 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

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Single sitting: Wednesday 17 September 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	
Ms KALLAS	High Representative / Vice-President	
Mr FITTO	Executive Vice-President	Items 1 to 8
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Member	
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	
Mr BRUNNER	Member	
Ms ROSWALL	Member	
Mr SERAFIN	Member	
Mr JØRGENSEN	Member	
Ms ZAHARIEVA	Member	
Mr TZITZIKOSTAS	Member	
Mr HANSEN	Member	
Mr MICALLEF	Member	

Absent:

Mr SÉJOURNÉ	Executive Vice-President
Ms MÎNZATU	Executive Vice-President
Mr SÍKELA	Member
Mr McGRATH	Member

The following also sat in:

Mr SEIBERT	Head of Cabinet to the PRESIDENT
Mr CALLEJA CRESPO	Director-General, Legal Service
Ms SPINANT	Director-General, DG Communication
Ms PINHO	Head of the Spokesperson's Service and Chief Spokesperson of the Commission
Ms PETKOVA	Director of Coordination and Administration in the PRESIDENT's cabinet
Mr MORDUE	Diplomatic Adviser in the PRESIDENT's cabinet
Ms SEMLALI	Policy Assistant in the PRESIDENT's cabinet
Mr CHARLES	Head of Unit in the Secretariat-General
Mr TAQUET-GRAZIANI	Acting Head of Unit in the Secretariat-General

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

1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2025) 2538/FINAL; SEC(2025) 2538/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) 2538)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Heads of Cabinet held on Monday 15 September 2025.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Commission held over approval of the minutes of its 2533rd, 2534th, 2535th, 2536th and 2537th meetings of 16 and 28 July, 20 August and 3 and 9 September 2025 for a later date.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(RCC(2025) 190)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (GRI) held on Friday 12 September 2025 (RCC(2025) 190).

The Commission approved the lines proposed for the following points:

- **Amendment of Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy, Directive 2006/118/EC on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration and Directive 2008/105/EC on environmental quality standards in the field of**

water policy (Directive) – LÓPEZ (ex-BRGLEZ) report – 2022/0344 (COD)

Line set out in SI(2025) 260/2.

- **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 (ex-MARQUES) – 2024/0017 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 261/2.

- **Payment services and electronic money services in the internal market, amendment of Directive 98/26/EC and repeal of Directives 2015/2366/EU and 2009/110/EC (Directive) – LØKKEGAARD (ex-KOVAŘÍK) report – 2023/0209 (COD) / Payment services in the internal market and amendment of Regulation (EU) No 1093/2010 (Regulation) – REPASI (ex-BELKA) report – 2023/0210 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 264.

- **Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034: breakdown of Member States' allocations of the Common Agricultural Policy and Common Fisheries Policy minimum amounts and completion of the methodology for the calculation of the Union financial contribution for each Member State under the Interreg Plan – 2025/0240 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 256/2.

- **Accelerating the deployment of heavy-duty vehicles recharging infrastructure along the TEN-T network**

Line set out in SI(2025) 252.

- **Assessment of the impacts of substantial amendments to Commission proposals**

Line set out in SPI(2025) 52.

The Commission took note of the following points:

- **Annual Progress Reports on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement – Executive Vice-President RIBERA**

Information set out in SPI(2025) 45.

- **Amendment of Regulation (EU) 2021/1119 establishing the framework for achieving climate neutrality – KNOTEK report – 2025/0524 (COD)**

Information set out in SI(2025) 263.

- **Amendment of Regulations (EU) 2016/679, (EU) 2016/1036, (EU) 2016/1037, (EU) 2017/1129, (EU) 2023/1542 and (EU) 2024/573 as regards the extension of certain mitigating measures available for small and medium sized enterprises to small mid-cap enterprises and further simplification measures (Regulation) – VIVALDINI report – 2025/0130 (COD) / Amendment of Directives 2014/65/EU and (EU) 2022/2557 as regards the extension of certain mitigating measures available for small and medium sized enterprises to small mid-cap enterprises and further simplifying measures (Directive) – VIVALDINI report – 2025/0131 (COD) / Amendment of Directives 2000/14/EC, 2011/65/EU, 2013/53/EU, 2014/29/EU, 2014/30/EU, 2014/31/EU, 2014/32/EU, 2014/33/EU, 2014/34/EU, 2014/35/EU, 2014/53/EU, 2014/68/EU and 2014/90/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards digitalisation and common specifications (Directive) – 2025/0133 (COD) / Amendment of Regulations (EU) No 765/2008, (EU) 2016/424, (EU) 2016/425, (EU) 2016/426, (EU) 2023/1230, (EU) 2023/1542 and (EU) 2024/1781 as regards digitalisation and common specifications – 2025/0134 (COD)**

Information set out in SI(2025) 262.

