



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

PV(2026) 2563 final

- English translation of the French version which is authentic -

Brussels, 10 June 2026

TEXTE EN

MINUTES

of the 2563rd meeting of the Commission

held in Brussels

(Berlaymont)

on Wednesday 22 April 2026

(morning)

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Single sitting: Wednesday 22 April 2026 (morning)

The sitting opened at 9.05 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 ŠEFČOVIČ	Member	Items 1 to 8 (in part)
Mr DOMBROVSKIS	Member	
Ms ŠUICA	Member	Items 1 to 8 (in part)
Mr VÁRHELYI	Member	
Mr KUBILIUS	Member	
Ms KOS	Member	
Mr SÍKELA	Member	
Mr KADIS	Member	
Ms ALBUQUERQUE	Member	Item 8 (in part) and item 9
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 8 (in part) and 9

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Mr HANSEN	Member
Mr MICALLEF	Member

Absent:

Mr HOEKSTRA	Member
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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	Item 8
Mr VAN KEMSEKE	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(2026) 2563/FINAL; SEC(2026) 2563/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(2026) 2563)

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Heads of Cabinet held on Monday 20 April 2026.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

(PV(2026) 2559; PV(2026) 2560)

The Commission approved the minutes of its 2559th and 2560th meetings of 10 and 18 March 2026, and held over approval of the minutes of its 2561st and 2562nd meetings of 25 March and 13 April 2026 for a later date.

4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

(RCC(2026) 168)

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group (GRI) held on Friday 17 April 2026 (RCC(2026) 168).

The Commission approved the lines proposed for the following points:

- **Addressing the negative trade-related effects of global overcapacity on the Union steel market (Regulation) – KARLSBRO report – 2025/0726 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2026) 102.

- **Amendment of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 on the coordination of social security systems and Regulation (EC) No 987/2009 laying down the procedure for implementing Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 (Regulation) – BISCHOFF report – 2016/0397 (COD)**

Line set out in SI(2026) 95.

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

Line set out in SI(2026) 99/2.

- **Amendment of Regulation (EU) No 904/2010 as regards the access of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) and the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) to value added tax information at Union level (Council Regulation) – HADJIPANTELA report – 2025/0348 (CNS)**

Line set out in SI(2026) 100.

- **2024 Discharge (13 reports)**

Line set out in SP(2026) 146/2.

- **One Europe, One Market Roadmap**

Line set out in SPI(2026) 47/2.

The Commission took note of the following points:

- **Environmental Omnibus Package – Suspension of the application of the rules on the appointment of an authorised representative for extended producer responsibility for batteries and waste batteries and packaging and packaging waste (Regulation) – TER LAAK report – 2025/0395 (COD) / Suspension of the application of the rules on the appointment of authorised representatives for extended producer responsibility for waste, waste electrical and electronic equipment and single use plastic waste (Directive) – TER LAAK report – 2025/0396 (COD) / Amendment of Regulation (EU) 2023/1542 and Regulation (EU) 2024/1244 as regards simplification of some requirements and reduction of administrative burden (Regulation) – SOLÍS PÉREZ report – 2025/0397 (COD) / Amendment of Directives 2008/98/EC, 2010/75/EU, (EU) 2015/2193 and (EU) 2024/1785 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards simplification of some requirements and reduction of administrative burden (Directive) – SOLÍS PÉREZ report – 2025/0394 (COD) / Speeding-up of environmental assessments (Regulation) – WIESNER report – 2025/0391 (COD) / Amendment of Directive 2007/2/EC as regards simplification of certain requirements for the establishment of the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the Union (Directive) – WIESNER report – 2025/0393 (COD)**

Information set out in SI(2026) 101.

- **Joint Action Plan for enhanced cooperation on research and innovation between the European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD) and Joint Research Centre (JRC), and the European Committee of the Regions (CoR)**

Information set out in SR(2026) 2.

**5. COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL ACTION
(RCC(2026) 213)**

The Commission took note of the operational conclusions in RCC(2026) 213 of the meeting of the Group for External Coordination (EXCO) held on Thursday 16 April 2026.

