



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2026) 2550 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

Brussels, 26 February 2026

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

**of the 2550th meeting of the Commission
held in Brussels
(Berlaymont)
on Wednesday 14 January 2026
(morning)**

PV(2026) 2550 final

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Attendance list	5-6
1. AGENDAS (OJ(2025) 2550/FINAL; SEC(2025) 2550/FINAL)	6
2. WEEKLY MEETING OF HEADS OF CABINET (RCC(2025) 2550).....	6
3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (PV(2025) 2546).....	6
4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS (RCC(2025) 151)	6
5. COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL ACTION (RCC(2026) 201).....	8
6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS.....	8
6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED (SEC(2025) 336 ET SEQ.; SEC(2026) 1 ET SEQ.).....	8
6.2. EMPOWERMENT (SEC(2025) 337 ET SEQ.; SEC(2026) 2 ET SEQ.).....	8
6.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS (SEC(2025) 338 ET SEQ.; SEC(2026) 3 ET SEQ.)	9
6.4. WRITTEN PROCEDURES SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED (SEC(2026) 4 AND /2).....	9
6.5. AMENDMENT OF EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION DECISIONS AS REGARDS THEIR PERIOD OF APPLICATION (C(2025) 84)	9
7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS (SEC(2026) 5/2).....	9
7.1. DG DIGITAL SERVICES – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR AT GRADE AD14 (PERS(2025) 33 TO /3).....	9
7.2. DG HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY – EXTENSION OF THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN HEALTH AND DIGITAL EXECUTIVE AGENCY.....	10
7.3. DG HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY – TRANSFER IN THE INTEREST OF THE	

<i>SERVICE OF AN AD15 OFFICIAL UNDER ARTICLE 7 OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS, AND SECONDMENT IN THE INTEREST OF THE SERVICE UNDER ARTICLES 37 AND 38 OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS AS DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN HEALTH AND DIGITAL EXECUTIVE AGENCY</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>7.4. DECISION ON A REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM A FORMER MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION (C(2026) 9000).....</i>	<i>11</i>
8. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING ENHANCED COOPERATION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UKRAINE SUPPORT LOAN FOR 2026 AND 2027 (COM(2026) 20 TO /3; RCC(2026) 3)	12
9. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING REGULATION (EU) 2024/792 ESTABLISHING THE UKRAINE FACILITY (COM(2026)°22; RCC(2026) 3)	12
10. AMENDED PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION AMENDING REGULATION (EU, EURATOM) 2020/2093 LAYING DOWN THE MULTIANNUL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE YEARS 2021 TO 2027 (COM(2026)°21; RCC(2026) 3).....	12
11. OTHER BUSINESS.....	18
<i>LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN EXTERNAL RELATIONS</i>	<i>18</i>

Single sitting: Wednesday 14 January 2025 (morning)

The sitting opened at 9.03 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	
Mr SÉJOURNÉ	Executive Vice-President	
Ms KALLAS	High Representative / Vice-President	
Ms MÎNZATU	Executive Vice-President	
Mr FITTO	Executive Vice-President	
Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Member	
Ms ŠUICA	Member	
Mr HOEKSTRA	Member	
Mr KUBILIUS	Member	
Ms KOS	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	Items 1 to 11 (in part)
Mr HANSEN	Member	
Mr MICALLEF	Member	Items 8/10 (in part) to 11

Absent:

Mr ŠEFČOVIČ Member

Mr VÁRHELYI 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 MORDUE Diplomatic Adviser in the PRESIDENT's cabinet

Ms HILI 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 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) 2550/FINAL; SEC(2025) 2550/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) 2550)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Heads of Cabinet held on Tuesday 13 January 2025.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

(PV(2025) 2546)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 2546th meeting of 25 November 2025 and decided to hold over approval of the minutes of its 2547th, 2548th and 2549th meetings of 3, 10 and 16 December 2025 until a later meeting.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(RCC(2025) 151)

The Commission took note of the outcome of the written exchange of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (GRI) for the week from 5 and 9 January 2026 (RCC(2026) 151).

The Commission approved the lines proposed for the following points:

- **Establishment of the European Fund for economic, social and territorial cohesion, agriculture and rural, fisheries and maritime, prosperity and**

security for the period 2028-2034 and amendment of Regulation (EU) 2023/955 and Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 (Regulation)

Line set out in SPI(2026) 5.