**5. COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL ACTION
(RCC(2025) 228)**

The Commission took note of the operational conclusions in RCC(2025) 228 of the meeting of the Group for External Coordination (EXCO) held on Thursday 11 September 2025.

6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

**6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED
(SEC(2025) 237 ET SEQ.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 8 and 14 September 2025.

**6.2. EMPOWERMENT
(SEC(2025) 238 ET SEQ.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 8 and 14 September 2025.

**6.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS
(SEC(2025) 239 ET SEQ.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedures between 8 and 14 September 2025 archived in Decide.

6.4. WRITTEN PROCEDURES SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED
(SEC(2025) 240 TO /3)

The Commission took note of the written procedures specifically identified for which the time limit expired between 15 and 26 September 2025.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS
(SEC(2025) 241)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
(PERS(2025) 74)

7.1. DG ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS – APPOINTMENT OF A
DIRECTOR AT GRADE AD14
(PERS(2025) 75 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 ‘Economies of the Member States I’ Directorate in DG Economic and Financial Affairs (PERS(2025) 75).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 17 June and 10 July 2025 (PERS(2025) 75/2).

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 DOMBROVKIS, it then decided to appoint Mr Paul KUTOS to the post.

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

**7.2. LEGAL SERVICE – APPOINTMENT OF A PRINCIPAL LEGAL ADVISER AT GRADE AD14
(PERS(2023) 5 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 Legal Adviser ‘TRADE Team (Trade Policy and WTO)’ at the Legal Service (PERS(2023) 5).

The Commission took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 27 October and 1 December 2022 (PERS(2023) 5/2 and /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 Mikko HUTTUNEN to the post.

This decision would take effect immediately.

7.3. DG COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK, CONTENT AND TECHNOLOGY – TRANSFER OF AN AD14 OFFICIAL UNDER ARTICLE 7 OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS

On a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Ms VIRKKUNEN, Mr TZITZIKOSTAS and Mr JØRGENSEN, the Commission decided to transfer, in the interest of the service, under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations, Ms Anne MONTAGNON, currently Director of the ‘Shared Resource Directorate MOVE/ENER’ in DG Mobility and Transport, to the post of Director of ‘Resources and Support’ Directorate in DG Communications Network, Content and Technology.

This decision would take effect on 1 October 2025.

7.4. DG ENVIRONMENT – TRANSFER OF AN AD14 OFFICIAL UNDER ARTICLE 7 OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS

On a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Mr FITTO and Ms ROSWALL, the Commission decided to transfer, in the interest of the service, under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations, Ms Monika HENCSEY, currently Director of the ‘Budget, Communication and General Affairs’ Directorate in DG Regional and Urban Policy, to the post of Director of the ‘Green Diplomacy and Multilateralism’ Directorate in DG Environment.

This decision would take effect on 16 October 2025.

7.5. DG MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES – EXTENSION OF THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN FISHERIES CONTROL AGENCY

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

- to propose to the Administration Board of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) to extend, at grade AD15, the term of office of Ms Susan STEELE as Executive Director, for a period of five years from 1 September 2026 to 31 August 2031, in accordance with Article 39(4) of Regulation (EU) 2019/473 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 March 2019;
- to task Mr KADIS, the Member of the Commission responsible, with communicating this decision to EFCA’s Administrative Board.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

7.6. DG RESEARCH AND INNOVATION – RENEWAL OF THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL

(C(2025) 6373)

On a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Ms ZAHARIEVA, the Commission decided to extend, for a term of two years, from 1 October 2025 to 30 September 2027, the term of office of Ms Maria LEPTIN as President of the European Research Council, as set out in C(2025) 6373.

This decision would take effect on 1 October 2025.

7.7. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – APPROVAL OF A LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR THE POST OF HEAD OF THE EUROPEAN UNION DELEGATION IN MALI (AT GRADE AD9/14)

(PERS(2025) 76)

On a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, the Commission decided to approve the list of candidates for the post of Head of the European Union Delegation in Mali (at grade AD9/14) in PERS(2025) 76.

The competent authority of the European External Action Service would make the final appointments on the basis of this list.

This decision would take effect immediately.

