

# Europe at work

The results of the Danish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first half of 2012

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DANISH PRESIDENCY  
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# 2015

## Introduction

The Danish EU Presidency has first and foremost focused on stimulating growth and creating new jobs for Europeans. Unemployment and low levels of growth are Europe's greatest challenges right now. We have worked hard to reach common solutions to the problems at hand in order to create concrete results for Europe's citizens and businesses. In this way, Denmark has made a great contribution towards ensuring confidence in the economic policy and placing growth and new jobs on the agenda.

The Presidency has worked towards ensuring healthy European economies ("A responsible Europe") while at the same time placing focus on growth and employment ("A dynamic Europe"). We have also promoted green transition and green growth ("A green Europe") and on strengthened the safety of European citizens ("A safe Europe").

Denmark has had a good cooperation with the EU institutions while holding the Presidency. Through the Community Method we have created European solutions. Danish ministers have been frequent guests in the European Parliament in order to participate in a great number of the plenary assembly and committee debates on behalf of the

Council. The Presidency has had a close cooperation with the Commission and the permanent President of the European Council. Finally, the Presidency has provided important support to the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

The Danish Presidency has delivered about 250 results (see the section on The overall results of the Danish Presidency), From result to result we have shown that the EU can deliver concrete results, when the Member States work together and have the will and determination to enter into compromises and collaboration. Also among all 27 Member States. This is a good premise for the EU cooperation to continue on.

### **A responsible Europe**

The Danish Presidency has worked on the implementation of the new and stronger ground rules in the EU cooperation regarding the economic policy, which is the framework for tackling the crisis, restoring confidence and ensuring growth and job creation.

The new cooperation is to ensure sound public finances, and ensure that Member States take steps to counter economic imbalances such as competi-

tiveness and balance of payments problems as well as housing bubbles. The Presidency has reached an agreement in the Council (the so-called "two pack"), which is to strengthen the euro cooperation and complete the reform of the EU economic ground rules. The EU's goal and objective of re-establishing a stable economic development is supported by the new Fiscal Compact, under which the countries commit themselves to introducing national legislation on structural budget balance.

The European Semester – the framework for EU economic governance – has been implemented for the first time according to the new ground rules and completed with the adoption of recommendations for what steps the individual countries should take to address their challenges. Cooperation on healthier fiscal policies, reforms, imbalances and growth-promoting measures are integrated parts of the recommendations. This work has, on an on-going basis, led to results in the form of enhanced efforts for budget improvements and reforms: Public deficits in the EU Member States have fallen from 6.9 per cent of GDP in 2009 to a projected 3.6 per cent in 2012.

The Presidency has worked for enhanced financial regulation and supervision with a view to ensuring healthier banks so as to exit the crisis and prevent new crises. The Presidency has achieved a number of results, including agreement with the European Parliament on increased transparency and resilience regarding derivatives trading, agreement in the Council on new, reinforced capital requirements for banks, and agreement

on enhanced regulation of credit rating agencies for the purpose of ensuring the independence and quality of credit ratings.

The economic policy and financial regulation efforts are decisive elements in the overall crisis management strategy of the EU together with the measure of the euro area countries' in the form of loan instruments for countries in serious financial difficulties, the measures of the European Central Bank, etc.

The Danish Presidency has assigned high priority to the work on the EU Multiannual Financial Framework for 2014-2020, and at the meeting of the European Council on 28-29 June 2012 the Danish Presidency was able to present the overall framework for an agreement ("negotiating box"). In the Council, Member States have reached agreement on the content of a great number of sector policies that are negotiated in connection with the financial framework, including the Cohesion Policy, research, education, culture as well as transport, energy and communication infrastructure. It means that the foundation has been laid for a future-oriented and responsible budget for the years ahead.

## A dynamic Europe

The Compact for Growth and Jobs on which agreement was reached at the meeting of the European Council on 28-29 June 2012 constituted the culmination of the Danish Presidency's work to promote growth and employment in the EU, which was an important priority throughout the Presidency. The Compact for Growth and Jobs comprises, among other things, proposals for reform and

modernisation of the Single Market, the realisation of a European unified patent court, reallocation of Structural Funds, a decision to increase the lending possibilities for the European Investment Bank, increased growth orientation of the EU budget and, lastly, an agreement on a pilot phase for project bonds in the period 2012-2013.

From the outset, the Danish Presidency has worked hard to modernise the Single Market, among other things by assigning priority to the 12 key initiatives for growth in the Single Market Act. Together the key initiatives will reduce the administrative burdens on businesses in the EU, strengthen the social dimension of the Single Market, increase access to capital for in particular SMEs, as well as introduce common European standards facilitating innovation and cross-border trade. During the Danish Presidency, four of the 12 initiatives have been adopted.

The Danish Presidency has also prioritised a strengthening of the digital single market. In this connection, the first step has been taken towards ensuring that it will become easier and less expensive for European citizens to utilise the opportunities of the digital age throughout Europe. Specifically, an agreement has been concluded with the European Parliament that ensures significantly lower prices for, among other things, data roaming, which will decrease from approx. EUR 2.70 per MB to EUR 0.27 by 2014.

Further the Presidency has, through a political agreement on the future programme on research and innovation,

Horizon 2020, reached agreement on a significant strengthening of the research and innovation efforts of the EU.

Lastly, the Presidency has actively endeavoured to intensify the contribution to growth and employment in Europe from the EU trade policy. Firstly, the Presidency has driven forward several free trade negotiations, and in this context concluded the scoping exercise for a free trade agreement with Japan. Secondly, the Presidency has achieved clarity about the new EU common investment policy and paved the way for future EU common investment agreements and, furthermore, contributed to clarifying EU tariff preferences for the poorest countries.

## **A green Europe**

The Presidency has assigned high priority to green growth. Not in spite of - but because of the economic crisis, as the green economy contributes to growth, employment and competitiveness.

The Danish Presidency has reached an agreement with the European Parliament on the energy efficiency directive, which will imply EU savings amounting to billions of euros on reduced imports of coal, oil and gas. It will create hundreds of thousands of jobs in the EU and thereby constitute an important contribution to the growth agenda. The directive will provide more than 17 per cent improved energy efficiency by 2020 and thereby contribute to bringing the EU considerably closer to the target of 20 per cent energy savings by 2020 in relation to a projection of the energy consumption by 2020. At the same time, support given by 26 Member States for the Climate and Energy Roadmaps

towards 2050 has sent a strong message to the market and investors about the long-term commitment of the EU to renewable energy, energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reductions.

Furthermore, the Presidency has reached an agreement with the European Parliament on a significant reduction of pollution originating from shipping and on accident prevention in relation to hazardous substances in industry. The Presidency has also secured backing in the European Council to a European roadmap on a green and resource efficient economy and laid out the framework of the European environmental policy for the next ten years, which was established through Council conclusions on the future EU Environment Action Programme. The Presidency has also created agreement on Green Growth as a global priority in the Rio+20 negotiations. Similarly, agreement has been reached on large parts of the Common Fisheries Policy, aiming at more sustainable fisheries activities. Also with regard to the Common Agricultural Policy, the Presidency has worked hard and professionally and obtained the agreement of the Commission to some more effective environmental tools. Furthermore the Presidency has ensured that green criteria for the first time will be introduced in the Cohesion Policy.

## A safe Europe

With a great number of concrete results in the area of justice and home affairs, the Danish Presidency has contributed to the achievement of significant progress for the benefit of EU citizens. Agreement has, with the exception of few elements, been reached with the

Parliament on revised rules for asylum seekers' conditions whilst their asylum case is being processed, and for which Member State is to process an asylum case in the EU. Similarly, agreement has been reached with the European Parliament on a mechanism for temporary suspension of the visa-free regime in case of widespread abuse, on rights for victims of crime, and on simplifying the settlement of cross-border succession cases. Furthermore, the negotiations with the Parliament on rules on the criminalisation of attacks on IT systems (cybercrime) have also been completed.

Agreement has been reached in the Council on enhanced Schengen cooperation with strengthened political governance and new mechanisms for evaluations and for extraordinary introduction of internal border controls. Furthermore, the Council has decided on a European system for exchange of passenger information, and an agreement on exchange of such information has also been concluded with the USA during the Danish Presidency. Furthermore, the Council has decided on more uniform asylum procedures, on rules ensuring that suspected persons in criminal proceedings have access to legal counsel, and on a comprehensive regulation of proceedings in civil and commercial matters affecting several Member States.

A comprehensive action plan has been adopted in the Council on the prevention and combating of illegal immigration. As a follow-up on this, agreement has been reached in the Council on initiating strengthened cooperation with Turkey on, for example, border issues, the



readmission of persons without legal residence, visas and organised crime. The cooperation is to strengthen the handling of the huge migratory pressure at the Greek-Turkish border, which has put asylum systems under pressure in a number of Member States. As part of the effort to combat illegal immigration, agreement has been reached with Turkey on the content of a readmission agreement.

The Danish Presidency has supported the European External Action Service (EEAS), which also in the future is to ensure a clear European voice throughout the world and the possibility to take action. The focus on human rights in EU foreign policy has been strengthened. Similarly, the EU has strengthened the implementation of a broad spectrum of efforts in regions of strategic and security importance. This includes, among other, Afghanistan, and in relation to the neighbouring area, where the EU has continued the implementation of the revised European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) based on increased differentiation and the countries' own achievements, also in light of the Arab Spring. At the same time, in order to contribute to negotiated solutions, historically comprehensive sanction packages have been agreed with respect to Iran and Syria. In terms of developments in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa, three new civilian CSDP missions, which are to be part of the overall EU efforts, have been prepared, and an innovative approach strengthening the resistibility in exposed areas has been created. The Danish Presidency has, moreover, contributed to shaping a new development policy for the EU that places increased focus on

human rights, equality, green growth, the involvement of civil society and transparency. Efforts are at the same time targeted at the poorest and most vulnerable countries.

