

**PROGRAMME OF THE 6-MONTH POLISH PRESIDENCY
OF THE EU COUNCIL IN THE SECOND HALF OF 2011**

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STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The European Union is changing at a pace and scope not seen for a long time. The economic crisis – the underlying cause of these changes – has also demonstrated the strength of European integration. By pulling together, Europe has overcome the shock wave of the crisis. The European Union is still facing enormous challenges. Our societies are ageing, the model of the welfare state needs to be changed and economic growth, stifled by crisis, puts additional pressure on public finances.

Europe also needs to focus more on the international situation and take coherent measures as the economic and political importance of other regions of the world continues to rise. The European Union should act with determination in relations with its neighbours. The European Union's operations need to be put on a more stable footing, aligned with the new treaty framework. Further practical implementation of the Lisbon Treaty provisions will take place in the second half of 2011. The Polish Presidency will venture into new areas where – pursuant to the Lisbon Treaty provisions – the European Union has more scope for engagement.

The scale of the challenges confronting Europe requires deeper integration and intense cooperation to support economic growth. For our measures to be effective there has to be a synergy between European and national activities. Europe can be strong, but it has to pull together in the face of numerous challenges.

We need to show Europeans that the European Union can act effectively. Over the next two years decisions will be made on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), deeper economic integration and the long-term goals of EU foreign policy. We will need to analyse and modernise the most important EU policies: the Cohesion Policy, the Common Agricultural Policy, the programme for financing research and innovation, funds for culture, the media, the construction of trans-European networks and many other instruments. The Polish Presidency will aim to put the European Union on the path to faster development and will focus on three priorities:

- European Integration as a Source of Growth
- Secure Europe
- Europe Benefiting from Openness

European Integration as a Source of Growth

In 2011, the economic recovery will take hold with the average growth forecast in the EU amounting to 1.8% for the year. Differences between Member States will widen, with some countries recording GDP growth, and others still experiencing a downturn. Unemployment will not fall significantly, while the anti-crisis measures that will be introduced will generate substantial social costs. Reducing the budget deficit and reducing the public debt will be important not only for the Member States, but also for the economic growth of the European Union as a whole. If Europe is to be competitive in global terms, it cannot simply limit itself to repaying debts, but should also **act with determination to support growth.**

Three years of reforms of economic governance, which also entailed putting in place new

mechanisms and institutions, have proven that the European Union has learnt its lessons from the crisis. Exiting the crisis is a time when a growth model should be developed to enable Europe to continue social and economic development. The Polish Presidency will engage in actions to enhance economic growth through the development of the Single Market (which includes the digital market) and the use of the EU budget to build a competitive Europe. Trade negotiations and agreements with third countries also provide opportunities for growth. Europe is emerging from the crisis stronger, but the full success of the EU will be dependent upon the rebuilding of social trust and further economic growth. The formula for EU development that will provide prosperity for citizens needs to be jointly worked out. This should constitute the European Union's goal and, therefore, it will become the goal of the Polish Presidency. Our Presidency will engage comprehensively in measures to ensure qualitative growth, which will give Europe a competitive advantage.

The implementation of the Presidency's goals hinges, to a great extent, on the **Multiannual Financial Framework after 2013**. The Polish Presidency, which will begin negotiations on the financial framework on the basis of the European Commission's proposal, will aim to work out the best possible offer for the whole European Union. In times of crisis, the EU budget should become an investment tool significantly contributing to EU economic growth. The Cohesion Policy, which serves to further the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy, is and should remain the main element of EU investment policy. All Member States benefit from this policy. European spending strengthens the foundations of the Single Market – investment in modern infrastructure or human capital translates into the assets of a competitive European economy. In this context, Common Agricultural Policy reform – ensuring modernisation and greater competitiveness for European agriculture – will also be important. Defining a new EU budget means *de facto* defining the shape of the EU in the coming decade. The Polish Presidency wants the new financial framework to confirm that intensified cooperation within the EU is the right response to the economic crisis and to the challenges European societies will have to face in the years to come.

