



THE DANISH EU PRESIDENCY 2012

by ambassador Niels Pultz.

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in Department of the Taoiseach, Government Buildings, for the European Movement Ireland.

OVERVIEW

1. The organisation of the Presidency
2. The role of the Presidency
3. The priorities of the Danish Presidency

ORGANISATION OF THE PRESIDENCY

- **1 January 2012**, Denmark took over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the 7th time. Denmark has previously chaired the Council in 1973, 1978, 1982, 1987, 1993 and most recently in 2002.
- You can read about the Presidency priorities and more on www.eu2012.dk
- **Denmark chairs 9 out of 10 ministerial Council formations.** The President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy chairs the summits, while High Representative Catherine Ashton chairs the meetings of the Foreign Affairs Council.
- **58 meeting days are planned for the Council formations of which 22 will take place in Luxembourg.** Approximately 175 working groups under the Council are chaired by the rotating Presidency. It all adds up to approximately 1500 official meetings – or 14 official meetings per day.
- **In Denmark there are 8 informal ministerial meetings** and over 100 official meetings and conferences with 40 to 800 participants. In addition, a series of events is organized by ministries, organizations, companies, etc.

THE ROLE OF THE PRESIDENCY

- Presidency responsible for coordination and cooperation in Council formations among the 27 member states
- Close cooperation with the permanent President and High Representative
- Cooperation with the European Parliament is crucial.
- The Presidency is especially measured on its ability to deliver concrete results and working as an honest broker

FRAMEWORK CONDITIONS

- Holding the Presidency at a time when the EU is facing its perhaps biggest challenge ever
- Summit on 8-9 December 2011: Number of important decisions made in order to stabilize the euro – fiscal agreement. Further work to follow up will be conducted intergovernmentally – therefore not the Presidency leading the work. Ready to assist, if there is a demand

PRESIDENCY PRIORITIES

“Europe at work”

Priorities of the Danish Presidency:

1. A **responsible** Europe
2. A **dynamic** Europe
3. A **green** Europe
4. A **safe** Europe

A RESPONSIBLE EUROPE

Need to make Europe more economically **responsible**.

Presidency work include inter alia:

- New rules on economic governance to be implemented for the first time during Danish Presidency through first full European Semester.
- Negotiations on Multiannual Financial Framework (post-2013 multiannual budget) high on the agenda along major policy areas (e.g. Agricultural Policy, Research & Development Programme).

A DYNAMIC EUROPE

Help stimulate **long-term growth and job creation** across Europe. Promote further development of the **Single Market** (2012 marks 20-year anniversary).

- Presidency work include inter alia follow-up on **the Single Market package**, e.g.:
 - Efficient standardization
 - Audit of public procurement directives
 - Review of accounting rules
 - Alternative dispute resolution in consumer cases
 - A digital Single Market

A GREEN EUROPE

Promote a **green** Europe – emphasis on further greening of European economies and promoting green growth to be sustainable in the long run.

Presidency will work for:

- Energy- and climate roadmaps for coming decades leading towards 2050 with improved energy efficiency and increased use of renewable energy
- Establishment of Single Market for energy
- Expansion of European energy infrastructure
- Strong European voice at UN Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable development
- Cross-cutting energy-, climate- and environmental considerations in EU policies e.g. agriculture, fisheries, transportation, Single Market.

A SAFE EUROPE

Promote a **safe** Europe – both internally and externally. The Arab Spring in Middle East and Northern Africa – caused Schengen system to come under pressure.

Underlines need to finalise common European asylum system in order to ensure appropriate reception and treatment throughout Europe.

JHA is an area in rapid development. Might be able to reach agreement on European arrest warrant – improving cross-border police cooperation.

A SAFE EUROPE - CONTINUED

DK Presidency supporting a stronger voice for the EU in global affairs, i.e. common European approach.

- Denmark will support and assist the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy
- Denmark will continue to chair trade policy, enlargement and neighborhood policy.
- Enlargement negotiations with Iceland, Turkey, and possibly FYROM, decision on opening of negotiations with Montenegro and decision on possible candidate status for Serbia

QUESTIONS

Questions?

www.eu2012.dk