



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2025) 2548 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

Strasbourg, 10 February 2026

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

**of the 2548th meeting of the Commission
held in Brussels
(Berlaymont)
on Wednesday 10 December 2025
(morning)**

PV(2025) 2548 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

EN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Attendance list	7-8
1. AGENDAS (OJ(2025) 2548/FINAL; SEC(2025) 2548/FINAL)	9
2. WEEKLY MEETING OF HEADS OF CABINET (RCC(2025) 2548).....	9
3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (PV(2025) 2544; PV(2025) 2544, PART II).....	9
4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS (RCC(2025) 269)	9
5. COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL ACTION (RCC(2025) 266).....	13
6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS.....	14
6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED (SEC(2025) 318 ET SEQ.).....	14
6.2. EMPOWERMENT (SEC(2025) 319 ET SEQ.)	14
6.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS (SEC(2025) 320 ET SEQ.)	14
6.4. WRITTEN PROCEDURES SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED (SEC(2025) 321 AND /2).....	14
7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS (SEC(2025) 322 AND /2).....	14
7.1. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL – APPOINTMENT OF A PRINCIPAL ADVISER AT GRADE AD14 (PERS(2025) 77 TO /3)	15
7.2. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR AT GRADE AD14 (PERS(2025) 110 AND /2).....	15
7.3. DG BUDGET – APPOINTMENT OF THE ACCOUNTING OFFICER OF THE COMMISSION (PERS(2025) 106)	16

7.4. DG COMMUNICATION – CLOSURE OF THE SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR AT GRADE AD14/15 AND TRANSFER IN THE INTEREST OF THE SERVICE OF AN AD14 OFFICIAL UNDER ARTICLE 7 OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS (PERS(2025) 52).....	16
7.5. DG COMMUNICATION – AUTHORISATION FOR THE INTERNAL AND INTERINSTITUTIONAL PUBLICATION, AT GRADE AD14/15, AND EXTERNAL PUBLICATION, AT GRADE AD14, OF A DIRECTOR POST (PERS(2025) 109)	17
7.6. DG ENLARGEMENT AND EASTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD – AMENDMENT OF THE ORGANISATION CHART AND AUTHORISATION FOR THE INTERNAL AND INTERINSTITUTIONAL PUBLICATION, AT GRADE AD14/15, AND EXTERNAL PUBLICATION, AT GRADE AD14, OF A PRINCIPAL ADVISER POST (PERS(2025) 107)	17
7.7. DG MIGRATION AND HOME AFFAIRS – AMENDMENT OF THE ORGANISATION CHART (SEC(2025) 343)	18
7.8. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – PROMOTION OF SENIOR MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS HOLDING A BASIC POST OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL OR DIRECTOR (PERS(2025) 108).....	19
7.9. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – LAUNCH OF THE ANNUAL APPRAISAL EXERCISE FOR SENIOR MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS	20
7.10. DG BUDGET – FINAL ALLOCATION OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND DECENTRALISED ADMINISTRATIVE APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2026 (SEC(2025) 344).....	20
7.11. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – LAUNCH OF THE NINETEENTH ANNUAL PROMOTION EXERCISE FOR SENIOR MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS	20
7.12. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL – COMMISSION DECISIONS ON POST TERM-OF-OFFICE ACTIVITIES OF FORMER MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION (C(2025) 9037; C(2025) 9038 AND C(2025) 9039).....	21
8. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ON SPEEDING UP ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS (COM(2025) 984 TO /5; RCC(2025) 128/3).....	22

9. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – SIMPLIFYING FOR SUSTAINABLE COMPETITIVENESS (COM(2025) 980 TO /4; SWD(2025) 990 AND /2; RCC(2025) 128/3).....22
10. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING REGULATION (EU) 2023/1542 AND REGULATION (EU) 2024/1244 AS REGARDS SIMPLIFICATION OF SOME REQUIREMENTS AND REDUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN (COM(2025) 981 AND /2; RCC(2025) 128/3).....22
11. PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING DIRECTIVES 2008/98/EC, 2010/75/EU, (EU) 2015/2193 AND (EU) 2024/1785 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AS REGARDS SIMPLIFICATION OF SOME REQUIREMENTS AND REDUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN (COM(2025) 986 TO /3; RCC(2025) 128/3).....22
12. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL SUSPENDING THE APPLICATION OF THE RULES ON THE APPOINTMENT OF AN AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVE FOR EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR BATTERIES AND WASTE BATTERIES AND PACKAGING AND PACKAGING WASTE (COM(2025) 982 TO /3; RCC(2025) 128/3).....22
13. PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL SUSPENDING THE APPLICATION OF THE

