



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

**PV(2012)1990 final**

Brussels, 22 February 2012

**MINUTES**

**of the 1990th meeting of the Commission  
held in Strasbourg  
(Winston Churchill building)  
on Tuesday 14 February 2012  
(afternoon)**

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**Single sitting: Tuesday 14 February 2012 (afternoon)**

The sitting was opened at 13.11 by Ms REDING, President BARROSO being absent.

Present:

Ms REDING	Vice-President	
Mr ALMUNIA	Vice-President	
Ms KROES	Vice-President	
Mr TAJANI	Vice-President	
Mr ŠEFČOVIČ	Vice-President	
Mr REHN	Vice-President	
Mr POTOČNIK	Member	
Mr BARNIER	Member	Item 7 (in part)
Ms VASSILIOU	Member	
Mr ŠEMETA	Member	
Mr DALLI	Member	
Ms GEOGHEGAN-QUINN	Member	
Mr LEWANDOWSKI	Member	
Ms DAMANAKI	Member	
Ms GEORGIEVA	Member	Item 7 (in part)
Mr HAHN	Member	
Mr FÜLE	Member	Item 7 (in part)
Mr ANDOR	Member	Item 7 (in part)
Ms MALMSTRÖM	Member	
Mr CIOLOŞ	Member	

Absent:

Mr BARROSO	President
Baroness ASHTON	High Representative/ Vice-President
Mr KALLAS	Vice-President
Mr PIEBALGS	Member
Mr DE GUCHT	Member
Mr OETTINGER	Member
Ms HEDEGAARD	Member

The following sat in to represent absent Members of the Commission:

Ms CASTAGNOLI	Adviser in Baroness ASHTON's office
Ms ARNOULD	A member of Mr PIEBALGS's staff
Ms PERESSO	A member of Mr DE GUCHT's staff
Mr MUELLER	A member of Ms HEDEGAARD's staff

The following also sat in:

Mr FRUTUOSO DE MELO	Deputy Chef de cabinet to the PRESIDENT
Mr ROMERO REQUENA	Director-General, Legal Service
Mr PAULGER	Director-General, DG Communication
Mr ULZURRÚN DE ASANZA Y MUÑOZ	DG Communication – Commission Spokesman's Service
Mr KLAUS	A member of the PRESIDENT's staff
Ms ROUCH	A member of Ms REDING's staff
Mr LAHTI	A member of Mr REHN's staff

Secretary: Ms DAY, Secretary-General, assisted by Mr AYET PUIGARNAU, Director in the Secretariat-General.

**1. AGENDAS**

**(OJ(2012)1990/3; SEC(2012)104/2)**

The Commission took note of that day's agenda and of the tentative agendas for forthcoming meetings.

**2. WEEKLY MEETING OF CHEFS DE CABINET**

**(RCC(2012)1990)**

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 13 February.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES AND SPECIAL MINUTES OF THE 1988<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE COMMISSION (1 FEBRUARY) AND THE MINUTES OF THE 1989<sup>TH</sup> MEETING (8 FEBRUARY)**

**(PV(2012)1988; PV(2012)1988, PART II; PV(2012)1989)**

The Commission approved the minutes of its 1988th meeting, and decided to hold over for one week approval of the minutes of its 1989th meeting.

**4. INTERINSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS**

**(RCC(2012)12)**

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Interinstitutional Relations Group held on Friday 10 February (RCC(2012)12).

It paid particular attention to the following points.

#### **4.1. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS**

##### **i) Ordinary legislative procedure**

(point 1.2 of the IRG record)

###### Dossier at Council first reading

- Establishment of the European Refugee Fund for the period 2008-2013 as part of the general programme ‘Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows’, and repeal of Council Decision 2004/904/EC (Decision) – TAVARES report – 2009/0127 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2012)56.

##### **ii) Preparation for the February II 2012 part-session of Parliament**

(point 1.3 of the IRG record)

###### Ordinary legislative procedure – First reading

- Deposit guarantee schemes (Directive – recast) – SIMON report – 2010/0207 (COD)

The Commission approved the line set out in SP(2012)119 to /3.

#### **4.2. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL**

##### **iii) Programming of Council business**

(SI(2012)55)

The Commission took note of the information in SI(2012)55 on the Council meetings between 16 and 29 February.

#### **4.3. RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT**

##### **iv) Preparation for the February II 2012 part-session of Parliament**

(point 3.1 of the IRG record)



Non-legislative dossier

- Oral questions O-000315/2011, O-000318/2011, O-000326/2011 and O-000022/2012 – Extra-territorial impact of third-country legislation and EU data protection laws

The Commission took note of document SP(2012)123/3.