The countries of the Western Balkans have taken further steps towards making their European perspective more concrete during the Danish Presidency. Member State ratifications of the accession treaty that is to ensure the accession of Croatia as an official EU Member State as of 1 July 2013 is well under way. Serbia has been granted candidate status during the Danish Presidency and accession negotiations have been initiated with Montenegro. This shows that despite of the economic crisis, the EU is still attractive to new members. During the Danish Presidency, an important contribution has thus been made towards further stabilisation of a region which only 15 years ago was characterised by war and devastation. Furthermore, substantial progress has been made in the enlargement negotiations with Iceland during the Danish Presidency.

# Del II: The Danish Presidency's most important results

## 1. A responsible Europe

### ***Conclusion of the first phase of the European Semester***

The Presidency has worked towards implementing the EU's new and stronger ground rules for the economic policy that the EU Member States have adopted in order to tackle the economic crisis and boost growth and job creation. The cooperation shall ensure healthy public finances that balance revenue and expenditure, and ensure that Member States take steps to counter imbalances such as competitiveness and balance of payments problems as well as housing bubbles. At the summit taking place at the end of the Danish Presidency, the so-called European Semester – the framework for EU Member States' economic governance – concluded with Member States adopting recommendations for what steps each Member State should take to respond to their challenges. Economic governance is an important part of the overall EU crisis strategy.

### ***Agreement with the European Parliament on the regulation aimed at increasing transparency and reducing risk in the over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives market***

The regulation implies that trading in financial derivatives (derived instruments

linked to shares, commodities and the like) is now to be conducted centrally in "clearing houses", placed between buyers and sellers and guaranteeing that derivatives transactions are completed safely. All derivatives transactions must be reported to central registers, which will enhance the overview of supervisory authorities and reduce uncertainty in the market if a financial institution falls into difficulties. The agreement thus ensures compliance with the EU's G20 commitments in the area. Insufficient transparency in the derivatives markets was a significant reason for the spread of the financial crisis in the USA and Europe. Increased transparency will reduce the risk of such "infection" for the benefit of financial stability.

### ***Agreement in the Council on the "two-pack" of economic governance proposals***

The Presidency has secured an agreement in the Council on two regulation proposals that are to enhance cooperation between the euro area countries and complete the overall reform of the EU economic ground rules. The first proposal is to enhance economic discipline through a common budgetary timeline and the presentation of draft budgetary plans as well reporting on the

countries' compliance with agreements on ensuring sound public finances (recommendations). This is in recognition of the fact that an unsound economic policy pursued in one country impacts on the country itself and on other countries. The second proposal is to strengthen the surveillance of euro area countries that experience financial difficulties and are or may be in need of loans.

### ***Agreement in the Council on the revision of the capital requirements directive (CRD IV)***

Amendments to the capital requirements directive will strengthen requirements for the banks to hold more and better capital and liquidity. This is one of the most important EU initiatives for preventing new crises. With the agreement, the Danish Presidency has taken a decisive step in an important matter which will enable the EU to meet the G20 commitments regarding the implementation of new global banking standards. The proposal contains rules on, for example, transparency with respect to banks' leverage and corporate management, and strengthens the sanctions available to Member States when dealing with banks that infringe the rules.

### ***Agreement in the Council on the revision of the regulation on credit rating agencies (CRA III)***

The crisis underlined the importance to financial stability of reliable credit ratings of states, businesses and securities. The rules are meant to contribute to ensuring that credit ratings reflect real credit risks more accurately. Furthermore, the rules will reduce dependency on credit ratings – both for

investors and in financial regulation – and require that banks and investors to a greater extent rely on their own credit ratings. The new rules also provide better opportunities for investors and issuers to hold a credit rating agency liable if it fails to comply with the rules.

### ***Agreement in Council on revision of the Transparency Directive***

The proposal sets common rules for the disclosure of information of listed companies to the public. The agreement in Council provides for a reduction of administrative burdens through a removal of disclosure requirements including the requirement to publish quarterly reports which can ease the access of SME's to capital and make it easier to invest. The rules balance the need for disclosure to investors and the need to not place unnecessary administrative burdens on companies. Thus investors will to a higher degree than today be obliged to disclose holdings of potential voting rights in listed companies in order to avoid so-called hidden ownership and to enhance transparency for the benefit of investors.

### ***Agreement in Council on the Mortgage Credit Directive***

The proposal shall ensure that consumers can afford the loans they are offered and enhance transparency when consumers are to choose loans. The agreement in Council harmonises the requirements for providers of loans in relation to the disclosure of information to consumers when they take out a loan, strengthens rules on credit assessment of borrowers, sets skills requirements for providers of loans and rules on the provision of cross border loans in the

EU. This will ensure a high level of information for consumers across the EU so that consumers will be in a better position to compare loans across markets and borders.

## 2. A dynamic Europe

### ***Agreement on the unified patent court***

The Presidency has worked hard towards reaching an agreement on the European patent reform, including the European unified patent court. Implementing the European patent reform will minimise the costs of European companies in connection with patent registration and enforcement. The present system places European companies at a significant disadvantage in their domestic markets compared with their international competitors. Today, obtaining a European patent in 13 EU Member States costs approx. ten times as much as obtaining a patent in all of the USA and significantly more than a patent in all of China. The patent reform means that in the future it will only be necessary to obtain a patent in one place. One patent application will apply to all of Europe and, with a European unified patent court, patent disputes will only need to be taken to one place for the judgment to be valid for all participating countries. The proposal is one of the 12 key initiatives in the Single Market Act.

### ***Agreement with the European Parliament on the Roaming III regulation***

The Presidency has reached an agreement with the European Parliament

on new rules that will lower already existing price ceilings on SMS and voice services, and as a new element a price ceiling will be imposed on data services. The price of data roaming will thus be reduced from approx. DKK 20 per MB to a maximum of DKK 6.50 per MB in 2012. By 2014, the maximum price will be less than DKK 2 per MB. Thereby, the regulation provides the best opportunities for creating cross-border growth within the Single Market. In addition to the price ceilings, the regulation introduces new ground rules for mobile operators, which will enhance competition and align the price of using mobile telephones and laptops in another EU Member State more closely to prices known from national domestic markets.

### ***Agreement with the European Parliament on the standardisation package***

The Presidency has reached an agreement with the European Parliament on a new standardisation regulation, which is the first of the 12 initiatives in the Single Market Act, which has been finally adopted. The agreement ensures that companies and organisations will find it easier to participate in the development of standards, that standards will reach the market more swiftly, thereby reduc-

ing the time from idea to production, and that more European services standards will be developed in future. Standards contribute more than EUR 35 billion in total to EU annual growth according to the Commission. Companies that use standards have in general higher productivity, higher value added and larger exports than other comparable companies. At the same time, European standards facilitate cross-border trade in the EU, as standards generate interoperability between products.

***Agreement with the European Parliament on the directive on interconnection of business registers***

An agreement has been reached with the European Parliament on a proposal for the interconnection of central, commercial and company registers in the EU, which will facilitate cross-border access for companies and others to business-related information. In addition, the proposal will ensure that information is exchanged electronically between registers through the interconnection. The interconnection of registers will provide better access to knowledge about other European companies, which will lead to more transparency regarding European companies for the benefit of investors and companies with cross-border activities. Transparency and easier access to information about companies across the EU will contribute to developing and modernising the Single Market.

***Agreement with the European Parliament on the Internal Market Information System (IMI)***

An agreement has been reached with the European Parliament on a proposal

for the Internal Market Information System (IMI). The agreement will make it easier for European authorities to cooperate administratively, as they swiftly – and in their own languages – will receive answers to questions on, for example, a service business that moves across the borders of EU Member States, or EU nationals who apply for recognition of their education qualifications in another country. IMI has been in use since 2006, but there has been no horizontal regulatory basis for the use of the system. This will be established through the political agreement on an IMI regulation. Similarly, the agreement also opens up for future use of IMI in new areas.

***Agreement with the European Parliament on the directive on orphan works***

The Presidency has reached an agreement with the European Parliament on the orphan works directive proposal. The directive provides the opportunity to roll out Europe's cultural heritage across EU borders and thereby contributes to a more well-functioning digital single market. The directive ensures a flexible solution, which means that cultural institutions such as libraries, museums, archives and public service radio and TV stations will have the possibility to digitalise, for example, books and audio-visual material and make this accessible on the Internet. This applies to material kept in the organisations' archives, and which is protected by copyright, and where it is not possible to find the copyright owners.

***Agreement with the European Parliament on a pilot phase for European project bonds***

The Presidency has completed negotiations on an agreement regarding a pilot phase for project bonds in 2012-2013. The pilot phase provides the opportunity to obtain specific experience of project bonds as a tool for creating growth and employment. This means that the agreement can constitute a specific contribution to strengthening Europe's competitiveness and economic growth. The rationale behind project bonds is to ensure easier access to venture capital for profitable projects that are hampered by the short-term economic situation. The project bonds-related pilot project will make it easier for private stakeholders to cooperate with the European Investment Bank (EIB), the EU and the Member States on investment in infrastructure projects within transport, energy, and information and communication technology.

