



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2025) 2542 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

Brussels, 3 December 2025

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

**of the 2542nd meeting of the Commission
held in Strasbourg
(Winston Churchill building)
on Tuesday 21 October 2025
(afternoon)**

PV(2025) 2542 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

EN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Attendance list	5-6
1. AGENDAS (OJ(2025) 2542/FINAL; SEC(2025) 2542/FINAL)	7
2. WEEKLY MEETING OF HEADS OF CABINET (RCC(2025) 2542).....	7
3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (PV(2025) 2536; PV(2025) 2536, PART II; PV(2025) 2537; PV(2025) 2538; PV(2025) 2538, PART II)	7
4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS (RCC(2025) 199)	7
5. COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL ACTION (RCC(2025) 253).....	9
6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS.....	10
6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED (SEC(2025) 275 ET SEQ.).....	10
6.2. EMPOWERMENT (SEC(2025) 276 ET SEQ.)	10
6.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS (SEC(2025) 277 ET SEQ.)	10
6.4. WRITTEN PROCEDURES SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED (SEC(2025) 278 AND /2).....	10
7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS (SEC(2025) 279 TO /4).....	10
7.1. DG COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, CONTENT AND TECHNOLOGY – APPOINTMENT OF A DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL AT GRADE AD15 (PERS(2025) 57 TO /3).....	11
7.2. DG BUDGET – APPOINTMENT OF A DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL AT GRADE AD15 (PERS(2025) 80 TO /3)	12
7.3. DG MIGRATION AND HOME AFFAIRS – AMENDMENT OF THE ORGANISATION CHART AND CREATION OF A PERMANENT POST OF HORS	

CLASSE ADVISER.....	12
7.4. DG COMMUNICATION – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR AT GRADE AD14 (PERS(2025) 84 AND /2).....	13
7.5. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL / REGULATORY SCRUTINY BOARD – APPOINTMENT OF A PRINCIPAL ADVISER AT GRADE AD14 (PERS(2025) 85 AND /2).....	14
7.6. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL – EUROPEAN COMMISSION DECISION ON POST TERM-OF-OFFICE ACTIVITY OF A FORMER MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION (C(2025) 9027)	14
7.7. AUTHORISATION FOR A FORMER MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION TO APPEAR AS A WITNESS BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (C(2025) 7125)	15
8. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – COMMISSION WORK PROGRAMME 2026 – EUROPE’S INDEPENDENCE MOMENT (COM(2025) 870 TO /3; RCC(2025) 102).....	15
9. REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS ON SIMPLIFICATION, IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT (COM(2025) 871 TO /3; RCC(2025) 102)	15
10. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – STRATEGY FOR GENERATIONAL RENEWAL IN AGRICULTURE (COM(2025) 872 AND /2; SWD(2025) 872; RCC(2025) 101)	19
11. OTHER BUSINESS.....	22

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION 22

Single sitting: Tuesday 21 October 2025 (afternoon)

The sitting opened at 13.06 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	Items 1 to 8/9 (in part)
Mr SÉJOURNÉ	Executive Vice-President	
Ms MÎNZATU	Executive Vice-President	
Mr FITTO	Executive Vice-President	
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Member	
Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Member	
Ms ŠUICA	Member	
Mr KUBILIUS	Member	
Mr SÍKELA	Member	
Ms ALBUQUERQUE	Member	
Ms LAHBIB	Member	
Mr BRUNNER	Member	
Mr JØRGENSEN	Member	
Mr TZITZIKOSTAS	Member	
Mr HANSEN	Member	
Mr MICALLEF	Member	

Absent:

Ms KALLAS	High Representative / Vice-President
Mr VÁRHELYI	Member
Mr HOEKSTRA	Member
Ms KOS	Member
Mr KADIS	Member
Ms ROSWALL	Member
Mr SERAFIN	Member
Ms ZAHARIEVA	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 PODESTA	Deputy Chief Spokesperson of the Commission
Mr ADAM	Deputy Head of Cabinet to the PRESIDENT
Ms PETKOVA	Director of Coordination and Administration in the PRESIDENT's cabinet
Ms REILLY	A member of the PRESIDENT's cabinet
Mr TAQUET-GRAZIANI	Acting Head of Unit in the Secretariat-General
Ms LAHOUSSE JUÁREZ	Secretariat-General

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

1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2025) 2542/FINAL; SEC(2025) 2542/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) 2542)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Heads of Cabinet held on Friday 17 October 2025.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

(PV(2025) 2536; PV(2025) 2536, PART II; PV(2025) 2537; PV(2025) 2538; PV(2025) 2538, PART II)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 2536th, 2537th and 2538th meetings of 3, 9 and 17 September 2025, and held over approval of the minutes of its 2539th, 2540th and 2541st meetings of 30 September and 7 and 16 October 2025 for a later date.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(RCC(2025) 199)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (GRI) held on Thursday 16 October 2025 (RCC(2025) 199).

