



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2025) 2549 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

Strasbourg, 10 February 2026

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

of the 2549th meeting of the Commission

held in Strasbourg

(Winston Churchill building)

on Tuesday 16 December 2025

(afternoon)

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Single sitting: Tuesday 16 December 2025 (afternoon)

The sitting opened at 13.06 with Ms von der LEYEN, President, in the chair.

Present:

Ms von der LEYEN	President	
Ms RIBERA	Executive Vice-President	
Ms VIRKKUNEN	Executive Vice-President	Items 1 to 15/19 (in part) and 20/24 (in part) to 26
Mr SÉJOURNÉ	Executive Vice-President	
Ms MÎNZATU	Executive Vice-President	Items 8 to 26
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Member	
Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Member	Items 1 to 20/24
Ms ŠUICA	Member	
Mr VÁRHELYI	Member	Items 1 to 20/24
Mr HOEKSTRA	Member	
Mr SÍKELA	Member	
Mr KADIS	Member	Items 1 to 20/24
Ms ALBUQUERQUE	Member	
Ms LAHBIB	Member	
Mr BRUNNER	Member	Items 1 to 15/19 (in part)
Mr JØRGENSEN	Member	Items 1 to 15/19
Ms ZAHARIEVA	Member	
Mr TZITZIKOSTAS	Member	Items 15/19 (in part) to 25/26 (in part)
Mr HANSEN	Member	
Mr MICALLEF	Member	

Absent:

Ms KALLAS	High Representative / Vice-President
Mr FITTO	Executive Vice-President
Mr KUBILIUS	Member
Ms KOS	Member
Ms ROSWALL	Member
Mr SERAFIN	Member
Mr McGRATH	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 PODESTA	Deputy Chief Spokesperson of the Commission	
Mr ADAM	Deputy Head of Cabinet to the PRESIDENT	
Ms PETKOVA	Director of Coordination and Administration in the PRESIDENT's cabinet	
Ms REILLY	Member of the PRESIDENT's cabinet	
Mr VAN KEMSEKE	Adviser in the PRESIDENT's cabinet	Items 20 to 26
Ms REICHSTEIN	Member of the PRESIDENT's cabinet	Items 15 to 24
Mr CALACEAN	Adviser in the PRESIDENT's cabinet	
Ms SEMLALI	Policy Assistant in the PRESIDENT's cabinet	
Mr CHARLES	Head of Unit in the Secretariat-General	
Mr TAQUET-GRAZIANI	Acting Head of Unit in the Secretariat-General	

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

1. AGENDAS

(OJ(2025) 2549/FINAL; SEC(2025) 2549/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) 2549)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Heads of Cabinet held on Friday 12 and Monday 15 December 2025.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

(PV(2025) 2545)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 2545th meeting of 19 November 2025, and held over approval of the minutes of its 2546th, 2547th and 2548th meetings of 25 November and 3 and 10 December 2025 for a later date.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(RCC(2025) 270)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (GRI) held on Friday 12 December 2025 (RCC(2025) 270).

The Commission approved the lines proposed for the following points:

- **Joint Declaration on EU legislative priorities for 2026**

Line set out in SPI(2025) 97.

- **Scrutiny of delegated and implementing acts and related empowerments (DG ENER)**

Line set out in SPI(2025) 100.

- **Scrutiny of delegated and implementing acts and related empowerments (DG ECFIN and DG ESTAT)**

Line set out in SPI(2025) 102/2.

- **Use of railway infrastructure capacity in the single European railway area, amendment of Directive 2012/34/EU and repeal of Regulation (EU) No 913/2010 (Regulation) – METZ report – 2023/0271 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 405.

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

Line set out in SI(2025) 425.

- **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) 422.

- **Amendment of Directive 2012/29/EU establishing minimum standards on**

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the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA (Directive) – ZARZALEJOS & YAR (ex-ZARZALEJOS & RODRÍGUEZ RAMOS) report – 2023/0250 (COD)

Line set out in SI(2025) 428.

- **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) 429/2.

- **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) 426.

- **Amendment of Directives 2006/43/EC, 2013/34/EU, (EU) 2022/2464 and (EU) 2024/1760 as regards certain corporate sustainability reporting and due diligence requirements (Directive) – WARBORN report – 2025/0045 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 432.

- **Production and marketing of forest reproductive material, amendment of Regulations (EU) 2016/2031 and 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repeal of Council Directive 1999/105/EC (Regulation on forest reproductive material) (Regulation) – DORFMANN report – 2023/0228 (COD)**

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Line set out in SI(2025) 441.

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

Line set out in SI(2025) 442.

- **Amendment of Directives (EU) 2009/65/EC, 2009/138/EC, 2011/61/EU, 2014/65/EU and (EU) 2016/97 as regards the Union retail investor protection rules (Directive) – YON-COURTIN report – 2023/0167 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 430/2.

- **Amendment of Regulation (EU) 2024/1348 as regards the application of the ‘safe third country’ concept (Regulation) – DÜPONT report – 2025/0132 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 434.

- **Amendment of Regulation (EU) 2024/1348 as regards the establishment of a list of safe countries of origin at Union level (Regulation) – CIRIANI report – 2025/0101 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 435.

- **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) 440.

- **Implementation of the bilateral safeguard clause of the EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement and the EU-Mercosur Interim Trade Agreement for agricultural products (Regulation) – MATO report – 2025/0322 (COD)**

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Line set out in SP(2025) 449.

- **Objection to a delegated act pursuant to Rule 114(3) of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament: amendment of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/2178 as regards the simplification of the content and presentation of information to be disclosed concerning environmentally sustainable activities and Commission Delegated Regulations (EU) 2021/2139 and (EU) 2023/2486 as regards simplification of certain technical screening criteria for determining whether economic activities cause no significant harm to environmental objectives – C(2025) 4568**

Line set out in SP(2025) 451.

- **Objections to implementing acts pursuant to Rule 115(2) and (3) of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament: draft Commission Implementing Decision renewing the authorisation for the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified maize NK603 pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council – 2025/2958 (RSP) / Draft Commission Implementing Decision authorising the placing on the market of food, food ingredients and feed produced from genetically modified sugar beet KWS20-1 pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council – 2025/2959 (RSP)**

Line set out in SP(2025) 425.

- **Objection to a draft Commission regulation under the regulatory procedure with scrutiny pursuant to Rule 115(2), (3), and (4)(c) of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament: maximum residue levels for acetamiprid in or on certain products**

Line set out in SP(2025) 447.