The Presidency's priority is to **deepen the Single Market** and complete its formation so that its growth potential can be fully tapped into. The lack of transparent rules governing the way the Single Market operates is still a serious barrier – both for entrepreneurs wishing to expand their business and for citizens who have no access to the entire offer of the European market. The Presidency welcomes the Commission's proposal for a Single Market Act intended to overhaul the Single Market in many priority areas. The Presidency will emphasise the development of the digital services market and, to this end, will engage in measures to eliminate barriers to cross-border on-line transactions as well as continue efforts to reduce the cost of roaming services.

It is estimated that 60% of on-line transactions in Europe fail, mainly because of legal barriers. The Presidency will therefore work on the Commission's proposal regarding contract law which could result in the creation of a "28th" legal regime. This would be an optional tool facilitating the execution of sale contracts in the Single Market and streamlining Internet transactions for 500 million potential consumers and European entrepreneurs. It would co-exist with the 27 legal systems of EU Member States.

Small and medium-sized enterprises are key to Europe's economic growth, generating 60% of GDP and almost 70% of jobs. The Polish Presidency will therefore support the initiatives of the European Commission that facilitate access to capital markets and venture funds and assist SMEs in third country markets.

The Presidency will also aim to finalise work on a patent system that will be cheap and easily accessible to European entrepreneurs. Our economies pay too high a price for the lack of a

European patent with unitary effect and we need to resolve this issue soon.

The Presidency will put emphasis on continuing the process of opening the European market to trade contacts with external partners. The need to scrap non-tariff barriers imposed by third countries, which obstruct or disable access to those markets for EU goods, investments and services, will be of key importance.

The **Single Market Forum (SIMFO)** will provide a platform for broad-based involvement in the most important EU project – the Single Market, on which the European economy is founded. The purpose of the SIMFO will be to support and develop the Single Market by raising the awareness of entrepreneurs and citizens about their rights and opportunities stemming from the four freedoms guaranteed by the Treaties.

The challenges facing Europe call for new solutions in addition to continuing current activities. Europe has resources and unique experience that could become the source for economic growth and social prosperity, thus leading to sustainable development. **Europe's intellectual capital** is one such resource. In February 2011, the European Council called for the implementation of a strategic and integrated approach to boost innovation and take full advantage of Europe's intellectual capital for the benefit of its citizens, enterprises – especially SMEs – and researchers. Therefore, the Presidency will place special emphasis on measures that enhance cohesion and synergy between EU policies and initiatives to take full advantage of Europe's intellectual capital.

In this context, the modernisation of universities and the promotion of youth mobility will become the Presidency's priorities. Taking full advantage of Europe's intellectual capital to build Europe's competitive advantage requires, among other things, measures to modernise universities and make better use of the EU's scientific potential. The Presidency will emphasise the need for closer cooperation between higher schools and the business community and their role in forming social and civic attitudes.

Youth mobility helps to broaden horizons and experiences, which are of key importance to Europe's future generation, increasing its prospects of entering the job market. Further and systematic development of the "Lifelong Learning" programme, which includes the Comenius, Erasmus and Leonardo da Vinci programmes, as well as mobility schemes for young researchers (Marie Curie program) will strengthen Europe's intellectual potential. Hence, the Presidency will undertake intensive work to prepare the next generation of the programme.

The Presidency will also engage in actions aimed at implementing the "Innovation Union" initiative. We will support the creation of a sustainable and integrated European Research Area, which should be regarded as a European community actively responding to global challenges, fully using the intellectual capital of all European countries and regions.

Secure Europe – food, energy, defence

The stability and security of European citizens is a prerequisite for promoting growth. Building growth will not be possible without ensuring the security and stability of public finances, energy security and measures aimed at enhancing the security and defence policy, stable borders and internal security. The Presidency will strive to assure that this fundamental condition of Europe's continued successful development is fulfilled.

In the first place, the European Union has to regain the confidence of the financial markets for

years to come. **Enhancing economic governance in the EU** will be the Presidency's main priority in the areas of economy and finance, since economic governance legislation must be fully implemented. The Council of the European Union will act consistently to apply the Stability and Growth Pact and, in particular, will assess the progress of Member States in reducing their excessive deficits during the first year of the **European Semester**. The Presidency will support actions and proposals aimed at improving the regulation and oversight of the financial markets, and at developing rules for crisis management that will be applied to safeguard the sector against the negative consequences of crises and to maintain the stability of financial markets.