RULES ON THE APPOINTMENT OF AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVES FOR EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR WASTE, WASTE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICAL EQUIPMENT AND SINGLE-USE PLASTIC WASTE (COM(2025) 983 TO /3; RCC(2025) 128/3)	23
14. PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING DIRECTIVE 2007/2/EC AS REGARDS SIMPLIFICATION OF CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SPATIAL INFORMATION IN THE UNION (INSPIRE DIRECTIVE) (COM(2025) 985 TO /3; RCC(2025) 128/3)	23
15. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – EUROPEAN GRIDS PACKAGE (COM(2025) 1005 TO /3; RCC(2025) 127)	29
16. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ON GUIDELINES FOR TRANS-EUROPEAN ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE, AMENDING REGULATIONS (EU) 2019/942, (EU) 2019/943 AND (EU) 2024/1789 AND REPEALING REGULATION (EU) 2022/869 (COM(2025) 1006 TO /3; SWD(2025) 2000 AND /2; SWD(2025) 2001; SEC(2025) 2000; RCC(2025) 127).....	29
17. PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING DIRECTIVES (EU) 2018/2001, (EU) 2019/944, (EU) 2024/1788 AS REGARDS ACCELERATION OF PERMIT-GRANTING PROCEDURES (COM(2025) 1007 TO /3;	

SWD(2025) 2000 AND /2; SWD(2025) 2001; SEC(2025) 2000; RCC(2025) 127).....	29
18. OTHER BUSINESS.....	33
<i>LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN EXTERNAL RELATIONS</i>	33

Single sitting: Wednesday 10 December 2025 (morning)

The sitting opened at 9.07 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 15/17 (in part) to 18
Mr SÉJOURNÉ	Executive Vice-President	
Ms KALLAS	High Representative / Vice-President	
Ms MÎNZATU	Executive Vice-President	
Mr FITTO	Executive Vice-President	
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Member	
Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Member	
Mr VÁRHELYI	Member	Items 1 to 18 (in part)
Mr HOEKSTRA	Member	
Mr KUBILIUS	Member	
Mr SÍKELA	Member	
Mr KADIS	Member	
Ms ALBUQUERQUE	Member	
Ms LAHBIB	Member	
Mr BRUNNER	Member	
Ms ROSWALL	Member	
Mr SERAFIN	Member	
Mr JØRGENSEN	Member	
Ms ZAHARIEVA	Member	
Mr McGRATH	Member	
Mr TZITZIKOSTAS	Member	
Mr HANSEN	Member	
Mr MICALLEF	Member	

Absent:

Ms ŠUICA	Member
Ms KOS	Member

The following also sat in:

Mr SEIBERT	Head of Cabinet to the PRESIDENT	
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	
Ms PETKOVA	Director of Coordination and Administration in the PRESIDENT's cabinet	
Mr VAN KEMSEKE	Adviser in the PRESIDENT's cabinet	Items 15/17
Ms REICHSTEIN	Member of the PRESIDENT's cabinet	Items 1 to 8/14
Ms SEMLALI	Policy Assistant in the PRESIDENT's cabinet	
Mr TAQUET-GRAZIANI	Acting Head of Unit in the Secretariat-General	
Ms DAGILE	Deputy 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) 2548/FINAL; SEC(2025) 2548/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) 2548)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Heads of Cabinet held on Monday 8 and Tuesday 9 December 2025.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

(PV(2025) 2544; PV(2025) 2544, PART II)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 2544th meeting of 12 November 2025 and decided to hold over approval of the minutes of its 2545th, 2546th and 2547th meetings of 19 and 25 November and 3 December 2025 until a later meeting.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(RCC(2025) 269)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (GRI) held on Friday 5 December 2025 (RCC(2025) 269).

The Commission approved the lines proposed for the following points:

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

Line set out in SI(2025) 414.

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

Line set out in SI(2025) 404.

- **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) 395.

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

Line set out in SI(2025) 409.

- **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) 421.

- **Circularity requirements for vehicle design and management of end-of-life vehicles, amendment of Regulations (EU) 2018/858 and 2019/1020 and repeal of Directives 2000/53/EC and 2005/64/EC (Regulation) – GIESEKE & SAUDARGAS (ex-GIESEKE) report – 2023/0284 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 406.

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

Line set out in SI(2025) 407/2.

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

Line set out in SI(2025) 408.

- **Screening of foreign investments in the Union and repeal of Regulation (EU) 2019/452 of the European Parliament and of the Council (Regulation) – GLUCKSMANN report – 2024/0017 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 400/2.

- **European Chemicals Agency and amendment of Regulations (EC) No 1907/2006, (EU) No 528/2012, (EU) No 649/2012 and (EU) 2019/1021 (Regulation) – 2025/0207 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 410.

- **Fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Mediterranean and Black Seas for 2026 (Council Regulation) – 2025/0285 (NLE)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 419/2.