The Commission approved the lines proposed for the following points:

– **Amendment of Directives 2009/65/EC, 2009/138/EC, 2011/61/EU,**

2014/65/EU and (EU) 2016/97 as regards the Union retail investor protection rules (Directive) – YON-COURTIN report – 2023/0167 (COD) / Amendment of Regulation (EU) No 1286/2014 as regards the modernisation of the key information document (Regulation) – YON-COURTIN report – 2023/0166 (COD)

Line set out in SI(2025) 318.

- **Commission Delegated Regulation of 8 July 2025 supplementing Directive (EU) 2024/1788 of the European Parliament and of the Council by specifying a methodology for assessing greenhouse gas emissions savings from low-carbon fuels – C(2025) 4674**

Line set out in SP(2025) 373.

- **Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) .../... of 28 August 2025 amending 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 its annex, under Article 8(9) of the InvestEU Regulation**

Line set out in SP(2025) 374.

- **Fixing the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Baltic Sea for 2026 and amending Regulation (EU) 2025/202 as regards certain fishing opportunities in other waters (Council Regulation) – 2025/0253 (NLE)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 313.

- **Oral question O-000026/2025 – Audiovisual Media Services Directive obligations in the transatlantic dialogue**

Line set out in SP(2025) 366.

- **EU-UK renewed agenda: note of intention in the area of maritime safety and security, non-paper in the area of health security and draft legal text on Youth Experience Scheme**

Line set out in SI(2025) 302.

The Commission took note of the following points:

- **Phasing out Russian natural gas imports, improving monitoring of potential energy dependencies and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/1938 (Regulation) – VAIDERE & NIINISTÖ report – 2025/0180 (COD)**

Information set out in SI(2025) 312.

- **Monitoring framework for resilient European forests (Regulation) – WIESNER & SARGIACOMO report – 2023/0413 (COD) / Amendment of Council Decision 89/367/EEC setting up a Standing Forestry Committee (Decision) – WIESNER & TOVERI report – 2023/0410 (COD)**

Information set out in SP(2025) 365.

- **Annual Progress Report on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement – Commissioner Várhelyi**

Information set out in SPI(2025) 80.

5. COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL ACTION (RCC(2025) 253)

The Commission took note of the operational conclusions in RCC(2025) 253 of the meeting of the Group for External Coordination (EXCO) held on Wednesday 15 October 2025.

6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED

(SEC(2025) 275 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 13 and 19 October 2025.

6.2. EMPOWERMENT

(SEC(2025) 276 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 13 and 19 October 2025.

6.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS

(SEC(2025) 277 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedures between 13 and 19 October 2025 archived in Decide.

6.4. WRITTEN PROCEDURES SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED

(SEC(2025) 278 AND /2)

The Commission took note of the written procedures specifically identified for which the time limit expired between 20 and 31 October 2025.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

(SEC(2025) 279 TO /4)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**(PERS(2025) 83 TO /3)**

In the absence of Mr SERAFIN, the Secretary-General presented additional proposals for administrative decisions which were tabled directly to the College for approval.

It was proposed to appoint Ms Despina SPANOU as Deputy Director-General in charge of the ‘Cybersecurity and Trust’ Directorate in DG Communications Networks, Content and Technology, and Ms Maria Beatriz SANZ REDRADO as Deputy Director-General in charge of ‘Financial Rules, Controls and Reporting’ in DG Budget.

It was also proposed to amend the organisation chart of DG Migration and Home Affairs and to create a permanent post of Hors Classe Adviser ‘Special Envoy for the promotion of freedom of religion or belief inside and outside the European Union’.

7.1. DG COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, CONTENT AND TECHNOLOGY – APPOINTMENT OF A DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL AT GRADE AD15**(PERS(2025) 57 TO /3)**

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Deputy Director-General in charge of the ‘Cybersecurity and Trust’ Directorate in DG Communications Networks, Content and Technology (PERS(2025) 57 and /2).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 30 July and 23 September 2025 (PERS(2025) 57/3).