***Agreement with the European Parliament on the regulation concerning bilateral investment treaties***

The Presidency has completed the negotiations on the regulation establishing transitional arrangements for bilateral investment agreements between Member States and third countries which clarifies the rules for Member States' bilateral investment agreements with countries outside the EU after the Lisbon Treaty gave the EU exclusive competence over investments. The adoption of the regulation means that under the existing bilateral agreements legal certainty for investors is now guaranteed and that Member States themselves

may be authorised by the Commission to negotiate new agreements nationally with third countries with which the EU does not wish to conclude common agreements. Consequently, the fact that there is agreement on the regulation will, for instance, make it possible for the EU to focus on the future-oriented investment agenda, including in particular forthcoming negotiations with China on an EU common investment agreement.

***Agreement with the European Parliament on European venture capital funds***

The Danish Presidency has reached an agreement with the European Parliament on a proposal on European venture capital funds which is to provide increased access to capital by establishing a single market for venture capital. Access to capital is one of the greatest challenges facing small and medium-sized enterprises, not least in light of the crisis. With the proposal, managers of venture capital funds whose total managed assets do not exceed a threshold value of EUR 500 million can obtain a "European marketing passport", making it possible for them to market their venture capital funds across EU borders. The objective of the proposal is to make it easier for venture capital funds to attract investments throughout Europe, which they can use to invest in innovative, newly established small and medium-sized enterprises for the benefit of growth and employment in the EU. It is a matter of a voluntary arrangement. The proposal is one of the 12 key initiatives in the Single Market Act.

***Agreement with the European Parliament on the regulation on the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP)***

The Presidency has completed the negotiations on a new regulation concerning tariff preferences for developing countries (the so-called GSP regulation). The new regulation means that the EU from 2014 will give the poorest and most vulnerable developing countries particularly favourable market access terms through tariff reductions for industrial goods and agricultural products. This will give developing countries the opportunity to increase their exports to the EU and thereby generate increased growth and employment. For European companies the regulation means among other things that the companies will have access to cheaper raw materials, which can be further processed and subsequently exported.

***Agreement with the European Parliament on the succession regulation***

A succession regulation has been adopted which will considerably simplify procedures for handling cross-border succession cases. The regulation contains rules on which court has jurisdiction to deal with a cross-border succession case, and which legislation should apply to the case. The regulation introduces at the same time a European Certificate of Succession, which will make it easier for e.g. heirs to document their rights in other EU Member States.

Agreement with the European Parliament on European social entrepreneurship funds

The Danish Presidency has reached an agreement with the European Parlia-

ment on a proposal on European social entrepreneurship funds, which are to contribute to financing social businesses in the EU. By providing better opportunities for social entrepreneurship funds to obtain investments across EU borders, the proposal can strengthen growth and create a more inclusive society in which more financing is channelled to social entrepreneurs and social businesses. The proposal is one of the 12 key initiatives in the Single Market Act and contributes to bringing the EU back on a sustainable growth track.

***Agreement in the Council on the directive on conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals in the framework of an intra-corporate transfer (the ICT directive)***

On 30 May, the Danish Presidency reached a general approach regarding the directive on intra-corporate transfer (the ICT directive) and obtained on the same occasion a mandate to embark on trilogue negotiations with the Parliament and the Commission. The objective of the directive is to make the EU competitive by making it possible to respond effectively and promptly to demand for managerial and qualified employees for branches and subsidiaries of multinational companies. The proposal contains a regulation of mobility between Member States that will increase mobility for highly qualified employees which, in turn, will contribute to enhanced competitiveness and increased growth and employment in Europe.

***Agreement in the Council on the review of the accounting directives***

The Presidency has reached agreement in the Council on the revision of the



fourth and seventh accounting directives. The objective of the proposal is to reduce the administrative burdens on in particular small enterprises with respect to financial reporting, as well as to increase the comparability of financial statements in the EU. Furthermore, new information requirements are introduced – country by country reporting – which will provide greater transparency regarding payments made by European companies for extracting natural resources, especially in developing countries. The harmonisation of financial reporting requirements will contribute to enhancing transparency across borders and thereby strengthen cross-border activities as well as investors' confidence in financial statements in the EU. As especially small European enterprises are expected to see a number of administrative burdens reduced with the proposal, it is expected that the final adoption of the accounting directives will support growth in the EU. The proposal is one of the 12 key initiatives in the Single Market Act.

***Agreement in the Council on alternative and online dispute resolution (ADR/ODR)***

Agreement has been reached in the Council on the proposal on alternative and online dispute resolution (ADR/ODR) for EU consumers. The proposal is to give consumers better access to effective and inexpensive ways to resolve their disputes with traders. Consumers who buy online in other EU Member States will get help to resolve their contractual disputes with EU traders online. Consumers will, according to the Commission, potentially save approx. EUR 20 billion if they have the possibility to bring

their complaints before an alternative dispute resolution entity. It is faster, cheaper and easier to use for consumers than going to court. Today, there are more than 750 different ADR entities in the EU. The proposal is one of the 12 key initiatives in the Single Market Act.

***Agreement in the Council on the two proposals in the Airport Package***

Agreement was reached on the proposal to improve ground-handling services in EU airports at the meeting of the Council on 22 March 2012, and agreement was reached on the proposal concerning noise-related operating restrictions at EU airports at the Council meeting on 7 June 2012. The ground-handling proposal is a very important step towards increasing the capacity and efficiency of ground-handling services and improving service standards at Europe's airports for the benefit of both airline companies and passengers. With respect to the proposal on noise-related operating restrictions, it is an important contribution to reducing the number of citizens who are exposed to high noise levels from airports. At the same time, the proposal takes into account the future need for a competitive and effective European aviation sector.

***Agreement in the Council on guidelines for the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T)***

Agreement was reached on the proposal on new TEN-T guidelines at the meeting of the Council (TTE) on 22 March 2012. Together with the proposal on the Connecting Europe Facility, this proposal defines the criteria for EU co-financing of future infrastructure projects in the field of transport in the EU. The result

is of great importance, as the proposal - through focus on the development of cross-border infrastructure, the alleviation of bottlenecks, better opportunities for multimodal transport as well as interoperability - is meant to be a driver for the creation, in the years ahead, of one well-connected European transport system, which will facilitate cross-border travel in the EU. Lastly, the proposal is to contribute to fulfilling the EU targets for more climate and environmentally friendly transport, among other things by making rail transport far more efficient - and thereby more attractive.

### ***Agreement in the Council on the revision of the Brussels I regulation***

During the Danish Presidency, agreement has been reached in the Council on a revision of the rules laid down in the Brussels I regulation on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters. The revision will contribute to improving the rules for dealing with cross-border civil and commercial cases in the EU. The regulation contains rules on, for example, the simplification of the procedure for the enforced execution of judgments in other EU Member States. The regulation will also facilitate access to the European courts for, among others, consumers and workers.

### ***Council conclusions on the governance and the digital single market***

The Council conclusions aim at improving the manner in which the Single Market functions in practice. Improved implementation, application and enforcement of the rules and principles of the Single Market in all EU Member States can ensure that rules adopted by

the EU also function for European citizens and businesses. Furthermore, the conclusions relate to the digital single market where surveys show that the EU can achieve an increase in GDP of up to 4 per cent if we succeed in establishing a well-functioning digital single market by 2020. The conclusions underline the importance of changing to e-procurement by 2016 and e-invoicing by 2020.

### ***Progress in the negotiations on a number of free trade agreements***

The Presidency has given high priority to bilateral and regional free trade agreements. During the Danish Presidency, the scoping exercise for a free trade agreement with Japan was concluded. Moreover, good progress was achieved in the discussions with the USA on the possibilities of closer trade and investment links. Progress was also achieved in the negotiations with Canada and Singapore, some progress in the negotiations with India, and negotiations were initiated with Vietnam, Georgia, Moldova and Armenia. Similarly, agreement in principle was reached between the EU and China on commencing negotiations on a bilateral investment agreement. Lastly, the Council adopted the free trade agreement with Columbia and Peru as well as the association agreement with Central America.

### ***Progress report on public procurement directives***

The public procurement market in the EU is estimated to be worth thousands of billions of kroner. It means that there is an enormous potential for supporting growth if the rules can be modernised in such a way that the procurement processes become more efficient and

so that public purchases more easily can be used to promote other policy goals, for example in the environmental, innovation or social field. Against this background, the Danish Presidency has worked for the adoption of the modernised rules for public procurement to be as swift as possible so that the rule change may have an impact on growth already from 2015. With the modernisation, the rules will be simplified and more flexible, and it will be easier for the contracting authorities to enter into a pre-procurement dialogue with potential suppliers. The proposal is one of the 12 key initiatives in the Single Market Act.

## 3. A green Europe

### ***Agreement with the European Parliament on the energy efficiency directive***

During the Danish Presidency, the Council and the European Parliament concluded negotiations on the energy efficiency directive, which was one of the Presidency's highest priorities. According to the Commission, the directive will increase energy efficiency by more than 17 per cent by 2020 and thereby put the EU well on the way towards reaching the target of 20 per cent energy savings by 2020 compared to projected energy consumption by 2020. The directive will lead to EU savings corresponding to billions of euros on imported coal, oil and gas. Money which instead can be invested in the EU – in green growth and in creating hundreds of thousands of new jobs.

### ***Agreement with the European Parliament on the directive on sulphur content of marine fuels***

The directive implies that all ships are to reduce the sulphur content of their fuel by approx. 90 per cent. Moreover, standards will be strengthened further for ships in particularly vulnerable areas such as the Baltic Sea, the North Sea and the English Channel (SECA areas). In these areas, ships are already today required to use cleaner fuels than on

the oceans, but by 2015 the sulphur content must be reduced by a further 90 per cent. As a result, future air pollutant emissions from ships will be much reduced on land.