- v) Action taken on non-legislative resolutions adopted by Parliament at its November II part-session**  
(point 3.5.2 of the IRG record)

The Commission approved for transmission to Parliament documents SP(2012)104 to /3 on the action taken on the non-legislative resolutions adopted by Parliament at its November II part-session.

**4.4. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE, THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS, THE EUROPEAN OMBUDSMAN AND NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS**

- vi) Revision of the protocol of cooperation between the Commission and the Committee of the Regions**  
(point 4.3 of the IRG record)

The Commission took note of SR(2012)4/3 and approved the draft revised protocol of cooperation between the Commission and the Committee of the Regions attached to that document.

- vii) Revision of the protocol on cooperation between the Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee**  
(point 4.4 of the IRG record)

The Commission took note of SC(2012)6/2 and approved the draft revised protocol on cooperation between the Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee attached to that document.

**4.5. EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

**viii) Meeting of the World Food Programme Executive Board (Rome, 13-15 February) – Statements by the Commission**

(point 5.1 of the IRG record)

The Commission approved the line set out in SI(2012)54/2.

**5. WRITTEN PROCEDURES, EMPOWERMENT AND DELEGATION OF POWERS**

**5.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED**

*(SEC(2012)105 ET SEQ.)*

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 6 and 10 February.

**5.2. EMPOWERMENT**

*(SEC(2012)106 ET SEQ.)*

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted between 6 and 10 February.

**5.3. DELEGATION AND SUBDELEGATION OF POWERS**

*(SEC(2012)107 ET SEQ.)*

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the delegation and subdelegation procedure between 6 and 10 February, as archived in e-Greffe.

**5.4. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES**

*(SEC(2012)108 AND /2)*

The Commission took note of the sensitive written procedures for which the time limit expired between 13 and 17 February and of the finalisation written

procedure initiated following the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet on 13 February.

**5.5. GENERAL EMPOWERMENT FOR THE ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND CORRECTIVE MEASURES RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PERFORMANCE SCHEMES FOR AIR NAVIGATION SERVICES WITHIN REGULATION (EU) 691/2010 (C(2012)864)**

The Commission granted the general empowerment set out in C(2012)864 to the Member of the Commission responsible for transport to adopt on its behalf and under its responsibility certain recommendations and corrective measures related to the implementation of performance schemes for air navigation services under Regulation (EU) 691/2010.

**6. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS (SEC(2012)109)**

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (PERS(2012)23)**

**6.1. DG INTERNAL MARKET AND SERVICES – APPOINTMENT OF AD14/15 DIRECTOR (PERS(2011)141 TO /4)**

The Commission had before it an application under Article 29(1)(a)(i) and (iii) of the Staff Regulations for the post of Director, ‘Capital and Companies’, in DG Internal Market and Services (PERS(2011)141 and /3).

It took note of the opinions of the Consultative Committee on Appointments of 14 December 2011 and 26 January 2012 (PERS(2011)141/2 and /4).

The Commission proceeded to consider the applicant’s qualifications for the post. It also considered his ability, efficiency and conduct in the service. On a

proposal from Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr BARNIER, it then decided to appoint Mr Ugo BASSI to the post.

This decision would take effect on 1 March 2012.

**6.2. DG AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT – TEMPORARY POSTING AS DIRECTOR**

On a proposal from Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr CIOLOŞ, the Commission decided, under Article 7(2) of the Staff Regulations, to grant a temporary posting as Director, ‘Agricultural Legislation’, in DG Agriculture and Rural Development to Ms Nathalie SAUZE-VANDEVYVER, AD13 official and head of unit in that DG, from 1 February 2011 until such time as the post was filled, taking into account the interest of the service and in order to ensure fair treatment of the official concerned.

This decision would take effect immediately.

**6.3. DG ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS – TEMPORARY POSTING AS DIRECTOR**

On a proposal from Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr REHN, the Commission decided, under Article 7(2) of the Staff Regulations, to grant a temporary posting as Director, ‘Resources and Communication’, in DG Economic and Financial Affairs to Mr Johan VERHAEVEN, AD14 official and head of unit in that DG, from 1 April 2011 to 31 December 2011.

This decision would take effect immediately.

**6.4. DG COMPETITION – TEMPORARY POSTING AS DIRECTOR**

On a proposal from Mr ŠEFČOVIČ, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr ALMUNIA, the Commission decided, under Article 7(2) of the Staff Regulations, to grant a temporary posting as Director, ‘Markets and Cases II –

Information, Communication and Media', in DG Competition to Mr Joachim LUECKING, AD12 official and head of unit in that DG, from 1 November 2010 to 31 March 2011.