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 VIRKKUNEN, it then decided to appoint Ms Despina SPANOOU to the post.

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

**7.2. DG BUDGET – APPOINTMENT OF A DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL
AT GRADE AD15
(PERS(2025) 80 TO /3)**

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) and Article 29(1)(b) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Deputy Director-General in charge of ‘Financial Rules, Controls and Reporting’ in DG Budget (PERS(2025) 80 and /2).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 9 March and 8 May 2025 (PERS(2025) 80/3).

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 Maria Beatriz SANZ REDRADO to the post.

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

**7.3. DG MIGRATION AND HOME AFFAIRS – AMENDMENT OF THE
ORGANISATION CHART AND CREATION OF A PERMANENT POST
OF HORS CLASSE ADVISER**

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

- to amend the organisation chart of DG Migration and Home Affairs;
- to approve the creation of a permanent post of *Hors Classe* Adviser ‘Special Envoy for the promotion of freedom of religion or belief inside and outside the European Union’, appointed for a renewable term of office

of four years, and reporting directly to the Member of the Commission for Internal Affairs and Migration. The conditions set out in the second paragraph of Article 44 of the Staff Regulations would apply to this post;

- the Special Envoy for the promotion of freedom of religion or belief inside and outside the European Union would rely on the expertise and support of the competent departments in DG Migration and Home Affairs in this area, to the extent required for the performance of the tasks relating to this post. The Special Envoy would ensure close coordination with the European External Action Service and the EU delegations, in particular ahead of missions in partner countries, and would coordinate activities in close collaboration with the EU Special Representative for Human Rights.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

**7.4. DG COMMUNICATION – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR AT GRADE AD14
(PERS(2025) 84 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 ‘Communication Support Services’ Directorate in DG Communication (PERS(2025) 84).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 30 July and 11 September 2025 (PERS(2025) 84/2).

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 Sylvain HUBERT to the post.

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

**7.5. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL / REGULATORY SCRUTINY BOARD –
APPOINTMENT OF A PRINCIPAL ADVISER AT GRADE AD14
(PERS(2025) 85 AND /2)**

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Principal Adviser – Member of the Regulatory Scrutiny Board (RSB) in the Secretariat-General (PERS(2025) 85).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 30 March and 3 April 2025 (PERS(2025) 85/2).

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 Ms Emmanuelle MAINCENT to the post.

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

**7.6. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL – EUROPEAN COMMISSION DECISION
ON POST TERM-OF-OFFICE ACTIVITY OF A FORMER MEMBER OF
THE COMMISSION
(C(2025) 9027)**

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

The Commission adopted the Decision in C(2025) 9027.

**7.7. AUTHORISATION FOR A FORMER MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION
TO APPEAR AS A WITNESS BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL
CRIMINAL COURT
(C(2025) 7125)**

The Commission adopted the joint Decision in C(2025) 7125.

**8. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS –
COMMISSION WORK PROGRAMME 2026 – EUROPE’S INDEPENDENCE
MOMENT
(COM(2025) 870 TO /3; RCC(2025) 102)**

**9. REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT,
THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS ON
SIMPLIFICATION, IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT
(COM(2025) 871 TO /3; RCC(2025) 102)**

The PRESIDENT introduced the Commission Work Programme for 2026, stressing that it was a key strategic document that would steer the Commission’s priorities for the coming year and beyond, in a radically changing geopolitical and economic context. She stressed that this work programme placed particular emphasis on the current key priorities by aiming to strengthen the EU’s competitiveness, be a driving force in clean and digital innovation, strengthen the European social model and ensure collective security.

She added that the first annual report on the simplification, implementation and enforcement of EU law was also submitted to the College for approval that day,

which showed the Commission's ambition to reduce administrative burdens and simplify rules.

As regards the work programme for 2026, Mr ŠEFČOVIČ began by pointing out that it was based on the PRESIDENT's Political Guidelines, the State of the Union address and the mission letters of the Members of the College, while reflecting the EU's response to current challenges and the changing global context. He stressed that the process of preparing the work programme had been particularly inclusive, as it also included input from the other institutions, the Member States and key stakeholders.

