

INFORMATION POINT

1. SG/HR – Creation of a Task Force for Greece

- The President took the initiative of proposing a comprehensive programme of technical assistance for Greece to support the delivery of the EU/IMF adjustment programme and to accelerate the absorption of EU funds. This proposal was endorsed by the European Council during its meeting of 23 and 24 June 2011. The President and the Greek Prime Minister exchanged letters on the modalities of how such technical assistance could be organised.
- In accordance with Article 22 of the Rules of Procedure, which authorises the President to set up specific functions or structures to deal with particular matters, the President has taken the following decisions with immediate effect, which the College is asked to take note of:
 - Commissioner REHN shall coordinate a Task Force that will report to the President and draw on the contributions of all relevant Commission portfolios, including Regional Policy and Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion.
 - This Task Force is created with the mission of: (1) identifying and coordinating, in close cooperation with Greece and benefitting from input from other Member States, the technical assistance that Greece needs to deliver the EU/IMF adjustment programme; (2) assisting the relevant Greek authorities in defining the details of the kind of technical assistance to be provided; (3) recommending legislative, regulatory, administrative and if necessary (re)programming measures for an accelerated take-up of EU funds, in close cooperation with the relevant Commission services, the Greek authorities and the EIB, focussing on competitiveness, growth and employment/training; (4) preparing clear Terms of Reference for all technical assistance assignments which specify the nature and scope of the technical assistance actions to be provided, the entity in the Greek administration that will be the beneficiary of technical assistance, the budgetary and human resources (including ENDS and experts from the private sector) that will deliver the technical assistance, and the expected results, with milestones and delivery deadlines; (5) providing quarterly progress reports to the Commission and the Greek authorities as well as, on a needs basis, more frequent alert reports. The first such report shall address measures for an accelerated take-up of EU funds, including a concrete plan and time schedule, and be sent to the Commission and Greek authorities by the end of October. The Task Force may also be used to provide technical assistance and to co-ordinate the work of the Commission in a limited number of other areas, for example external border control and asylum.
- The Task Force is created as an organisational entity attached to the Director-General of Human Resources with a function of Head of the Task Force at a level equivalent to a Director-General. The Head of the Task Force shall report to the President under the guidance of Commissioner REHN, in agreement with other Commissioners in their areas of responsibility. The work of the Task Force shall at all times be fully consistent with the Memorandum of Understanding agreed in the EU/IMF programme for Greece: to this end, the Head of the Task Force shall continuously liaise with the DG ECFIN mission chief for the Greek financial assistance programme, who participates in the Troika. Commissioner REHN shall be responsible for ensuring full coherence with the Memorandum of Understanding. Troika members shall be informed of all Technical Assistance programmes to be

provided by the EU and they shall have the opportunity to comment on their design and to participate in them.

- The Task Force shall be based in Brussels, with a communication and support team in Athens, located in the Commission Representation or in office space to be made available by the Representation (and/or the Greek authorities).

QABD POINT

1. SG/BUDG/HR – Administrative and Budgetary Arrangements for the Task Force for Greece

- This point concerns the Task Force for Greece set up by a decision of the President. The purpose of this decision is to pool the resources and fix the administrative and budgetary arrangements necessary to respond swiftly, flexibly and effectively to the identified need for Commission action.
- It is therefore proposed to the College, in agreement with the President and Commissioners REHN and LEWANDOWSKI, to approve the following:
 - Mr Horst REICHENBACH is appointed as Head of the Task Force. The date of effect shall be determined later.
 - The Head of the Task Force shall have the status of special adviser to the Commission. He shall receive a fee for each day worked. The amount of the fee and the other conditions of the contract shall be determined by Vice-President ŠEFČOVIČ in agreement with the President.
 - The arrangements for operation of the Task Force shall be revised as necessary by the SG and DGs BUDG and HR, at least on an annual basis on the occasion of the spring reorganisation package; the Head of the Task Force shall benefit from the customary administrative support from DG HR and priority service from the SG and DGs BUDG and HR.
 - The composition of the Task Force, including decisions on appointments, engagements, transfers as well as the termination of contracts, shall be decided by the appointing authority and authority authorised to conclude contracts of employment in agreement with the Head of the Task Force and after consultation of the SG and DG HR. Ceilings for the numbers of staff for the different staff types shall be authorised by the President in agreement with Vice-President ŠEFČOVIČ and Commissioner LEWANDOWSKI. The Task Force shall consist of:
 - Messrs. Jorgen Holmquist and David Wright, both currently *Hors Classe* Advisers in DG MARKT, who shall be transferred with their function and budgetary post to the Task Force on [1 September 2011];
 - Full-time AD officials and full-time AST officials, who shall be attached to the Task Force ("*mise à disposition*") from their current Services;
 - Seconded national experts, including as appropriate experts from an employer other than a state public administration or an intergovernmental organisation, who shall be paid by their employer and for whom Member State Permanent Representations shall confirm to DG HR their suitability;
 - Temporary agents, should other specialised external expertise be necessary;
 - Contract agents for support and communication tasks;
 - Retired Commission officials, as necessary;