External energy policy is of fundamental importance for the future of the European Union in an increasingly globalised world. EU's position vis-à-vis the main producers, consumers and energy transit countries can be far stronger, if decisive measures are taken to enable the EU to operate effectively in the international energy environment. Such measures would lead to substantial savings and better conditions for economic growth. Work on a new energy strategy for the coming decade and the challenges facing the EU in the medium- and long-term call for an analysis of the EU's existing external energy policy and for drawing up recommendations to enhance it.

The development of practical aspects of Integrated Border Management and sharing best practices in border protection will also be one of our priorities. The Presidency plans to finalise work on amending the Frontex Regulation to enhance its operating capabilities to support Member States in crisis situations, like the ones we are now experiencing in connection with the developments in North Africa and the Middle East.

The Presidency will also focus its efforts on the effective implementation of initiatives of key importance for the Stockholm Programme. It will continue to develop the concept of homeland security, including greater efficiency of crisis communication.

Food security is of fundamental importance for European citizens. In view of the projected increase in world population, Europe must develop its production capacities in a sustainable way. During the Polish Presidency, the discussion on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy will enter its decisive stage, to end not earlier than 2012. The **Reformed Common Agricultural Policy**, which uses EU funds to good effect, must maintain its market orientation, account for public goods, including food security and the multifunctional development of agriculture and rural areas. Decisions on direct payments and support for rural areas, as well as agricultural product quality policy, will be important elements of the reformed CAP.

The Presidency will also engage in the implementation of the EU action plan for biodiversity. Enhancing EU capabilities to influence the international environment in this area will significantly supplement the security measures implemented. An internally strong European Union, with a dynamically developing and innovative economy and having a well-established position in the world economic system, has to develop its Common Security and Defence Policy, in addition to its most effective "soft power". The Lisbon Treaty provides a good opportunity for this. Not only does it establish the legal grounds for building new forms of cooperation within the EU, but it also ushers in a spirit of consolidation, hence providing for more effective use of existing EU mechanisms and capabilities. In this context, the Presidency intends to start a debate on the enhancement of structures responsible for the preparation and planning of operations so as to better reflect the unique civilian and military nature of EU stabilisation and crisis management operations. It will also support actions to consolidate direct dialogue between the EU and NATO. Enhancement of the EU military and civilian capabilities will be an important element of the Polish Presidency of the EU Council. We also

intend to follow up on the initiative of our predecessors as regards the development of links between the Common Security and Defence Policy and the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice.

Europe Benefiting from Openness

The well-being of EU societies depends not only on the internal situation, but also on relations with third countries and the situation outside the European Union. The Polish Presidency will support the EU foreign and security policy aimed at enhancing the EU's international position.

The most powerful tool that the EU can wield is its role as a model, a reference point for other countries. The aim should be to extend the area of European values and regulations through further enlargement of the European Union, the development of cooperation with neighbouring countries, the promotion of European solutions at global forums, the building of deeper relations with strategic partners and a wise and effective development policy.

The actions that the European Union will take in this area will significantly impact the EU's economy. By building deep and comprehensive free trade areas with the **Eastern Partnership** countries, the EU will help enlarge the areas covered by EU rules and regulations. Recent international developments call for a closer look at issues relating to the process of stabilisation and democratisation in the EU's neighbourhood. Strengthening economic and trade ties with EU's southern neighbourhood will be an important task for the Polish Presidency. The continuation of the EU enlargement process will, in turn, extend the reach of the Single Market to millions more citizens.

The EU role in the world depends, to a large extent, on our position in the region. Cooperation with its southern and eastern neighbours can tap its dormant potential. Good neighbourly relations can strengthen Europe, also in the economic sense, and bring the greatest benefits at a relatively low cost. The European Union wants to start work on implementing an extended offer for the neighbourhood, in line with the conclusions of the Europe Neighbourhood Policy review.

