



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2025) 2547 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

Strasbourg, 10 February 2026

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

of the 2547th meeting of the Commission

held in Brussels

(Berlaymont)

on Wednesday 3 December 2025

(morning)

PV(2025) 2547 final

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Attendance list	7-8
1. AGENDAS (OJ(2025) 2547/FINAL; SEC(2025) 2547/FINAL/2)	9
2. WEEKLY MEETING OF HEADS OF CABINET (RCC(2025) 2547).....	9
3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (PV(2025) 2542; PV(2025) 2542, PART II; PV(2025) 2543).....	9
4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS (RCC(2025) 265/2)	9
5. COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL ACTION (RCC(2025) 264).....	12
6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS.....	13
6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED (SEC(2025) 310 ET SEQ.).....	13
6.2. EMPOWERMENT (SEC(2025) 311 ET SEQ.)	13
6.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS (SEC(2025) 312 ET SEQ.)	13
6.4. WRITTEN PROCEDURES SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED (SEC(2025) 313 AND /2).....	13
7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS (SEC(2025) 314).....	13
7.1. DG BUDGET – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR AT GRADE AD14 (PERS(2025) 103 AND /2).....	14
7.2. SECRETARIAT GENERAL – APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL ENVOY FOR THE EU-CANADA PARTNERSHIP (PERS(2025) 104)	14
8. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ESTABLISHING THE REPARATIONS LOAN TO UKRAINE AND AMENDING	

REGULATION (EU) 2024/792 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL OF 29 FEBRUARY 2024 ESTABLISHING THE UKRAINE FACILITY (COM(2025) 3502 AND /2; RCC(2025) 125).....	16
9. PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION ON EMERGENCY MEASURES ADDRESSING THE SERIOUS ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES CAUSED BY RUSSIA’S ACTIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE (COM(2025) 3501 AND /2; RCC(2025) 125).....	16
10. JOINT PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION AMENDING COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) N° 833/2014 CONCERNING RESTRICTIVE MEASURES IN VIEW OF RUSSIA’S ACTIONS DESTABILISING THE SITUATION IN UKRAINE (JOIN(2025) 350 AND /2; RCC(2025) 125).....	16
11. JOINT PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION AMENDING COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) N° 833/2014 CONCERNING RESTRICTIVE MEASURES IN VIEW OF RUSSIA’S ACTIONS DESTABILISING THE SITUATION IN UKRAINE (JOIN(2025) 351 AND /2; RCC(2025) 125).....	16
12. PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION AMENDING COUNCIL REGULATION (EU, EURATOM) 2020/2093 OF 17 DECEMBER 2020 LAYING DOWN THE MULTIANNUL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE YEARS 2021 TO 2027 (COM(2025) 3500 AND /2; RCC(2025) 125).....	16
13. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL ON THE EU DRUGS	

STRATEGY (COM(2025) 743 AND /2; RCC(2025) 120)	22
14. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL ON THE EU ACTION PLAN AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING (COM(2025) 744 TO /3; RCC(2025) 120)	22
15. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – AN EU AGENDA FOR CITIES – DRIVING GROWTH AND PROSPERITY (COM(2025) 739 AND /2; SWD(2025) 389; RCC(2025) 119)	24
16. JOINT COMMUNICATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL – STRENGTHENING EU ECONOMIC SECURITY (JOIN(2025) 977 TO /3; RCC(2025) 121)	27
17. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – RESOURCEEU ACTION PLAN – ACCELERATING OUR CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS STRATEGY TO ADAPT TO A NEW REALITY (COM(2025) 945 TO /5; RCC(2025) 123)	27
18. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING REGULATION (EU) 2024/1252 (COM(2025) 946 TO /3; RCC(2025) 123)	28
19. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, THE COUNCIL, THE	

EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF CAPITAL MARKET INTEGRATION AND SUPERVISION WITHIN THE UNION (COM(2025) 940 AND /2; RCC(2025) 122).....	35
20. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING REGULATIONS (EU) N° 1095/2010, N° 648/2012, N° 600/2014, N° 909/2014, 2015/2365, 2019/1156, 2021/23, 2022/858, 2023/1114, N° 1060/2009, 2016/1011, 2017/2402, 2023/2631 AND 2024/3005 AS REGARDS THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF CAPITAL MARKET INTEGRATION AND SUPERVISION WITHIN THE UNION (COM(2025) 943 AND /2; SWD(2025) 943 AND /2; SWD(2025) 944 AND /2; SEC(2025) 943; RCC(2025) 122).....	35
21. PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING DIRECTIVES 2009/65/EC, 2011/61/EU AND 2014/65/EU AS REGARDS THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF CAPITAL MARKET INTEGRATION AND SUPERVISION WITHIN THE UNION (COM(2025) 942 AND /2; SWD(2025) 943 AND /2; SWD(2025) 944 AND /2; SEC(2025) 943; RCC(2025) 122).....	35
22. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ON SETTLEMENT FINALITY AND REPEALING DIRECTIVE 98/26/EC AND AMENDING DIRECTIVE 2002/47/EC ON FINANCIAL COLLATERAL ARRANGEMENTS (COM(2025) 941 AND /2; SWD(2025) 943 AND /2; SWD(2025) 944 AND /2; SEC(2025) 943; RCC(2025) 122).....	36

23. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – QUALITY JOBS ROADMAP (COM(2025) 944 TO /3; RCC(2025) 124)	38
24. CONSULTATION DOCUMENT – FIRST-PHASE CONSULTATION OF SOCIAL PARTNERS UNDER ARTICLE 154 TFEU ON POSSIBLE DIRECTION OF EU ACTION TO IMPROVE WORKING CONDITIONS, HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK AND IMPLEMENTATION OF WORKERS’ RIGHTS – QUALITY JOBS ACT (C(2025) 9944 AND /2; RCC(2025) 124)	38
25. OTHER BUSINESS.....	41
25.1. COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION ON THE REQUEST FOR REGISTRATION, PURSUANT TO REGULATION (EU) 2019/788 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL, OF THE EUROPEAN CITIZENS’ INITIATIVE ENTITLED ‘NO MORE DOUBLE STANDARDS ON HUMAN RIGHTS’ (C(2025) 8401)	41
25.2. COMMISSION DECISION ON THE REQUEST FOR REGISTRATION OF A EUROPEAN CITIZENS’ INITIATIVE ENTITLED ‘ETHICS AND TRANSPARENCY FOR RESPONSIBLE EUROPEAN GOVERNANCE’ – OUTCOME OF THE COMMISSION’S PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT (C(2025) 8400)	42

Single sitting: Wednesday 3 December 2025 (morning)

The sitting opened at 10.04 with Ms von der LEYEN, President, in the chair. Items 23/24 (in part) to 25 were chaired by Ms RIBERA.