- **Emergency measures addressing the serious economic difficulties caused by Russia’s actions in the context of the war in Ukraine (Council Regulation) – 2025/3501 (NLE)**

Line set out in SI(2025) 445.

- **Council Directive (EU) 2022/2523 of 14 December 2022 on ensuring a global minimum level of taxation for multinational enterprise groups and large-scale domestic groups in the Union (Pillar 2): the Commission’s assessment of the application of the global agreement on the OECD side-by-side package for the European Union**

Line set out in SI(2025) 447.

- **Oral question O-000044/2025 – European Democracy Shield – Very large online platform algorithms, foreign interference and the spread of disinformation**

Line set out in SP(2025) 452.

- **European Parliament resolution under Article 225 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) – Digitalisation, artificial intelligence and algorithmic management in the workplace – Shaping the future of work – BULA report – 2025/2080 (INL)**

Line set out in SP(2025) 434.

- **EU-UK draft agreements on a Common Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary Area and on the Linking of Emission Trading Systems**

Line set out in SPI(2025) 92.

The Commission took note of the following points:

- **Amendment of Regulation (EU) No 575/2013 on prudential requirements for credit institutions as regards requirements for securitisation exposures (Regulation) – SEEKATZ report – 2025/0825 (COD) / Amendment of Regulation (EU) 2017/2402 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2017 laying down a general framework for securitisation and creating a specific framework for simple, transparent and standardised securitisation (Regulation) – SEEKATZ report – 2025/0826 (COD)**

Information set out in SI(2025) 433.

- **Establishment of the digital euro (Regulation) – NAVARRETE ROJAS report – 2023/0212 (COD) / Provision of digital euro services by payment services providers incorporated in Member States whose currency is not the euro and amendment of Regulation (EU) 2021/1230 of the European Parliament and the Council (Regulation) – NAVARRETE ROJAS report – 2023/0211 (COD)**

Information set out in SI(2025) 436.

- **Legal tender of euro banknotes and coins (Regulation) – NAVARRETE ROJAS report – 2023/0208 (COD)**

Information set out in SI(2025) 437.

- **EU-UK negotiations on Gibraltar – state of play of the negotiations**

Information set out in SPI(2025) 101.

5. COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL ACTION (RCC(2025) 267)

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The Commission took note of the operational conclusions in RCC(2025) 267 of the meeting of the Group for External Coordination (EXCO) held on Thursday 11 December 2025.

6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED (SEC(2025) 330 ET SEQ.)

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

6.2. EMPOWERMENT (SEC(2025) 331 ET SEQ.)

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

6.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS (SEC(2025) 332 ET SEQ.)

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

6.4. WRITTEN PROCEDURES SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED (SEC(2025) 333 AND /2)

The Commission took note of the written procedures specifically identified for which the time limit expired between 15 and 23 December 2025, and of the finalisation written procedures.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

(SEC(2025) 334 AND /2)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

(PERS(2025) 111 AND /2)

**7.1. DG RESEARCH AND INNOVATION – APPOINTMENT OF A
DIRECTOR AT GRADE AD14
(PERS(2025) 112 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 ‘Clean Planet’ Directorate in DG Research and Innovation (PERS(2025) 112).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 14 October and 27 November 2025 (PERS(2025) 112/2).

The Commission proceeded to compare the applicants’ qualifications for the post. On a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Ms ZAHARIEVA, it then decided to appoint Mr Krzysztof KUIK to the post.

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

**7.2. DG ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS – CLOSURE OF THE
SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR THE POST OF A PRINCIPAL
ADVISER AT GRADE AD14/15 AND TRANSFER IN THE INTEREST
OF THE SERVICE OF AN AD15 OFFICIAL UNDER ARTICLE 7 OF
THE STAFF REGULATIONS**

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

- to close, with immediate effect, the selection procedure for the post of Principal Adviser ‘European Union Director in the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development’ in DG Economic and Financial Affairs, without making an appointment;
- to transfer to that post, in the interest of the service, under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations, Mr Reinhard FELKE, currently Director of the ‘Policy Coordination, Economic Forecasts and Communication’ Directorate in DG Economic and Financial Affairs.

Unless otherwise indicated, these decisions would take effect on a date to be determined.

7.3. DG ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS – SECONDMENT IN THE INTEREST OF THE SERVICE OF AN AD14 OFFICIAL UNDER ARTICLES 37 AND 38 OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS

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

- to approve the secondment in the interest of the service, under Articles 37 and 38 of the Staff Regulations, of Mr Reinhard FELKE, to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in London, as the Director representing the European Union for a three-year term, which could be extended;
- to confirm that, during his secondment, Mr Reinhard FELKE would enjoy the conditions set out in Annex X to the Staff Regulations.

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

7.4. DG FINANCIAL STABILITY, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND CAPITAL MARKETS UNION – AMENDMENT OF THE ORGANISATION CHART

***AND AUTHORISATION OF THE INTERNAL PUBLICATION AT
GRADE AD15/16 OF A DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL POST
(PERS(2025) 113)***

On a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Ms ALBUQUERQUE, the Commission decided to amend the organisation chart of DG Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union, and to approve:

- the creation of a post of Deputy Director-General responsible for Directorates C and D;
- the internal publication, with immediate effect, of the vacancy notice set out in PERS(2025) 113 for the newly created post of Deputy Director-General, in accordance with Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations;
- the new organisation chart of DG Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union as set out in SEC(2025) 346.

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

***7.5. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL – EXTENSION OF A TEMPORARY TASK
FORCE AND A TEMPORARY PRINCIPAL ADVISER POST***

On a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, the Commission decided to approve the extension of the temporary ‘European Union’s Future Competitiveness’ Task Force and the temporary post of Principal Adviser – Head of the Task force, for a period of 12 months, until 31 January 2027.

This decision would take effect on 1 February 2026.

7.6. DG ENERGY – PUBLICATION OF THE VACANCY NOTICE FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR OF THE ENERGY COMMUNITY SECRETARIAT (PERS(2025) 114)

On a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, and after consulting Mr JØRGENSEN, the Commission decided to authorise the publication of the vacancy notice for the post of Director of the Energy Community Secretariat, as set out in PERS(2025) 114.

This decision would take effect immediately.

7.7. DG COMMUNICATION – APPOINTMENT OF A HEAD OF REPRESENTATION

The Commission took note of the decision taken by the Appointing Authority to appoint Ms Liisa Elina LAURINEN to the post of Head of the European Commission's Representation in Helsinki, Finland.