### ***Agreement with the European Parliament on the regulation on export of dangerous chemicals***

Since 2003, the EU has required that businesses may only export particularly dangerous chemicals with the consent of the recipient country. However, every third transaction falls through because the recipient country fails to reply. This is also the case even if the substance is to be used in the recipient country in a manner that is permitted in the EU – for example, for the production of paper. The amendment of the regulation will permit businesses to export substances that can be used legally in the EU even if the recipient country has not directly agreed to import the chemicals. The regulation maintains the stringent export requirements for substances that are not permitted for use in the EU.

### ***Agreement with the European Parliament on the directive on control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances (Seveso III)***

Agreement has been reached on a

recast of the Seveso directive in order to adjust it to the new global classification rules for chemicals. However, the directive has also been amended in areas that will improve the safety for European citizens. The amendments imply, among other things, that authorities must post information on the Internet about hazardous industrial sites so that citizens may learn whether a neighbouring area is a hazardous industrial site and how to react in an emergency; that all hazardous industrial sites are required to draw up an accident prevention policy which describes how the site will progressively ensure a high level of safety; and that more sites that handle substances which are dangerous to inhale will be covered by the EU rules.

***Agreement with the European Parliament on the framework for energy agreements with third countries***

The Council and the European Parliament have completed negotiations on the proposal for a decision setting up an information exchange mechanism with respect to intergovernmental agreements concluded between Member States and third countries in the field of energy. The proposal will contribute to ensuring that the internal energy market “acquis” is taken into account at an early stage in the negotiations, as well as enhancing transparency and solidarity, and improving Member States’ individual and collective negotiating position. Strengthened internal coordination will prove of great importance to enhanced energy security in an internal market for energy and is a step towards a common energy policy in Europe.

***Agreement in the Council on foodstuffs for particular nutritional uses***

The Council has adopted a general approach on the proposal on foodstuffs intended for particular nutritional uses. The Council agreed that the EU rules governing foodstuffs for particular nutritional uses should be harmonised and tightened, so that, for example, foods for athletes no longer can be marketed as foodstuffs for particular uses in the same way as, for instance, infant formulae. In future, this will mean in practice that sports foods, irrespective of where they are marketed, will need to comply with stringent EU rules for documentary evidence regarding the effects of the label claim. EU ministers will thereby put an end to the practice in some EU Member States that profit from marketing sports foods under EU rules for foodstuffs intended for particular nutritional uses.

***Agreement in the Council on the fisheries reform***

The Council has adopted a general approach on the basic regulation and the common organisation of the markets for the future fisheries policy and presented a progress report for the Presidency’s work on the proposal on a European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). Together the three proposals constitute the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy, which aims to introduce an ecosystem approach with focus on the environment and sustainability. The introduction of a number of management instruments is proposed in this connection, including a ban on discard. This means that the first important step has been taken towards a more sustainable fisheries policy for the benefit of both

fish stocks and fishermen. Furthermore, the Council has adopted conclusions on the external dimension of the fisheries policy, including on sustainability, respect for human rights and democracy, as well as enhanced scientific stock assessment.

***Council conclusions in preparation for the Rio+20 United Nations Conference***

At the meeting of the Council on 9 March, Council conclusions were adopted on the EU position prior to the Rio+20 United Nations Conference in Brazil on 20-22 June 2012. In relation to the negotiations in preparation for the Rio+20 United Nations Conference, these conclusions have constituted the basis for presenting proposals regarding clear operational targets and actions as well as time frames for areas relating to the transition to a green economy, including sustainable energy, water, sustainable area management and ecosystems, oceans and resource efficiency, especially waste. In the conclusions, the EU supports the promotion of the UN Environmental Program (UNEP) to "specialized agency", the measurement of growth by a different GDP model which also includes social and environmental aspects, and the adoption of a global programme for sustainable consumption and production at the Rio+20 United Nations Conference.

***Council conclusions in preparation for the 11th Conference of the Parties (COP 11) to the Convention on Biological Diversity***

At the meeting of the Council on 11 June, conclusions were adopted on the EU's mandate for the negotiations on biodiversity and biosafety at COP 11.

The most important political subject at the conference of the parties will be the mobilisation of resources for securing global diversity. The conclusions establish that the EU is to work towards determining intermediate resource mobilisation targets. The conclusions support the strategic plan for biodiversity 2011-2020, including on sector integration in the implementation of the plans, on marine biodiversity, on the need for protecting genetic resources outside national jurisdiction, as well as on emergency measures for sustainable management of fish stocks. Furthermore, the conclusions support the work on the ratification and implementation of the ABS protocol (the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and benefit sharing) and the establishment of IPBES (the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services).

***Council conclusions in preparation for the international Conference of Chemicals Management and the intergovernmental negotiating committee on mercury***

At the meeting of the Council on 11 June, conclusions were adopted in preparation for international meetings on, respectively, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and the last negotiating meeting on a new global mercury convention. With respect to SAICM, the importance of further implementation of the strategy is underlined in order to reach the target of minimising significant adverse impacts of chemicals on human health and the environment by 2020. The Council underlines the need for activities regarding chemicals in products, hazardous substances in electronic products

as well as in the field of nanomaterials, and the Council supports a new political focus on endocrine disrupters. With regard to the mercury negotiations, the importance of an intensified global effort is underlined in order to reduce the use and emissions of mercury. Lastly, the Council points out that future financing for both SAICM and the mercury convention should be based on existing financing mechanisms.

### ***Council conclusions on a 7th EU Environment Action Programme***

At the meeting of the Environment Council in June, conclusions were adopted on a new 7th Environmental Action Programme. The conclusions lay down a strategic framework for the EU environmental policy up to 2020 and a vision for 2050. The conclusions establish that the EU is to work for a resource-efficient, low-carbon green economy. The Council asks the Commission to present quantitative environmental targets and resource efficiency targets. The Commission and the Member States are to reinforce the efforts regarding implementation of EU environmental legislation, and a number of measures are proposed for achieving this. The conclusions identify biodiversity, the urban environment, chemicals and climate adaptation as areas for which a stronger policy is to be developed. The Council points at the phase-out of environmentally harmful subsidies, environmental innovation, green taxes, green product policy, the polluter pays principle, and broader accounting systems than GDP as decisive for achieving a green transition.

### ***Council conclusions on the follow-up to the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) in Durban***

At the meeting of the Council (Environment) on 9 March, Council conclusions were adopted that followed up on the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP17/CMP7) in Durban, South Africa 2011. The Council conclusions establish EU positions on important issues relating to a new commitment period. With the adoption, the Presidency succeeded in bringing the EU together on the modalities for submitting information on an emission reduction budget (QELRO) for the EU as well as establish the EU position on the length of a new commitment period. The Presidency also succeeded in emphasising that the EU with respect to surplus emission permits will work for a solution whereby only parties that commit to a QELRO in the second commitment period may carry over surplus emission permits.

### ***Presidency conclusions on a road map for moving to a competitive low-carbon economy by 2050***

During the Danish Presidency, a total of 26 Member States supported the Presidency conclusions on long-term climate and energy roadmaps for the EU. The Presidency conclusions underline the urgency of defining a European climate and energy policy framework up to 2030 that places the EU on track towards realising its long-term climate target of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 80-95 per cent by 2050 compared to 1990 levels, while at the same time ensuring that a more stable energy supply in the EU is secured, that our competitiveness is supported, and that new European jobs are created. The message from the 26

Member States is decisive in terms of giving investors greater security for the long-term sustainable climate and energy investments that are to drive the EU transition to a low-emission economy. A total of 26 Member States recognise, among other things, a milestone for reductions of EU greenhouse gas emissions of 40 per cent by 2030, and the need for ensuring considerably more renewable energy, increased energy efficiency, and new smart and flexible infrastructure after 2020. The Commission has accepted the recommendations submitted by the 26 Member States, and against this background the Commission has announced that it will present proposals for how the EU can achieve all this.



## 4. A safe Europe

### ***Agreement with the European Parliament on a directive on minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime***

Agreement has been reached with the European Parliament on a proposal for a directive on minimum standards for victims of crime with respect to rights, support and protection. The proposal implies that persons who have been exposed to crime are to have a number of rights, irrespective of where in the EU the crime and prosecution take place. These rights comprise, for instance, participation in the criminal proceedings, information, advice, interpretation and translation.

### ***Agreement with the European Parliament on a directive on attacks against information systems***

The Presidency has completed negotiations with the European Parliament on the proposal for a directive on attacks against information systems (cyber-crime). The proposal contains a number of commitments for Member States, in particular with regard to the criminalisation of various forms of cybercrime offences and establishes, for example, minimum standards for penalties relating to these. Furthermore, the proposal contains provisions that aim at improv-

ing the cooperation between the police and other law enforcement authorities in the Member States.

### ***Agreement with the European Parliament on a reform of the European Court of Justice (ECJ)***

The Danish Presidency has secured political agreement between the Council and the European Parliament on the first part of the reform of the ECJ (the amendment to the statute of the ECJ). Over the years, the ECJ has experienced a huge increase in its workload, among other things as a result of the enlargement to 27 Member States and the extension by the Lisbon Treaty of the remit of the ECJ, which have resulted in relatively long processing times. The reform implies a number of changes to the internal organisation of the ECJ's work with a view to increased efficiency in particular. The improvements are to contribute to reducing processing times for cases brought before the ECJ for the benefit of European citizens and businesses.