Present:

Ms von der LEYEN	President	Items 1 to 23/24 (in part)
Ms RIBERA	Executive Vice-President	
Ms VIRKKUNEN	Executive Vice-President	
Mr SÉJOURNÉ	Executive Vice-President	Items 1 to 23/24
Ms KALLAS	High Representative / Vice-President	Items 8 to 16/18 (in part)
Ms MÎNZATU	Executive Vice-President	
Mr FITTO	Executive Vice-President	
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Member	
Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Member	Items 8 to 23/24 (in part)
Mr VÁRHELYI	Member	Items 1 to 16/18 (in part)
Mr HOEKSTRA	Member	Items 1 to 16/18
Mr KUBILIUS	Member	
Ms KOS	Member	
Mr SÍKELA	Member	
Mr KADIS	Member	
Ms ALBUQUERQUE	Member	
Ms LAHBIB	Member	Items 1 to 25 (in part)
Mr BRUNNER	Member	Items 1 to 23/24 (in part)
Ms ROSWALL	Member	
Mr SERAFIN	Member	
Mr JØRGENSEN	Member	
Ms ZAHARIEVA	Member	
Mr McGRATH	Member	
Mr TZITZIKOSTAS	Member	Items 1 to 23/24 (in part)
Mr HANSEN	Member	
Mr MICALLEF	Member	

Absent:

Ms ŠUICA Member

The following also sat in:

Mr SEIBERT	Head of Cabinet to the PRESIDENT	Items 1 to 23/24 (in part)
Mr DE GREGORIO	Director-General, Legal Service	
Ms SPINANT	Director-General, DG Communication	
Ms PINHO	Head of the Spokesperson's Service and Chief Spokesperson of the Commission	
Mr ADAM	Deputy Head of Cabinet to the PRESIDENT	
Mr BEHRNDT	Deputy Secretary-General	Items 8/12
Ms PETKOVA	Director of Coordination and Administration in the PRESIDENT's cabinet	
Mr MORDUE	Adviser in the PRESIDENT's cabinet	Items 8/12
Ms HILI	Adviser in the PRESIDENT's cabinet	Items 8/12
Mr BAERT	Adviser in the PRESIDENT's cabinet	Items 16/18
Mr LUNAU	Adviser in the PRESIDENT's cabinet	Items 16/18
Mr CALACEAN	Adviser in the PRESIDENT's cabinet	Items 23/24
Mr PIERGIOVANNI	Adviser in the PRESIDENT's cabinet	Items 15 to 16/18
Ms REILLY	Member of the PRESIDENT's cabinet	Items 19/22
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) 2547/FINAL; SEC(2025) 2547/FINAL/2)

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) 2547)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Heads of Cabinet held on Monday 1 and Tuesday 2 December 2025.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

(PV(2025) 2542; PV(2025) 2542, PART II; PV(2025) 2543)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 2542nd and 2543rd meetings of 21 October and 4 November 2025, and held over approval of the minutes of its 2544th, 2545th and 2546th meetings of 12, 19 and 25 November 2025 for a later date.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(RCC(2025) 265/2)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (GRI) held on Friday 28 November 2025 (RCC(2025) 265/2).

The Commission approved the lines proposed for the following points:

- **Harmonising certain aspects of insolvency law (Directive) – RADEV (ex-ARIMONT) report – 2022/0408 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 391.

- **Combating corruption, replacement of Council Framework Decision 2003/568/JHA and the Convention on the fight against corruption involving officials of the European Communities or officials of Member States of the European Union and amendment of Directive (EU) 2017/1371 of the European Parliament and of the Council (Directive) – GARCÍA HERMIDA-VAN DER WALLE (ex-STRUGARIU) report – 2023/0135 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 392.

- **Amendment of Directive (EU) 2015/2302 to make the protection of travellers more effective and to simplify and clarify certain aspects of the Directive (Directive) – AGIUS SALIBA report – 2023/0435 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 393.

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

Line set out in SI(2025) 390.

- **Plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques and their food and feed, and amendment of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 (Regulation) – POLFJÄRD report – 2023/0226 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 394.

- **Union procedures for the authorisation and supervision of medicinal products for human use and establishing rules governing the European Medicines Agency, amendment of Regulation (EC) No 1394/2007 and Regulation (EU) No 536/2014 and repeal of Regulation (EC) No 726/2004, Regulation (EC) No 141/2000 and Regulation (EC) No 1901/2006 (Regulation) – WÖLKEN report – 2023/0131 (COD) / Union code relating to medicinal products for human use, and repeal of Directive 2001/83/EC and Directive 2009/35/EC (Directive) – MONTSERRAT (ex-WEISS-EHLER) report – 2023/0132 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 389.

- **Amendment of Regulations (EU) No 1308/2013, (EU) 2021/2115 and (EU) No 251/2014 as regards certain market rules and sectoral support measures in the wine sector and for aromatised wine products (Regulation) – HERRANZ GARCÍA report – 2025/0071 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 396.

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

Line set out in SI(2025) 401.

- **Amendment of Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 as regards certain obligations of operators and traders – 2025/0329 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 380/3.

- **Amendment of Regulation (EU) 2021/1173 on establishing the European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking and repealing Regulation (EU) 2018/1488 (Council Regulation) – BUDKA report – 2025/0229 (NLE)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 397.

- **Commission assessment of requests for full or partial deductions from solidarity obligations**

Line set out in SPI(2025) 93.

The Commission took note of the following points:

- **Establishment of the Connecting Europe Facility for the period 2028-2034, amending Regulation (EU) 2024/1679 and repealing Regulation (EU) 2021/1153 (Regulation) – GASIUK-PIHOWICZ & AGIRREGOITIA MARTÍNEZ report – 2025/0221 (COD)**

Information set out in SI(2025) 398.

- **Establishment of a common system for the return of third-country nationals staying illegally in the Union, and repealing Directive 2008/115/EC of the European Parliament and the Council, Council Directive 2001/40/EC and Council Decision 2004/191/EC (Regulation) – AZMANI report – 2025/0059 (COD)**

Information set out in SI(2025) 399/2.

5. COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL ACTION (RCC(2025) 264)

The Commission took note of the operational conclusions in RCC(2025) 264 of the meeting of the Group for External Coordination (EXCO) held on Thursday 27 November 2025.

6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED

(SEC(2025) 310 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 24 and 30 November 2025.

6.2. EMPOWERMENT

(SEC(2025) 311 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 24 and 30 November 2025.

6.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS

(SEC(2025) 312 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedures between 24 and 30 November 2025 archived in Decide.