In relations with countries covered by the Eastern Partnership, the EU will aim to conclude Association Agreements and create deep and comprehensive free trade areas (by finalising or making substantial progress in its negotiations with Ukraine and Moldova), make progress in the process of visa liberalisation and deepen sectoral cooperation. An impetus for the Eastern Partnership's continued development will be its Summit attended by Heads of State or government from all Member States and partner countries. The **Eastern Partnership Summit** will map additional objectives for cooperation between the EU and its eastern neighbours. The planning of specific measures will be possible thanks to a number of ministerial-level meetings, including those attended by Foreign Ministers, to be organised by the Presidency. The participation of civil society organisations will be indispensable. A Civil Society Forum of the Eastern Partnership is scheduled to take place in Poland in November 2011. The European Union's aim as regards Belarus will be to encourage it to cooperate with the West, provided it respects the fundamental principles of democracy and human rights.

The EU is also determined to develop cooperation in the area of CSDP with its Eastern European partners. The benefits of such cooperation should be mutual and should encourage partners to engage in reforms to improve their security situation.

In light of the recent developments in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and other countries in the Southern Neighbourhood, the Polish Presidency will strive to initiate **cooperation based on partnership, focused on supporting democratic transformations, building modern state structures** underpinned by constitutional reforms, enhancing the judicial system and security and fighting corruption. In the area of civil society development, it will be important for the EU to support the protection of fundamental freedoms and enhance mechanisms preventing persecution of minorities, including Christians. Along with these measures, **economic growth and development and the creation of new jobs**, as well as **deepening trade relations and facilitating** people-to-people travel for specified groups, will also be supported.

Enlargement is the European Union's strategic political project. It is in the interests of both the EU and the countries applying for EU membership. The enlargement process enhances stability in Europe and the EU's position on the international stage, enlarges the area of prosperity and allows us to forge our future based on common standards. More importantly still, enlargement contributes to the enhancement of the security and prosperity of EU citizens. The Polish Presidency will strive to ensure that the implementation of the enlargement strategy moves forward. Its objective is to **finalise accession negotiations and sign an Accession Treaty with Croatia**. It intends to explore all opportunities to **continue accession negotiations with Turkey**. A modern Turkey, economically strong and socially developed, would strengthen the European Union. The Presidency will make certain that meaningful progress is made in accession negotiations with **Iceland**. It will also strongly support the European aspirations of the **Western Balkans**.

It is hoped that a **new framework for cooperation between the EU and Russia** will be established during the Polish Presidency. The Presidency will support activities leading to the signing of a new agreement with Russia, outlining the substantive, formal and legal framework for cooperation with the Russian Federation and developing the EU-Russian Partnership for Modernisation.

In the area of the common **trade policy**, the most important issue for the Presidency will be to work out the agenda of the WTO's 8th Ministerial Conference in December 2011. There are signals of late that the political and economic conditions are ripe for the adoption of a package arrangement designed for a development of the least developed countries (LDCs) as well as solutions intended to reduce costs in international trade without preventing from pushing further world trade liberalization ahead at the same time. The Presidency will strive for the EU to work out conclusions and arrangements closing the current phase of the WTO negotiations.

It is important for the European Union to speak with a consistent and distinct voice at all international forums, i.e. the UN, G20, the IMF, the World Bank Group, and during the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Durban, South Africa (COP17). Last but not least, the Presidency will give increased impetus to the preparation of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development.

The economic crisis has affected the public mood and support for integration among Europeans. The European Union is first and foremost its 500 million citizens, who expect efficient and effective actions to promote social and economic development. The Polish people have for years struggled with crises, and our membership in the European Union is regarded as the crowning of our struggle for freedom. Hence, integration stirs up our

enthusiasm and propels us to act. The Polish Presidency wants to tap into the potential of the average citizen and accommodate the expectations of Europeans. We believe that by boldly facing up to challenges and acting in solidarity it is possible to help accomplish difficult and sometimes even unimaginable things. Experience shows that in the face of crises, Europe can act effectively and that is how we want to act this time.

The Polish Presidency will be subject to the logic of cooperation in supporting the growth, security and openness of the European Union. We wish to contribute to putting Europe on the path to faster economic growth and greater prosperity for its citizens. The Presidency, in collaboration with the President of the European Council, the European Commission, the High Representative, the European Parliament as a whole, and in close cooperation with its Trio partners, intends to subordinate its activities to the overriding goal – the unleashing of Europe's potential. We believe that economic growth will contribute to rebuilding confidence in the European Union and will provide new impetus to the process of European integration.