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

7.8. DG COMMUNICATION – CLOSURE OF THE SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR A DIRECTOR POST AT GRADE AD14/15 AND AUTHORISATION OF THE INTERNAL AND INTERINSTITUTIONAL PUBLICATION, AT GRADE AD14/15, AND EXTERNAL PUBLICATION, AT GRADE AD14, OF A DIRECTOR POST (PERS(2025) 115)

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

- to close the selection procedure for the post of Director 'Head of the European Commission Representation in Paris' in DG Communication, without making an appointment;

- 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) 115 for the post of Director ‘Head of the European Commission Representation in Paris’ 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.

These decisions would take effect immediately.

- 8. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING REGULATIONS (EC) NO 999/2001, (EC) NO 1829/2003, (EC) NO 1831/2003, (EC) NO 852/2004, (EC) NO 853/2004, (EC) NO 396/2005, (EC) NO 1099/2009, (EC) NO 1107/2009, (EU) NO 528/2012, (EU) 2017/625 AS REGARDS THE SIMPLIFICATION AND STRENGTHENING OF FOOD AND FEED SAFETY REQUIREMENTS (COM(2025) 1030 TO /3; SWD(2025) 1030 TO /3; RCC(2025) 130)**
- 9. PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 98/58/EC AND DIRECTIVE 2009/128/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AS REGARDS THE SIMPLIFICATION AND STRENGTHENING OF FOOD AND FEED SAFETY REQUIREMENTS, AND REPEALING COUNCIL DIRECTIVES 82/711/EEC AND 85/572/EEC (COM(2025) 1021; RCC(2025) 130)**
- 10. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING REGULATION (EU) NO 528/2012 AS REGARDS THE EXTENSION OF CERTAIN DATA PROTECTION PERIODS (COM(2025) 1020; RCC(2025) 130)**

- 11. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ON ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK OF MEASURES FOR STRENGTHENING UNION'S BIOTECHNOLOGY AND BIOMANUFACTURING SECTORS PARTICULARLY IN THE AREA OF HEALTH AND AMENDING REGULATIONS (EC) No 178/2002, (EC) No 1394/2007, (EU) No 536/2014, (EU) 2019/6, (EU) 2024/795 AND (EU) 2024/1938 (EUROPEAN BIOTECH ACT)
(COM(2025) 1022 TO /3; SWD(2025) 1055; RCC(2025) 130)**
- 12. PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING DIRECTIVES 2001/18/EC AND 2010/53/EU AS REGARDS THE PLACING ON THE MARKET OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED MICRO-ORGANISMS AND THE PROCESSING OF ORGANS
(COM(2025) 1031 TO /3; RCC(2025) 130)**
- 13. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING REGULATIONS (EU) 2017/745 AND (EU) 2017/746 AS REGARDS SIMPLIFYING AND REDUCING THE BURDEN OF THE RULES ON MEDICAL DEVICES AND IN VITRO DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL DEVICES, AND AMENDING REGULATION (EU) 2022/123 AS REGARDS THE SUPPORT OF THE EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY FOR THE EXPERT PANELS ON MEDICAL DEVICES AND REGULATION (EU) 2024/1689 AS REGARDS THE LIST OF UNION HARMONISATION LEGISLATION REFERRED TO IN ITS ANNEX I
(COM(2025) 1023 TO /3; SWD(2025) 1050 TO /3; SWD(2025) 1051; SWD(2025) 1052; RCC(2025) 130)**
- 14. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF**

**THE REGIONS ON AN EU CARDIOVASCULAR HEALTH PLAN: THE
SAFE HEARTS PLAN
(COM(2025) 1024 TO /3; RCC(2025) 130)**

Ms RIBERA introduced the package of health measures, noting that it was structured around four separate parts. Firstly, the measures relating to the simplification of food and feed safety requirements were aimed at streamlining a set of EU rules and procedures, in particular as regards the use and evaluation of plant protection products, whilst maintaining a high level of protection with regard to health, food safety and the environment.

She further stated that the Biotech Act was focused at this stage on health-related applications, in order to support innovation, facilitate patients' access to new treatments, and strengthen European capacity in this strategic sector. This first stage would be supplemented in 2026 by a second act focused on the industrial dimensions of biotechnology.

With regard to the targeted revision of the EU rules on medical devices and in vitro diagnostic devices, Ms RIBERA noted that the aim was to make the regulatory framework simpler and more predictable, in full compliance with patient safety and protection requirements.

Finally, she presented the EU cardiovascular health plan as a major public health initiative, in response to the high expectations of citizens and healthcare professionals. She highlighted the holistic nature of the approach and the particular focus on prevention, early detection and addressing gender inequalities.

Mr VÁRHELYI noted that the health sector was a major economic asset for the EU, making a significant contribution to European competitiveness whilst offering substantial growth potential. In this context, he welcomed the level of ambition of the package presented. In the face of increased global competition, it was a key means of supporting the sector and reducing the gaps identified with the

United States and China, in line with the recommendations in the Draghi Report.

Mr VÁRHELYI mentioned the progress already made, in particular the establishment of the European Health Data Space, which offered a competitive advantage for innovation and clinical research. He also referred to the recent adoption by the co-legislators of the pharmaceutical package, and the progress of interinstitutional work on the Critical Medicines Act. The package presented that day continued this progress, making the regulatory framework clearer and more predictable.

With regard to the measures on simplification of the legislation on food and feed safety requirements, the framework had to be made more effective and responsive, in particular concerning authorisations to place plant protection products on the market. Overly slow and complex procedures were holding back the introduction of new products, including low-risk ones, and affecting the availability of essential resources for farmers. The proposed measures were aimed at streamlining procedures, promoting access to biopesticides and generating substantial savings, whilst being founded on a scientific approach and strict safeguards.

With regard to biotechnology, he noted that this was one of the fastest growing sectors in the EU. It accounted for more than 900 000 jobs, 75% of which were in the health sector, and contributed nearly EUR 40 billion to the European economy. However, the intensification of global competition was resulting in a reduction in the European share of clinical trials, which had fallen from approximately 22% to almost 12% in 10 years, and in the increased challenges of retaining and developing innovative companies in Europe. This development did not correspond to a decline in European activity, but reflected above all the rapid growth of the world market.

