

# Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union



**HU24EU**

General information and priorities



Hungarian Presidency  
of the Council of the  
European Union



# Introduction to the Hungarian Presidency (HUPRES)



- Hungary will hold the rotating Presidency of the Council for the second time as of 1 July 2024.
- Hungary takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union at a time of extraordinary circumstances and challenges. Our continent is facing common challenges due to the war in our neighbourhood, the EU lagging more and more behind its global competitors, a fragile security situation, illegal migration, the vulnerability of international supply chains, natural disasters, the effects of climate change, and the impact of demographic trends.

# Introduction to the Hungarian Presidency



- The Hungarian Presidency will have to ensure the continuity of work in the Council, in cooperation with a newly established European Parliament and European Commission, and will have to start implementing the Strategic Agenda 2024-2029.
- We are committed to ensuring a smooth transition to the next legislative cycle and to building a constructive relationship with the new institutional actors. Hungary will work as an honest broker, in the spirit of sincere cooperation between Member States and the institutions, for the peace, security and prosperity of Europe.

# Introduction to the Hungarian Presidency



- We are sharing the trio presidency with Spain and Belgium. Hungary is the last member of the trio. The trio presidency programme was adopted last summer.
- The programme of the Hungarian presidency – which is in line with the priorities of the trio programme – was published on 18 June, just before the end of the Belgian presidency.
- Presidency preparations have been ongoing for the past 2 years.

# The Hungarian Presidency in numbers



## 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)*

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



# 1. New European Competitiveness Deal



- The adoption of a New European Competitiveness Deal is a key priority of the Hungarian Presidency, that will:
  - relaunch economic expansion
  - create the conditions for sustainable growth
  - deepen the internal market
  - contribute to the development of a technology-neutral industrial strategy
  - create a framework that boosts productivity
  - promote an open economy and international cooperation
  - ensure a flexible labour market that creates secure jobs and offers rising wages

## 2. The Reinforcement of European Defence Policy



- The ongoing and emerging conflicts prove the need for Europe to significantly improve its defence capabilities. The EU must play a greater role in guaranteeing its own security.
- The Hungarian Presidency places particular emphasis on strengthening European Defence Technological and Industrial Base.
  - defence innovation
  - enhancing cooperation between MSs in defence procurement
  - support for contribution to both defence research and defence industry be integrated into the EU budget in the long term

# 3. Consistent and Merit-Based Enlargement Policy



- Enlargement is one of the most successful policies of the European Union.
- The Hungarian Presidency is committed to a credible and merit-based enlargement process.
- The European Union has long been committed to ensuring a European perspective for the Western Balkans
- The region's integration benefits the EU from economic, security and geopolitical perspectives
- We will invite our partners to consultations both in the framework of the EU-Western Balkans Summit and the European Political Community

# 4. Stemming Illegal Migration

- The Hungarian Presidency will put special focus on the external dimension of migration.
  - effective cooperation with the third countries concerned
  - increasing the effectiveness of the enforcement of returns
  - illegal migration and migrant smuggling must be curbed
  - closer cooperation with countries bordering the EU
  - closer cooperation with main countries of origin and transit
- Hungary aims to highlight the importance of protecting the external borders and the need for EU funding for this purpose

# 5. Shaping the Future of Cohesion Policy



- More than a quarter of the EU's population lives in regions not reaching 75% of the Union's average development level according to the 9th Cohesion Report.
- The convergence of these regions is not only crucial in terms of fully utilising the competitiveness potential of the EU, but it is also essential for the proper functioning of the Single Market.
- Hungary plans a high-level strategic debate on the future of cohesion policy
  - including its role in promoting competitiveness and employment
  - as well as in addressing demographic challenges

# 6. Farmer-Oriented EU Agricultural Policy



- European agriculture may have never faced as many challenges as it does today, threatening the livelihood of European farmers.
- It is essential to view agriculture not as a cause of climate change, but as part of the solution, by engaging farmers in adopting more sustainable production practices.
- The Hungarian Presidency aims to contribute to creating a competitive, crisis-resilient and farmer-friendly European agriculture,
- finding a rational balance between European Green Deal, stabilisation of agricultural markets, and a satisfactory standard of living for farmers, thus
- providing long-term guarantee of food sovereignty and food security and contributing to the strategic autonomy of the EU.

# 7. Addressing Demographic Challenges



- The accelerating 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)

Thank you for your attention!



**HU24EU**