- **Fishing opportunities for 2026, 2027 and 2028 for certain fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters (Council Regulation) – 2025/0338 (NLE)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 420.

- **Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 as regards the introduction of**

a simplified tariff treatment for the distance sales of goods, and of Regulation (EC) No 1186/2009 as regards the elimination of the customs duty relief threshold (Council Regulation) – 2023/0157 (NLE)

Line set out in SI(2025) 423.

- **Technical contribution to the Opinion of the Economic and Financial Committee on the Code of Conduct for the Stability and Growth Pact**

Line set out in SI(2025) 411.

- **Establishment of the Annual Solidarity Pool for 2026 (Council Implementing Decision) – 2025/0357 (NLE)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 418.

- **EU-UK agreements: common institutional provisions**

Line set out in SPI(2025) 90.

- **Association Agreement with Andorra and San Marino**

Line set out in SPI(2025) 95.

The Commission took note of the following points:

- **European Chemicals Agency and amendment of Regulations (EC) No 1907/2006, (EU) No 528/2012, (EU) No 649/2012 and (EU) 2019/1021 (Regulation) – 2025/0207 (COD)**

Information set out in SI(2025) 410.

- **Amendment of Regulations (EU) No 1173/2011 and (EU) No 473/2013 as regards alignment with the EU economic governance framework and further simplification of that framework (Regulation) – 2025/0311 (COD) / Amendment of Regulation (EU) No 472/2013 as regards the economic and budgetary surveillance of Member States in the euro area experiencing or threatened with serious difficulties with respect to their financial stability (Regulation) – 2025/0312 (COD) / Amendment of Council Regulation (EC) No 332/2002 as regards funding arrangements and the use of a diversified funding strategy (Council Regulation) – 2025/0313 (APP)**

Information set out in SI(2025) 412/2.

- **Production and marketing of plant reproductive material in the Union, amendment of Regulations (EU) 2016/2031, 2017/625 and 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repeal of Council Directives 66/401/EEC, 66/402/EEC, 68/193/EEC, 2002/53/EC, 2002/54/EC, 2002/55/EC, 2002/56/EC, 2002/57/EC, 2008/72/EC and 2008/90/EC (Regulation on plant reproductive material) (Regulation) – DORFMANN report – 2023/0227 (COD)**

Information set out in SI(2025) 415.

5. COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL ACTION (RCC(2025) 266)

The Commission took note of the operational conclusions in RCC(2025) 266 of the meeting of the Group for External Coordination (EXCO) held on Wednesday 3 December 2025.

6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED

(SEC(2025) 318 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 1 and 7 December 2025.

6.2. EMPOWERMENT

(SEC(2025) 319 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 1 and 7 December 2025.

6.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS

(SEC(2025) 320 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedures between 1 and 7 December 2025 archived in Decide.

6.4. WRITTEN PROCEDURES SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED

(SEC(2025) 321 AND /2)

The Commission took note of the written procedures specifically identified for which the time limit expired between 8 and 12 December 2025, and of the finalisation written procedure.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

(SEC(2025) 322 AND /2)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
(PERS(2025) 105 AND /2)

**7.1. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL – APPOINTMENT OF A PRINCIPAL
ADVISER AT GRADE AD14**
(PERS(2025) 77 TO /3)

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Principal Adviser ‘Rule of Law’ in the Secretariat-General (PERS(2025) 77 and /2).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 4 and 20 November 2025 (PERS(2025) 77/3).

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 Charmaine HILI to the post.

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

**7.2. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR AT
GRADE AD14**
(PERS(2025) 110 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 ‘Democracy, Security and Technological Innovation’ Directorate in the Secretariat-General (PERS(2025) 110).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 26 September and 6 November 2025 (PERS(2025) 110/2).

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 Nacira BOULEHOUAT to the post.

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

**7.3. DG BUDGET – APPOINTMENT OF THE ACCOUNTING OFFICER OF THE COMMISSION
(PERS(2025) 106)**

The Commission took note of the information in point 2 of PERS(2025) 105 and, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, decided to appoint Mr Niall BOHAN to the post of Accounting Officer of the Commission.

This decision would take effect on 16 December 2025.

**7.4. DG COMMUNICATION – CLOSURE OF THE SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR AT GRADE AD14/15 AND TRANSFER IN THE INTEREST OF THE SERVICE OF AN AD14 OFFICIAL UNDER ARTICLE 7 OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS
(PERS(2025) 52)**

On a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, the Commission decided:

- to close with immediate effect the selection procedure for the post of Director of the 'Political Communication' Directorate in DG Communication, without making an appointment;
- to transfer to that post, in the interest of the service, under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations, Mr Stefan DE KEERSMAECKER, currently Director of the 'Citizens Communication' Directorate in DG Communication.