In this context, Mr VÁRHELYI presented the Regulation on biotechnology as a central pillar of the package, aimed at creating a more favourable regulatory, industrial and financial environment. He highlighted the speeding up of clinical trial

procedures, the strengthening of industrial capacity, and the introduction of targeted incentives, particularly with regard to intellectual property, in order to anchor innovation and production in Europe. Finally, Mr VÁRHELYI announced a rapid mobilisation of financing, with the launch in 2026, in cooperation with the European Investment Bank (EIB), of a pilot project that could mobilise up to EUR 10 billion in support for biotechnology in the field of health.

He also stressed the importance of the targeted revision of the rules applicable to medical and in vitro diagnostic devices, pointing out that this sector employed almost a million people in the EU and had an estimated economic value of EUR 170 billion, mostly driven by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Although the EU was one of the main global players, the current regulatory framework was creating difficulties in terms of predictability, costs and waiting times for operators, with an impact on the ability of businesses to launch and maintain devices on the European market. The proposed revision was thus aimed at simplifying and streamlining the procedures, cutting red tape, in particular for SMEs, and supporting innovation, including through integration of data-driven technologies and artificial intelligence (AI), whilst contributing to preventing risks of shortages of critical devices for the benefit of patients and healthcare systems.

Finally, Mr VÁRHELYI presented the Safe Hearts Plan as the first integrated European response to cardiovascular diseases, which were the leading cause of death in the EU and accounted for approximately 1.7 million deaths each year. Almost 80% of these diseases could be prevented by increased intervention. A paradigm shift was required, putting prevention and early detection at the heart of public action, to complement diagnosis, treatment and follow-up. He highlighted the objective of a 25% reduction in premature deaths by 2035, and the need to act quickly in the face of worrying demographic and health trends, in particular amongst the younger generations.

Mr DOMBROVSKIS welcomed the quality of the package presented and stressed

the simplification dimension and the tangible gains expected. The package formed part of the Commission's ambitious simplification agenda, and took the form of packages of simplification measures targeting two key sectors.

With regard to food and feed safety, the proposed measures were aimed at making the procedures more proportionate and effective by limiting the requirement for authorisation renewals and reassessments to situations where they were scientifically justified, facilitating the identification and authorisation of low-risk substances, and improving the availability of products in all Member States. Mr DOMBROVSKIS also mentioned the additional opportunities to use digital labelling, which would reduce burdens for businesses.

With regard to medical devices and in vitro diagnostic devices, the proposals were aimed at reducing administrative burdens, making classification rules more proportionate, and simplifying compliance assessment procedures, in particular through greater use of digital tools. These adjustments would make it possible to speed up access to the European market for innovative medical devices, whilst strengthening the competitiveness of a key sector of the EU economy.

Mr DOMBROVSKIS drew attention to the expected administrative savings, estimated at almost EUR 940 million per year for food and feed safety, and around EUR 2.4 billion per year for medical devices. Taken together, these amounts could bring the administrative savings generated by the omnibus proposals and by the medical device simplification package to around EUR 14.3 billion per year, making a significant contribution to the overall target of EUR 37.5 billion in annual administrative savings by the end of that Commission's term of office.

In conclusion, he emphasised that, while these proposals were aimed at making substantial savings, their benefits could not fully materialise until the end of the legislative process. He therefore called on the co-legislators to move forward swiftly

with the interinstitutional work and to maintain the level of ambition of the proposals adopted that day by the Commission.

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

- overall support for the objectives of simplification and boosting competitiveness, and the importance of providing a clear, predictable and proportionate regulatory framework to foster innovation, market access and commitment to Europe as a location, especially among start-ups and SMEs;
- some concerns about the potential trade and geopolitical implications of pesticides measures and import requirements, and the importance of robust impact assessments;
- the positive impact of the measures on Europe’s farmers, in particular when it came to clarifying the rules on biocontrol products and speeding up approval procedures to make it easier to market alternatives to certain restricted substances, and the importance of greater reciprocity in trade;
- the need to keep biotechnology high up on the EU’s agenda, given its economic importance and its contribution to strategic autonomy;
- the importance of ensuring that faster procedures went hand in hand with a high degree of rigour, in particular in the sensitive areas of biosecurity and health security, which required a coordinated approach and shared responsibility on the part of Commission departments;
- the importance of strengthening consistency between different initiatives, avoiding overlaps between regulatory frameworks and improving coordination between Commission services, particularly with regard to the relationship

between sectoral rules on product safety and the cross-cutting provisions of the Artificial Intelligence Act;

- the key role of existing programmes, in particular Horizon Europe, in supporting innovation;
- the importance also of ensuring more consistent and less fragmented use of financing instruments, including those of the European Investment Bank;
- broad support for the objectives of the Safe Hearts Plan, with its focus on behavioural and societal factors in cardiovascular disease, especially among younger generations, to wit inappropriate diet, lack of physical activity, tobacco addiction, changing lifestyle patterns, and social and gender inequality;
- lastly, the importance in this connection of taking account of ongoing research and studies, in particular on ultra-processed foods, and to prioritise an approach based on consumer information and education.

In response to some of the points raised during the discussion, Mr VÁRHELYI stressed that the proposals relating to food safety and animal feed safety were fully in line with the EU's Vision for Agriculture and Food. The measures proposed were based on scientific assessment by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA); they concerned substances used in the EU market, and took account of EU law and relations with international partners.

With regard to biotechnology, he noted that, despite a solid scientific foundation, the EU was still struggling to transform innovation into lasting industrial and economic capacity, which was pushing some companies to expand outside Europe. He stressed the need to make better use of existing instruments, in particular those of the European Investment Bank, in order to consolidate financing, increase its leverage and incite innovative companies to settle in Europe.

As concerns the link with the Artificial Intelligence Act, the health sector already had well established regulatory frameworks for medical devices, while the specific arrangements for implementing the AI Act were still being defined. This created a situation of legal uncertainty for businesses developing devices with AI components. Mr VÁRHELYI therefore advocated the introduction in the short term of a clearer and more predictable framework allowing companies to move forward without having to wait, while avoiding any duplication and ensuring full consistency with the future cross-cutting AI rules.

Lastly, he stressed the highly sensitive nature of biosecurity issues. The rapid evolution of such technology and easier access to certain genetic and cellular materials called for a robust European rulebook, in order to prevent any abuse and safeguard health security.