7.8. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL – AMENDMENT OF THE ORGANISATION CHART AND AUTHORISATION OF THE INTERNAL PUBLICATION AT GRADE AD14/15 OF A PRINCIPAL ADVISER POST

(SEC(2025) 247; PERS(2025) 77)

On a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, the Commission decided to amend the organisation chart of the Secretariat-

General, and to approve:

- the creation of a temporary post of Principal Adviser ‘Multiannual Financial Framework: National and Regional Partnership Plans’, reporting to the Secretary-General; the post would be abolished upon departure of the future job holder;
- the creation of a temporary post of Principal Adviser ‘Rule of Law’, reporting to the Deputy Secretary-General responsible for policy coordination; the post would be abolished upon departure of the future job holder;
- the internal publication, at grade AD14/15, with immediate effect, of the vacancy notice set out in PERS(2025) 77 for the post of Principal Adviser responsible for the rule of law at the Secretariat-General, in accordance with Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations;
- the new organisation chart set out in SEC(2025) 247.

Unless otherwise indicated, these decisions would take effect on 1 October 2025.

7.9. DG COMMUNICATION – APPOINTMENTS TO HEAD OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION REPRESENTATION POSTS

The Commission took note of the decisions of the Appointing Authority to appoint Mr Panayiotis POURGOURIDES to the post of Head of the European Commission Representation in Nicosia, Cyprus, Ms Ave SCHANK-LUKAS to the post of Head of the European Commission Representation in Tallinn, Estonia, Mr Andris KUZNIEKS to the post of Head of the European Commission Representation in Riga, Latvia, and Ms Maria Elena DESPOTT to the post of Head of the European Commission Representation in Valetta, Malta.

These decisions would take effect on a date to be determined.

**8. JOINT COMMUNICATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL ON A NEW STRATEGIC EU-INDIA AGENDA
(JOIN(2025) 50 TO /3; RCC(2025) 89)**

The PRESIDENT pointed out that the College's visit to New Delhi in February 2025 had marked a decisive step in relations between the EU and India, reflecting a shared ambition to take the partnership to a higher level. She noted that, despite having different diplomatic traditions, the two parties primarily shared similar interests, and stressed the vital role of this democratic country of 1.4 billion inhabitants as a strategic partner both economically and politically. She believed Europe and India to be like-minded partners, bound by the shared conviction that democracy best serves the people.

She praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to concluding a free trade agreement by the end of the year and stressed the importance of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC). These achievements illustrated the forward momentum of the partnership and paved the way for enhanced cooperation in the years to come. The PRESIDENT concluded by thanking the Members of the College who had been instrumental in drawing up this strategy.

Ms KALLAS highlighted that, in a complex geopolitical context marked by a shift in the geopolitical balances, the EU needed to invest in strong partnerships. India was a prime candidate among the major powers. She welcomed the quality of the planned agreement and the wide range of areas of cooperation, including in maritime safety and advanced technologies.

The aim was also to deepen India's alignment with EU values and to encourage it to lend Europe support to deal with the existential threats facing it. In this context, she expressed regret regarding India's participation in the Russian-Belarusian joint

strategic military exercise ‘ZAPAD-2025’ in September, raising questions about the appropriateness of the timetable for the adoption of this Communication.

Ms KALLAS said that she had been able to engage constructively with her Indian counterpart on this subject and that the dialogue would continue in the context of future high-level meetings. She also informed the College that the adoption of this Communication would be followed by Council conclusions in October in order to step up the involvement of the Member States. Subsequently, the roadmap would be negotiated jointly with India in view of the summit scheduled for early 2026. She concluded that the EU should continue to step up dialogue and strengthen this partnership, which would play a decisive role in global stability and prosperity.

Mr ŠEFČOVIČ presented the state of play of the discussions on the free trade agreement. He reminded the College of the complexity of these negotiations and stressed the political significance of the Commission’s visit to New Delhi in February, which had given the partnership a vital boost. In an unprecedented international context, he stressed the strategic interest of forming closer ties with India, the world’s most populous country, with a booming market, in order to build a mutually beneficial relationship.

Referring to his recent exchanges with the Indian government, he mentioned a shared willingness to move forward and explore creative solutions. He noted, however, that some aspects, such as agriculture or goods, could move forward rapidly if the political conditions were met, while others would still require more in-depth technical work. The objective was still that of reaching a balanced and ambitious agreement, taking into account the EU’s interests in strategic sectors.

Mr ŠEFČOVIČ concluded by calling for continued political commitment and intensified technical work, with a view to reaching a comprehensive agreement as soon as possible that would consolidate this key partnership between the EU and India.