The programme for 2026 included 38 new policy initiatives, 25 simplification initiatives, 25 proposed withdrawals, 20 evaluations and fitness checks, and 111 proposals pending adoption by the co-legislators. The programme illustrated the desire to build a strong, prosperous and independent EU, at a defining point for its future. In this context, the programme aimed inter alia at promoting sustainable prosperity, strengthening defence capabilities, ensuring food security and protecting democratic values.

Mr ŠEFČOVIČ stressed the collective responsibility to deliver the expected results and called for the momentum to be maintained to ensure that tangible progress was made on the agreed priorities. Finally, he stressed the importance of close cooperation with the other institutions in order to ensure an efficient implementation of the programme, referring in this regard to the conclusion of the negotiations on the revised framework agreement with the European Parliament, which should allow for a smoother handling of legislative files and a better balance between ambition and simplification.

Mr DOMBROVSKIS then presented the first annual summary report on simplification, implementation and enforcement of legislation. He noted that the Commission, which was continuing its efforts to reduce administrative burdens, had already put forward six omnibus packages and other simplification proposals aimed

at saving over EUR 8.6 billion for businesses and citizens every year. In order to achieve the overall target of reducing burdens by EUR 37.5 billion during the Commission's term of office, it was essential to maintain the current pace and continue to identify new areas of simplification.

Mr DOMBROVSKIS stressed that more than half of the initiatives in the 2026 work programme had a strong simplification dimension, which should result in measurable net savings. At the same time, implementation dialogues and reality checks would continue to help the Commission identify further simplification opportunities, including to reduce burdens for citizens. This simplification effort reflected a change in the regulatory culture within the Commission and a move towards greater competitiveness and better regulation.

The annual report was deliberately concise and based on the reports sent to the Council and the European Parliament, ensuring transparency and accountability. The report brought together and streamlined previous monitoring exercises, such as the annual report on administrative burden and the report on the application of EU law.

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

- the ambitious and balanced nature of the 2026 Commission Work Programme;
- the focus on simplification, on the implementation of existing initiatives and on the rationalisation of proposals pending adoption by the co-legislators, in particular by withdrawing obsolete texts or those unlikely to achieve interinstitutional agreement;
- the importance of ensuring the effective implementation of the Defence Readiness Roadmap 2030, which is a prerequisite for a more united, independent and integrated EU in the face of fragmented national defence policies;

- the need to avoid new strategic dependencies and to strengthen Europe's industrial and economic bases, in a context of increased global competition regarding critical raw materials and emerging technologies;
- the strong external dimension of the work programme, designed to strengthen the resilience of the EU and its partners, including through the Global Gateway initiative and the promotion of sustainable development in third countries, which would create local value, jobs and diversified supply chains;
- the EU's leading role on the international political and humanitarian stage, with a focus on respect for international law and fundamental values, in a context of unprecedented crises and weakened multilateralism;
- the focus on the competitiveness and resilience of the agricultural and agri-food sector, including through the revision of the rules on unfair trade practices, the strengthening of reciprocity in free trade agreements and economic diplomacy measures to better align production standards globally;
- the need to continue to pay close attention to environmental and social aspects, so that security and competitiveness priorities were accompanied by concrete progress on the green transition, the fight against poverty, access to housing, fair labour mobility, gender equality, education, quality jobs and intergenerational cohesion;
- the caution recommended when drawing up proposals on audiovisual services and media, in a context of increased pressure on the sector at international level;
- some concern that withdrawing the proposal on the EU's position regarding the International Seabed Authority would weaken the European position in these international negotiations;

- the importance of continuing close dialogue with the European Parliament, the Council and stakeholders, in order to ensure a shared understanding of the priorities and facilitate the swift adoption of the proposals.

The PRESIDENT concluded the discussion by explaining that the proposal for withdrawals was the first step in a process that would continue in conjunction with the co-legislators. She stressed that, with more than a hundred legislative proposals still awaiting adoption, it was necessary to focus efforts on the EU's current priorities.

Following these presentations, the Commission:

- approved the Communication in COM(2025) 870/3 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;
- approved the Report in COM(2025) 871/3 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.

10. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – STRATEGY FOR GENERATIONAL RENEWAL IN AGRICULTURE (COM(2025) 872 AND /2; SWD(2025) 872; RCC(2025) 101)

Mr FITTO began by stating that the strategy being presented that day sought to ensure that European agriculture was sustainable, productive and resilient by increasing support for young and new farmers. A strong and vibrant community of young farmers made it possible to keep rural areas alive and ensure their growth and prosperity. He stressed the political importance of this strategy, which, together with

the omnibus package adopted by the Commission in May 2025, also sought to simplify EU legislation in the field of agriculture.