Following these presentations, the Commission:

- adopted the proposal for a Regulation set out in COM(2025) 1030/3, for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the national parliaments, together with the staff working document SWD(2025) 1030/3, the contents of which were noted;
- adopted the proposal for a Directive set out in COM(2025) 1021 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 set out in COM(2025) 1020 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the national parliaments, and, for information, to the Committee of the Regions;

- adopted the proposal for a Regulation in COM(2025) 1022/3 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions, the European Data Protection Board, the European Data Protection Supervisor and the national parliaments, together with the staff working document distributed as SWD(2025) 1055, the contents of which were noted;
- adopted the proposal for a Directive set out in COM(2025) 1031/3 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the national parliaments, and, for information, to the European Data Protection Board and the European Data Protection Supervisor;
- adopted the proposal for a Regulation set out in COM(2025) 1023/3 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the national parliaments, together with the staff working document, the impact assessment and the summary thereof, distributed respectively as SWD(2025) 1050/3, SWD(2025) 1051 and SWD(2025) 1052, the contents of which were noted;
- approved the Communication in COM(2025) 1024/3 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.

15. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – THE EUROPEAN AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLAN (COM(2025) 1025 TO /3; SWD(2025) 1053 TO /3; RCC(2025) 129)

16. **COMMISSION DECISION ON THE APPLICATION OF ARTICLE 106(2) OF THE TREATY ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO STATE AID IN THE FORM OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPENSATION GRANTED TO CERTAIN UNDERTAKINGS ENTRUSTED WITH THE OPERATION OF SERVICES OF GENERAL ECONOMIC INTEREST AND REPEALING DECISION 2012/21/EU
(C(2025) 8820 AND /2; RCC(2025) 133)**
17. **COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – THE EUROPEAN STRATEGY FOR HOUSING CONSTRUCTION: A MORE COMPETITIVE AND PRODUCTIVE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY
(COM(2025) 991 TO /3; RCC(2025) 129)**
18. **COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS – FROM VISION TO IMPLEMENTATION
(COM(2025) 1026 TO /3; RCC(2025) 129)**
19. **PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION ON THE NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS
(COM(2025) 1027 TO /3; RCC(2025) 129)**

The PRESIDENT introduced the package for more affordable housing, stressing that this Commission was the first to highlight the problem of housing, especially by specifically appointing a European Commissioner for housing policy. She

underlined that this policy was cross-cutting and therefore required substantial coordination between Commission departments.

The PRESIDENT also welcomed the fact that implementation of the New European Bauhaus was one of the initiatives proposed that day, as it presented a vision of how Europeans could build and renovate in an affordable, sustainable and attractive manner. She pointed out that the New Bauhaus was a Commission initiative launched in 2020 to link the European Green Deal to European living spaces and was now widely followed in the world of architecture.

Ms RIBERA emphasised the economic and social importance of the housing policy, which directly affected people's most basic needs. She noted that the main aim of that day's package was to better guide public policies at European, national, regional and local level so as to facilitate administrative procedures in the field of housing, mobilise investment in social housing and affordable housing, increase housing supply and ensure the use of a skilled workforce.

She then referred in particular to the Commission Decision revising EU State aid rules for services of general economic interest to enable Member States to financially support building and renovation projects for affordable housing and social housing. The new rules made it easier to publicly fund these projects, while ensuring they were economically viable and housing was secure. In addition, by distinguishing between social housing and affordable housing, the rules aimed to better target the different social groups that could benefit, i.e. not only the most vulnerable, but also the middle class.

Ms RIBERA added that these rules provided guidance to Member States on transparency and the proper use of public money for these projects. Each Member State could allocate as much public money to them as it wished, provided it complied with a minimum project duration to ensure stability for beneficiaries, a suitable price range for rents or property purchases, and some quality and

accessibility criteria according to the national standards in force. The measures would specifically address a major public debate, which had been ongoing for some time in both the Member States and the European Parliament.

Mr SÉJOURNÉ referred to the European strategy for housing construction proposed as part of the package. The overall aim of the strategy was to increase housing supply and reduce its cost, while boosting the competitiveness of the European construction sector. To achieve that aim, the strategy was based on a number of measures in four priority areas: (i) simplifying and digitalising administrative procedures, (ii) supporting technological innovation and business development in the sector, (iii) ensuring firms had access to primary and secondary raw materials in the single market and (iv) addressing labour and skills shortages in the construction sector. Lastly, the package also aimed to regulate prices for short-term rentals, providing in particular for a review of the mechanisms that could be used by local authorities to deal with the problems encountered in certain cities and tourist areas.

Mr JØRGENSEN welcomed the constructive cooperation between the various Commission departments on this issue of affordable housing. He explained that, with an average increase of house prices by more than 60% and of rents by more than 20% in the past 10 years, millions of Europeans were struggling to find a home they could afford. This housing crisis was having a negative impact on demographics and citizens' mobility. It also led to a rise in populist and anti-migration rhetoric by politicians in many parts of the EU.

He noted that powers in this field mainly lay at national and local level, but some initiatives could be taken at European level and jointly by the EU institutions and Member States. In particular, he pointed out that investments in building new housing could be boosted by revising State aid rules and through the European strategy for housing construction. The Commission was also developing a new Pan-European Investment Platform in cooperation with the European Investment Bank,

national and regional promotional banks, and other international financial institutions. Thanks to cohesion policy and other instruments in the current Multiannual Financial Framework, the EU was already supporting more than EUR 43 billion of investment in housing, and new EU funding opportunities would be opened up in the next Multiannual Financial Framework for 2028-2034.

Mr JØRGENSEN also mentioned the challenge of short-term rentals. The number of such rentals had almost doubled between 2018 and 2024 and, in some tourist areas, one in five homes was used for this purpose. This not only led to higher prices, but also to a gradual exodus of the local population from these areas. To help local authorities cope with this challenge, the Commission intended to propose EU legislation setting out transparent and strict criteria for defining a high-demand residential area and possible restrictions to be considered, such as limiting the number of nights spent or a moratorium on new rentals. A balance had to be struck between the need for European intervention and the importance of not over-regulating an area of national, regional and local competence.

Lastly, the EU needed to better regulate property speculation – a highly political issue on which there were widely differing views within the European Parliament. In that context, the Commission would promote the collection of data on price dynamics and transparency in the residential property market to better identify possible speculative behaviour and start an evidence-based policy debate.

Ms VIRKKUNEN introduced the Communication and the Council Recommendation on the New European Bauhaus. She explained that the New European Bauhaus concept paved the way for a sustainable, inclusive and high-quality built environment. Since its launch, it had supported more than 700 projects, with more than 2 000 organisations participating. She added that the New European Bauhaus also had an international dimension, notably through projects developed in partnership with organisations from Ukraine, Japan and Brazil.