- **Rules to prevent and combat child sexual abuse (Regulation) – ZARZALEJOS report – 2022/0155 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2026) 1.

- **Resolution of the European Parliament under Article 225 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) – Just transition Directive in the world of work: ensuring the creation of jobs and revitalising local economies – TOOM report – 2025/2131 (INL)**

Line set out in SP(2026) 1.

- **Resolution of the European Parliament under Article 225 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) – The 28th Regime: a new legal framework for innovative companies – REPASI report – 2025/2079 (INL)**

Line set out in SP(2026) 2.

The Commission took note of the following points:

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

Information set out in SPI(2026) 2.

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

Information set out in SPI(2026) 3.

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

Information set out in SPI(2026) 4/2.

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

Information set out in SPI(2026) 7.

5. COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL ACTION (RCC(2026) 201)

The Commission took note of the outcome of the written exchanges of the Group for External Coordination (EXCO) that took place for the weeks from 15 to 19 December 2025 and from 5 to 9 January 2026 (RCC(2026) 201).

6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED (SEC(2025) 336 ET SEQ.; SEC(2026) 1 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 15 December 2025 and 11 January 2026.

6.2. EMPOWERMENT (SEC(2025) 337 ET SEQ.; SEC(2026) 2 ET SEQ.)

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 15 December 2025 and 11 January 2026.

6.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS**(SEC(2025) 338 ET SEQ.; SEC(2026) 3 ET SEQ.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedures between 15 December 2025 and 11 January 2026, as archived in Decide.

6.4. WRITTEN PROCEDURES SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED**(SEC(2026) 4 AND /2)**

The Commission took note of the written procedures specifically identified for which the time limit expired between 12 and 16 January 2026.

6.5. AMENDMENT OF EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION DECISIONS AS REGARDS THEIR PERIOD OF APPLICATION**(C(2025) 84)**

The Commission adopted the Decision set out in document C(2025) 84, which extends, for an indefinite period, Decisions C(2019) 2792, C(2019) 3357, C(2019) 6506, C(2019) 7121, C(2020) 975, C(2020) 1703, C(2020) 2065, C(2020) 6156, C(2020) 6308, C(2020) 8003, C(2021) 1735 and C(2021) 3740 granting empowerments and delegations of power.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS**(SEC(2026) 5/2)****ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS****(PERS(2026) 1)****7.1. DG DIGITAL SERVICES – APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR AT GRADE AD14****(PERS(2025) 33 TO /3)**

The Commission had before it applications under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii), Article 29(1)(b) and Article 29(2) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Director of the ‘Digital Enablers and Innovation’ Directorate at the Directorate-General for Digital Services (PERS(2025) 33 and /2).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 4 November and 4 December 2025 (PERS(2025) 33/3).

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

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

7.2. *DG HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY – EXTENSION OF THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN HEALTH AND DIGITAL EXECUTIVE AGENCY*

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

- to extend the term of office of Ms Marina ZANCHI as Director of the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA) from 16 February to 31 March 2026;
- to extend her secondment in the interest of the service to the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA) for the same period, in accordance with Articles 37 and 38 of the Staff Regulations.

These decisions would take effect on 16 February 2026.

7.3. *DG HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY – TRANSFER IN THE INTEREST OF THE SERVICE OF AN AD15 OFFICIAL UNDER ARTICLE 7 OF*

THE STAFF REGULATIONS, AND SECONDMENT IN THE INTEREST OF THE SERVICE UNDER ARTICLES 37 AND 38 OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS AS DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN HEALTH AND DIGITAL EXECUTIVE AGENCY

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

- to transfer in the interest of the service under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations, Mr Marc TACHELET, currently Principal Adviser seconded as a Director to the Research Executive Agency (REA) at the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, to the post of Principal Adviser (SANTE.HaDEA) at the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety;
- to approve his secondment in the interest of the service under Articles 37 and 38 of the Staff Regulations as Director of the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA) for a period of four years, which could be renewed.

These decisions would take effect on 1 April 2026.

***7.4. DECISION ON A REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM A FORMER MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION
(C(2026) 9000)***

The Commission adopts the decision set out in the document C(2026) 9000.

