

COLLEGE MEETING: The European Commission announces a new Deputy Director-General in DG SANTE and appoints five new Directors

Today, the European Commission has decided to transfer Mr Pierre Delsaux, the current Deputy Director-General in DG Defence, Industry and Space (DEFIS) to a new function as Deputy Director-General for Health in the Director-General for Health and Food Safety (SANTE). Mr Delsaux, a Belgian national, has a strong experience in operational management and policy formulation and implementation gained during a long career in the European Commission. The trained lawyer has held numerous senior positions within the Commission mainly in the Directorate-General Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (GROW) and the former Directorate-General Internal Market and Services (MARKT). The College has also decided on the appointment of five Directors. Ms Maria Pilar Aguar Fernandez, a Spanish national, will be the new Director for Health and Food Audits and Analysis in DG SANTE. She is currently the Head of the Health Innovations Unit in the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (RTD) and has held several positions in DG RTD, the JRC and DG SANTE. There will be two new Directors within Eurostat. Ms Viveka Palm, a Swedish national, will take on the function of Director for Sectoral and Regional Statistics. Ms Palm is currently the Deputy Head of the Department for Regions and Environment at Statistics Sweden (SCB); a national body producing official government statistics within this Member State. Furthermore, she has worked for nearly ten years as Adjunct Professor in the Department of Sustainable Development, Environmental Science and Engineering in the Royal Institute for Technology in Stockholm. Ms Christine Wirtz, a German national, will become the Director for Social Statistics. She is currently the acting Director for Sectoral and Regional Statistics and the Head of the Agriculture and Fisheries Unit within Eurostat. With a background in business mathematics, she has pursued a very successful career within this Office for over 25 years. In addition, two new Directors have been appointed in DG DEFIS today. Mr François Arbault, a French national, will be the new Director for Defence Industry. He is currently the Head of the European Green Deal Unit within the Secretariat-General and was before leading the Unit for Internal Market and Sectoral Policies in the Task Force for the preparation of the negotiations with the United Kingdom under Article 50. The trained lawyer also held Head of Unit positions in the DG GROW. Ms Ekaterini Kavvada, a Greek national, will become the new Director for Development and Innovation. As a specialist in air and space law, Ms Kavvada is currently the Head of Unit

for Development and Applications within DG DEFIS. She has held numerous appointments within the Commission including in DG GROW as well as in the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (MOVE). The date of effect in all cases remains to be determined. (*For more information: Balazs Ujvari – Tel.: +32 460 760296; Claire Joawn – Tel.: +32 460 756859*)