The transfer would take effect on a date to be determined.

7.5. DG COMMUNICATION – AUTHORISATION FOR THE INTERNAL AND INTERINSTITUTIONAL PUBLICATION, AT GRADE AD14/15, AND EXTERNAL PUBLICATION, AT GRADE AD14, OF A DIRECTOR POST

(PERS(2025) 109)

On a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, the Commission decided to authorise the internal and interinstitutional publication, at grade AD14/15, and external publication, at grade AD14, of the vacancy notice set out in PERS(2025) 109 for the post of Director of the ‘Citizens Communication’ Directorate in DG Communication, in accordance with Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii), Article 29(1)(b) and Article 29(2) of the Staff Regulations.

This decision would take effect immediately.

7.6. DG ENLARGEMENT AND EASTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD – AMENDMENT OF THE ORGANISATION CHART AND AUTHORISATION FOR THE INTERNAL AND INTERINSTITUTIONAL PUBLICATION, AT GRADE AD14/15, AND EXTERNAL PUBLICATION, AT GRADE AD14, OF A PRINCIPAL ADVISER POST

(PERS(2025) 107)

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

- to amend the organisation chart of DG Enlargement and Eastern Neighbourhood;
- to approve the change of name of the post of Principal Adviser ‘Civil Society and Media’ to Principal Adviser ‘Reconciliation and Normalisation Western Balkans’;

- to approve the amendment of the reporting line of the renamed post, attaching it directly to the Director-General;
- to authorise, with immediate effect, the internal and interinstitutional publication, at grade AD14/15, and external publication, at grade AD14, of the vacancy notice set out in PERS(2025) 107 for the post of Principal Adviser ‘Reconciliation and Normalisation Western Balkans’, in accordance with Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii), Article 29(1)(b) and Article 29(2) of the Staff Regulations.

Unless otherwise indicated, these decisions would take effect on 1 January 2026.

7.7. DG MIGRATION AND HOME AFFAIRS – AMENDMENT OF THE ORGANISATION CHART
(SEC(2025) 343)

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 new Directorate for ‘Borders, Migration and Security in Member States II’, reporting to the Deputy Director-General for ‘Internal Security, Geographical Implementation’, and made up of four Units;
- to approve the creation of a new Director post in the new Directorate for ‘Borders, Migration and Security in Member States II’;
- to approve the new organisation chart set out in SEC(2025) 343.

Following this reorganisation, the total number of Directorates in DG Migration and Home Affairs would increase from six to seven, while the

number of Units would remain unchanged at 26.

These decisions would take effect on 1 March 2026.

**7.8. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – PROMOTION OF
SENIOR MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS HOLDING A BASIC POST OF
DIRECTOR-GENERAL OR DIRECTOR
(PERS(2025) 108)**

Having noted the procedure followed, as set out in point 5 of PERS(2025) 105, and taken into account the opinion of the Consultative Committee on Promotion for Senior Officials (CC-PSO) (PERS(2025) 108), and having considered the comparative merits of the persons concerned with regard to the selection criteria set out in the ‘Principles and Procedures’, the Commission decided, on a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT:

- to promote to grade AD16 the following officials, listed in alphabetical order, holding a basic post of Director-General or equivalent, with effect from 1 January 2025: Mr Matthew BALDWIN, Ms Veronica GAFFEY, Mr Clemens LADENBURGER, Mr Erik Stefan OLSSON, Mr Jean-Eric PAQUET and Ms Salla SAASTAMOINEN;
- to promote to grade AD15 the following officials, listed in alphabetical order, holding a basic post of Director or equivalent, with effect from 1 January 2025: Ms Inge BERNARTS, Mr Diego CANGA FANO, Ms Michaela DI BUCCI, Mr Fabrizio DONATELLA, Mr Philippe DUPONTEIL, Mr Reinhard FELKE, Mr Stig Joergen GREN, Ms Monika HENCSEY, Ms Maria JASPERS, Ms Andrea KOULAIMAH GABRIEL, Ms Veronica MANFREDI, Ms Maria Isabel MARTINEZ DEL PERAL CAGIGAL, Ms Anne MONTAGNON, Mr Franck NOEL, Mr Jan PANEK, Mr Kristian SCHMIDT, Ms Lucilla SIOLI, Mr Richard SZOSTAK, Mr Marc TACHELET and Mr Michael WIMMER.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

7.9. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – LAUNCH OF THE ANNUAL APPRAISAL EXERCISE FOR SENIOR MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS

On a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, the Commission decided:

- to authorise the launch of the appraisal exercise for senior management officials for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2025 in line with the rules applied during the previous exercise;
- that the reporting officer would be the jobholder's direct hierarchical superior, including in cases where the direct hierarchical superior was performing those duties in accordance with the rules on deputising, and that the Director-General of DG Human Resources and Security would be released from the obligation, laid down in point 5 of Annex III to the Commission Decision of 26 October 2004, 'Compilation document on Senior Officials Policy' (SEC(2004) 1352/2), to draw up a list identifying the reporting officer for each jobholder.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

7.10. DG BUDGET – FINAL ALLOCATION OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND DECENTRALISED ADMINISTRATIVE APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2026 (SEC(2025) 344)

The Commission approved the Communication in SEC(2025) 344.