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

1. General Affairs Council (GAC)

Towards a stronger and financially sound Europe and competitiveness and the cohesion of its regions

Enlargement

The aim of the Polish Presidency will be to finalise accession negotiations with Croatia and to sign an Accession Treaty. All circumstances favouring the continuation of accession negotiations with Turkey will be explored. A modern, economically strong and socially developed Turkey would strengthen the European Union. The Presidency will see to it that meaningful progress is made in accession negotiations with Iceland. It will also strongly support the European aspirations of the Western Balkans.

The Polish Presidency will aim to ensure progress in the implementation of the enlargement strategy. It will thus be important that candidate countries and those interested in EU membership show determination in fulfilling accession criteria, which are equal for all. The conditionality principle guarantees the right quality of enlargement understood as a factor that is conducive to enhancing the cohesion of the European Union.

Ambitious EU finances after 2013

The current financial perspective ends in December 2013. The Polish Presidency will start negotiations, based on a proposal from the Commission, on the next Multiannual Financial Framework. The Presidency will aim to discuss in detail the Commission's proposal and to have all Member States present their positions with a view to arriving at an agreement at a later stage of the process. With regard to the legislative aspects, the Presidency's aim will be to move forward as much as possible with the technical work. All the financial and horizontal aspects of the Commission's proposals will be discussed at the General Affairs Council meetings, while the specific non-financial legislative aspects will be dealt by the other relevant Council configurations.

Cohesion Policy as an effective and territorially differentiated response to the EU's development challenges

In the context of negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework, an important element of the General Affairs Council's work will be to adopt a legislative package on the Cohesion Policy after 2013. The aim of the Polish Presidency will be to advance discussions on the proposed regulations as much as possible, so that an agreement on the package can be reached by the end of 2012. In the mainstream of the discussion on the regulations there will be issues that can significantly contribute to greater effectiveness of the Cohesion Policy in the context of the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy, i.e. strategic planning, thematic concentration, conditionality, European territorial cooperation and evaluation. In December 2011, the Polish Presidency will organise a General Affairs Council meeting of ministers responsible for the Cohesion Policy. The meeting will serve as a policy debate on major issues identified in the course of the discussion on regulations.

The first review of EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)

In October 2009, the European Council asked the European Commission to present in 2011 a progress report on the EU's first macro-regional strategy – the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. The review will take place during the Polish Presidency. The basis for the Council conclusions on the EUSBSR review will be the European Commission's progress report adopted in June 2011. The 2nd Annual Forum of the Stakeholders of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, scheduled to take place in Gdańsk on 24-26 October 2011, will promote this idea. It will be linked with the Baltic Development Forum. Discussions during the 2nd Stakeholders' Forum will make a significant contribution to the review of the Strategy.

European Economic Area, cooperation with EFTA countries

In developing cooperation with the EFTA countries, the Polish Presidency will aim to intensify and better structure cooperation with Switzerland and work on adopting a new agreement on counteracting financial abuses. It also intends to continue talks with Liechtenstein on exchanging tax information. In addition, actions aiming at concluding agreements on counteracting financial abuses between the EU and Andorra, the Principality of Monaco and the Republic of San Marino will also be undertaken. The Presidency will also support measures intended to promote liberalisation of mutual trading in agricultural products and processed agricultural products between the EU and Norway and between the EU and Switzerland. The Presidency will hold a review of policy and implementing measures of the new perspective of the 2009-2014 Financial Mechanisms and the 2007-2012 Swiss Contribution in the respective beneficiary countries. In addition, the Presidency plans to initiate talks with EU Member States on the possibility of continuing the Swiss Financial Aid.

