

54th PERMANENT HIGH LEVEL GROUP

Vienna, 18 September 2019

1. The meeting was chaired by Ms Anne Charlotte Bournoville for the European Commission.
2. The Permanent High Level Group (PHLG) approved the agenda.

Treaty amendments

3. The Commission presented an update on the position of the EU Council on Treaty amendments that took into account comments from the Contracting Parties (CPs). It expressed its expectation that Treaty amendments could be initialled at the Ministerial Council in December in Chisinau and adopted at an extraordinary Ministerial Council in 2020. CPs shared the expectation that political agreement on a stable text for Treaty amendments including accompanying Protocol and Procedural Acts will be reached. At the Ministerial Council on 13 December.
4. PHLG regrets that three CPs were missing (North Macedonia, Moldova, Ukraine).
5. Parties first discussed the procedure for adoption of Treaty amendments which is possible by using Art 100 or through a new international agreement with post-festum ratification. "Initialling" shall be replaced by "political commitment on a stable text of draft amendments". The Commission expects that political commitment from Chisinau will not change afterwards and that draft text will remain untouched till final adoption, planned for mid-2020. Some Contracting Parties (CPs) expressed reservation that Art 100 is used for so substantial Treaty amendments and all were invited to get agreement using the Art 100 procedure back home in shortest possible time. The Secretariat will prepare a short background paper.
6. Parties discussed Treaty amendments and aligned on majority of amendments discussed (until Art 81').
7. As usual, the Secretariat will circulate an updated working version of the amendments by Monday 25 Nov, morning.
8. The Commission proposed to PHLG to continue negotiating session in Brussels in the week starting on 25 November, including via videoconference.

Done in Vienna on 22 November 2019

For the Permanent High Level Group,

THE PRESIDENCY