- All Commission officials who are currently seconded to Greek authorities, whose secondment shall be ended and transformed into an attachment ("*mise à disposition*") to the Task Force.
- The Head of the Task Force shall be the functional superior to all Task Force staff on a day-to-day basis and with regard to all tasks necessary for the accomplishment of the Task Force mission; without prejudice to the established appointing authority powers, the Head of the Task Force shall be consulted by all DGs which have sent staff to the Task Force on all relevant personnel and other administrative decisions, notably with regard to appraisals and promotions; the Head of the Task Force shall effectively decide on leave, working times, and missions, without prejudice to the existing operational and financial workflows.
- The Head of the Task Force shall rely on policy support from across the Commission, including from DGs ECFIN, EMPL, REGIO, AGRI, ENER, MARKT, SANCO, TAXUD, JUST, HOME, COMM (including the Representation in Athens as necessary) as well as the SG, the SJ, DG BUDG and DG HR. Other Commission DGs shall be associated with the work of the Task Force as necessary. The SG will provide an overall steer and assist in ensuring consistency of contributions from the other DGs supporting the Task Force.
- By derogation from the following applicable Commission rules, and to ensure the rapid creation and efficient operation of the Task Force, the Vice-President for Personnel shall be authorised to deviate as necessary and in the cases of the Head of the Task Force and of all staff assigned to this Task Force only from individual provisions of Commission Decisions, notably concerning provisions on publication, selection, justification for having recourse to temporary staff, maximum duration of employment, grading, minimum length of employment by the current employer in the case of seconded national experts, fees paid to Special Advisers, maximum period since retirement and restrictions with regard to assignments or tasking and remuneration in the case of retired officials: (1) C(2008) 6866 of 12 November 2008 laying down rules on the secondment to the Commission of national experts and national experts in professional training; (2) C(2011) 1264 of 2 March 2011 on the general provisions for implementing Article 79(2) of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union, governing the conditions of employment of contract staff employed by the Commission under the terms of Articles 3a and 3b of the said Conditions; (3) C(2004) 1597 of 28 April 2004 on a new policy for the engagement and use of temporary agents; (4) C (2004) 1597/6 of 28 April 2004 on the maximum duration for the recourse to non-permanent staff in Commission Services; (5) C(2004) 1597 of 28 April 2004 on outside activities and assignments; (6) SEC(2006)1702 of 13 February 2007 on organisation charts of Commission DGs and Services; and (7) C(2007) 6655 of 19 December 2007 on rules on Special Advisers to the Commission.
- DG COMM shall assist the Task Force with any office space and other logistical arrangements in Athens; OIB, in agreement with the SG and DG HR, shall ensure adequate logistical arrangements in Brussels, in particular Task Force office space in one building; DG DIGIT shall provide with priority the necessary IT and telephony equipment to the Task Force.
- Financial needs shall be covered by the available budget, making use as necessary of all the established budgetary procedures.
- DG EMPL and DG REGIO will assist the Task Force in identifying the relevant sources of funding available under the cohesion policy programmes for which they

are Authorising Officers by Delegation for the required technical assistance that the Greek authorities need to deliver the EU/IMF adjustment programme.

- These decisions take immediate effect.