

Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union



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Hungarian Presidency
of the Council of the
European Union



Introduction to the Hungarian Presidency (HUPRES)



- Hungary holds the rotating Presidency of the Council of the EU for the **second time** as of 1 July 2024
- We shared the trio presidency with Spain and Belgium, Hungary is the last member of the trio.
- **Institutional changes:** formation of new EU Parliament and Commission
- **Increasing tensions in the international environment**

The Hungarian Presidency in numbers



Presidency Calendar: Total of **352 events** scheduled.

Legislative activity

122 dossiers taken over
from BE PRES

55 trilogue dossiers

1600 working group
meetings

250 Presidency events organised in Hungary

3 informal summits

- *Informal European Council meeting in Budapest*
- *European Political Community summit*
- *EU-Western Balkans summit (in the region)*

37 formal Council meetings in Brussels and
Luxembourg

16 informal Council meetings

The Hungarian Presidency in numbers



Consultations:

- The Hungarian Presidency was prepared by a wide range of meetings
- 280 consultations were held about the content with
 - Member States
 - Candidate Countries
 - European Institutions
 - Stakeholders
 - NGO-s

Priorities of the Hungarian Presidency



1. New European Competitiveness Deal
2. The Reinforcement of European Defence Policy
3. Consistent and Merit-Based Enlargement Policy
4. Stemming Illegal Migration
5. Shaping the Future of Cohesion Policy
6. Farmer-Oriented EU Agricultural Policy
7. Addressing Demographic Challenges

The adoption of the new European Competitiveness Agreement as the key goal of the Hungarian Presidency



- Addressing industrial transition challenges and resolving labour and demographic issues
- Focusing on innovation, enhancing workforce skills, and renewing financial structures to drive economic growth
- Supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), advancing the green and digital transitions, promoting international trade and cooperation, and ensuring stable and sustainable employment across the EU
- The European Competitiveness Agreement will be a central topic during the EU leaders' informal meeting in Budapest on November 8th
- (Letta's Report, Draghi's Report)

Addressing Demographic Challenges

- The rapid ageing of European societies, unsustainable social welfare systems, and labour shortage are long-standing and intensifying problems in Europe that need to be addressed effectively and urgently.
- The Hungarian Presidency, fully respecting the competences of Member States, wishes to draw attention to these challenges (depopulation of rural areas, labour shortage, and sustainability of social security systems).

The Reinforcement of European Defence Policy



- The ongoing and emerging conflicts prove the need for Europe to significantly improve its defence capabilities.
- The Hungarian Presidency places particular emphasis on strengthening European Defence Technological and Industrial Base
 - defence innovation
 - enhancing cooperation between Member States in defence procurement
 - support for contribution to both defence research and defence industry be integrated into the EU budget

Farmer-Oriented EU Agricultural Policy



- **Hungarian Presidency aims to:**
 - **Promote competitive, crisis-resilient, farmer-friendly agriculture.**
 - **Balance the European Green Deal with market stabilization and farmers' living standards.**
 - **Ensure long-term food sovereignty, security, and EU strategic autonomy.**

Other Key Priorities of the Hungarian Presidency



- **Stemming Illegal Migration**
- **Shaping the Future of Cohesion Policy**
- **Consistent and Merit-Based Enlargement Policy - EU enlargement in the Western Balkans**



Hungarian EU Presidency: Active and Productive so far



- More than 800 Delegations visited Hungary
- 230 Working group meetings
- 49 Side events
- 9 Informal Council meetings in Budapest
- 4 EU Council meetings



Milestone AI-Agreement



- On September 5, under the initiative of the Hungarian Presidency, the European Union joined the international treaty aimed at harmonizing global AI regulations
- A significant achievement for Hungary, as the preparation for the Council's decision took place during the Hungarian Presidency
- The first treaty to regulate AI's human rights aspects, ensuring respect for fundamental rights and values. It is significant as countries outside Europe, like the U.S., have also expressed intent to sign it.

ECOFIN - Informal Meeting of Economic and Financial Ministers, Budapest (Sept 12-14)



Main Focus: Enhancing EU Competitiveness

- **Sustainable Financing for Green Transition**
 - Discussion on innovative instruments to close the financing gap, mobilize private savings, and balance green transition with public debt reduction.
- **Demographic Changes & Public Debt Sustainability**
 - Focused on risks posed by aging populations, labour shortages, and their impact on public debt sustainability and competitiveness.
- **Supporting Low-Income Countries**
 - IMF highlighted new financing opportunities to help low-income countries tackle global challenges and manage their debt



- 30th anniversary of the EEA agreement
- Extensive cooperation within the EEA framework (*energy, climate, green transition, science, education, research and development, defence cooperation*)
- EEA/Norwegian Financial Mechanism and Fishery Protocol – *ratification and signature – 12th September*
- Informal European Council meetings, where EEA countries invited:
 - Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research, and Space)*
 - Justice and Home Affairs*
 - Environment and Climate*
 - Demography, Transport, Telecommunication and Energy*
 - Employment, Social policy, Healthcare and Consumer protection*
 - Cohesion policy*

Planned programs in Norway



- EUHoMs lunches with Ministers/ High-level officials
- Seminars:
 - Seminar on Agriculture
 - Seminar on Western-Balkan
- Proposal for joint event with the Norwegian Space Agency (NOSA) with the participations of the EU Ambassadors
- Outreach activities (students, municipalities)
- Cultural program in October

- "In varietate concordia" - "United in Diversity"
- The success of the Hungarian Presidency will be the success of all Europe.



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Thank you for your
attention!



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HUNGARIAN PRESIDENCY

OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EU 2024

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