Mr FITTO gave a brief overview of the main points in the Communication, noting that, at both European and Member State level, it prioritised policy measures that helped support young farmers under the age of 40. The strategy included flagship initiatives to ensure that young farmers had access to land, credit and finance, as well as to the knowledge and skills required. It also explored options for overcoming the current barriers that prevented farmers from retiring.

Mr HANSEN noted that the strategy implemented one of the key points set out in the vision for the future of farming presented in February 2025, and contributed to achieving food security which was a political priority for the EU. He pointed out that the average age of farmers in the EU was 57, and that only 12% of farmers were under 40. The strategy therefore sought to create favourable conditions for young farmers in order to enable them to forge careers in farming and to ensure that the agricultural sector could help make the EU more resilient and sustainable. This objective would involve making agriculture and rural life more attractive by providing better local public services and adequate infrastructure.

As regards the practical implementation of the strategy, each Member State had been asked to draw up a national strategy for the next generation of farmers. These national strategies would be reflected in national budget plans, with regular reporting being required. The Commission would steer the process by issuing recommendations regarding the Common Agricultural Policy. It might also issue specific recommendations as part of the European Semester on aspects such as inheritance laws or pension schemes for farmers.

Mr HANSEN stressed that it was essential to step up efforts to ensure generational renewal. To that end, the Commission would recommend that Member States should invest at least 6% of their agricultural spending in measures promoting generational renewal, with the option to mobilise additional resources. The strategy

sought to double the share of young farmers in the EU by 2040 so that 24% of farmers in the EU would be young people and new farmers.

Mr HANSEN pointed out that, under the next Multiannual Financial Framework, it was important to ensure that the Common Agricultural Policy promoted young farmers' access to financial instruments, training and advice, and that farmers could access the support they needed through a single entry point in each Member State. Moreover, the Commission was working closely with the European Investment Bank to explore options regarding guarantee schemes and interest rate subsidies in order to facilitate access to finance, particularly for young farmers.

He then reviewed the flagship initiatives in the strategy, emphasising that a European Land Observatory would be set up to improve transparency of land ownership. The Observatory would help farmers to access available land, especially for those new to the sector, promote the transfer of farms, inform policy-making and help prevent land speculation.

The strategy also called on young farmers to take part in the Erasmus for young entrepreneurs programme; this would allow them to travel abroad to pick up good farming practices or diversify their incomes by drawing inspiration from other sectors, such as agritourism and bioeconomy. Other measures concerned improvements to work-life balance for farmers through the co-financing of farm relief services, which allowed farmers to take a break from their work.

Lastly, Mr HANSEN referred to the proposal to set up a network of rural youth ambassadors to promote the agricultural sector and make it more attractive. He also mentioned that the Commission intended to continue youth dialogues. In conclusion, he noted that the proposed strategy combined EU policies and recommendations for the Member States.

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

- full support for the proposed strategy, which was an essential means of ensuring that EU agriculture had a sustainable future;
- the importance of supporting young farmers and small farms, especially in regions characterised by the predominance of a few large agricultural businesses;
- the need to reverse current demographic trends in rural areas and to safeguard the right of young farmers to stay in their home region, including by continuing to cut red tape and reforming inheritance laws.

Following these presentations, the Commission approved the Communication in COM(2025) 872/2 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, together with the Staff Working Document distributed as SWD(2025) 872, the contents of which were noted.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

Mr TZITZIKOSTAS informed the College that, on 17 October, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) had decided to postpone the vote on the Net-Zero Framework for Global Shipping by one year.

He stressed the need to assess the implications of this decision and to determine how the EU should respond, both internationally and internally. He pointed out that, if Europe were to act alone, the competitiveness of its maritime sector could be severely affected.

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

- the substantial progress already made in terms of boosting the global competitiveness of Europe’s maritime sector, in particular its ports;
- the need to pursue the EU’s objectives in this area in close cooperation with international partners that shared the same climate concerns.

At the end of this discussion, the PRESIDENT asked for a project group to be set up to collect facts and figures in order to feed into the debate on this topic at a forthcoming College meeting.

The Commission took note of this information.

*

* *

The Commission’s other discussions on certain agenda items are recorded in the special minutes.

*

* *

The meeting closed at 14.15.