6.4. WRITTEN PROCEDURES SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED

(SEC(2025) 313 AND /2)

The Commission took note of the written procedures specifically identified for which the time limit expired between 1 and 5 December 2025, and of the finalisation written procedures.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

(SEC(2025) 314)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

(PERS(2025) 102)

7.1. DG BUDGET – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR AT GRADE AD14 (PERS(2025) 103 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 ‘Resources and IT’ Directorate in DG Budget (PERS(2025) 103).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 4 and 27 November 2025 (PERS(2025) 103/2).

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 Marco ABATE to the post.

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

7.2. SECRETARIAT GENERAL – APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL ENVOY FOR THE EU-CANADA PARTNERSHIP (PERS(2025) 104)

The Commission took note of the information in point 2 of PERS(2025) 102 and, on a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, decided:

- to create a post of Special Envoy for the EU-Canada partnership in the Secretariat-General; this post would be attached to the Secretary-General, and the postholder would report directly to the PRESIDENT;
- to appoint Mr Joost KORTE to the post; this decision would take effect on a date to be determined;

- to make the postholder a Special Adviser to the Commission and to pay him a fee for his work. The monthly amount of the fee would correspond to 1/12 of the annual difference between his last salary when still in service and his retirement pension, in accordance with Article 24(3) of Commission Decision C(2018) 4048 of 29 June 2018 on outside activities and assignments and on occupational activities after leaving the service;
- to conclude a Special Adviser contract for a duration of one year from the date on which the procedure under Article 123(2) of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union was concluded. Until then an unpaid contract could be concluded. The duration of the contract could be extended;
- 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;
- that the Special Envoy for the EU-Canada partnership would rely, including for the administrative and logistical aspects, on the relevant departments in the Secretariat-General, in particular the Directorate for ‘External Relations’, and would closely coordinate their work with the European External Action Service. Other relevant Commission departments would provide assistance to the Special Envoy in their work, in particular for preparing, conducting and following up missions.

Unless indicated otherwise, these decisions would take effect immediately.

8. **PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ESTABLISHING THE REPARATIONS LOAN TO UKRAINE AND AMENDING REGULATION (EU) 2024/792 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL OF 29 FEBRUARY 2024 ESTABLISHING THE UKRAINE FACILITY**
(COM(2025) 3502 AND /2; RCC(2025) 125)
9. **PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION ON EMERGENCY MEASURES ADDRESSING THE SERIOUS ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES CAUSED BY RUSSIA'S ACTIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE**
(COM(2025) 3501 AND /2; RCC(2025) 125)
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(COM(2025) 3500 AND /2; RCC(2025) 125)

The PRESIDENT introduced the package of legislative proposals tabled that day to bolster Ukraine's financial resilience in the context of Russia's war of aggression. In

its conclusions of 23 October 2025, the European Council had pledged to address Ukraine's urgent financial needs for 2026-2027. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimated those needs at more than EUR 135 billion, two thirds of which the EU had committed to covering, i.e. EUR 90 billion.

The PRESIDENT also referred to the letter she had sent to European leaders on 17 November 2025, proposing three funding options: (i) grants from Member States to Ukraine, (ii) joint borrowing, guaranteed by the EU budget, carried out by the Commission on the financial markets and (iii) a reparations loan, where the Commission would borrow cash balances from EU financial institutions holding immobilised assets of Russia's Central Bank. Under the third option, Ukraine would be asked to repay the loan only once Russia had ended the war and agreed to compensate for the damage. The PRESIDENT explained that the legislative proposals presented that day covered the second and third options and aimed to set out the practical implementing arrangements.

This funding for Ukraine would help support the state budget and boost Ukraine's defence industry and its integration into the European defence industrial base. The loans could be channelled through the Ukraine Facility and macro-financial assistance. Military spending would mainly have to be with Ukrainian and European companies, and equipment purchases from non-EU countries would be possible only as a last resort.

The PRESIDENT also highlighted the safeguards put in place to protect Member States and financial institutions against any retaliatory measures. Most immobilised Russian assets were held in Belgium, and the package contained a robust solidarity mechanism so that the risk associated with the use of these assets would be borne by all Member States.

She concluded by stressing that, while the EU was working for peace in Ukraine, at present Russia seemed unwilling to come to the negotiating table. That day's legislative package therefore sent two clear messages to Russia. First, it showed the

EU's commitment to supporting Ukraine in the long term, so that the country could continue to defend itself and was in a strong position to conduct peace negotiations. Second, by securing immobilised Russian assets, the EU was increasing the cost of Russia's war of aggression and thus exerting maximum pressure on it to end the conflict.

Mr DOMBROVSKIS then presented the details of the reparations loan proposal. The loan was more like a grant in view of the debt sustainability problems Ukraine was currently facing. Using cash balances from frozen Russian assets was fully compliant with international law, since the assets would not be confiscated, and the principle of sovereign immunity would be respected.

The EU held EUR 210 billion in immobilised Russian assets in several Member States. This was also the maximum amount of the loan. Of this, EUR 45 billion would have to be set aside to repay the extraordinary revenue acceleration loan jointly agreed with G7 partners. The rest would be used for two purposes: budget support and military support.

Mr DOMBROVSKIS noted that that day's package of legislative proposals contained robust safeguards for Member States and financial institutions holding immobilised Russian assets against any retaliatory measures in Russia and illegal expropriations outside Russia. To cover any residual risks, the package included a solidarity mechanism supported by bilateral national guarantees or the EU budget.

He also mentioned the additional legal safeguards proposed, including the possibility for the EU to take action against any party facilitating the recovery of any Russian claims under bilateral investment treaties between Member States and non-EU countries. This was a new EU act on top of the no-claims clause in EU sanctions, which was already in force and prevented any claim by Russia from being enforced on EU territory. Lastly, he referred to the proposal for a Regulation based on Article 122(1) of the Treaty to immobilise Russian assets for a longer period and independently of the current sanctions regime.

On the arrangements for disbursing funds to Ukraine, Mr DOMBROVSKIS explained that, on the basis of a Commission proposal, the Council would make an annual allocation to support the state budget and strengthen the country's defence capabilities. Strict conditions would be applied to budget support, including a non-regression clause linking financial assistance to Ukraine's implementation of anti-corruption measures as part of its application for EU membership. This would enable swift suspension of payments under the reparations loan in the event of any backsliding by Ukraine in the fight against corruption.

There were several options for implementing the planned European support for military equipment, such as Member State procurement, agreements between Ukraine and Member States or procurement agreements with the European Defence Agency. Under the cascade mechanism, public contracts should first be awarded to companies in EU Member States, Ukraine or EFTA countries. Only if the necessary military equipment was not available in one of those countries could it be purchased elsewhere.