7.11. DG HUMAN RESOURCES AND SECURITY – LAUNCH OF THE NINETEENTH ANNUAL PROMOTION EXERCISE FOR SENIOR MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS

The Commission took note of the decision of Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, on the 19th promotion exercise for senior management officials, adopted in accordance with the provisions of the Commission Decision of 10 May 2007 on the system of promotion of senior management officials (SEC(2007) 605).

Under that Decision, the 19th promotion exercise would be carried out on the basis of the following criteria: the promotion rate would be up to a maximum of 15% of eligible officials in senior management posts; the exercise would concern posts of Director or equivalent (at grade AD14 and AD15) and of Director-General or equivalent (at grade AD15 and AD16), subject to the availability of sufficient budgetary appropriations. The eligibility conditions would have to be met at the latest by 1 January 2026, the date on which the promotions would come into effect.

7.12. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL – COMMISSION DECISIONS ON POST TERM-OF-OFFICE ACTIVITIES OF FORMER MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION
(C(2025) 9037; C(2025) 9038 AND C(2025) 9039)

The Commission decided that the professional activities envisaged by Ms Věra JOUROVÁ, Ms Elisa FERREIRA and Mr Johannes HAHN after leaving office as Members of the Commission were compatible with Article 245(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and with the Code of Conduct for Commissioners, subject to certain conditions and obligations.

The Commission adopted the Decisions in C(2025) 9037, C(2025) 9038 and C(2025) 9039.

- 8. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ON SPEEDING UP ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS**
(COM(2025) 984 TO /5; RCC(2025) 128/3)
- 9. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – SIMPLIFYING FOR SUSTAINABLE COMPETITIVENESS**
(COM(2025) 980 TO /4; SWD(2025) 990 AND /2; RCC(2025) 128/3)
- 10. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING REGULATION (EU) 2023/1542 AND REGULATION (EU) 2024/1244 AS REGARDS SIMPLIFICATION OF SOME REQUIREMENTS AND REDUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN**
(COM(2025) 981 AND /2; RCC(2025) 128/3)
- 11. PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING DIRECTIVES 2008/98/EC, 2010/75/EU, (EU) 2015/2193 AND (EU) 2024/1785 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AS REGARDS SIMPLIFICATION OF SOME REQUIREMENTS AND REDUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN**
(COM(2025) 986 TO /3; RCC(2025) 128/3)
- 12. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL SUSPENDING THE APPLICATION OF THE RULES ON THE APPOINTMENT OF AN AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVE FOR EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR BATTERIES AND WASTE BATTERIES AND PACKAGING AND PACKAGING WASTE**
(COM(2025) 982 TO /3; RCC(2025) 128/3)

13. PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL SUSPENDING THE APPLICATION OF THE RULES ON THE APPOINTMENT OF AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVES FOR EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR WASTE, WASTE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICAL EQUIPMENT AND SINGLE-USE PLASTIC WASTE

(COM(2025) 983 TO /3; RCC(2025) 128/3)

14. PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING DIRECTIVE 2007/2/EC AS REGARDS SIMPLIFICATION OF CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SPATIAL INFORMATION IN THE UNION (INSPIRE DIRECTIVE)

(COM(2025) 985 TO /3; RCC(2025) 128/3)

The PRESIDENT underlined the importance of the Commission's “omnibus” packages of simplification proposals during this term of office which, including the one presented today, would generate savings of nearly EUR 11 billion. She highlighted the challenge of pursuing the objective of simplification and reducing the administrative burden whilst maintaining the effectiveness of existing legislation. She considered that the right balance had been struck in the package of measures proposed that day.

Ms RIBERA also welcomed the balance struck between simplification in the interests of competitiveness on the one hand, and maintaining the original objectives of environmental legislation on the other. She reminded the meeting of the importance of proper transposition by the Member States of the relevant rules, and of the strong demand from civil society not to undermine the EU’s key environmental legislation, for example regarding the protection of water and ecosystems.