Nuclear issues

The Presidency will continue work on the completion of a European regulatory framework for nuclear issues, and on the long overdue revision of the Directive setting Basic Safety Standards for ionising radiations. Taking account of the development demands related to nuclear energy is vital in increasing energy security and reducing carbon dioxide emissions. In line with the conclusions of the 24-25 March European Council, the Presidency will foster the implementation of the highest standards for nuclear safety in the EU, and their promotion in neighbouring countries. At the same time, the Polish Presidency will support initiatives contributing to global nuclear safety, including the development of a system of bilateral agreements between the Euratom Community and third countries on cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and will also ensure effective follow-up to the review of the nuclear safety of EU nuclear plants. The growing risk of disruption affecting the supply of radioisotopes for medical use has also been identified as an urgent challenge that the Presidency intends to address if needed.

Integration and optimisation of the European Statistical System

The Presidency will strive to improve the quality, reliability and effectiveness of the European Statistical System. It will support initiatives aimed at reducing burdens on respondents and lowering the cost of statistical research, and will continue a debate initiated by the Hungarian Presidency on the proposed regulation of the European system of national and regional accounts in the European Union. The Presidency is planning to move forward the legislative procedure regarding a decision on the European Statistical Programme 2013-2017.

2. Foreign Affairs Council (FAC)

EU external relations

Confronted with momentous events on the international stage, the European Union faces a challenge in conducting its external affairs in line with the new arrangements provided for in the Lisbon Treaty. During its Presidency of the EU Council, Poland will attach high importance to close cooperation with the President of the European Council, the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the European External Action Service which she runs, and the European Commission. Close cooperation with the European Parliament, which has been vested with significant powers in the area of EU external relations under the Lisbon Treaty, plays a significant role. These actions will aim to strengthen the position of the European Union on the international stage as an organisation that effectively taps the potential of Member States and EU institutions, and meets global challenges and the expectations of its citizens. Cooperation at Foreign Affairs Council level will be significant in ensuring proper coordination of every aspect of EU external policy.

During its Presidency, Poland will support all actions undertaken by the High Representative and the EEAS, in particular in matters relating to the stability, democratisation and development of the EU neighbourhood, as well as issues pertaining to the development of the Common Security and Defence Policy.

Poland will regard the implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy objectives not only as a means of ensuring the development of a stable and secure environment for the European Union, but also as a key long-term instrument for bringing those countries closer to the EU. In the course of our Presidency, we want to start working on the implementation of an extended offer for the neighbourhood, in line with the results of the ENP review, and to ensure its adequate financing through the use of a more flexible set of instruments. From the point of view of the Polish Presidency, the ENP should be directed at supporting democratic processes, the protection of human rights, and the launch of long-awaited economic reforms in partner countries.

The 2nd Eastern Partnership Summit, to be held in Warsaw in September 2011, will be a key event of the Polish Presidency of the EU Council. As part of its continued promotion of the Eastern Partnership, the Polish Presidency will work towards achieving measurable progress in deepening EU cooperation with partner countries by intensifying the processes of political association and economic integration, and the liberalisation of visa regimes.

In response to international developments in the EU's southern neighbourhood, Poland will, in the framework of its Presidency, support the implementation of an agreed strategy to

develop democratisation, boost the economy and create new jobs in the countries of the Mediterranean region, including by sharing the transition experiences of certain Member States and promoting intercultural dialogue.

In cooperation with the High Representative and the EEAS, the Polish Presidency will endeavour to develop the Common Security and Defence Policy. This is especially important in the context of recent developments in the EU's southern neighbourhood. Poland's proposals regarding the development of the CSDP, laid down in the "Weimar Letter" and adopted by the FAC in January 2011, are intended to strengthen the EU's crisis response capabilities.

These measures will aim to enhance the structures responsible for preparing EU operations and expanding capabilities, while stressing the continued development of the Battlegroups and multinational initiatives launched under the "pooling and sharing" concept. Initiatives dealing with EU-NATO cooperation and partnership policy will figure prominently in our work. These steps are intended to actively support the work led by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

Development cooperation and humanitarian aid

The debate on the future of EU development policy will continue into the Polish Presidency of the EU Council.

The 4th High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness to be held in South Korea will be one of the most important international events of the Polish Presidency. Within the framework of its Presidency, Poland will aim to consolidate the European Union's position on development aid and enhance the effectiveness of aid activities.

An issue directly linked to aid effectiveness is the joint programming of development aid by the European Union and its Member States, which will become an important element of the debate on the future European development cooperation.