Mr HANSEN noted that certain sectors, particularly agriculture, needed special

attention in order to avoid imbalances on the more sensitive tariff lines. He pointed out that the agreement would have to be accepted by both the Member States and the European Parliament, and stressed the importance of a joint commitment to a balanced, robust and sustainable outcome.

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

- the importance of using the momentum created by the College's visit to New Delhi in February to continue to further develop the partnership with India, which had the world's largest population and was of key geopolitical importance;
- the support of European companies regarding the diversification of trading partners; the size of the Indian market and the opportunities for European technologies; the availability of skilled labour, the many existing areas of cooperation and the importance of this type of rapprochement for European competitiveness;
- the opportunity to highlight common interests and the EU's reliability as a partner, including in response to the request for an agreement on disaster management;
- the many possible areas in which a joint effort could be made in terms of the environment and circular economy, where India was now investing heavily;
- the already fruitful collaboration that could be further developed in the field of academic research;
- concerns about India's participation in the Russian-Belarusian joint military exercise 'Zapad-2025' and the relevance of reflecting this concern in the pace of negotiations;

- India's long-standing ties with Russia and the need to take into account the risk of technology leaks;
- the importance of firmly underlining the European commitment to the principles upheld by the United Nations;
- the importance of cooperation in the fisheries sector, as India was the world's second largest fish producer, and of the ongoing structured dialogue with India on fisheries and oceans; the need to also discuss with India the importance of combating illegal fishing;
- the critical issue of the production of active pharmaceutical ingredients chiefly located in India, as well as China, and the importance of relocating a large part of this production to Europe and ensuring compliance with our rules and standards;
- the issue of residual purchases by the EU of refined products in India derived from Russian oil and the need for systematic application of EU restrictive measures.

As regards ending imports into the EU of refined products derived from Russian oil, the PRESIDENT pointed out that this measure was already part of the 18th package of sanctions against Russia, which had been adopted by the Council in July. She concluded by emphasising the significant political signal conveyed by the adoption of the Joint Communication that day.

Following these presentations, the Commission approved the Joint Communication in JOIN(2025) 50/3 for transmission to the European Parliament and the Council and, for information, to the national parliaments.

9. PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL DECISION ON THE SUSPENSION OF CERTAIN TRADE-RELATED PROVISIONS OF THE EURO-

**MEDITERRANEAN AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING AN ASSOCIATION
BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND THEIR
MEMBER STATES, OF THE ONE PART, AND THE STATE OF ISRAEL, OF
THE OTHER PART**

(COM(2025) 890 AND /2; RCC(2025) 90)

The PRESIDENT opened the discussion by referring to the significant polarisation of the debate on the conflict in Gaza, which was creating deep divisions all over the world. She stressed how important it was for the College to stand together going forward.

Ms ŠUIČA then presented the proposal for a Council Decision being tabled by the Commission with a view to suspending the Commission's bilateral support for Israel under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe), with the exception of support for civil society and the World Holocaust Remembrance Center (Yad Vashem).

Europe was stepping up its help for the Palestinian people, with the EU being the largest donor of direct aid to the Palestinian Authority. Furthermore, a Palestine Donor Group would be established before the end of the year to ensure transparency, coordinate the granting of aid subject to the implementation of reforms, and prepare the ground for reconstruction efforts in Gaza once that became possible.

Ms KALLAS presented the proposal to suspend certain trade-related provisions of the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the State of Israel, of the other part. She pointed out that the suspension was one of the options identified in the report on Israel's compliance with Article 2 of the Agreement. The report had concluded that the measures taken by the Israeli government violated key aspects of the Agreement with regard to human rights and democratic principles. The Union was entitled to respond to such violations in a proportionate manner.

Suspending preferential access to the European market for imports from Israel was not a symbolic gesture; rather, it was a concrete measure that would have an impact on EU-Israeli relations and on certain economic operators.

On the question of sanctions, she had prepared a proposal under the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime, naming five individuals and four entities involved in acts of violence perpetrated by Israeli settlers, the expansion of illegal settlements and Israel's military operation in the West Bank. She was also proposing to list 10 members of the Hamas Political Bureau under the sanctions' regime targeting Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

Ms KALLAS said that she was also committed to continuing diplomatic talks with Israel to secure tangible improvements on the ground for the people of Gaza. Other options were also being examined in case the situation in Gaza did not improve.