8. **PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING ENHANCED COOPERATION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UKRAINE SUPPORT LOAN FOR 2026 AND 2027**
(COM(2026) 20 TO /3; RCC(2026) 3)
9. **PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING REGULATION (EU) 2024/792 ESTABLISHING THE UKRAINE FACILITY**
(COM(2026)°22; RCC(2026) 3)
10. **AMENDED PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION AMENDING REGULATION (EU, EURATOM) 2020/2093 LAYING DOWN THE MULTIANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE YEARS 2021 TO 2027**
(COM(2026)°21; RCC(2026) 3)

The PRESIDENT began by stressing that the fourth anniversary of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine would soon be marked, with serious consequences for the Ukrainian people and the country's economy. She recalled that last December, the European Council had agreed to provide stable and predictable funding to meet Ukraine's budgetary and military needs over the next two years. She noted that Russia showed no sign of seeking peace and continued to target Ukrainian population and civilian infrastructure. It was in that context that a proposal for a loan to Ukraine amounting to €90 billion for 2026 and 2027 was presented to the College that day, as part of enhanced cooperation among 24 Member States.

She explained that two thirds of the loan (EUR 60 billion) was earmarked for Ukraine's military needs and the remaining third (EUR 30 billion) for general budget support the country needed to keep the State and basic services running. On the military side, discussions were ongoing with the United States on security guarantees, with the first line of defence remaining the Ukrainian army, which was

well trained but needed proper military equipment. Purchases of military equipment would comply with the cascade principle: they would first be made in Ukraine, then in EU Member States and in EEA/EFTA countries, and only then in other countries if the required equipment was not available in this region or in due time.

The PRESIDENT added that the loan conditions included progress on reforms and modernisation of the country, as well as respect for the rule of law and the fight against corruption. She stressed that this EU loan to Ukraine drew on experience from NextGenerationEU. She also pointed out that the proposal for the reparations loan based on immobilised Russian assets – which was the other option proposed to the European Council in December – had not been withdrawn and was still on the table. She welcomed the fact that the immobilisation of these assets had been extended until the war ended and reparations were being paid, and therefore renewal every six months by unanimity was no longer required. She concluded by expressing the hope that the Council and the European Parliament would swiftly adopt the proposals presented that day, so that funding could reach Ukraine by April 2026.

Mr DOMBROVSKIS explained that the proposed loan was designed as a limited-recourse instrument to ensure continued macro-financial and defence support for Ukraine. It was funded by common EU borrowing guaranteed by the European budget and based on enhanced cooperation among 24 Member States, with Czechia, Hungary and Slovakia choosing not to participate. He stressed that the proposal created no debt sustainability risks for Ukraine, which was particularly important in the context of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) assistance programme for Ukraine. He confirmed that the aim was to make the loan fully operational from the second quarter of 2026 to cover Ukraine's military and budgetary needs.

He then outlined the main differences between the Ukraine support loan presented that day and the proposal for a reparations loan. In particular, he noted that the support loan was not guaranteed by immobilised cash balances but by EU budget headroom, which avoided the need for national guarantees. The maximum amount

of the loan was set at EUR 90 billion and it remained available until the end of 2027. He also drew attention to the inclusion of a borrowing cost subsidy, meant to cover interest on EU borrowing and to be borne exclusively by the participating Member States.

As regards the allocation of funds, budget support could be disbursed either through Macro-Financial Assistance (MFA) or the Ukraine Facility. Mr DOMBROVSKIS stressed that these two instruments were fully complementary and made it possible to ensure support for Ukraine was flexible and effective. He also noted that the proposed loan covered only part of Ukraine's overall financing needs and that international partners, especially in the G7, also needed to meet their commitments for 2026 and beyond. He reported that this issue had been raised earlier in the week with G7 partners, who had confirmed their contribution under the Extraordinary Revenue Acceleration (ERA) initiative. Discussions were also ongoing with other partners, especially Japan and Norway.

He also highlighted that the loan would be based on strong conditionality mechanisms, in particular for budget support. He referred to his recent discussion with the IMF Managing Director on the extent of the budget support needed. The IMF was expected to submit its programme to its Board on 11 February, which would enable it to start disbursements in the first quarter of 2026. The proposed Regulation explicitly reflected the link between EU support and compliance with the conditionality in the IMF programme. This echoed the importance expressed by European leaders in December of Ukraine continuing to uphold the rule of law and fight against corruption.