6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

**6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED
(SEC(2026) 91 ET SEQ.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 13 and 19 April 2026.

**6.2. EMPOWERMENT
(SEC(2026) 92 ET SEQ.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 13 and 19 April 2026.

**6.3. DELEGATION / SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS
(SEC(2026) 93 ET SEQ.)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedures between 13 and 19 April 2026, as archived in Decide.

**6.4. WRITTEN PROCEDURES SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED
(SEC(2026) 94 AND /2)**

The Commission took note of the written procedures specifically identified for which the time limit expired between 20 and 24 April 2026.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS (SEC(2026) 95)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (PERS(2026) 33)

7.1. REFORM AND INVESTMENT TASK FORCE – AMENDMENT OF THE ORGANISATION CHART AND AUTHORISATION FOR INTERNAL PUBLICATION AT GRADE AD15/16 OF A DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL POST (PERS(2026) 34; SEC(2026) 119)

On a proposal from Mr SERAFIN, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, the Commission decided to amend the organisation chart of the Reform and Investment Task Force (SG REFORM), and to approve:

- the creation of a temporary post of Deputy Director-General for Implementation for the duration of the Reform and Investment Task Force;
- the internal publication, with immediate effect, of the vacancy notice set out in PERS(2026) 34 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 the Reform and Investment Task Force as set out in SEC(2026) 119.

Following this reorganisation, the total number of senior management posts within the Reform and Investment Task Force would increase from six to seven.

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

**7.2. SECRETARIAT-GENERAL – EUROPEAN COMMISSION DECISION
ON POST TERM-OF-OFFICE ACTIVITY OF A FORMER MEMBER OF
THE COMMISSION
(C(2026) 9012)**

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

The Commission adopted the Decision in C(2026) 9012.

**8. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF
THE REGIONS: ACCELERATEEU – ENERGY UNION: AFFORDABLE AND
SECURE ENERGY THROUGH ACCELERATED ACTION
(COM(2026) 370 TO /3; RCC(2026) 22)**

Referring to the geopolitical backdrop, the PRESIDENT indicated that the AccelerateEU strategy proposed measures to protect Europeans from the fossil fuel crisis and accelerate the transition to homegrown clean energy. She noted that, since the start of the conflict in the Middle East, the EU had spent an additional

EUR 24 billion on energy imports as a result of rising prices. These additional costs were due to the EU's excessive dependence on imported fossil fuels.

At the same time, Europe had local, affordable and clean energy sources, and it was essential to optimise the use of renewable and nuclear energy. The PRESIDENT stressed that the energy mix fell within the competence of the Member States and that not all of them were starting from the same point in this area, which was why the Communication did not propose one-size-fits-all solutions, but rather a series of tools offering one-off, temporary and targeted measures to support households and businesses, particularly the most vulnerable.

Ms RIBERA stressed that the Communication aimed to speed up the transition to clean, secure and affordable energy, in order to ensure the EU's energy and economic security. It proposed targeted measures to be taken by the Member States to alleviate the effects of the energy crisis on citizens and businesses. These measures would be more effective if they were coordinated at European level. The measures fell into five categories to help each Member State equip itself with the most effective tools for dealing with its specific situation. They would be complemented as the situation in the Middle East evolved and adapted depending on how long the crisis lasted.

Ms RIBERA added that the Commission would shortly adopt a temporary framework on State aid which would provide additional flexibility for national governments, including for emergency measures to support the most exposed economic sectors. She indicated that Member States had been consulted on this temporary framework. Lastly, she drew attention to how important it was for all Member States to act together, in a spirit of solidarity, in order to guarantee security of supply and affordable energy prices in Europe.

Mr JØRGENSEN began by highlighting the unprecedented severity of the current energy crisis, which could be compared to the shocks of 1973 and 2022 combined.

He felt that the consequences of the crisis would be long-lasting, even if a peace agreement were to be reached quickly. However, he considered that the EU and its Member States were better equipped today, thanks in particular to the development of renewable energies and the increased diversification of supplies. Without these achievements, the crisis would have been even more devastating for Europeans. He nevertheless stressed that the coming months and years would be difficult, in particular due to disruptions in supply chains, with an even greater impact on gas than on oil. He also pointed out that the effects on household and business bills had not yet fully materialised, and that it was essential for the EU to anticipate and mitigate them.