### ***Agreement with the European Parliament on the proposal for a revision of the Dublin regulation***

Apart from few elements agreement has been reached between the Council

and the European Parliament on the proposed amendment to the so-called Dublin II regulation. The Dublin rules decide, among other things, which Member State is responsible for processing asylum applications submitted by third-country nationals. Agreement has been reached on a mechanism for early warning, preparedness and crisis management, which is to ensure not only solidarity with Member States that are exposed to particular pressure from asylum seekers and illegal immigrants, but also to prevent the collapse of asylum systems. The adoption of a new common approach to solidarity in the field of asylum and migration in March 2012 has contributed positively to this result.

***Agreement with the European Parliament on reception conditions for asylum seekers***

Agreement has been reached between the Council and the European Parliament on the proposed amendment to the so-called reception conditions directive, which lays down minimum standards for the reception of asylum seekers in the Member States. The new rules are meant to prevent the misuse of different reception systems in the Member States, to establish more uniform high standards for the treatment of asylum seekers and to regulate asylum seekers' access to the labour market.

Agreement with the European Parliament on changes to visa rules  
It is very valuable that agreement has been reached between the Council and the European Parliament on the introduction of a mechanism in the current visa regulation for temporary suspension of visa-free travel in particularly

serious situations where the visa-free regime is abused through increased illegal immigration or a sudden increase in the number of asylum seekers who have no real reasons for seeking asylum in one or more Member States. The negotiations will continue with the European Parliament on the extension of the so called reciprocity mechanism of the proposal in order to ensure better follow up on introduction or upholding of visa requirements of third countries when the citizens of the country in question can travel into the Schengen area without a visa.

***Agreement in the Council to grant Serbia candidate status***

On 1 March 2012, the European Council decided to grant Serbia the status of candidate country, following a recommendation by the Council. With this decision, the EU has recognised Serbia's progress in the EU reform process and constructive contributions to the dialogue with Kosovo. This was preceded by difficult negotiations between Serbia and Kosovo, which reached compromises on sensitive issues even though the countries do not recognise each other. The decision may have far-reaching implications for the region and demonstrates that the membership perspective changes regional dynamics and can contribute to a stabilisation of the situation in the Western Balkans. For Serbia, the decision has opened up a new chapter in the country's rapprochement with the EU. Before a date is fixed for commencing accession negotiations, the Commission will need to assess whether Serbia has achieved the necessary degree of compliance with the criteria for EU membership.

Agreement in the Council on opening accession negotiations with Montenegro On 26 June 2012, the Council decided to open accession negotiations with Montenegro. The decision was endorsed by the European Council on 28-29 June. In continuation of this, an accession conference was held with Montenegro on 29 June 2012. Montenegro was granted EU candidate status in 2010. On 9 December 2011, the European Council asked the Commission to draw up a progress report in the first half-year of 2012 with a view to opening accession negotiations with Montenegro in June 2012. In its progress report of 22 May 2012, the Commission concluded that Montenegro had made further progress thus recommending that accession negotiations be opened.

***Agreement in the Council on the establishment of a European Passenger Name Record (PNR) system***

Support has been reached in the Council for a proposal for a directive on the use of passenger information with a view to combating terrorism and other serious crime. In a globalised world, information on travel routes and travel patterns play a very significant role in connection with the detection and investigation of terrorism and other serious crime. A European PNR system will contribute to ensuring that law enforcement authorities have up-to-date and effective investigative tools and thereby contribute to a coherent response to terrorism and other serious crime. The question of the establishment of a European PNR system has been discussed in the EU since 2007.

***Agreement in the Council on an action plan to combat illegal immigration***

The Council has adopted a comprehensive action plan on EU efforts regarding illegal immigration by setting six strategic action areas relating to the fight against illegal immigration. The plan contains approx. 80 specific measures, including the strengthening of cooperation with transit countries and countries of origin; border control cooperation at EU external borders, such as the Greek-Turkish border; readmission of persons without legal residence and efforts against abuse of legal channels of migration. The action plan constitutes a clear reinforcement of the prevention of and the fight against illegal immigration and will need to be updated on an ongoing basis. As part of the efforts to combat illegal immigration agreement has been reached with Turkey on the content of a readmission agreement. In addition a set of Council conclusions on enhanced cooperation with Turkey on the entire justice and interior area has been adopted.

***Agreement in the Council on Schengen governance – amendment to the Schengen Borders Code***

Agreement has been reached in the Council on a new mechanism which allows for the reintroduction of internal border controls in exceptional circumstances if a Member State fails to comply with its obligations regarding external border controls and if this at the same time implies a serious threat to public order or internal security in the Schengen area. The new mechanism is introduced by means of a special procedure under which the Council, on a proposal from the Commission, recom-

mends the reintroduction of internal border controls between one or more Member States. The Member States will subsequently decide themselves on the reintroduction of internal border controls. The proposal is to be negotiated with the European Parliament.

***Agreement in the Council on more thorough evaluation of EU Member States' compliance with the Schengen rules***

Agreement has been reached in the Council on enhancing the control of Schengen Member States' compliance with Schengen rules by introducing a new Schengen evaluation system. The new evaluation system is, among other things, to ensure the protection of external Schengen borders and the freedom of movement across internal borders.

***Agreement in the Council on the asylum procedures directive***

Agreement has been reached in the Council on the proposed amendment to the so-called asylum procedures directive, which decides EU Member States' procedures for granting and withdrawing refugee protection. The objective of the new rules is to ensure effectiveness and legal certainty and a more uniform processing of asylum applications in the Member States. The proposal aims at fixing a deadline, the point of departure being that first instance decisions are to be made within six months. The proposal is to be negotiated with the European Parliament.

***Council conclusions on a new European development policy and on the EU's future approach to budget support to third countries***

Under the leadership of the High Representative the Council adopted a new development policy. The aim was to renew the EU's development policy in light of global challenges such as the economic crisis and climate change while at the same time targeting and increasing the efficiency of the EU's development policy. The new policy aims to promote green growth, human rights, equal rights, transparency and the inclusion of civil society. In the future the EU will target its aid towards the poorest countries and establish new forms of strategic partnerships with middle income countries. In addition a new approach on budget support has been decided, which will make the EU's budget support a more effective instrument, also in fragile states, i.a. through a stronger emphasis on human rights and democracy.

***Council conclusions on antimicrobial resistance***

Council conclusions have been adopted on combating antimicrobial resistance. Infections with resistant bacteria are difficult to treat and cost the lives of almost 25,000 people in the EU annually. At the same time, antimicrobial resistance implies increased health costs and reduced productivity totalling approx. EUR 1.5 billion a year. The Council conclusions put focus on the connection between disease and health in humans and animals. If antimicrobial resistance is to be reduced, it requires that the consumption of antibiotics among humans and animals is reduced. The Member States agree on developing and

implementing national strategies and action plans for combating antimicrobial resistance with focus on the proper application of antibiotics and on reducing the need for treatment with antibiotics through preventive measures.

### ***Adoption of a package on strengthening of human rights in EU foreign policy***

The position of human rights in EU's Foreign Policy has been strengthened through a package of concrete initiatives, aiming at strengthening the EU Human Rights' profile in third countries and in international negotiations. The package includes a strategic declaration on Human Rights as the silver thread of EU foreign policy, a concrete action plan to ensure that the EU takes the necessary steps within the Human Rights area and the establishment of a European Union Special Representative on Human Rights, i.a. to discuss Human Rights with third countries.

### ***Adoption of a framework for implementation of the revised European Neighbourhood, also in the light of the Arab Spring***

The EU's relationship to the Neighbours is a central priority. The Council has approved the revised neighbourhood policy, and agreement has been reached in the Council on enhancing incentive options and obligation to reconsider support in cases of oppression or systematic violations of human rights. Also, negotiation mandates have been adopted on migration partnerships with Morocco and Tunisia. The Council has outlined a clear EU policy on the Middle East with a continued focus on the two-state-solution and has followed-up by taking concrete measures supporting the

Palestinian economy and control with own territory, including in relation to settlement products.

### ***Adoption of strengthened sanctions toward i.a. Iran and Syria and revised guidelines for restrictive measures***

Restrictive measures are a vital instrument in the EU's foreign policy. In close cooperation with the EEAS the Danish Presidency has aimed to strengthen and improve the EU's handling of sanctions. The EU has imposed substantial sanctions against Iran and Syria, including oil embargo and profound financial sanctions. Revised guidelines have been adopted to ensure the effectiveness of sanctions as an instrument to change behaviour of countries in cases of e.g. oppressing or violation of human rights. At the same time, the sanctions against Burma/Myanmar have been eased, while the sanctions against Libya and Cote d'Ivoire have been lifted in response to their democratic development.

### ***Adoption of a framework for more comprehensive approach in third countries***

Under the Danish Presidency, substantial improvements have been achieved to promote a comprehensive approach of the EU's various engagements. The negotiation position of the Council on the future external financial instruments has been adopted, with a view to enhancing flexibility, improving the ability to act and the coherence with the establishment of the EEAS. As part of the regional, comprehensive strategies decisions have been taken to speed up implementation of the Sahel strategy, adopt a joint anti-terror strategy for Pakistan, as well as adopt three new inte-

grated civilian missions. Agreement has also been reached on EU's long term commitment to Afghanistan, including commitment to enhanced financial funding, and focus on the security situation, including police training.

***Progress in the accession negotiations with Iceland***

There has been good progress in the accession negotiations with Iceland during the Danish Presidency. The negotiations have moved forward in many areas, also with respect to more difficult areas. During the Presidency, a substantial number of chapters have been opened. At the end of the Danish Presidency and since June 2011, a total of 18 chapters have been opened for negotiations, of which ten chapters have been provisionally closed. This provides the incoming Cyprus Presidency with a good basis on which to proceed.