The Polish Presidency intends to actively support discussions on the future shape of the instruments that finance development cooperation as part of the new Multiannual Framework (MFF).

The implementation of the commitments arising from cooperation between the European Union and the ACP states will be an important task of the Polish Presidency.

The Polish Presidency, in collaboration with the European Commission, will organise the sixth edition of the European Development Days in December 2011.

During its Presidency, Poland will continue to implement the periodic review of the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid Action Plan. A major task will be to hold further discussions and conduct preparatory work leading to the identification of the role and tasks of the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps in the European humanitarian policy.

The continuation of negotiations on the Food Aid Convention will be an important element of the Polish Presidency's agenda.

Trade policy

In the second half of 2011, an opportunity is arising to agree on a package arrangement designed for a development of the least developed countries (LDCs) as well as solutions

intended to reduce costs in international trade with a concurrent stipulation that it does not close the possibility to pursue negotiations within the framework of Doha Development Round and that the single undertaking principle will be maintained regarding the whole package. The Polish Presidency aims to agree on and adopt the package arrangement during the Seventh WTO Ministerial Conference in December 2011.

The Presidency will also support the European Commission in fixing as soon as possible, by the end of 2011 at the latest, a roadmap laying down further negotiations in remaining areas of the WTO Doha Round, including modalities on market access for goods and services.

An important task of the Polish Presidency will be to enhance economic and trade relations with Eastern and Southern Europe. In particular, we will underline the need to advance – to the fullest extent possible – negotiations on an EU-Ukraine Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA) in the framework of the EU-Ukraine association agreement, with the hope that negotiations can be concluded before the end of 2011. The Polish Presidency will also strive to initiate DCFTA negotiations with Moldova and Georgia within the framework of negotiations on EU association agreements with these countries. At the same time, the Polish Presidency will support the Russian Federation's accession to the WTO; we count on this taking place in 2011.

The Polish Presidency will support efforts aimed at finalising the EU free trade agreement negotiations with India and Singapore, and the negotiations on the EU-Canada economic and trade agreement. Furthermore, in the framework of EU-third country association agreement negotiations which include significant trade components, the Polish Presidency will support the finalisation of the EU-Mercosur negotiations. The Polish Presidency will also work towards signing an association agreement between the EU and Central American countries as well as an EU multilateral trade agreement with Peru and Columbia.

The Polish Presidency will support the creation, on the EU forum, of principles for implementing a common investment policy, including the conclusion of international agreements with our external partners regulating investment support and protection which, until now, have been exclusively the subject of bilateral national agreements.

In the second half of 2011, work will begin on reforming the EU unilateral trade preference scheme (EU GSP) for developing countries and the least-developed countries, from 2014 onwards. The Polish Presidency will try to make maximum headway in creating a new system of preferences as an important instrument of EU development policy.

The Polish Presidency will also look for solutions to existing international trade barriers. We will moreover support EU efforts to improve access for EU service providers and vendors to the public procurement market in developed countries and those with large emerging economies, as well as activities aimed at expanding access to third country markets for small and medium-sized EU enterprises.

3. Economic and Financial Council (ECOFIN)

Structural reforms, faster economic growth, sounder public finances

In the second half of 2011, the Economic and Financial Affairs Council will have the following priorities: **to implement effective measures that enhance economic growth, to**

put public finances in the EU on a stable footing, and to launch initiatives – under the Europe 2020 Strategy – that support employment and economic growth. The aim of these measures is to boost EU competitiveness worldwide and to respond quickly and adequately to current economic developments, which continue to be affected by the financial and economic crisis and the public finance crisis in some EU Member States. All ECOFIN Council activities will be implemented with a view to the quality and comprehensive impact assessment of new legislative acts, to eliminating barriers and obstacles in the operation of the Single Market, and good coordination with other EU Council formations.