Mr JØRGENSEN said that the aim of the Communication was to provide immediate and tailored support to the most vulnerable households and industries. He stressed that the measures implemented at national level had to be timely, targeted and temporary, and tied to long-term solutions. He pointed out that in 2022, many different national aid schemes had been implemented – a fragmentation that had weakened Europe. He therefore called for more cooperation, particularly as regards the strategic filling of gas reserves, in order to bring down prices.

Referring to the measures to be taken in the short and medium term, he mentioned as examples the faster replacement of gas boilers with heat pumps, the improvement of building insulation and the optimisation of energy efficiency in industry. He then stressed the need to boost the transition towards clean energy. The crisis had to serve as a wake-up call and the EU had to speed up its renewable energy production and electrification, while securing supplies in the short term. He reiterated that support for fossil fuels remained a solution of last resort, and that the goal should remain that of a decarbonised Europe.

Lastly, Mr JØRGENSEN highlighted the importance of mobilising investment, suggesting that unspent EU funds be redirected without delay towards these energy priorities. He reminded the College that a summit of investors and major financial

institutions would be organised shortly, the challenge of which would be to secure tangible commitments, both for the current emergency and for the long term. He concluded by saying that the current energy crisis was a test for European collective resilience, and that the EU had tools and resources that could be mobilised immediately. He pointed out that effective coordination between Member States was essential, and that the energy transition was the only sustainable solution.

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

- a broad support to the Communication, considered as a timely response, drawing on the lessons learned from the 2022 crisis and taking into account the diversity of national situations to strengthen security of supply and address rising energy prices;
- the need for swift, targeted and temporary measures in favour of the most vulnerable households and businesses that would respect the current budgetary constraints and not undermine the long-term objective of reducing the EU's dependence on fossil fuels;
- for some, the practical difficulties that the implementation of such measures could pose in a highly uncertain context;
- the importance of a coordinated response at EU level to limit market distortions and additional price pressures;
- the risk that the crisis may become long-lasting and have a deeper impact on the cost of living, energy poverty, employment and supply chains;
- in this regard, a call for further reflection on financing needs, not only in the context of the preparation of the next Multiannual Financial Framework, but also through the mobilisation of existing instruments;

- the balance to be struck between measures to diversify supplies and measures to lower energy bills by reducing demand, saving energy, increasing energy efficiency and providing better information to consumers;
- the geopolitical and security dimension of the crisis in the Middle East, restrictions on freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, and the need to pursue diplomatic efforts with partners;
- the immediate effect of the crisis on transport, which had been affected by disruptions to air and maritime connectivity and rising fuel costs and freight rates, and the possible repercussions on tourism and mobility in a context characterised more by price volatility than by real supply problems;
- the attention to be paid to the EU's state of preparedness, in particular by monitoring market developments, diversifying supplies, ensuring transparency around stockdraws and engaging in prudent public communication to avoid panic effects, as well as by reflecting on residual fuel needs and the corresponding refining capacities;
- the importance of taking into account the impact on other exposed sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture and certain energy-intensive or fossil input-dependent industries, while considering the possibility of mobilising targeted and temporary support where necessary;
- the urgent need to speed up, in parallel, the deployment of clean and affordable domestic energy, the build-up of production capacity in Europe and the efforts to boost the resilience of the energy system through investments in infrastructure, electrification, renewable energy and nuclear energy, in particular small modular reactors;

- the relevance in this context of solutions relating to the circular economy, the bioeconomy and renewable gases and fuels, and the importance of removing the regulatory and permitting barriers hampering certain projects;
- the observation of an increase in energy demand in the medium to long term caused by the rise in artificial intelligence, data centres and new industrial capacities, and questions about the implications for infrastructure and energy and water resources;
- a call for data and projections, in particular on electrification, to be updated in order to better align public objectives, economic signals and investment decisions and to preserve the European industrial base.