Mr DOMBROVSKIS then referred to the military component of the loan, worth EUR 60 billion, intended to support Ukraine's defence industrial capacity. He confirmed that the cascade principle applied, whereby the defence equipment financed by the loan should, as a priority, be manufactured in Ukraine, in the EU or in EEA/EFTA countries. To ensure rapid access to the equipment Ukraine needed, derogations were possible where production times or equipment availability did not

match Ukraine's operational requirements, thus allowing purchases from other countries where necessary. The overriding objective was to ensure that the cascade system was operational and sufficiently flexible to meet Ukraine's defence needs.

Mr DOMBROVSKIS pointed out that, in line with the European Council conclusions, the proposal included a provision whereby the EU reserved the right to use Russian assets immobilised in the EU to repay the Ukraine support loan, in compliance with EU and international law. He reiterated the principle that European taxpayers should not bear the cost of repaying the loan and specified that Ukraine would repay it only if it received reparations.

On the next steps, he said that the Commission would engage with the co-legislators to explain the importance of a swift adoption. In parallel, the Commission would draft a memorandum of understanding and a loan agreement with the Ukrainian authorities, as well as a financing strategy setting out Ukraine's financial needs for 2026.

For her part, Ms KOS pointed out that, since the start of Russia's war of aggression, the EU and its Member States had provided Ukraine with assistance in various forms totalling EUR 193,3 billion. As a result of the war, Ukraine would continue to have specific requirements for the period covering 2026-2027. The new loan was a confirmation of the EU's commitment to helping Ukraine develop with a view to the country joining the EU. The loan set out to boost Ukraine's economic growth using strict conditions to encourage reforms and create an environment that was conducive to private investment.

She said that, to date, Ukraine had received almost EUR 27 billion under the Ukraine Facility and had implemented 63 of the 68 reform steps set out in the conditionality mechanism. However, she noted that decision-making in Ukraine was hindered by the war and that this was having an impact on the country's ability to fully implement reforms. At Ukraine's request, the Council had already revised the reform programme in October 2025. She therefore stressed the importance of

compliance with strict conditionality rules for the new loan to safeguard the country's economic growth and prepare it for EU accession.

Mr SERAFIN explained that the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) Regulation would need to be amended so that the EU could provide this funding for Ukraine. The purpose of this amendment was to extend the budgetary guarantee to cover the limited recourse loan agreed by the European Council, and doing so required unanimity in the Council. The decision to favour lending over the use of immobilised assets would entail debt-servicing costs; these were expected to reach around EUR 1 billion from 2027, EUR 1.8 billion the following year and around EUR 3 billion per year post-2028.

He then referred to the technical procedure, which required a special instrument to be created over and above the fixed ceilings of the MFF. This new instrument would be used to cover the debt-servicing costs in respect of the funds borrowed on the financial markets. The amounts allocated to this instrument would be mobilised as part of the annual budgetary procedure and would be requested only from the Member States participating in the loan.

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

- full support for the proposals tabled, which implemented the European Council conclusions from December 2025 and ensured that Ukraine's financing would remain stable for the next two years through EU borrowing, while retaining the option of using immobilised Russian assets;
- in that connection, the importance of ensuring that the co-legislators adopted the proposals before the end of February to allow Ukraine to draw up its financing strategy, which was needed for the loan to be disbursed in a timely manner;

- the observation that, as things stood, three Member States had decided not to take part in this initiative for enhanced EU cooperation and a reminder that they would be able to do so in the future if they wished;
- with regard to military support, the importance of the European preference rules, based on the SAFE instrument model, and of making provision for specific derogations in case some of Ukraine's military equipment requirements could not immediately be met by European manufacturers;
- the need for good public communication on these proposals, especially the mechanism for derogating from the European preference rules, in order to send clear political signals that would help boost the European defence industry;
- the fact that the expertise of the military staff working for the European External Action Service and the European Defence Agency would prove indispensable in supporting swift and effective implementation of the defence component of the loan;
- the importance too of ensuring the continuity of Ukraine's budgetary financing so that the country could plan its investments and reforms from the second quarter of 2026 while continuing the ongoing discussions on contributions from other international donors and the bilateral support provided by the Member States;
- the fundamental role of the conditionality principle as a means of ensuring that reforms could continue in Ukraine and that the European public would support this use of EU funds as well as EU membership for Ukraine.

The PRESIDENT wrapped up the discussion by stressing the importance of this European initiative to support Ukraine. Moreover, she pointed to the need for swift implementation of the 2030 Readiness Plan, which had been launched in 2025 with the aim of plugging existing gaps in European industrial production and bolstering the EU's defence capabilities.