Mr DOMBROVSKIS noted that the reparations loan measures required a qualified majority in the Council. The Commission was also proposing an amendment to the current Multiannual Financial Framework, which required unanimity in the Council. This would increase the flexibility of the European budget to guarantee loans to Ukraine. The additional headroom could be used for both joint borrowing by Member States and the reparations loan.

Lastly, he mentioned the Commission's efforts to address Ukraine's short-term financing needs. The Commission was working actively with other financial donors to front-load their funding in the first quarter of the following year, since EU loans could only be made available from the second quarter. All these measures enabled the EU to provide Ukraine with the necessary financial support without imposing a heavy additional burden on the European budget or Member State budgets, thus limiting the cost to European taxpayers.

During the discussion that followed, the Commission raised the following main points:

- the need for the EU to make every effort to achieve a just and lasting peace in Ukraine, which, particularly in the current geopolitical circumstances, meant that European action should be firm and united;
- broad support for the proposed package, which guaranteed the financial assistance Ukraine would need over the following two years, thereby strengthening its position in peace talks and also sending a clear political signal to EU's partners;
- the belief that the proposed package fully complied with EU and international law, in particular the general principle that those causing harm to others should provide compensation, and a reference to the resolution of the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait as a precedent;
- the case for incorporating the cascade principle into the procurement of military equipment, as this would boost production capacities in the European defence industry;
- the importance of the conditionality element in the funding package, which would encourage the Ukrainian authorities to continue the necessary reforms on the country's path to European integration;
- the need for the financial burden to be shared fairly among Member States and with international partners;
- the risks of Russian retaliation and the specific case of Belgium, where most of the immobilised assets were held; the further risk of retaliation against European assets outside the EU;
- the complexity of the proposed legal framework, which was deemed necessary and equal to the challenges.

The PRESIDENT wound up the debate by pointing to the need for strong and united EU action in the face of a complex geopolitical situation. The package proposed by the Commission launched the interinstitutional process and the College would have the opportunity to explain its proposals before the European Parliament and the Council. She stressed the importance of reaching a political agreement at the forthcoming European Council in December to secure Ukraine's funding for 2026-2027.

She also congratulated Mr JØRGENSEN on the provisional agreement reached between the co-legislators following the third trilogue on 2 December on the proposal for a RePowerEU Regulation. She referred to the EU's previous dependence on Russian oil and gas and welcomed the progress made in that regard since the start of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

Following these presentations, the Commission:

- adopted the proposal for a Regulation in COM(2025) 3502/2 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council and the national parliaments;
- adopted the proposal for a Regulation in COM(2025) 3501/2 for transmission to the Council and, for information, to the European Parliament and the national parliaments;
- adopted the joint proposal for a Regulation in JOIN(2025) 350/2 for transmission to the Council and, for information, to the European Parliament;
- adopted the joint proposal for a Regulation in JOIN(2025) 351/2 for transmission to the Council and, for information, to the European Parliament;
- adopted the proposal for a Regulation in COM(2025) 3500/2 for transmission to the European Parliament and the Council and, for information, to the national parliaments.

**13. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL ON THE EU DRUGS STRATEGY
(COM(2025) 743 AND /2; RCC(2025) 120)**

**14. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL ON THE EU ACTION PLAN AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING
(COM(2025) 744 TO /3; RCC(2025) 120)**

Ms VIRKKUNEN introduced the European Union's drugs strategy and the action plan against drug trafficking, emphasising that disrupting drug trafficking was a matter of safety, security and public health. Drug trafficking had become one of Europe's biggest criminal markets, underpinned by record inflows of cocaine, a rapid expansion in the production of synthetic drugs and transnational criminal networks taking full advantage of global supply chains, the financial systems and online environments.

Consumption of drugs was on the increase in all countries, particularly by young people, and the drug market was the cause of serious social and environmental harm. At the same time, progress in surveillance technologies and the development of the European Union's international cooperation tools were unable to keep pace with the extent and sophistication of the threat. Against this backdrop, Ms VIRKKUNEN emphasised the importance of adopting this European strategy.

Mr BRUNNER emphasised the extent to which the strategy and the action plan associated with it cut across so many areas, covering aspects concerning health, transport and port security, urban security and environmental protection. The European market for illegal drugs was growing steadily and changing rapidly, with inflows of cheap cocaine and new synthetic drugs hitting the streets, while criminal networks were continually adapting their operating methods.

The international dynamics affecting the drugs trade were also shifting rapidly, influenced by developments between the US and Venezuela, progress on

partnerships with Latin America and persistent challenges with chemical precursors from China and India. Global cooperation was essential to tackle trafficking networks that operated across borders and rapidly adapted their routes and methods. In this context, Mr BRUNNER referred to the cooperation within the Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre - Narcotics (MAOC-N), the nerve centre for drug seizures on the high seas, bringing together the EU Member States, the United Kingdom, the United States and EU agencies. By way of the European Ports Alliance and the future EU Ports Strategy, the Commission was working in close cooperation with port authorities throughout the European Union and with its principal partners in Latin America.

Mr BRUNNER noted that more coordinated and vigorous action was necessary to stop drugs from reaching Europe and to protect the EU's towns from the violence and corruption associated with them. He highlighted the decisive role played by the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA) in upgrading the EU Early Warning System for new psychoactive substances, improving research capabilities, working with Member States to sharpen monitoring and issuing rapid alerts in urgent cases.

He spoke about the need to tackle the recruitment of young people by organised crime networks and to dismantle production sites for drug precursors and synthetic drugs. A toolbox would be developed to prevent minors from being recruited into trafficking networks, thanks to intervention and prevention measures. Measures would also be taken to prevent trafficking in and out of prisons. Moreover, advanced detection and monitoring technologies would be deployed in transport hubs and other critical areas.

During the discussion that followed, the Commission raised the following main points:

- the international nature of the criminal organisations linked to drug trafficking, unbound by borders, in contrast to the fragmented tools available to national authorities;

- the unprecedented profitability of synthetic drugs and drug precursors, generating billions in illegal revenues and fuelling corruption;
- the need to enhance the capacity of law enforcement institutions and share intelligence in order to map criminal networks more effectively so as to dismantle them;
- the rapid deterioration in public health indicators in several Member States as a result of drug consumption, with levels, particularly for cannabis, exceeding tobacco consumption in certain countries;
- the consequent need to approach combating drugs not only from the security and public order angle, but also as a public health issue and to integrate that dimension into all parts of the strategy.

Following these presentations, the Commission, on a proposal from the PRESIDENT, confirmed that the two Communications set out in COM(2025) 743/2 and COM(2025) 744/3 would be formally adopted by finalisation written procedure, the deadline for which was set at 10.00 on Thursday 4 December 2025 (PE/2025/8604 and PE/2025/8603).

15. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – AN EU AGENDA FOR CITIES – DRIVING GROWTH AND PROSPERITY (COM(2025) 739 AND /2; SWD(2025) 389; RCC(2025) 119)

Mr FITTO introduced the Communication on the EU Agenda for Cities, stating that it was the first part of a broader effort to shape the future of urban areas in the EU and address the specific needs of its territories. Five strategies were planned in order to address the various challenges across the EU and meet the demand for a place-

based approach and tailored solutions. The agenda for cities itself was one of the five strategies, while the others focused on rural areas and the ‘right to stay’ to address depopulation, the outermost regions, the eastern border regions, and islands and coastal areas. He stressed the importance of this agenda for cities, which sought to address the needs of the 340 million people living in cities and urban areas, i.e. around 75% of the EU’s population, as well as the challenges faced by local leaders in those areas. Cities were central to prosperity and competitiveness; as Europe’s economic powerhouses, they generated around 85% of the EU’s gross domestic product.

The agenda was a bottom-up exercise, with over 190 contributions having been received as part of a wide-ranging consultation. Numerous meetings had been held with national associations of local authorities and other relevant organisations. Mr FITTO had held extensive discussions with local leaders during his visits to the Member States and as part of an Implementation Dialogue that had taken place in June that year. The Cities Forum, held in Krakow in June 2025 and attended by hundreds of participants, had provided further opportunity for many discussions. He had also had the opportunity to discuss these issues in depth with both the European Parliament and the Committee of the Regions. This had all fed into a very comprehensive and inclusive Communication that reflected the views of stakeholders.

Mr FITTO stressed that cities were facing many challenges, including providing access to affordable housing, creating jobs and ensuring that public spaces were safe and secure, infrastructure was working properly, and public services were of high quality and accessible. Environmental sustainability was a further challenge. Cities were receiving considerable financial support through cohesion policy as well as under other EU policies and instruments. The cohesion policy mid-term review had given the Member States an opportunity to adjust their programmes and address challenges that were important for cities in areas such as housing, water quality, competitiveness, and energy and recharging networks. Member States could now

also promote defence-related investments, especially in cities in the EU's eastern border regions.

The agenda reflected the needs of citizens and local authorities alike. This included citizens' concerns about housing, feeling safe in public places, and access to transport and public services. The focus on the needs of local leaders came at a time when it was especially important and strategic to give them tools to help them navigate their way through EU policies and resources. The agenda sought to trigger an ongoing and deeper dialogue with European cities, promote simplification and capacity-building, and make the requisite investment available under both the current and the next Multiannual Financial Frameworks (MFF).

Mr FITTO said that the agenda would be implemented by means of 10 flagship measures. Under the current financial framework, at least 8% of European Regional Development Fund resources were already allocated to sustainable urban development. Looking ahead to the next financial framework, the National and Regional Partnership Plans would need to place an even greater emphasis on the needs of urban areas and on locally embedded strategies. In his view, local and regional partners ought to be involved in the design and implementation of the plans to ensure that investments were tailored to the real challenges and were consistent with the principles of partnership and multi-level governance, principles which were at the heart of cohesion policy.

Mr FITTO concluded his presentation by saying that the agenda had been drawn up with cities and for cities. It was designed to meet the needs of the millions of Europeans who were living, working and building their futures in urban areas and to give local leaders the tools they needed to take action.

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

- the importance of addressing the needs of mayors and local leaders, who were calling for more action from the EU at their level and who were often the

human face of, and the mouthpiece for, commitment to the European economic and social model in people's daily lives;

- in that connection, the relevance of the National and Regional Partnership Plans; under the next Multiannual Financial Framework, the plans would make it possible to intervene in areas where the market and private ventures were not able to fully deliver, especially with regard to affordable housing;
- against that backdrop, the need for the Commission to work on ensuring a better structure and improved support for future dialogue with local communities.

The PRESIDENT wrapped up the discussion by confirming that mayors were powerful allies, and that the EU should draw on their support when it came to implementing EU policies.

Following these presentations, the Commission approved the Communication in COM(2025) 739/2 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.

**16. JOINT COMMUNICATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL – STRENGTHENING EU ECONOMIC SECURITY
(JOIN(2025) 977 TO /3; RCC(2025) 121)**

**17. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – RESOURCEEU ACTION PLAN – ACCELERATING OUR CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS STRATEGY TO ADAPT TO A NEW REALITY
(COM(2025) 945 TO /5; RCC(2025) 123)**

**18. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING REGULATION (EU) 2024/1252
(COM(2025) 946 TO /3; RCC(2025) 123)**

The PRESIDENT pointed out that the matter of economic security, which was currently at the heart of EU action, had been largely absent from European debate a few years ago. She stressed that this concept had gradually emerged, as the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine had highlighted Europe's vulnerability regarding some critical dependencies. Since then, the EU had equipped itself with a set of instruments to better anticipate and manage economic security risks. The challenge from then on would be to use these instruments more quickly, coherently and strategically, to hasten the reduction of dependencies and strengthen EU resilience through more diverse partnerships.

Mr ŠEFČOVIČ introduced the economic security package, stressing that the level of ambition therein reflected the importance of strengthening the EU's economic security in an evolving geopolitical and geo-economic context. He outlined the proposed concrete steps to reinforce the EU's strength and resilience in the face of growing external economic threats, while retaining its openness and commitment to international trade and investment.

With regard to the Joint Communication on strengthening economic security, he pointed out that the increasing use of economic measures for geopolitical purposes required swift and determined action by the EU. He mentioned in particular the export controls applied to critical inputs for the EU, which could disrupt key value chains, as well as strategic technologies being used as leverage. Several future-oriented sectors, such as electric vehicles, batteries and artificial intelligence, were exposed to practices that could distort competition and accentuate EU dependencies. These developments had a direct impact on EU companies, both in their daily operations and in their ability to remain competitive and innovative.

Mr ŠEFČOVIČ said that the Communication responded to the need to change scale and adopt a fully integrated approach to economic security. While the 2023 European strategy remained the reference framework, structured around the three pillars of ‘promoting’, ‘protecting’ and ‘partnering’, recent geopolitical developments had shown the limits of an approach divided into separate pillars. To illustrate this, he noted that export controls, often perceived as a protective instrument, could only be fully effective if they were coordinated with like-minded partners.

He then stressed the importance of moving from an essentially reactive stance to a more proactive and coordinated use of all the tools at the EU’s disposal. In this regard, he highlighted the importance of better mobilising the EU’s structural assets such as its internal market, its industrial and technological capacities, and access to its programmes and funding, which were fundamental levers in a volatile international environment. He also insisted on the central role of businesses, whose supply and investment choices would have to take greater account of resilience and security requirements. Lastly, he pointed out that the international dimension remained key. The EU would need to continue and step up cooperation with its partners to reduce its vulnerabilities and boost the robustness of its value chains.