Mr DOMBROVSKIS noted that this environmental omnibus package showed that it was possible for the EU to achieve its objectives by simplifying the body of

environmental rules whilst reducing the cost of annual administrative burdens by approximately EUR 1 billion. He explained that the plan was, in particular, to reduce the requirements for companies subject to the Directive on industrial emissions, in response to concerns raised by several sectors, as well as the requirement for an independent audit, as schemes such as EMAS and ISO 14001 generally already included auditing. He added that it was also proposed to abolish the database on hazardous substances (SCIP), which had imposed substantial administrative costs without showing its effectiveness in informing recyclers that products contained hazardous substances. He also welcomed the implementation of a reduction in the burdens relating to extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes, which had been announced in the 2025 Single Market Strategy.

He also emphasised that simplification was a commitment involving the whole College and required effort from each of its Members. By removing regulatory barriers and streamlining processes, the EU was improving the effectiveness of its measures, contributing to speeding up the transition to a more resilient, dynamic and innovative economy better able to meet economic, social and environmental objectives. The PRESIDENT had set ambitious targets of reducing administrative burdens for businesses by at least 25%, and by at least 35% for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), representing a saving of EUR 37.5 billion by the end of that Commission's term of office.

Mr DOMBROVSKIS stressed that the Commission had taken decisive steps to achieve that objective, and pointed out that the seven omnibus packages adopted thus far would make it possible to save approximately EUR 9.6 billion in recurrent administrative costs for businesses and administrations. If that day's omnibus package was included, the savings amounted to almost EUR 11 billion. He concluded by noting that it was important for the Commission to continue its simplification efforts in 2026.

Ms ROSWALL observed that numerous companies did not want to invest in Europe, owing to its regulatory complexity and incomplete single market in particular, an

issue that had also been raised in the Letta and Draghi reports. The proposals presented that day would enable simplification of the existing legislation and ensure that high environmental standards went hand in hand with competitiveness. Many European companies were dependent on a natural ecosystem, in particular for their water supplies, and environmental regulation had become too complex, especially for SMEs.

Ms ROSWALL considered that the proposals were ambitious, as they aimed to reduce the cost of environmental legislation by approximately EUR 1 billion per year. She reminded the meeting that these proposals were based on a very broad consultation of stakeholders. The world had changed since the first environmental legislation was introduced, and it was appropriate to examine the suitability of these laws in the current context.

This omnibus package had been designed to generate tangible benefits for numerous sectors of the European economy, simplifying the single market and the rules on the circular economy, batteries and waste. The proposed measures also covered companies' authorised representatives and extended producer responsibility, industrial emissions, and the reduction of reporting obligations, including those concerning agricultural businesses. It was also proposed to create a toolbox that would enable faster progress on authorisations.

Ms ROSWALL also noted that more specific sectoral rules were still possible; although the EU was not always responsible for the complexity of environmental obligations, it had to ensure that they were easy to implement at national level. It was important to reduce fragmentation of the rules. The Commission would shortly propose guidelines and secondary legislation to clarify some of the rules, for example as regards packaging and packaging waste, and would help the Member States and regions to pursue their nature restoration objectives. Finally, she reminded the meeting that more in-depth assessments would be needed, including on the various issues related to water quality and management.

To conclude, Ms ROSWALL noted that it was also important for the Commission to optimise its working methods to make its decision-making process smoother, more transparent and more efficient.

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

- satisfaction with the fact that the environmental omnibus package struck the right balance between streamlining the EU’s environmental laws and preserving European environmental achievements;
- a reminder that seven omnibus packages had already been proposed by the Commission for other sectors and that the co-legislators needed to reach an agreement on those packages as soon as possible;
- the need to simplify the existing rules to reduce complexity and cut red tape with the aim of making the EU more competitive and self-sufficient and revitalising its businesses and farms, especially SMEs;
- the importance of this simplification exercise for the agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture sectors given the need to safeguard Europe’s food security and sovereignty;
- the observation, however, that, in time, it would also be worth considering fully reviewing and potentially amending the basic legal texts;
- with that in mind, the case for considering a potential suspension of certain older laws, in particular the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive and the Water Framework Directive, to give time for the requisite independent studies to be carried out and to consider what amendments might be needed on the basis of new data;

- the desire for an in-depth review to be carried out looking into the Commission's working methods to improve cooperation at department level and between cabinets so that decisions were taken on a more collegial basis.

In response to some of the comments made, the PRESIDENT reminded the meeting that the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission had recently agreed on the need to develop a real-time monitoring tool for legislative proposals. This would make it possible to identify bottlenecks and ensure that those involved in the interinstitutional decision-making process could come to an agreement more quickly. She stressed that legislation could only produce the desired effect once it had been adopted and implemented.

Moreover, she considered that a comprehensive review of existing environmental rules should be carried out in light of recent developments and that objective data should be used to identify any changes that might be needed. In addition, a number of cases were currently before the Court of Justice of the European Union and the Commission had to take those cases into account in its proposals.