The aim of that day's package was to enhance the visibility of the New European Bauhaus, while helping Member States to incorporate the approach into their national, regional and local housing policies. Ms VIRKKUNEN stressed that the New Bauhaus also boosted competitiveness in the European construction sector, the introduction of digital tools and the use of sustainable bio-materials such as wood.

Ms ZAHARIEVA presented the New European Bauhaus Communication and Recommendation in more detail. She thanked Ms ROSWALL in particular for coordinating these two initiatives, through which the Commission invited the Member States, local communities, scientists, individuals and the EU institutions to work together, on a voluntary basis, around the principles of the New European Bauhaus. She pointed out that EUR 1.4 billion – most of which came from cohesion policy and the Horizon Europe programme – had already been allocated to the New European Bauhaus to support projects on innovative solutions to transform neighbourhoods into affordable, sustainable, inclusive and beautiful places to live. These initiatives also helped to promote and improve the European way of life and attract talent from around the world.

She explained that the Communication on the New European Bauhaus contained a framework of flagship actions to incorporate New European Bauhaus values and principles into cohesion policy programmes, boost markets for innovative materials and construction methods, encourage the use of sustainable and affordable energy and digital technologies, and support excellent research. The actions included creating a New European Bauhaus label and setting up a New European Bauhaus Academy to teach skills for sustainable construction. She added that the New Bauhaus would continue to support projects outside the EU, especially in Ukraine, in the field of green reconstruction and urban regeneration.

Lastly, Ms ZAHARIEVA pointed out that the proposal for a Council Recommendation on the New European Bauhaus aimed to support Member States in advancing the clean transition on the ground. She drew attention to some of the

main recommendations made to the Member States, namely: using public procurement to promote sustainable, circular and socially fair renovation and construction of buildings; incentivising the transformation of vacant buildings into affordable housing; speeding up permitting procedures for renovating and extending buildings that could increase housing supply; promoting digital building permits; supporting high-quality architecture and showcasing cultural heritage buildings; and promoting New European Bauhaus values in schools and universities.

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

- the significant gaps in the EU construction sector in terms of labour, skills and training that would need to be filled to increase the supply of new homes;
- the possibility of combining the Erasmus+ programme with funding from the European Social Fund+ to enable students and young people to find more affordable housing near universities;
- the need for the financial market to offer people appealing investment solutions, aside from investing in property, to ease the pressure on house prices;
- the importance of ensuring balanced communication on the different facets of the property market as a means of meeting citizens' housing needs, whether they were property owners or tenants;
- the challenges posed by short-term rentals, but also their positive impact on the renewal and revitalisation of town centres popular with tourists;
- the importance of safeguarding the social and equality-related aspects in the proposed measures and, in that connection, the need to ensure that urban areas were affordable and accessible for everyone and fully inclusive;

- changes to Europeans’ lifestyles and the huge amount of untapped potential in rural areas.

Following these presentations, the Commission:

- approved the Communication in COM(2025) 1025/3 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and, for information, to the national parliaments, together with the staff working document distributed as SWD(2025) 1053/3, the contents of which were noted;
- adopted the Commission Decision in C(2025) 8820/2 and decided to publish it in the *Official Journal of the European Union*;
- approved the Communication in COM(2025) 991/3 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions and, for information, to the national parliaments;
- approved the Communication in COM(2025) 1026/3 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 Recommendation in COM(2025) 1027/3 for transmission to the Council and, for information, to the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the national parliaments.

20. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING REGULATION (EU) 2019/631 AS

PV(2025) 2549 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

EN

**REGARDS CO2 EMISSION PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR NEW
LIGHT DUTY VEHICLES AND VEHICLE LABELLING AND REPEALING
DIRECTIVE 1999/94/EC**

**(COM(2025) 995 TO /3; SWD(2025) 1057; SWD(2025) 1058; SWD(2025) 1059;
SEC(2025) 995; RCC(2025) 136)**

**21. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
AND OF THE COUNCIL ON CLEAN CORPORATE VEHICLES**

**(COM(2025) 994 TO /3; SWD(2025) 1060 AND /2; SWD(2025) 1061;
SEC(2025) 994; RCC(2025) 136)**

**22. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING REGULATIONS (EC) NO 561/2006,
(EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2019/2144 AND (EU) 2024/1257 OF THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AS REGARDS THE
SIMPLIFICATION OF TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS AND TESTING
PROCEDURES FOR MOTOR VEHICLES AND REPEALING COUNCIL
DIRECTIVE 70/157/EEC AND REGULATION NO 540/2014 OF THE
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL**

(COM(2025) 993 TO /3; SWD(2025) 1056 TO /3; RCC(2025) 135)

**23. PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND
OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING DIRECTIVE 92/6/EEC TO EXEMPT
CERTAIN N2 ELECTRIC VEHICLES FROM THE REQUIREMENT TO
INSTALL AND USE A SPEED LIMITATION DEVICE**

(COM(2025) 999 AND /2)

**24. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION – BATTERY BOOSTER
STRATEGY**

(C(2025) 8950 TO /3; RCC(2025) 132)

The PRESIDENT introduced the package of measures relating to the automotive sector, explaining that the package was designed to support the sector's efforts as it moved towards clean mobility solutions. The package stemmed directly from the political guidelines she had issued at the beginning of her term of office and was a major step towards making the EU climate neutral. CO₂ emission standards were essential as a means of achieving the legally binding climate targets for 2030 and 2050 approved by the European Parliament and the Council, and those targets remained unchanged.

Moreover, the proposed measures introduced new flexibility mechanisms and incorporated technology openness in response to the legitimate concerns raised by industry, Member States and consumers, while ensuring that this flexibility was accompanied by offsetting mechanisms to safeguard the environmental integrity of the process. The measures sought to reconcile industrial competitiveness, climate ambition and social fairness, acknowledging both the scale of the industrial transformation and the need to maintain the EU's leadership on clean mobility technologies.

The PRESIDENT stressed the importance of taking into account not only new vehicles but also the existing fleet, and of bringing all the initiatives together in a joined-up strategy to strengthen the EU's position as the sector underwent this transition worldwide.

Ms RIBERA said that the aim of the new framework was to adopt a genuinely market-oriented approach, making it easier for manufacturers, suppliers and infrastructure operators to make strategic investment decisions. The package was designed to support clean mobility at all income levels, addressing affordability concerns and safeguarding Europe's industrial base, including supply chains and battery production.