Mr ŠEFČOVIČ went on to present the three operational aspects of the Communication. The first concerned the improvement of information collection, analysis and sharing, as well as the strengthening of economic security governance, including through the creation of a network of security advisers within governments and of an information hub on economic security. The second aspect aimed to make the use of existing instruments more effective, for example by issuing guidance on the application of Article 136 of the Financial Regulation to prevent high-risk entities from accessing EU funding, or by reviewing the use of strategic customs instruments for critical inputs. The third aspect, which concerned the development of new instruments, planned to examine options to better protect European industry from certain unfair trading practices, including situations of overcapacity, by the

third quarter of 2026. A targeted review of the EU Blocking Statute was also envisaged.

Mr ŠEFČOVIČ concluded by stressing that the Communication proposed a set of concrete measures to strengthen the EU's economic security. However, rigorous implementation of these measures would be crucial to ensuring the effectiveness of the new approach.

Mr SÉJOURNÉ returned to the challenge linked to the availability of critical raw materials, which was a very concrete example of the vulnerabilities that the EU was currently facing. He pointed out that the introduction by the Chinese authorities on 9 October of new export licences applicable worldwide, including to European companies, had profoundly reduced the predictability of supplies, with limited volumes, longer lead times and piecemeal deliveries. He stressed the limitations associated with case-by-case treatment, which did not provide a sustainable response to the structural problems that had been identified. He therefore felt that a genuine plan to reduce dependencies needed to be devised.

He also drew attention to the indirect consequences of these export restrictions, particularly where European products contained even a very small proportion of Chinese-origin raw materials, which could oblige European producers to apply for foreign export licences for products manufactured in the EU. These dynamics could, in some cases, lead to significant disruptions to production chains, reinforcing the need to reduce strategic vulnerabilities.

Mr SÉJOURNÉ said that, in response to this situation, the Commission had drawn up an ambitious programme to reduce dependencies on critical raw materials. The first part of this programme was the creation of a European Critical Raw Materials Centre in 2026, which would be the EU's supply control centre. The mission of the centre would be to identify business needs, organise joint purchases on behalf of Member States, and manage stocks and deliveries according to those needs. This

approach drew on the tools used during recent crises, while also building on a solid legal basis and strengthened capabilities.

The second part of the programme involved accelerating projects already underway. Mr SÉJOURNÉ reminded the College that at least EUR 3 billion would be mobilised over the next 12 months so that priority projects could get underway, particularly in the permanent magnets, batteries and defence sectors, and that the European Investment Bank would make a substantial contribution. He stressed that this funding was also intended to facilitate the mobilisation of private investment for projects of high strategic interest.

The third part focused on supporting demand. A matchmaking platform would be created to facilitate contacts between buyers, sellers and investors, aggregate needs and support joint purchasing. Mr SÉJOURNÉ noted that, unlike US companies, which already systematically incorporated economic security concerns into their strategies, many European companies continued to favour single suppliers. He stressed the need to diversify sources of supply, even partially, so that there was a safety margin in the event of geopolitical tensions or trade disruptions.

The fourth part concerned international partnerships. He noted that, despite the signing of numerous memoranda of understanding, the number of concrete projects was still insufficient given the urgency of the situation. The Global Gateway programme would better mobilise EU legal and financial instruments and foster long-term agreements ensuring reliable access to raw materials.

The fifth and final part concerned protecting the internal market. Mr SÉJOURNÉ pointed out that the COVID-19 pandemic had shown how uncoordinated national responses could undermine the coherence of the single market. In this regard, in the event of a crisis or shortage, the Internal Market Emergency and Resilience Act (IMERA) would provide a framework to avoid fragmentation, organise emergency purchases and stocks, and ensure solidarity between Member States to ensure the continuity of essential supplies.

Mr SÉJOURNÉ concluded by stressing that the proposed measures were a structured step towards strengthening the EU's economic security. He welcomed the fact that the EU would now have a coherent policy framework capable of better preparing it for future geo-economic challenges by diversifying supplies and supporting European industrial capacities.

For her part, Ms KALLAS considered that, in a geopolitically unstable environment, the EU had to adapt its strategic reflexes and show itself ready to use all its available tools. Recent restrictions on certain critical inputs, in particular for sensitive sectors, proved how closely linked economic and security challenges now were, which called for a coherent response within a fully integrated framework. She stressed that the new approach sent a clear signal to EU citizens and businesses by recognising that some costs were essential in the short term to guarantee the EU's prosperity, security and resilience in the longer term. However, the credibility of this approach depended above all on its implementation, which would have to be based on a structured plan of action with a realistic timetable.

Ms KALLAS also emphasised that the EU had to maintain a united stance in an increasingly competitive international environment. These issues would be discussed at the next Foreign Affairs Council meeting and at the geo-economic talks scheduled for the European Council, in order to anchor the implementation of this new approach in a collective and coherent framework.

During the discussion that followed, the Commission raised the following main points:

- the need to move from an essentially reactive response on economic security issues to a more proactive approach, while recognising that some measures were vital in the short term to boost resilience and avoid higher costs in the longer term;

- the desire to use existing tools more effectively and simplify procedures, particularly those relating to permitting, while avoiding the use of new tools unless justified;
- the role that could be played by the circular economy and a better use of materials throughout the value chain to support decarbonisation, boost innovation and reduce structural dependencies;
- the need to speed up the use of sustainable resources available in the EU and to make quicker headway on strategic projects, while still preserving the credibility of the EU by maintaining high environmental standards;
- the growing challenges linked to geo-economic competition for critical raw materials and the need for a more flexible approach, based on reliable partnerships, tailored financing and structural solutions to secure investment;
- the need to better protect European competitiveness against certain market practices, in particular by considering market stabilisation mechanisms or long-term agreements to strengthen security of supply;
- the major role that could be played by public procurement to support the objectives of economic security, competitiveness and the green transition;
- the importance of strengthening the security of supply in the defence industry, by making industrial programmes more transparent and by integrating, where appropriate, crisis management and prioritisation mechanisms, for more effective joint preparedness;
- the need to monitor the implementation of the proposed measures on a structured and regular basis, in order to bring the EU's actions into line with geo-economic developments;

- certain concerns about re-opening the Water Framework Directive, insofar as economic security should in no way be seen as weakening quality requirements for water resources.

In reply to some of the issues raised, Mr SÉJOURNÉ pointed out that reducing strategic dependencies could not be contingent on policies driven by third parties and that it was up to the EU to take independent and resolute action. In this connection, it was essential to look at economic mechanisms, including price stabilisation, to guarantee the viability of alternative supply sources for EU companies. The EU had to make the most of all its tools, in particular the revision of the Public Procurement Directive scheduled for summer 2026, under which it might be possible to more systematically integrate considerations about critical raw materials into public procurement.