Lastly, the PRESIDENT said that a College seminar would be held on 4 February 2026, ahead of the Leaders' retreat on 12 February. Part of the seminar would focus on taking stock of the reforms implemented to boost the EU's competitiveness drawing on the lessons from the Letta and Draghi reports. She therefore called on the Members of the College to identify where progress had been made in the policies for which they were responsible. Another part of the seminar would focus on how to improve the Commission's working methods, and in particular how to prevent information leaks during the decision-making process. Lastly, she noted that the principle of collegiality meant that every Member of the College took ownership of, promoted, including publicly, and supported every decision taken by the College.

Following these presentations, the Commission:

- adopted the proposal for a Regulation in COM(2025) 984/5 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the national parliaments;
- approved the Communication in COM(2025) 980/4 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) 990/2;
- adopted the proposal for a Regulation in COM(2025) 981/2 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the national parliaments;
- adopted the proposal for a Directive in COM(2025) 986/3 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the national parliaments;
- adopted the proposal for a Regulation in COM(2025) 982/3 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the national parliaments;
- adopted the proposal for a Directive in COM(2025) 983/3 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the national parliaments;
- adopted the proposal for a Directive in COM(2025) 985/3 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the national parliaments.

- 15. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – EUROPEAN GRIDS PACKAGE
(COM(2025) 1005 TO /3; RCC(2025) 127)**
- 16. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ON GUIDELINES FOR TRANS-EUROPEAN ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE, AMENDING REGULATIONS (EU) 2019/942, (EU) 2019/943 AND (EU) 2024/1789 AND REPEALING REGULATION (EU) 2022/869
(COM(2025) 1006 TO /3; SWD(2025) 2000 AND /2; SWD(2025) 2001; SEC(2025) 2000; RCC(2025) 127)**
- 17. PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING DIRECTIVES (EU) 2018/2001, (EU) 2019/944, (EU) 2024/1788 AS REGARDS ACCELERATION OF PERMIT-GRANTING PROCEDURES
(COM(2025) 1007 TO /3; SWD(2025) 2000 AND /2; SWD(2025) 2001; SEC(2025) 2000; RCC(2025) 127)**

Ms RIBERA presented the European electricity grids package, which aimed to modernise and expand grids for an efficient flow of energy across the EU and all Member States by integrating cheaper clean energy and accelerating electrification. She welcomed the aim of the proposals and stressed the need to use European infrastructure to build a genuinely common energy system that was capable of supplying affordable electricity. Referring to the concept that had been introduced of overriding public interest in energy infrastructure, she highlighted the importance of ensuring that the compromise reached did not disproportionately affect rural areas.

Mr JØRGENSEN then presented the package as a fundamental paradigm shift in the way the EU planned, built and managed its energy infrastructure. He set that day's proposals in a context of geopolitical instability, higher electricity prices than global competitors and increasing renewable energy curtailment due to insufficient grid capacity. Europe was currently wasting the equivalent of the annual consumption of half a million people in some regions. Without urgent action, the EU could lose up to 310 TWh a year by 2040 and be unable to deliver even half of the required cross-border capacity.

He stressed that interconnection was a key pillar of energy security, noting that during recent crises, existing interconnections in Europe had prevented widespread power cuts. The best-connected systems were also the cheapest: the current level of interconnection was estimated to save Europeans EUR 34 billion a year compared with a more fragmented system. He argued that the current fragmentation at EU level could not lead to an efficient and resilient European system because national grid plans were formulated without proper coordination between neighbouring Member States. The package therefore introduced a European planning framework, with an EU scenario, coordinated assessments and recommendations, and an immediate priority given to eight energy highways, which required strong political will to be implemented.

Mr JØRGENSEN also identified permitting delays as one of the main obstacles. Permitting procedures for large cross-border energy projects often took many years, which had a negative impact on predictability for industry. The package therefore simplified permitting procedures, shortened timelines and systematically incorporated security considerations into planning. It was also crucial to ensure that local communities fully embraced clean transition energy projects. A new obligation had therefore been introduced for Member States to ensure that some of the profits from renewable energy projects benefited local people and communities.

He also underscored the need for fair cost-sharing agreements for cross-border projects, arguing that the lack of clear rules had often hampered negotiations, even

when both parties had agreed on the need for a project. He highlighted the importance of ensuring that the next Multiannual Financial Framework contained a substantially increased energy budget for the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), given the scale of the investment needed.

In conclusion, Mr JØRGENSEN emphasised the overall significance of the package of proposals in terms of reducing energy prices, boosting security of supply, ensuring climate neutrality and guaranteeing the EU's long-term competitiveness.