# 5. The Multiannual Financial Framework and reforms of common policies

## ***Presentation of a negotiating box for the Multiannual Financial Framework***

The Presidency has worked hard and professionally on the negotiations regarding the EU Multiannual Financial Framework. At the meeting of the Heads of State or Government on 28-29 June 2012 the European Council welcomed the work of the Presidency as the basis for further negotiations. In the draft agreement – the so called negotiation box – the structure for the EU budget for the period 2014-2020 is determined, and all the elements on which agreement is to be reached are included. Against the background of the Presidency's preparatory work, discussions also took place at the meeting on 28-29 June on how the EU future multiannual budget can support growth and employment to maximum extent. The Presidency has thus delivered ambitiously on the mandate given to Denmark by the EU Heads of State or Government in December 2011: to pave the way for the final negotiations on the EU Multiannual Financial Framework which are to take place in the second half-year of 2012.

## ***Partial agreement in the Council on Horizon 2020***

The Danish Presidency has reached a partial general approach on the Presi-

dency's compromise proposal on the main regulation establishing the new research and innovation framework programme, Horizon 2020. Horizon 2020 is part of the negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework. The compromise proposal maintains the overall structure of the Commission's original proposal consisting of three main pillars: excellence in the science base, industrial leadership and competitive frameworks, and societal challenges. As a new element, a provision is introduced on "widening participation" in the future programme, a horizontal box on the cross-cutting issues of the programme as well as one extra societal challenge, which primarily can be addressed by social sciences and the humanities. The proposal supports the European growth strategy, Europe 2020.

## ***Partial agreement in the Council on Erasmus for All***

Many more citizens and institutions in the EU may look forward to even better opportunities for taking part in an education programme or an internship abroad, a teacher's exchange or participation in cooperation projects with other countries. This is the objective of the new EU programme for education, youth and sport, Erasmus for All, on

which political agreement was reached in the Council in May. The programme is to enhance mobility, cooperation and policy development between institutions and organisations in the field of education and youth both inside and outside Europe, thereby contributing to strengthening internationalisation and European cooperation. Erasmus for All brings together the existing programmes, Lifelong Learning and Youth in Action, and establishes new activities in the field of sport.

### ***Partial agreement in the Council on the Cohesion Policy***

Within the reform of the European Cohesion Policy, preliminary agreement was reached on 24 April on the negotiating blocks for ex ante conditionality, management and control, monitoring and evaluation, eligibility as well as major projects. Further on June 26 preliminary agreement was reached with regard to the negotiation blocks for thematic concentration and goals, financial instruments, net revenue generating operations and performance framework. A good foundation has thus been laid for a more effective effort under the Cohesion Policy whilst management is simplified. Furthermore, an amendment was adopted to regulation (EC) 1083/2006 with a view to introducing a risk-sharing instrument for crisis-affected countries. Partial agreement in the Council on the Connecting Europe Facility (transport, energy and digital infrastructure) Agreement was reached on the proposal on the establishment of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) at the meeting of the Council (TTE) on 7 June 2012. This means that a decisive step has been taken towards setting up a framework for

ensuring that EU funds may contribute to realising a coherent, robust and effective infrastructure in Europe. The CEF is to finance infrastructure development in transport, energy and information and communication technologies (ICT) in the period 2014-2020. The objective of the proposal is to promote the European growth agenda by, for example, placing focus on cross-border projects. By way of example, the future Femern Belt fixed link would be eligible for support from the CEF. The facility is closely connected with the sector-specific guidelines in the field of transport (TEN-T), energy (TEN-E) and ICT.

### ***Partial agreement in the Council on a new EU action programme in the field of health 2014-2020***

Agreement has been reached in the Council on the future EU action programme in the field of health for the period 2014-2020. The programme is to contribute to 1) promoting innovation and sustainability in the health care sector, 2) promoting citizens' access to better and safer health services, 3) preventing diseases and promoting health, and 4) protecting citizens from cross-border health threats. The programme can be used to finance projects and networking with the participation of national health authorities, educational institutions and other organisations that are active in the field of health. The programme's budget will be decided on in connection with the negotiations on the EU Multiannual Financial Framework.



### ***Progress report on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy***

The Presidency has presented a progress report taking stock and setting out the positions in the Council regarding the most important elements in the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, including the green elements. The Presidency has obtained the agreement of the Commission to some more effective environmental tools. It looks as if it will be possible in future to grant one-off compensation to farmers who permanently change the use of an area of land, for example by establishing wetlands. It will be an important tool for securing nature and the environment in Europe. The Presidency has also achieved greater flexibility in the rural development programmes. It means that it will be possible to focus future support to a greater extent on the challenges that are relevant in rural areas, for example increased consideration for the environment and climate, so as to achieve a slightly greener agricultural policy in future. The Presidency has thus taken a small but important step in the direction of a final agreement on the future Common Agricultural Policy.

## Part III: A certified sustainable Presidency

It has been one of the Danish Presidency goals that the Presidency's results contribute to ensuring a sustainable future for Europe. At the same time, it was also important that the Presidency was implemented in a responsible manner ensuring maximum interaction between economic responsibility, respect for humans and respect for the environment. The Presidency was certified as sustainable in June by the London-based firm SGS under the international ISO20121 standard for sustainable events. It means that Denmark has not only implemented the first sustainable EU Presidency ever, but also the first large-scale international event certified under international standards.

In addition to sustainability in an environmental and climate-related sense, it was also necessary that the Presidency was implemented in an economically responsible manner. For this purpose, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark designed a concept that ensured a sustainable implementation of the Presidency without entailing significant additional costs. This was achieved by making demands on suppliers, abandoning certain benefits (such as merchandise like umbrellas and key chains), and by entering into sponsorships with

clean-tech companies.

The logistical planning involved a number of initiatives, including:

- Environmental certification of Eigtveds Pakhus, Forum Horsens and Bella Center
- Use of eco-labelled hotels for all guests
- Ban on bottled water in conference centres
- Use of public transport where possible
- Limited gift policy
- Sustainable meals
- Sustainable office materials
- Carpets made from corn
- PVC-free cables
- Reuse of admission cards and the cord for holding the cards
- Free bicycles for delegates in Horsens and at selected hotels in

Copenhagen

- Optimisation of motorcade driving – fewer cars were sent on the roads

***Presidency sponsors in the field of sustainability***

- As part of supporting the sustainable approach, the Presidency entered into a number of sponsorships:
- The Danish Wind Industry: green power
- Danfoss: energy-saving technology (thermostats) for the conference centres
- DHL: CO2 neutral shipping and handling
- SAS: CO2 compensation of flights with SAS and green take-offs and landings in Copenhagen Airport

# The overall results of the Danish Presidency

## ***The General Affairs Council (GAC)***

- First reading agreement on regulation relating to temporary Judges of the European Union Civil Service Tribunal
- First reading agreement on regulation amending the Protocol on the Statute of the Court of Justice of the European Union and Annex I thereto
- Agreement in the Council on granting candidate status to Serbia
- Agreement in the Council on opening accession negotiations with Montenegro
- Partial general approach in the Council regarding the cohesion policy
- Joint Statement and Common Approach on decentralised agencies (Interinstitutional agreement between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission)
- General Agreement on Council Regulation Establishing an Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation
- General Agreement on Council Regulations on Union Support for the nuclear decommissioning assistance programmes in Lithuania
- General Agreement on Council

Regulations on Union Support for the nuclear decommissioning assistance programmes in Bulgaria and Slovakia

- Council conclusions on the completion of the review of the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region
- Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament and the Council concerning the forwarding to and handling by the European Parliament of classified information held by the Council on matters other than those in the area of the Common Foreign and Security Policy
- Presentation of the Presidency's Negotiating Box as a basis for further negotiations. The Presidency has fulfilled the mandate given by the European Council in December: to prepare the basis for the final stage of the negotiations on the MFF in the second half of 2012

## ***The Foreign Affairs Council***

- Improved cooperation between the EEAS and the rotating Presidency, including permanent coordination mechanisms and implementation of guidelines for local cooperation and enhanced practical cooperation
- Adoption on package to strengthen focus on human rights in EU

foreign policy including a strategic declaration, an action plan and a special representative

- Adoptions of substantial sanctions against especially Iran and Syria, including oil embargo. Suspension of majority of sanctions against Burma in response of their democratic development
- Adoption of revised guidelines for EU restrictive measures (sanctions)
- Adoption of three CSDP missions, integrated in broader strategic frameworks. Early implementation of the Sahel strategy and the launch of security sector missions to Niger
- General partial approach regarding the package on external financial instruments, including revisions of the European Development Fund and the instruments for development, neighbourhood, pre-accession, stability and human rights, as well as nuclear cooperation. Furthermore general partial provision regarding establishment of a new partnership instrument and a partnership with Greenland
- Implementation of the differentiated approach in the European Neighbourhood Policy via political endorsement of the joint communication on the Neighbourhood Policy and revision of the ENI regulation, including enhanced incentive options and obligation to reconsider support to governments in cases of oppression or grave or systematic violations of human rights
- Adoption of negotiation mandate on migration partnerships with Morocco and Tunisia. Support for approval of the agreement with Morocco on the liberalization of trade in agricultural products, fish and fishery products

by the European Parliament

- Comprehensive Council Conclusions on EU's long term commitment to Afghanistan, including commitment to enhanced financial funding, and focus on the security situation, including police training
- Comprehensive Council Conclusions on the Middle East outlining clear policy from the EU regarding continued focus on two state solution. Concrete follow-up measures supporting the Palestinian economy and control with own territory, including in relation to settlement goods.