She stressed that the package combined objectives relating to the climate, industry, air quality and public health, and addressed the needs of metropolitan areas facing pollution-related challenges. She emphasised the importance of strengthening markets for low-carbon technologies and facilitating investment in Europe's green industrial capacity. While acknowledging the divergent views on certain specific aspects of the proposed measures, Ms RIBERA argued that the approach was balanced, flexible and pragmatic and sought to strengthen investor confidence, boost employment and maintain the EU's credibility on the climate, mobility and industrial resilience.

Mr HOEKSTRA acknowledged the political complexity of the negotiations on the package as a whole and especially the proposal to revise CO₂ emission standards for cars and vans, noting that a number of Member States and stakeholders had advocated opposing priorities. He stressed that the compromise being presented was economically sound, consistent with climate efforts and politically viable at EU level.

He then gave a detailed overview of the flexibility mechanisms being introduced, including (i) bringing in super credits for small electric vehicles manufactured in Europe to speed up roll-out and make the market more affordable; (ii) lowering the 2030 target to support SMEs that relied on vans for their core business activities; (iii) assessing the achievement of objectives on a multiannual basis over the period 2030-2032; and (iv) with regard to the 2035 target, adding a mechanism to offset up to 10% of residual emissions using green, low-carbon steel, advanced biofuels and e-fuels.

Mr HOEKSTRA concluded by stressing that the proposal on CO₂ standards created a situation of technological neutrality while also creating incentives for green materials manufactured in Europe. He also stressed the importance of providing support for charging and refuelling infrastructure for heavy-duty vehicles, and noted

that the package bolstered fair competition by encouraging European value chains and discouraging carbon-intensive imports.

Mr TZITZIKOSTAS welcomed the fact that the package formed a cohesive whole and that the various measures complemented each other. He felt that the package demonstrated the EU's ability to adapt to changing market conditions and geopolitical pressures. He also stressed the political importance of reaffirming the direction being taken on climate issues while introducing mechanisms that allowed industry to achieve a socially acceptable and economically viable transition.

He noted that, to avoid placing an excessive burden on SMEs, the proposal on corporate vehicle fleets targeted large companies only. The proposal also created reliable demand signals for clean vehicles, allowing Member States to choose appropriate measures and incentives in line with varying levels of infrastructure readiness. He noted that the flexibility mechanisms being introduced safeguarded technological neutrality and respected consumer preferences.

Mr TZITZIKOSTAS also noted the importance of stepping up battery production, streamlining rules and supporting the development of affordable small cars manufactured in the EU as part of Europe's long-term industrial recovery. He concluded by saying that this package of measures laid the foundations for restoring Europe's car-manufacturing competitiveness without wavering from the EU's commitment to its climate goals.

Mr SÉJOURNÉ presented the package as a balanced compromise that reconciled industrial, environmental and consumer interests. He stressed that the Commission remained firmly committed to achieving the EU's climate goals and had to make this point clear, particularly as part of the ongoing public debate. He noted that genuine technological neutrality required openness to all compliant technologies rather than selective exclusion, and pointed out that this approach would require meaningful engagement with Parliament.

Moreover, he stressed that, for communication purposes, it was important to present the measures as a whole package. In his view, investor and market confidence would be determined by the interplay between flexibility mechanisms, industrial measures and supply chain initiatives. The Battery Booster Communication was intended as a strategic industrial signal to attract private investment in European value chains for batteries and to prevent the risk of industrial decline, particularly in view of the rapidly changing competitive landscape. He noted that flexibility mechanisms alone could not solve structural challenges such as weak demand, insufficient innovation and subsidies given by third countries to their own industry; these mechanisms therefore needed to be combined with targeted industrial and trade measures.

Lastly, Mr SÉJOURNÉ called for coordinated communication efforts and institutional accountability to prevent a politicisation of the debate that could see the package watered down during interinstitutional negotiations and undermine predictability for manufacturers and workers.

Mr DOMBROVSKIS focused for his part on the simplification measures for automotive regulation. The aim was to simplify the regulatory obligations while maintaining safety and environmental protection at a maximum level. He noted the proposed exemptions for certain electric vans in relation to the requirements applicable to heavier vehicle categories and the reduction in the testing costs laid down for the Euro 7 standard, along with the initiative to bring noise requirements into line with those of the United Nations (UN) in order to ensure coherence at international level.

He emphasised the harmonisation measures in the pipeline concerning vehicle-network interoperability, which encouraged the effective integration of electric vehicles into the energy system. He highlighted the proposal for a new sub-category of small affordable cars, covering electric vehicles up to 4.2 metres, enabling

targeted incentives, without additional regulatory requirements or testing constraints.

To conclude, Mr DOMBROVSKIS touched on the policy choices behind the proposal on corporate fleets, noting that binding national targets gave rise to economic and business consequences that required thorough analysis and consideration.

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

- the strategic importance of the automotive sector for European industry, regional employment, supply-chain resilience and political stability;
- the need for technological neutrality throughout the whole package of automotive measures, including those on fuel and propulsion technologies, while ensuring coherence with climate neutrality pathways;
- the advantage of reconciling ambition with the state of infrastructure and of the market, in particular concerning the charging and hydrogen supply networks, the uneven rollout among Member States, and of maintaining a degree of flexibility in calculating objectives;
- concerns about the compatibility of certain measures with the rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the potential risks of retaliatory action in response to European preference, as well as the need to assess the impact of such a preference on trading partners producing vehicles in the EU under the existing economic models;
- uncertainty as to the capacity of European industry to increase the production of renewable fuels, advanced biofuels, green hydrogen and low-carbon, green steel,

as well as calls for clear guidelines and an assessment of the availability of supply and methods of certification;

- the need to ensure that the simplification measures actually reduce the administrative burden without prompting shortcomings in the application of the rules, namely with respect to the categorisation of vehicles and testing requirements;
- the importance of correctly designing the targets for corporate fleets to avoid a disproportionate impact on SMEs, while sending out significant demand signals for zero or low-emission vehicles, and supporting the emergence of a secondary market;
- a reminder that the stability and predictability of the regulatory framework were vital to restoring investor confidence, particularly against a backdrop of falling vehicle demand and increasing competitive pressure from third countries;
- requests for clarification concerning any adjustments to the targets for corporate fleets to reflect the level of the preparedness indicators for infrastructure;
- comments on the improvements to be made to internal working methods and decision-making processes, namely with respect to the time limits for making key information available.