The PRESIDENT wound up the debate by reminding the College of the EU's progress following the 2022 energy crisis caused by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. She mentioned, in particular, the actions at European level which had led to a rapid economic recovery and a decisive reduction in European dependence on Russian fossil fuels. She also stressed the importance of the temporary nature of the measures implemented in response to crises and the advisability of using sunset clauses, review clauses and strict criteria for their activation and deactivation. Lastly, she noted the ongoing political debate on the future of EU energy supplies and, in this regard, highlighted the importance of European investment in the development of small modular reactors and in nuclear fusion research.

Following these presentations, the Commission approved the Communication in COM(2026) 370/3 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.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.1. *LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN EXTERNAL RELATIONS*

Ms KALLAS reported on the latest developments in external relations. She began by referring to the discussions held during the Foreign Affairs Council on Tuesday 21 April concerning restrictions on the freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz. She pointed out that the EU was already deploying two naval missions in the region, Operation Aspides and Operation Atalanta, which it might be appropriate to bolster once a stable ceasefire was in place.

With regard to the ongoing negotiations between the United States and Iran, she noted that the focus was on the Iranian nuclear issue, leaving out other important subjects such as Iran's ballistic missile programme and Iran's support for its network of 'proxies'. She also noted that Syria was distancing itself from the conflict and reported on the high-level political dialogue with the country and cooperation on counter-terrorism and migration. She noted the importance of supporting the strengthening of Syrian institutions in order to ensure political stability.

Turning to developments concerning Ukraine, Ms KALLAS welcomed the prospect of unblocking the EUR 90 billion loan and the 20th package of sanctions against Russia. Moreover, she noted that the situation on the war front was improving for Ukraine and that the economic situation in Russia was worsening, despite the additional oil and gas revenue generated by the war in Iran.

However, she observed that Russia was making a return to the world stage through various international organisations. She called on each Commissioner to examine this issue in their area of responsibility, stressing that such a return should not be permitted until the war was over. She referred in particular to the Russian pavilion reopening at the Venice Biennale, an event which was

receiving funding under the MEDIA strand of the Creative Europe programme. She explained that the possibility of suspending the funding was currently being examined.

Ms KALLAS also reported on discussions at the Foreign Affairs Council on the South Caucasus, in particular in the run-up to the summit with Armenia. She noted the need to continue work with Azerbaijan too on issues of common interest such as energy and trade relations, while nevertheless keeping the focus on the need to uphold human rights. With regard to Georgia, she stressed that it would be desirable to have more sustained European engagement with the country's people in order to counter anti-EU narratives, but noted that human rights issues should be addressed as a matter of priority if dialogue with the government were to resume.

On Lebanon, she highlighted the seriousness of the situation and pointed out that, while some Member States were calling for the full suspension of the EU-Israel Association Agreement, such a decision required unanimity in the Council, which had not yet been secured.

In the course of the brief discussion that followed, the Commission referred mainly to the official warning issued by the Commission to the organisers of the Venice Biennale and the various legal options examined, Russia's concomitant return to various cultural and sporting events and the accompanying propaganda campaign, and the risks that Russia's participation in such events might ultimately lead to public order disturbances in some Member States.

The Commission took note of this information.

9.2. 2026 RISK MANAGEMENT EXERCISE**(SEC(2026) 117)**

Mr SERAFIN informed the College of the main results of the risk management exercise for 2026, an annual exercise undertaken by each Commission department in order to assess the perceived risks and indicate the envisaged mitigation measures.

There had been a significant increase in the number of risks identified compared with the previous year. These risks covered a diverse range of interlinked areas relating to (i) geopolitics, owing to increased instability, trade tensions and regional conflicts; (ii) security, through cyber threats and attacks affecting infrastructure resilience and data protection, (iii) policy management, owing to regulatory complexity, the implementation of reforms and coordination between Member States, and (iv) structural challenges, triggered by the green transition, strategic dependencies and economic shocks.

Mr SERAFIN concluded his presentation by inviting the Members of the Commission to discuss this report with their respective departments in order to implement the requisite mitigating measures in their areas of responsibility.

The Commission took note of this information and of document SEC(2026) 117.

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The meeting closed at 10.37.