### ***The Foreign Affairs Council (Development)***

- Council Conclusions on Increasing the Impact of EU Development Policy: an Agenda for Change
- Council Conclusions on The Future Approach to EU Budget Support to Third Countries
- Council Conclusions on EU 2011 Report on Policy Coherence for Development
- Council Conclusions on Annual report 2012 to the European Council on EU Development Aid Targets
- Council Conclusions on "Strengthening Resilience to Food Crises in the Horn of Africa"
- Council Conclusions on the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility introducing a strong strategic link and complementarity between the EU external migration policy and the EU foreign and development policies
- Strengthening of ACP-EU cooperation with decisions on accession of South Sudan to the Cotonou Agreement and joint declarations on Rio+20 and

migration and development

### ***The Foreign Affairs Council (Trade)***

- First reading agreement on regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences
- First reading agreement on regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences
- First reading agreement on regulation establishing transitional arrangements for bilateral investment agreements between Member States and third countries
- General approach regarding regulation on Emergency Trade Measures in relation to Pakistan.
- Council decision on request to WTO on a waiver on Emergency Trade Measures in relation to Pakistan
- Council on conclusion of Agreement with Georgia on Geographical Indications.
- Council decision on and signature of the Multi-Party Trade Agreement with Colombia and Peru.
- Council decision on and signature of the Association Agreement with Central America
- Council decision on and signature of Agreement with Moldova on Geographical Indications
- Council decision on and signature of GATT Art. XXVII-agreements With Brazil and Thailand on Processed Poultry Meat
- Council decision on increasing sanctions against Iran
- Council decision on adoption of increasing sanctions against Syria
- Council Conclusions on Trade, Growth and Development on the basis of a Communication from the Commission
- Decision to launch negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement with Vietnam
- Decision to launch negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement with Armenia
- Agreement in Council on the Chairmans summary regarding the contribution of trade to growth and jobs as part of the preparation of the June European Council
- Agreement in Council on a Commission non-paper on strengthening the EU's efforts for green trade liberalization
- Interim Report from EU-US High-Level Working Group on a further deepening of the trade- and investment relations
- First rounds of negotiations on free trade agreements with Georgia, Moldova and Armenia
- Early second reading agreement on regulation establishing transitional arrangements for bilateral investment agreements between Member States and third countries.
- Signature of the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA)
- Conclusion of scoping exercise for a Free Trade Agreement with Japan

### ***Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN)***

- First reading agreement on derivatives trading
- First reading agreement on amending the regulation establishing a Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (2007-2014) [Pilot phase on Project Bonds]

- General Approach in Council on Directive on Capital Requirements
- General approach in Council on Regulation on Credit Rating Agencies
- General approach in Council on Mortgage Credit Directive
- General approach in Council on the transparency directive
- Political agreement in the Council on the Presidency's compromise regarding the Commission's legislative proposals concerning enhanced economic cooperation in the euro area, "two-pack"
- Adoption of country-specific recommendations.
- Adoption of economic policy guidelines based on the Commission's Annual Growth Survey
- Adoption of Council Decision with a view to bringing an end to the situation of an excessive government deficit in Hungary
- Adoption of Council Decision abrogating decision on the existence of an excessive deficit in Bulgaria
- Adoption of Council Implementing Decision lifting the suspension of commitments from the Cohesion Fund for Hungary
- Adoption of Council Decision abrogating decision on the existence of an excessive deficit in Germany
- Adoption of Council Decision suspending commitments from the Cohesion Fund for Hungary
- Adoption of Council Decision establishing that no effective action has been taken by Hungary in response to the Council Recommendation of 7 July 2009
- Adoption of a Council Implementing Decision authorising Spain and France to introduce a special measure derogating from Article 5 of the VAT Directive.
- Adoption of revised Code of Conduct for the Stability and Growth Pact
- Adoption of Council regulation on administrative cooperation in the field of excise duties.
- Adoption of common EU positions (Terms of Reference) for the G20 meeting for economy and finance ministers and central bank governors on 25-26 February and 19-20 April.
- Adoption of common EU statement for the IMF's spring meeting on 20-21 April
- Council conclusions on the Court of Auditors' Special Report No 13/2011: "Does the control of customs procedure 42 prevent and detect VAT evasion?"
- Council conclusions on the Green Climate Fund Board nominations, including on the nomination of a European Union representative to the Board
- Council conclusions on climate finance – fast start finance
- Council conclusions on climate finance as follow up to UN's Climate Conference (COP17/CMP7) in Durban
- Council Conclusions regarding the European Semester, including the Europlus Pact.
- Council Conclusions regarding the negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework welcoming the progress achieved under the Danish Presidency, which provides a basis for the final stage of the negotiations
- Council conclusions on the future of VAT.

- Council conclusions regarding the procedure for macro-economic imbalances.
- Progress Report on revision of the MIFID directive
- Progress Report on revision of the market abuse directive
- Progress Report on regulation on central securities depositories

### ***The Justice and Home Affairs Council (JHA)***

- First reading agreement on the amended proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down standards for the reception of asylum seekers (except for one element) (Recast)
- First reading agreement on establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime
- First reading agreement on Regulation amending the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement (except for the decision making procedures on the use of the mechanism of reciprocity)
- Early second reading agreement on regulation establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person (except for a very few elements) (the Dublin Regulation) (Recast)
- Early second reading agreement amending decision establishing

the European Refugee Fund for the period 2008 to 2013 as part of the General programme "Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows"

- Negotiations finalised on regulation on the marketing and use of explosives precursors
- Negotiations finalised with the European Parliament on amendment to the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Schengen Borders Code and the Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement (technical amendments)
- General approach to directive on the use of Passenger Name Record data for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of terrorist offences and serious crime
- General approach to the right of access to a lawyer in criminal proceedings and on the right to communicate upon arrest
- General approach to regulation on jurisdiction and recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters (Recast)
- General approach to the amended proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection status (Recast)
- General approach to regulation on the establishment of an evaluation and monitoring mechanism to verify the application of the Schengen acquis
- General approach to the proposal for a regulation amending the regulation on the Schengen Borders Code (common rules on the temporary reintroduction of border control at



- the internal borders in exceptional circumstances).
- General approach to the proposal for a directive on conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals in the framework of an intra-corporate transfer
  - Partial general approach to regulation establishing for the period 2014 to 2020 the Justice Programme
  - Partial general approach to regulation establishing for the period 2014 to 2020 the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme
  - Partial general approach to directive on criminal sanctions for insider dealing and market manipulation
  - Agreement in Council to resume negotiations with the Council of Europe on the Accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights
  - Political agreement in the Council to submit Proposal for a Council Decision establishing a Multiannual Framework for the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights for 2013-2017 to the European Parliament with a view to obtaining consent
  - Council agreement on an action paper entitled "EU Action on migratory pressure - A strategic response"
  - Conclusion of Agreement between the United States of America and The European Union on the use and transfer of Passenger Name Records to the United States Department of Homeland Security
  - Conclusion of revised visa facilitation agreement with Moldova
  - Conclusion of revised visa facilitation agreement with Ukraine
  - Negotiations with the European Parliament have been concluded on a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the attack on IT systems
  - Council Conclusions on further enhancing efficient cross-border exchange of law enforcement information
  - Council conclusions on de-radicalisation and disengagement from terrorist activities
  - Council conclusions on a Common Framework for genuine and practical solidarity towards Member States facing particular pressures on their asylum systems, including through mixed migration flows
  - Council conclusions on a new EU drugs strategy
  - Council Conclusions adopting the 2011-2013 EU Work Programme on further measures designed to maximise safety and security in connection with sports events, in particular football matches, with an international dimension
  - Council conclusions on the 2011 report from the Commission on the Application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights
  - Council conclusions on the establishment of a European Cybercrime Centre
  - Council conclusions on the establishment of a global alliance against child sexual abuse online
  - Council conclusions regarding guidelines for the strengthening of political governance in the Schengen cooperation
  - Council conclusions on increased and more effective use of the Europol Information System in the

fight against cross-border crime including crime committed by itinerant criminal groups

- Council Conclusions on developing cooperation with Turkey in the areas of Justice and Home Affairs
- Council decision on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, of the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Turkey on the readmission of persons residing without authorisation
- Adoption of the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the right to information in criminal proceedings
- Adoption of regulation on jurisdiction, applicable law, recognition and enforcement of decisions and acceptance and enforcement of authentic instruments in matters of succession and on the creation of a European Certificate of Succession

### ***The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO)***

- First reading agreement between the European Parliament and the Council on amending the Directive and the Regulation on medicinal products for human use as regards pharmacovigilance
- First reading agreement amending regulation on the coordination of social security systems
- Partial general approach to the European Union Programme for Social Change and Innovation for 2014-2020
- Partial general approach to the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on establishing a Health for Growth Programme, the third multi-annual programme of EU action

in the field of health for the period 2014-2020

- Adoption of country-specific recommendations
- Adoption of directive 2012/11/EU amending directive 2004/40/EC on minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents (electromagnetic fields) – postponing of the transposition deadline
- Council conclusions on follow-up of the first European Semester and thematic surveillance in employment and social policies
- Council conclusions on the impact of antimicrobial resistance in the human health sector and in the veterinary sector – a “One Health” perspective
- Council conclusions on Responding to Demographic Challenges through Enhanced Participation in the Labour Market and Society by All
- Council conclusions on the follow-up on the Beijing Platform for Action area K: “Gender equality and the environment: enhanced decision-making, qualifications and competitiveness in the field of climate change mitigation policy in the EU.”
- Progress report on directive on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation
- Progress report on posting of workers dossiers (proposal for a directive on better enforcement of the posting of workers directive and proposal for a regulation on the exercise of the right to collective action within the context of free

movement)