He then stated that recent tensions concerning permanent magnets had revealed the EU's continued dependence for certain stages of production, such as final assembly and packaging. It was imperative to strengthen these capacities in Europe in order to secure all industrial supply chains. He noted that there were still legal problems concerning the extraction and processing of raw materials, especially with the application of certain provisions of the Water Framework Directive. A targeted revision could be proposed in the second quarter of 2026 to lift these constraints while maintaining environmental requirements. He pointed out that the EU would not be able to meet its industrial and climate targets on a long-term basis without having a minimum extraction and processing capacity within its own territory.

He concluded with a call for a realistic and coherent approach. The energy transition would not be possible without the required raw materials and the EU had to control more stages of production to reduce its vulnerabilities.

Following these presentations, the Commission:

- approved the Joint Communication in JOIN(2025) 977/3 for transmission to the European Parliament and the Council and, for information, to the European

Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the national parliaments;

- approved the Communication in COM(2025) 945/5 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;
- adopted the proposal for a Regulation in COM(2025) 946/3 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the national parliaments.

**19. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF CAPITAL MARKET INTEGRATION AND SUPERVISION WITHIN THE UNION
(COM(2025) 940 AND /2; RCC(2025) 122)**

**20. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING REGULATIONS (EU) N° 1095/2010, N° 648/2012, N° 600/2014, N° 909/2014, 2015/2365, 2019/1156, 2021/23, 2022/858, 2023/1114, N° 1060/2009, 2016/1011, 2017/2402, 2023/2631 AND 2024/3005 AS REGARDS THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF CAPITAL MARKET INTEGRATION AND SUPERVISION WITHIN THE UNION
(COM(2025) 943 AND /2; SWD(2025) 943 AND /2; SWD(2025) 944 AND /2; SEC(2025) 943; RCC(2025) 122)**

21. PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING DIRECTIVES 2009/65/EC, 2011/61/EU AND

**2014/65/EU AS REGARDS THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF CAPITAL
MARKET INTEGRATION AND SUPERVISION WITHIN THE UNION
(COM(2025) 942 AND /2; SWD(2025) 943 AND /2; SWD(2025) 944 AND /2;
SEC(2025) 943; RCC(2025) 122)**

**22. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
AND OF THE COUNCIL ON SETTLEMENT FINALITY AND REPEALING
DIRECTIVE 98/26/EC AND AMENDING DIRECTIVE 2002/47/EC ON
FINANCIAL COLLATERAL ARRANGEMENTS
(COM(2025) 941 AND /2; SWD(2025) 943 AND /2; SWD(2025) 944 AND /2;
SEC(2025) 943; RCC(2025) 122)**

Ms ALBUQUERQUE presented the capital markets package, explaining that its objective was to remove barriers to the EU's single market in financial services and to unlock that market's full potential. The package was a central component of the Savings and Investments Union Strategy, designed to create a more integrated, efficient and competitive financial system that provided EU citizens with better options for growing their wealth and that supported businesses in accessing finance.

Despite the measures already taken as part of the Savings and Investments Union, European capital markets remained highly fragmented. The package on the table therefore addressed the foundations of the EU's financial markets, by taking a holistic approach to market infrastructures, asset management and innovation. The aim was to build a single market in financial services around three principles: ambition, single market integrity and simplification. This was a forward-looking reform: its aim was not to revisit past crises but to prepare the Union of the future. The proposals reopened 18 legal acts, turning the relevant directives into regulations where appropriate.

Effectively functioning capital markets could only be achieved at EU level. Removing barriers to cross-border activity was vital in order to cut costs, foster market integration and enhance competitiveness. The current passporting

framework, the operational fragmentation of trading platforms and central securities depositories, differing approaches to supervision, and restrictions on the use of innovative technologies were some of the barriers that needed to be overcome.

Fragmented approaches to supervision ran counter to the principle of a single rule book, with businesses receiving different answers to the same questions from one jurisdiction to another. Targeted but important reforms to the supervision framework were therefore being proposed. These included centralising direct supervision of large cross-border market infrastructures such as the major trading platforms, central counterparties and central securities depositories, as well as of all crypto-asset service providers, whose business was intrinsically cross-border in nature and technologically complex. These reforms would remove the problem of differing national approaches, reduce costs and create a single focal point for supervision.

As for the asset management sector, where the landscape was more seamless, the proposed measures increased the coordinating powers of the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA). These changes would require a significant reformulation of ESMA governance in order to ensure that it could carry out its new responsibilities effectively.

Ms ALBUQUERQUE drew attention to the fact that many of the barriers to a genuine EU-wide financial market derived from protectionist behaviour and a lack of mutual trust on the part of the Member States, with non-EU operators often encountering fewer barriers than EU operators in some jurisdictions. She concluded her presentation by stressing that more integrated capital markets were essential to boosting the EU's economic power and achieving such strategic objectives as competitiveness, the digital and green transitions, and defence and security. Deeper integration of financial markets was not an end in itself but a means to create a single market for financial services greater than the sum of its national parts.

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

- the link between this package and the demands of economic security in the EU, as well as the need to keep competitiveness at the heart of the reform efforts;
- hence the importance of not introducing new barriers to competitiveness in an environment that was already challenging for European businesses;
- the importance of ensuring that the changes to the supervision framework, and the extension of ESMA's powers in particular, significantly contributed to the broader objectives of simplification, regulatory effectiveness and cost-cutting.

Following these presentations, the Commission agreed, on a proposal from the PRESIDENT, that the Communication, the proposal for a Directive and the two proposals for a Regulation, set out respectively in COM(2025) 940/2, COM(2025) 942/2, COM(2025) 943/2 and COM(2025) 941/2, would be adopted by finalisation written procedure, the deadline for which was set at 10.00 on Thursday 4 December 2025 (PE/2025/8626, PE/2025/8634, PE(2025)8636 and PE(2025)8628).

23. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – QUALITY JOBS ROADMAP

(COM(2025) 944 TO /3; RCC(2025) 124)

24. CONSULTATION DOCUMENT – FIRST-PHASE CONSULTATION OF SOCIAL PARTNERS UNDER ARTICLE 154 TFEU ON POSSIBLE DIRECTION OF EU ACTION TO IMPROVE WORKING CONDITIONS, HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK AND IMPLEMENTATION OF

WORKERS' RIGHTS – QUALITY JOBS ACT
(C(2025) 9944 AND /2; RCC(2025) 124)

Ms MÎNZATU presented the proposed roadmap, stressing that it represented a robust commitment to improving job quality, while also generating high-quality, long-term employment opportunities in Europe. The roadmap was accompanied by a consultation document launching the first-phase consultation of social partners, under Article 154 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), on the upcoming Quality Jobs Act aimed at guaranteeing workers' rights while adapting to technological, economic and societal changes.