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

- recognition of the package's contribution to competitiveness, decarbonisation and energy independence, and the need to speed up implementation given the scale of the investment required;
- the key role of interconnections for energy security, illustrated by recent crises where existing connections had prevented much more severe disruption, and the need for longer-term planning to ensure alignment with climate neutrality objectives;
- the considerable renewables curtailment in some Member States and the need to prioritise grid development over increased generation capacity, based on a pragmatic assessment that went beyond national interests;
- the importance of incorporating resilience requirements and security considerations into the entire planning and infrastructure permitting process, especially in line with the Preparedness Union Strategy;
- the urgent need to shorten permitting timelines while respecting environmental standards;

- the dovetailing of the proposed package with the environmental omnibus also presented that day and its synergy with the recommendations from the Draghi and Letta reports on competitiveness and the single market;
- the role of energy infrastructure as the backbone of European unity, and the important part played by the EU in ensuring that long-term cross-border priorities were supported by the Member States;
- the relevance of the proposed measures to public concerns about the cost of living, in particular the attempt to tackle high electricity prices and foster the transition to affordable clean energy.

Following these presentations, the Commission:

- approved the Communication in COM(2025) 1005/3 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;
- adopted the proposal for a Regulation in COM(2025) 1006/3 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the national parliaments, together with the impact assessment, the summary thereof and the opinion of the Regulatory Scrutiny Board in SWD(2025) 2000/2, SWD(2025) 2001 and SEC(2025) 2000, the contents of which were noted;
- adopted the proposal for a Directive in COM(2025) 1007/3 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the national parliaments, together with the impact assessment, the summary thereof and the opinion of the Regulatory Scrutiny Board in SWD(2025) 2000/2, SWD(2025) 2001 and SEC(2025) 2000, the contents of which were noted.

18. OTHER BUSINESS

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN EXTERNAL RELATIONS

The PRESIDENT referred to the White House's recent publication of the US national security strategy. She noted that it made reference to both Europe's strengths, such as its innovative strength, its research capacity and its importance as a global trading partner, and a number of negative assertions. In response to these assertions, it was important to highlight the European Union's concrete achievements, its strengths and the challenges it was dealing with.

In this regard, she reflected on the shift that had occurred since the start of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, with the awareness of the need to strengthen the EU's defence capabilities. She noted the significant progress made since then towards creating a genuine Defence Union. She added that, as the reports by Mr Draghi and Mr Letta had confirmed the need to increase the EU's competitiveness, the Commission had consistently delivered concrete results in the areas of the single market, energy, access to finance, reducing the administrative burden, and artificial intelligence. The objectives were clearly defined, and both the strengths and challenges were well identified.

Also referring to the content of the US national security strategy, Ms KALLAS confirmed the need for a measured and factual response, recalling the EU's progress on energy independence and defence.

Regarding the latest developments concerning Ukraine, she referred to the three sets of texts making up the peace agreement proposed by President Trump, namely a framework document on peace, a second on security guarantees and a third on the economic prospects and reconstruction of Ukraine. She pointed out that security guarantees were still relatively unclear for the time being. At a domestic level, stability appeared to have been restored in Ukraine following the recent corruption

scandal. She deplored the continued Russian bombing of energy infrastructure and the state of destruction of the grid, which required immediate support, including from third countries.

As regards the Middle East, Ms KALLAS noted that progress had stalled despite the hope raised by the UN Security Council resolution aimed at ending the war in the Palestinian enclave. Discussions were continuing with Israel regarding the opening of two civilian missions and an agreement on training Palestinian security forces.

Lastly, she briefly mentioned the situation at the border between Thailand and Cambodia, where clashes were continuing despite the signing of the peace declaration, as well as the similar situation at the border between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda.

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

- the potential opportunity presented by the new US positioning to strengthen the EU's unity, including in the area of defence;
- the importance of a strong message from the EU in response to the negative tone of the US national strategy when referring to the EU, in particular to address the concerns of European citizens;
- the importance of highlighting the EU's actions in support of its competitiveness, security and defence, and of strengthening the EU's place on a global scale in the coming years;
- the limitations of the peace agreements recently negotiated by the US when it came to addressing the root causes of conflicts, as demonstrated in particular by the disastrous humanitarian situations in the countries concerned;

- the case for the EU taking on an observer role in the Middle East and the transparency required regarding the use of funding ultimately provided by European taxpayers, the EU being the largest humanitarian donor in the region.

Returning to the publication of the US national security strategy, Ms KALLAS mentioned the partnerships being developed around the world and noted the willingness of many stakeholders to cooperate with the EU, which seemed to be a particularly reliable partner in the current context. She also noted the risk of interference in electoral processes across the EU that emerged from this strategy and called for coordinated efforts and the preservation of European unity.

The Commission took note of this information.

*

* *

The meeting closed at 10.59.