- Approval of a progress report on the proposal for a regulation on the European globalisation adjustment fund 2014-2020
- Approval of progress report on the proposal for a directive amending directive on minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents (electromagnetic fields)

### ***The Competitiveness Council***

- Agreement on the Unified Patent Court
- First reading agreement on regulation on Standardisation
- First reading agreement on Orphan Works Directive
- First reading agreement on directive on Interconnection of Business Registers
- First reading agreement on Regulation on Internal Market Information system
- First reading agreement on European Social Entrepreneurship Funds
- First reading agreement on European Venture Capital Funds
- General Approach in Council on Alternative and Online Dispute Regulation for EU consumers (ADR/ODR)
- General Approach in Council on Revision of EU's Accounting Directives (4th and 7th)
- Partial general agreement on the regulation for the research and innovation framework programme (Horizon 2020)
- Partial general approach in Council

on COSME programme

- Partial general approach in Council on the Consumer Programme
- Adoption of a Council Decision on the position to be taken by the European Union concerning the adoption of a Decision by the Joint Committee of the Convention of 20 May 1987 on a common transit procedure and a Decision by the Joint Committee of the Convention of 20 May 1987 on the simplification of formalities in trade of goods concerning an invitation to Croatia and Turkey to accede to these Conventions
- Adoption of a Council Decision on a Union position within the EU-U.S. Joint Customs Cooperation Committee regarding mutual recognition of the Authorised Economic Operator Programme of the European Union and the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism Program of the United States
- Adoption of a Council Decision on the conclusion of the regional Convention on pan-Euro-Mediterranean preferential rules of origin
- Adoption of a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 7/2010 opening and providing for the management of autonomous tariff quotas of the Union for certain agricultural and industrial products
- Adoption of a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 1344/2011 suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on certain agricultural, fishery and industrial products
- Council conclusions on European Innovation partnerships
- Council conclusions on Governance

and the Digital Internal Market

- Council conclusions on smart regulation
- Mandate to negotiate WHO FCTC protocol to eliminate illicit trade in tobacco products
- Negotiating mandate on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning customs enforcement of intellectual property rights
- Progress report Horizon 2020 (the underlying legislative acts) on the regulation for rules of participation in Horizon 2020, the Council decision establishing the specific programme implementing Horizon 2020 and proposal for a Council Regulation on the research and training programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (2014-18) complementing Horizon 2020
- Progress report on the regulation for EIT (The European Institute of Innovation and Technology) and the proposal a decision on the strategic innovation agenda for EIT (SIA)
- Progress Report on the Revision of the Public Procurement Rules

### ***The Agriculture and Fisheries Council***

- First reading agreement on agricultural product quality schemes
- First reading agreement regarding a general sanctions instrument to be used in relation to countries allowing non-sustainable fishing
- First reading agreement regarding the application of direct payments to farmers in respect of the year 2013
- General approach on the Common Fisheries Policy ("Basic Regulation")
- General approach on the Common Organisation of the Markets in

Fishery and Aquaculture Products

- General approach on the removal of fins of sharks on board vessels ("shark finning")
- General approach on food intended for infants and young children and on food for special medical purposes
- Adoption of a Multiannual recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean
- Adopted negotiation mandate in relation to FPA between EU/Kiribati
- Adopted negotiation mandate between EU/Madagascar
- Adopted negotiation mandate in relation to FPA between EU/Marocco
- Adopted negotiation mandate in relation to FPA between EU/Mauritius
- Adopted negotiation mandate in relation to FPA between EU/Solomon Islands
- Adoption of a regulation on the European Fisheries Fund, as regards certain provisions relating to financial management for certain Members States experiencing or threatened with serious difficulties with respect to their financial stability
- Adoption of a regulation as regards contractual relations in the milk and milk products sector
- Adoption of a regulation on opening an autonomous tariff quota for imports of high-quality beef
- Endorsement on EU Guidelines for the G20 Agriculture Vice-Ministers/Deputies meeting on 17-18 May 2012, Mexico City
- Adoption of regulation concerning fishing opportunities between EU/Mozambique

- Concluded Fisheries partnership agreements EU/Greenland
- Concluded Fisheries partnership agreements EU/Guinea Bissau
- Concluded Fisheries partnership agreements EU/Kiribati
- Concluded Fisheries partnership agreements EU/Solomon Islands
- Political agreement in Council on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea
- Political agreement as regards the protection of the species "giant manta ray" and certain fishing opportunities
- Political agreement on a Council decision on signing of protocol between EU/Greenland in relation to FPA
- Political agreement concerning fishing opportunities between EU/Greenland
- Political agreement on signing of protocol between EU/Greenland in relation to FPA
- Negotiating mandate on the definition, description, presentation, labelling and the protection of geographical indications of aromatised wine products
- Negotiating mandate on Long term management plan for western horse mackerel
- Negotiating mandate on the conservation and sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources under the Common Fisheries Policy (12 nautical mile)
- Council decision to appoint 7 members of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority
- Council decision establishing the position to be adopted on behalf of the European Union with regard to certain resolutions to be voted in the framework of the International Organisation for Vine and Wine (OIV)
- Council conclusions on animal welfare
- Council conclusions on the external dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy
- Council conclusions on the European Innovation Partnership "Agricultural productivity and sustainability"
- Council conclusions on an EU strategy regarding the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)
- Signing of protocol between EU/Mozambique in relation to FPA
- Progress report on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund
- Progress Report regarding electronic identification of bovine animals.
- Progress report on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy

### ***The Environment Council***

- First reading agreement regarding the export and import of dangerous chemicals
- First reading agreement on control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances
- First reading agreement regarding the sulphur content of marine fuels
- Presidency Conclusion on the Commission's communication on A Roadmap for moving to a competitive low carbon economy in 2050
- Implementation of new internal EU working arrangements to enhance the level of continuity with respect to promoting EU interests

in the international climate change negotiations

- Promotion of visible strategic alliance under the international climate change negotiations between the EU and small island states, the group of least developed countries and other progressive countries
- Council Decision on the submission by the European Union of an amendment to Appendix III of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- Proposal for a Council Decision establishing the position to be adopted on behalf of the European Union with regard to the proposals for amending Annexes II and III to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean at the seventeenth meeting of the Contracting Parties
- Council Decision on the accession of the European Union to the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution resulting from exploration and exploitation of the continental shelf and the seabed and its subsoil - Barcelona (off-shore)
- Council conclusions on the preparation of the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Council conclusions on preparation of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (SAICM ICCM3) and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Mercury

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- Council conclusions on Rio+20: Pathways to a sustainable future
- Council conclusions Setting the framework for a 7th EU Environment Action Programm
- Council conclusions on follow up to UN's Climate Conference (COP17/ CMP7) in Durban
- Adoption and submission of 18 EU submissions detailing the EU position with respect to a number of negotiation topics under the Climate Convention

### ***Transport, telecommunications and Energy Council (TTE)***

- First reading agreement between the Council and the European Parliament on the Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and Council on Energy Efficiency and amending and subsequently repealing Directives 2004/8/ EC and 2006/32/EC
- First reading agreement on a Decision setting up an information exchange mechanism with regard to intergovernmental agreements between Member States and third countries in the field of energy
- First reading agreement on regulation on double-hull oil tankers
- First reading agreement on Roaming Regulation
- First reading agreement on STCW Convention
- Second reading agreement on regulation on the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)
- Second reading agreement on directive establishing a single European railway area
- General approach to regulation

on the establishment of rules and procedures with regard to the introduction of noise-related operating restrictions at Union airports within a Balanced Approach

- General approach to regulation on groundhandling services at Union airports
- General approach to regulation on guidelines for the development of the Trans-European Transport Network
- Partial general approach to regulation on the implementation and exploitation of European satellite navigation systems
- Partial general approach to regulation establishing the Connecting Europe Facility
- Agreement in Council on a new agreement between the EU and U.S. on a common energy labelling of office equipment (Energy Star) for the period 2013-2018 and of the implementing regulation
- Finalised negotiations on an air transport agreement with Israel
- Presidency Conclusion on the Commission's communication on Energy Roadmap 2050
- Council decision authorising the Commission to negotiate an agreement between the Russian Federation, the Republic of Belarus and the European Union on electricity system operation of the Baltic Member States.
- Signature of an air transport agreement with Moldova
- Progress report on proposal regarding the Maritime Labour Convention
- Progress report on the Proposal for a Regulation on safety of offshore oil and gas prospecting, exploration and

production activities

- Progress report on the negotiations on regulation on Guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure

### ***The Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council (EYCS)***

- First reading agreement on Directive on certain permitted uses of orphan works
- Partial general approach to Erasmus for All, EU programme for education and training, youth and sport
- Partial general approach to Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on establishing the Creative Europe Programme
- Partial general approach to Council Regulation establishing for the period 2014-2020 the programme "Europe for Citizens"
- Agreement on EU position before meetings in WADA 17-18 May 2012
- Agreement on EU contribution to the first phase of the revision of the World Anti-Doping Code
- Adoption of Recommendation for a Council Decision designating the European Capital of Culture for the year 2016 in Spain and Poland
- Adoption of Joint Report of the Council and the Commission 2012 on the Strategic Framework for European cooperation in education and training (ET2020), including future priorities
- Council conclusions on combating doping in recreational sport
- Council conclusions on the employability of graduates from education and training
- Council conclusions on the

digitisation and online accessibility  
of cultural material and digital  
preservation

- Council conclusions on fostering the creative and innovative potential of young people
- Appointment by the Council of four members of the European panel for the European Union action for the European Heritage Label
- Selection of the two Member States with a view to the appointment by the Council of two experts to the panel for the The European Capital of Culture







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