Mr ŠEFČOVIČ highlighted the speed with which the Commission had put together this proposal to suspend trade provisions in the EU-Israel Association Agreement, following the PRESIDENT's announcement in her latest State of the Union address. He stressed that the proposal was not a trade ban or a boycott of Israeli goods and noted that trade with Israel would continue but without preferential conditions.

With reference to the Association Agreement, Mr ŠEFČOVIČ explained that it went beyond trade relations and included political dialogue and cooperation. The trade chapters covered the free movement of goods, services and capital, public procurement, competition and intellectual property, but were mostly limited to tariff liberalisation. Industrial products were fully liberalised, while agriculture was only partly liberalised by virtue of additional agreements concluded in 2003 and 2010 covering agrifood products and fisheries. The EU was Israel's leading trading partner, accounting for 32% of Israel's total trade in goods in 2024, while Israel was in 31st place on the EU's list of trading partners, accounting for 0.8% of the EU's total trade in goods in 2024.

The suspension proposal being tabled that day covered the core trade-related parts of the Agreement, i.e. Titles II to IV and their chapters on goods, services, public procurement, competition and intellectual property, while certain specific parts were excluded. The proposal was based on Articles 2 and 79 of the Association Agreement, which made respect for human rights an essential element. The Council would decide by qualified majority, since the suspension related to common commercial policy, an exclusive EU competence, and the European Parliament would be informed.

Finally, Mr ŠEFČOVIČ described the potential economic impact of the suspension, noting that according to preliminary estimates based on current trade volumes, suspension of preferential access would expose EU exports to customs duties of up to EUR 574 million. On the other hand, imports to the EU from Israel would be subject to customs duties of up to EUR 227 million.

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

- support for a symbolic, highly political and necessary decision, in a context in which other institutions remained divided on the action to be taken;
- a reminder of Israel's right to defend itself against terrorism, alongside the need for this democratic state to respect its international commitments, in particular as regards humanitarian law;
- the need for balanced decisions that also highlighted Hamas' responsibilities;
- the importance of the EU, as a guarantor of democratic values, continuing to support the two-state solution and subsequently contributing to the reconstruction of Gaza;

- a reminder of the limited economic impact on the EU of the decision in terms of imports and exports, even if there could be consequences for imports of agricultural products;
- the need to unequivocally condemn terrorism and Hamas' use of the Palestinian civilian population as a shield, and to work tirelessly towards the release of the hostages held by Hamas;
- the observation of an increase in anti-semitic acts in Europe following Hamas' terrorist attack on 7 October, reaching a level not seen since the Second World War, and the importance of doing everything possible to avoid the conflict in the Middle East having harmful consequences for the Jewish community in Europe;
- the importance of balanced and unequivocal communication on this matter, and of maintaining dialogue with all parties.

Following this discussion, the PRESIDENT stressed that the Commission was advocating zero tolerance towards anti-Semitism and that it had been actively working for six years to combat anti-Semitism by all means. She concluded by recalling the importance of appropriate communication promoting the two-state solution, and the need to be already thinking about the future reconstruction of Gaza.

Following these presentations, the Commission approved the proposal for a Decision in COM(2025) 890/2, for transmission to the Council and, for information, to the European Parliament and the national parliaments.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10.1. LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Ms KALLAS briefed the College on the latest developments in the EU's external relations. She mentioned in particular the recent incursions of Russian drones into EU airspace, the international reaction to these events, and the need for the EU to show determination in its support for Ukraine and in the application of the sanctions imposed on Russia. She also drew attention to the ongoing electoral campaigns in Moldova and Georgia, and to Russia's attempts to influence the results of the elections and the measures the EU could take to defend democracy in these countries.

The PRESIDENT confirmed that work was in progress to reinforce European and international sanctions in the face of Russia's growing aggression and constant provocations. This work included potential measures targeting energy imports, the shadow fleet, and frozen Russian assets.

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

- the competences developed by Ukraine in defence technologies and the importance of closer cooperation with the EU in this field;
- the scale of the assistance provided to Ukraine through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism since the start of the war, and the need for good public communication on this matter.

The Commission took note of this information.

10.2. CONFERENCE ON THE FOLLOW-UP TO MR DRAGHI'S REPORT

The PRESIDENT reported to the College on the high-level conference held on 16 September 2025 to examine the progress made by the Commission in implementing the recommendations made in Mr Draghi's report on the future of European competitiveness.

She stressed the importance of the initiatives in the field of competitiveness carried out in only nine months since the beginning of the Commission's term of office, and the need to measure progress continuously. In this respect, she informed the College that the conference would be organised again next year.

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 11.23.