In response to some of the points raised, Mr SÉJOURNÉ pointed out that the EU had to be prepared to defend its industrial base and its jobs, noting that certain major international trading partners already had trade preference provisions. He focused on the fact that carefully designed instruments could bolster resilience while complying with international requirements.

Mr HOEKSTRA acknowledged that concerns existed as to the availability of supply of clean industrial inputs, but stated that production capacity for sustainable fuels,

and in particular green steel, were likely to exceed demand from the automotive sector by 2035 if existing plans were maintained. He noted that flexibilities were proposed precisely to speed up the growth of these technologies.

Mr TZITZIKOSTAS emphasised that the measures as a whole constituted a balanced outcome and added that limiting the flexibilities might undermine their feasibility and weaken predictability for investors. He further reiterated that the obligations for corporate fleets would apply to large undertakings only.

The PRESIDENT wound up the discussion by noting that the EU's climate pathway remained unchanged and flexibilities had proven necessary to ensure an orderly transition for industry, workers and consumers. Moreover, she emphasised that these measures were part of a coherent response aimed at boosting European competitiveness, industrial resilience and energy independence.

She ended by noting that the Commission, with the adoption of this package of measures, had demonstrated its capacity to put forward proposals addressing complex problems under considerable time pressure.

Following these presentations, the Commission:

- adopted the proposal for a Regulation in COM(2025) 995/3 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the national parliaments, together with the staff working document, the impact assessment, the summary thereof and the opinion of the Regulatory Scrutiny Board in SWD(2025) 1057, SWD(2025) 1058, SWD(2025) 1059 and SEC(2025) 995, the contents of which were noted;
- adopted the proposal for a Regulation in COM(2025) 994/3 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) 1060/2, SWD(2025) 1061 and SEC(2025) 994, the contents of which were noted;

- adopted the proposal for a Regulation in COM(2025) 993/3 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the national parliaments, together with the staff working document distributed as SWD(2025) 1056/3, the contents of which were noted;
- adopted the proposal for a Directive in COM(2025) 999/2 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 Commission Communication in C(2025) 8950/3 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the national parliaments.

25. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING REGULATION (EU) 2023/956 AS REGARDS THE EXTENSION OF ITS SCOPE TO DOWNSTREAM GOODS AND ANTI-CIRCUMVENTION MEASURES

(COM(2025) 989 TO /3; SWD(2025) 987; SWD(2025) 988; SWD(2025) 989; SEC(2025) 989; RCC(2025) 131)

26. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ESTABLISHING THE TEMPORARY DECARBONISATION FUND

(COM(2025) 990 AND /2; RCC(2025) 131)

PV(2025) 2549 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

EN

Mr SÉJOURNÉ briefly introduced the package of proposed measures, which builds on the carbon pricing system as a key instrument to uphold the Union's climate ambition while preserving the competitiveness of European industry.

Mr HOEKSTRA began by noting the success of the market-based carbon pricing system. The EU was a trailblazer in this regard and the system was now being copied by many other countries around the world. The success of carbon pricing in the EU was based on two pillars: the Emissions Trading System (ETS), the EU's carbon pricing mechanism, and the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), which complemented it by targeting emissions imported into the EU.

Mr HOEKSTRA considered the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism to be an environmental, not a trade, measure and that this was a question of fairness for European industry. Without such a mechanism, European industry would be likely to relocate. He added that the mechanism would be fully implemented from 1 January 2026 and that the financial burden would fall on importers, not on third countries. This mechanism, along with carbon pricing, was a driver for industrial decarbonisation, something which was at the heart of the EU's Clean Industrial Deal.

He explained that four key elements supported the implementation of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism: simplification, extension to downstream production, anti-circumvention measures and a temporary support mechanism. He reminded the College of the recent major simplification of the mechanism, which allowed for the exclusion of 90% of companies while covering 99% of emissions, and said that the mechanism would benefit from additional flexibilities as part of its implementation on 1 January, which would make it possible to address the recent concerns raised by the United States.

Mr HOEKSTRA then presented in more detail the proposals submitted for adoption, which aimed to address the mechanism's existing shortcomings, pointing out that

the proposals responded to strong demand from industry and the Member States, and followed on from the Commission's commitment under the Clean Industrial Deal and the Steel and Metals Action Plan.

He noted that the proposals would allow (i) a targeted extension of the mechanism to include downstream production, which would cover only, with very simple compliance rules, products with a high metal content, such as car doors, washing machines, kitchen and garden equipment, (ii) new anti-circumvention measures to prevent fraudulent practices, which would be proportionate measures based on a set of multi-level tools that would facilitate legitimate trade but combat abuse, and (iii) a temporary support mechanism using the mechanism's national revenues to address residual risks of carbon leakage, on the understanding that the Decarbonisation Fund would only be available for two years.

It was also proposed to simplify the accounting rules of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism for electricity, which would have a major positive impact on the EU's neighbouring countries, with up to a 65% reduction in compliance reporting obligations for the most decarbonised economies, and would prepare these countries for future market coupling. Moreover, it was proposed to include new provisions on facilitating trade through international agreements and an equivalence system for deductions.

Mr HOEKSTRA concluded his presentation by stressing that these proposals allowed the EU to simplify the existing rules, create fair implementation conditions, address shortcomings in the mechanism and work closely with its international trading partners.

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

- broad support for strengthening the CBAM as a key instrument to address carbon leakage;

- at the same time, a reminder of the need to take proper account of the external dimension, in particular the increasingly central role of the CBAM in discussions with the EU's trading partners;
- in this context, the importance of including elements facilitating trade and financial support that would encourage these partners to commit to a decarbonisation agenda;
- calls for close cooperation, intensive diplomacy and innovative solutions with a view to enhancing predictability and strengthening trust among the EU's partner countries, promoting future trade agreements, developing strategic partnerships and investing in sustainable development;
- a reminder also of the existing sectoral sensibilities, in particular the risk of price pressure and additional costs for fertilisers and therefore for the agricultural sector.

Following these presentations, the Commission, on a proposal from the PRESIDENT, confirmed that the two proposals for Regulations set out in COM(2025) 989/3 and COM(2025) 990/2 would be formally adopted by finalisation written procedure, the deadline for which was set at 9.00 on Wednesday 17 December 2025 (PE/2025/9424 and PE/2025/9423).

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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 16.48.