She explained that the first focus of the roadmap was how to create new, high-quality jobs in the EU and safeguard those that already existed. Next, the roadmap considered the need to modernise the labour market, largely by leveraging digitalisation, and also examined European standards on health and safety at work. Lastly, the roadmap looked at the cross-cutting factors that helped safeguard, and encourage the creation of, quality jobs.

Ms MÎNZATU pointed out that promoting quality jobs was not just a matter for the social agenda, but a crucial constituent element of the European model and a factor in social cohesion, important in all areas of competence and all policies. She therefore called on all the Commissioners to take ownership of the objectives set out in the roadmap.

She stressed the importance of ensuring permanent support measures were in place to safeguard and create quality jobs in the face of trade pressures, geopolitical tensions, the changes required by the green transition and the Clean Industrial Deal, as well as the digital transition, all of which had an impact not only on businesses, but also on workers. She insisted that there must be no lowering of European standards, noting that, in certain sectors in the EU, such as transport, agriculture and healthcare, employment was often very unstable. Long and complex subcontracting chains sometimes meant that workers were not paid enough to have a decent

standard of living and were left without adequate social protection. She called for action to address situations such as these, which she described as modern slavery.

Ms MÎNZATU then spoke about another aspect covered by the roadmap, namely the jobs of the future, a topic on which she had worked closely with Ms VIRKKUNEN. She stressed the importance of not hampering digital innovation and of creating a climate of trust, so that businesses of all sizes and their employees could harness digitalisation and artificial intelligence (AI). The roadmap highlighted the importance of the right to disconnect and the responsible use of algorithmic management systems. She intended to discuss those matters with the social partners during the consultation phase. She felt it was essential for the EU to remain a human-centred economy and to be able to complete the digital transition while continuing to pay attention to occupational health and safety issues, such as exposure to harmful substances, harassment in the workplace or the employment-related consequences of climate change. She noted that widespread teleworking was also leading to new work-related health and safety challenges.

Finally, with regard to the cross-cutting factors that helped create and safeguard quality jobs, Ms MÎNZATU referred to the essential role of collective bargaining and social dialogue, particularly in the context of technological developments in the workplace, especially the use of AI. She concluded by stressing that the roadmap being presented that day paved the way for a Quality Jobs Act that would protect workers' rights and support them in the modernisation of workplaces.

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

- the importance of quality jobs for competitiveness, as well as the role of new technologies and the need to adopt them while protecting workers against the risks they entailed;

- the need to prioritise the acquisition of digital skills in view of the already significant skills shortages in the EU in the fields of AI, data management, cyberspace and quantum technologies;
- the importance of recognising qualifications in the EU and attracting new job talent from third countries, in particular through a new visa policy;
- the need to address discrimination and inequality as barriers to competitiveness, since a competitive economy depended on everyone being able to access the labour market;
- the specific issue of workplace sexual harassment, which, according to a recent study, was widespread, had a significant impact on the mental and physical health of victims and a high financial cost, making it an issue that had to be considered when looking at the EU's competitiveness.

Following these presentations, the Commission, on a proposal from Ms RIBERA, agreed that the Communication and the consultation document set out in COM(2025) 944/3 and C(2025) 9944/2 would be formally adopted by finalisation written procedure, the deadline for which was set at 10.00 on Thursday 4 December 2025 (PE/2025/8690 and PE/2025/8691).

25. OTHER BUSINESS

25.1. COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION ON THE REQUEST FOR REGISTRATION, PURSUANT TO REGULATION (EU) 2019/788 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL, OF THE EUROPEAN CITIZENS' INITIATIVE ENTITLED 'NO MORE DOUBLE STANDARDS ON HUMAN RIGHTS' (C(2025) 8401)

25.2. COMMISSION DECISION ON THE REQUEST FOR REGISTRATION OF A EUROPEAN CITIZENS' INITIATIVE ENTITLED 'ETHICS AND TRANSPARENCY FOR RESPONSIBLE EUROPEAN GOVERNANCE' – OUTCOME OF THE COMMISSION'S PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT (C(2025) 8400)

Mr ŠEFČOVIČ presented to the College the draft decisions on the requests for registration of two European citizens' initiatives entitled, respectively, in the authentic language (English), 'No more double standards on human rights' and 'Ethics and Transparency for Responsible European Governance'.

As regards the citizens' initiative 'No more double standards on human rights', the organisers called on the Commission to propose a Regulation establishing standardised oversight of respect for human rights across its areas of competence in its external action with third countries. According to the organisers, the Regulation should ensure that the Commission monitors, evaluates and responds to human rights violations in a manner that is transparent, consistent, effective, proportionate and timely.

The organisers of the citizens' initiative 'Ethics and Transparency for Responsible European Governance' called for a legislative act laying down common standards of ethics, transparency and democratic accountability in the selection of candidates for the European Parliament. They aimed to promote political representation of greater moral, empathic and professional quality, in line with the values enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union.

Mr ŠEFČOVIČ pointed out that the Commission was required to register a citizens' initiative if the conditions set out in the Regulation of 17 April 2019 on European citizens' initiatives were met, including the requirement that no part of the citizens' initiative in question should be manifestly outside the scope of the Commission's powers.

The first of the two requests for action clearly did not fall outside the scope of the Commission's powers and could be considered admissible. He therefore proposed to register it. The organisers could then start collecting the necessary signatures, namely at least one million in seven Member States. Only after the organisers had obtained that number of signatures would the Commission have to examine the substance of the requests for action.

As regards the second request, it did not comply with one of the registration criteria since it manifestly fell outside the scope of the Commission's powers and therefore could not be considered admissible. The organisers now had two months to amend their initiative to take into account the Commission's assessment, or maintain or withdraw it.

Following this presentation, the Commission:

- confirmed that the citizens' initiative 'No more double standards on human rights' met the conditions needed for it to be registered. In accordance with C(2025) 8401, it therefore decided to inform the organisers and authorised Mr ŠEFČOVIČ to sign the reply on behalf of the College, to send it to the organisers, and to publish it, for information, in the *Official Journal of the European Union*. The Commission also agreed to transmit this decision, for information, to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the national parliaments;
- confirmed that the citizens' initiative 'Ethics and Transparency for Responsible European Governance' did not meet the conditions needed for it to be registered. It therefore decided, in accordance with C(2025) 8400, to inform the organisers of the initiative of its assessment and the underlying reasons for its decision, pursuant to Article 6(4) of Regulation (EU) 2019/788, and authorised

Mr ŠEFČOVIČ to sign the reply on behalf of the College, and to send it to the organisers.

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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 13.11.