This decision would take effect immediately.

## **7. OTHER BUSINESS**

### ***LATEST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS***

Mr REHN spoke of the latest developments concerning the situation in Greece. He reported on the discussions held at the Eurogroup meeting on Thursday 9 February on the technical agreement reached in Greece on a new reform programme, which had shown that most but not all of the issues were resolved.

He explained that the important changes in the Greek labour market should help the country to regain competitiveness in the coming years. He welcomed the significant fiscal consolidation measures, representing 7% of gross domestic product (GDP) that had been adopted for 2012, while pointing out that Greece still needed to find another €325 million (0.15% of GDP). With regard to the financial sector, the discussions had focused on the bank recapitalisation strategy and on changes in bank governance.

He stressed that not all the issues had been resolved by the technical agreement and that the Eurogroup had therefore called for genuine ownership of the reforms by the Greek political parties and for more effective implementation.

While the vote by the Greek parliament on Sunday 12 February in favour of a new fiscal consolidation programme represented a crucial step, certain hurdles still had to be overcome, namely (i) to fully close the budget gap for 2012, (ii) to obtain a written undertaking from the political leaders to implement the reforms, this being an essential condition for the creditor countries, (iii) to agree with the Greek authorities on a list of priority actions to be taken before any payments were made,

and (iv) to pay the remaining financing (€6 billion).

Mr REHN also pointed out that the agreement with the private sector on its involvement in restructuring Greek debt had been prepared but could not be finalised until the conclusion of an agreement on the second financial aid programme.

He felt that, overall, significant progress had been made but that there was still some way to go. In his opinion, despite the social and political tensions in Greece, there was a chance that the political situation would stabilise. At the same time, he stressed that an agreement on the second aid programme had not yet been concluded. It was essential for the European economy to close this chapter and prevent Greece from defaulting on its payments by launching the agreement on public-sector involvement as soon as possible and concentrating efforts on implementation. The approaching elections in Greece did not help matters and it was essential for the main political parties to undertake to implement the reform programme and be willing to put this undertaking in writing.

During the ensuing discussion, the Commission also touched on the following points:

- the difficulties facing Greek society and the limits reached in terms of acceptance of the reforms;
- the need to emphasise the prospects for growth and job creation in Greece and the importance of investigating all the means of stimulating them, in particular efforts to attract foreign investors;
- the importance of a favourable vote by the Greek parliament in order to stabilise the situation;
- the difficulty of reaching a political consensus in favour of effective implementation of the reforms, but also the significance of the fact that the two main parties were committed to this and that there was now a pro-European majority;

- the need to emphasise the serious consequences for Greece and the Union as a whole if Greece left the euro area;
- the need to address the scepticism expressed about the feasibility of the reform programme, particularly as regards privatisations;
- the unfavourable situation caused by the run-up to the elections and the risk that this could cause additional delays in implementing the reforms;
- the perplexity caused by the fact that Greece had not implemented measures to improve and speed up access to the Structural Funds, given that the Commission had done its utmost to provide it with such assistance as quickly as possible in order to boost growth and job creation;
- on the other hand, recognition that funds for certain projects had not been paid to Greece because the necessary budget appropriations were not available;
- the problem posed by the discrepancy between the huge sacrifices asked of the great majority of the Greek people and the fact that senior executive pay remained untouched, making the efforts required by the population hard to accept.

Ms REDING thanked Mr REHN for this information and expressed her gratitude for the way he was handling this difficult and sensitive matter. She also thanked Ms DAMANAKI for her regular information bulletins to the Commission on the situation in Greece and assured her of the support of all the Members of the Commission. She emphasised here that the aid made available to Greece was an exceptional measure. She also thanked Mr HAHN in particular for his efforts to facilitate payments to Greece under the Structural Funds. Lastly, she called on all the Members to adopt a resolutely positive attitude and support their colleagues who were in the front line in this dossier.

Mr REHN observed that a Greek default would have a devastating impact on the country as well as highly negative effects for the Union both politically and economically. The only way forward was to work towards the conclusion of an

agreement and emphasise the importance of implementing the reforms.

The Commission also touched on certain procedural aspects, stressing the importance of circulating the documents to be adopted – including those to be adopted by written procedure – far enough ahead of the date of adoption to ensure that due attention was paid to the content of the documents and that all the Commissioners were fully involved. The Commissioners regretted the repeated leaks to the press of non-final versions that they had not yet examined. These practices hindered the collective decision-making process and damaged the Commission's credibility. The Secretary-General was asked to review these problems and to propose improvements in working methods and investigations to establish how these documents were leaked.

The Commission took note of this information.

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The meeting closed at 14.25.