Following these presentations, the Commission:

- adopted the proposal for a Regulation in COM(2026) 20/3 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council and the national parliaments;
- adopted the proposal for a Regulation in COM(2026) 22 for transmission to the European Parliament, the Council and the national parliaments;
- adopted the proposal for a Regulation in COM(2026) 21 for transmission to the European Parliament and the Council and, for information, to the national parliaments.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN EXTERNAL RELATIONS

The PRESIDENT referred to the tensions around Greenland's sovereignty and reiterated that Greenland belonged to its inhabitants and that it was important to respect their will. In this regard, she referred to the statements made by the Greenlandic Prime Minister, Mr Jens-Frederik Nielsen, at a joint press conference the previous day with the Danish Prime Minister, Ms Mette Frederiksen, confirming the country's preference to maintain its ties with Denmark and the EU. She stressed that the issue of Arctic security fell primarily within the remit of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). She also reminded the College that the EU had opened an office in the capital of Greenland, Nuuk, in 2024, as a sign of its desire to boost cooperation and strengthen its geopolitical presence in the Arctic.

Ms KALLAS stressed the need for the EU to make practical preparations for all potential scenarios. She pointed out that a population could not be bought by another State, and called for a reflection on the deterrents available to the EU.

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

- the exceptional gravity of the current situation, perceived as a moment of strategic disruption of the rules-based international order, which raised serious concerns, in particular in Greenland and Denmark;
- the need to show unwavering solidarity with Greenland and Denmark, accompanied by concrete action on the ground;
- the need for close coordination with Denmark, as well as with like-minded partners, particularly within NATO and the G7, and with key players in the United States, in order to clearly highlight the political, economic and security consequences of any challenge to European territorial integrity;
- the urgent need to boost and accelerate cooperation with Greenland, particularly in the areas of critical raw materials, energy, skills, connectivity and sustainable development, building on existing instruments and anticipating the priorities of the next Multiannual Financial Framework;
- the importance of using all of the available diplomatic channels to defuse the tension, while sending firm and credible signals about the EU's red lines and the high cost of any escalation;
- the need to prepare for different scenarios through strategic planning, interinstitutional coordination and consideration of the legal and policy instruments available;
- the importance of proactive communication aimed at reassuring European citizens, clarifying the EU's position and retaining trust in the EU's ability to defend its interests and values;

- the fact that this situation further highlighted the urgent need to reduce the EU's strategic dependencies and strengthen its economic base in order to safeguard its ability to act and its credibility on the international stage;
- the shared belief that the EU would be judged on the coherence, speed and robustness of its collective response, and that safeguarding European and transatlantic unity remained essential for long-term stability and security.

The PRESIDENT stressed the need to work closely with Greenland and Denmark. She invited Mr SÍKELA to examine the projects already underway in Greenland and how their implementation could be accelerated and intensified. She stressed that the EU was an economic power that was actively working to reduce its strategic dependencies and was developing new partnership agreements.

Ms KALLAS stressed the importance of prevention efforts and the need to draw up a coordinated action plan with the Member States. More generally, she noted the end of a rules-based world order, as illustrated by the situations in Venezuela, Gaza and the border between Cambodia and Thailand. Amid this crisis, the EU represented a bastion of defence of fundamental values and respect for international law for its partners, creating high expectations.

She then turned to the situation in Iran, noting the scale of the protests, as well as the resilience of the regime, and mentioned the possibility of additional individual sanctions and the importance of supporting civil society.

With regard to Venezuela, she reported on the contacts made at ministerial level with partners in the region, who were very concerned about the precedent set by the US intervention, which had not, however, dismantled the State apparatus in the country. She called for continued engagement with regional partners, which could involve the possible lifting of certain restrictive measures in the longer term.

As concerns Ukraine, Ms KALLAS noted that, following the meeting of the Coalition of the Willing in Paris the previous week, security guarantees were now

being drawn up. However, she noted that there had been no progress on the Russian side regarding a possible ceasefire. She stressed the importance of increasing pressure, including on the shadow fleet, in order to bring Russia to the negotiating table. She noted the unusually severe winter in Ukraine and the impact of Russian attacks on energy infrastructure, which had deprived certain parts of the country of electricity and heating. She stressed how important the EU's assistance was in addressing the particularly difficult conditions faced by the Ukrainian population.

The Commission took note of this information.

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The meeting closed at 11.00.