Economic governance – implementation of new measures

Improvement of a situation relating to the current sovereign debt crisis in many countries and enhancement of economic governance in the EU will be the main priorities of the Polish Presidency in the economic and financial areas. Stability of the euro area is of key importance for the whole EU thus the Presidency will promote this issue despite the fact that Poland is not a member of the Eurozone. The Presidency will be actively supporting measures aimed at ensuring long-term stability of public finances that strengthen fiscal discipline and macroeconomic oversight and will undertake the efforts to prepare the position concerning future of available mechanisms of support. The Council will act to ensure consistent application of the Stability and Growth Pact, in particular, it will assess progress made by Member States in reducing excessive deficits during the first year of the enforcement of the *European Semester*. These actions have great importance due to its effects and the need to strengthen the measures helping to avoid such crisis in the future.

Actions relating to the establishment of the **European Stability Mechanism** will also be continued to enable its entry into force in accordance with the timetable set by the European Council in December 2010.

The ECOFIN Council will be engaged in the process of managing the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy. It will aim to effectively implement medium- and long-term structural reforms with a view to increasing EU's competitiveness, its economic potential, social cohesion and economic convergence.

Recognising that the European System of National and Regional Accounts is an important tool of EU administration, and is also used to analyse the coordination and convergence of the Member States' economic policies, the Polish Presidency will work actively on the legislative proposals aimed at revising this system.

Financial services – enhancing the security of the European financial market

Recognising the importance of improving the stability of the financial sector in the EU, the Polish Presidency will support and promote the early adoption of proposals aimed at **improving financial market regulation and oversight**, and at developing **crisis management rules**, which would help to safeguard the sector against the negative effects of crises and help maintain financial market stability. Special emphasis will be placed on the implementation of **measures to increase the integrity and transparency of the financial sector**, reducing systemic risks and excessive risk-taking. In addition, the ECOFIN Council will **monitor the operation of the new macro- and micro-prudential oversight framework**, closely collaborating with the European Systemic Risk Board and the newly established supervisory agencies.

2012 EU Budget – meeting our needs and challenges

The Polish Presidency will act to efficiently conduct the annual budget procedure in line with the new legislative provisions of the Lisbon Treaty, which grant equal rights to the European Parliament and the Council. The aim of the Presidency will be to ensure that the 2012 EU budget is adopted on time and that its size guarantees that the challenges facing Europe can be met.

Financial Regulation - new, effective budget rules

The Polish Presidency will aim to ensure the smooth continuation of work to amend the financial regulation, which lays down new budget rules to enable EU policies to be implemented effectively.

EU's own resources - towards a modern system of financing

The Presidency will initiate work on a new system of EU budget revenues, based on a European Commission proposal, in order to establish a modern and fair system of financing EU activities in the new multiannual financial framework.

Protection of EU financial interests – implementation of effective solutions

The Presidency will support initiatives to protect the EU's financial interests and to combat financial abuses or any other illegal activities affecting those interests. Continued emphasis will be put on the implementation of planned reforms of EU institutions responsible for executing tasks relating to proper control of budget revenues and expenditures.

Taxes – towards more transparent regulations

In the area of **direct taxes**, the Presidency will continue working on the European Commission's proposal for a common consolidated tax base. Efforts will be made to achieve progress on the European Commission's other legislative proposals. Special emphasis will be placed on **good governance**, particularly with regard to the taxation of savings income and agreements on counteracting fraud signed with third countries.

Considering the conclusions of the European Council of March 24-25 2011, it will be necessary to continue work on **financial sector taxation**. With respect to indirect taxes, as soon as the European Commission tables a legislative proposal, the Presidency will engage, as a priority, in work relating to **administrative cooperation on excise duties**. Work to amend the **Energy Taxation Directive** will also be continued.

In the area of value added tax, the Presidency will continue the work **to streamline regulations, reduce administrative burdens, and counteract fraud**. If the European Commission announces a Communication on a new VAT strategy, efforts will be made to use the discussions on this new strategy to improve the functioning of the internal market and to increase the effectiveness of the system of indirect taxes in order to enhance EU economic growth.

The external dimension – the EU's strong and united voice at international forums

The Polish Presidency will aim for the **EU to develop and present a coordinated, common position at G20 meetings** at the level of finance ministers and central bank presidents. It will use its best efforts to ensure, with the full cooperation of the President of the European

Council and the President of the European Commission and those Member States attending the summit meeting, proper coordination in the preparation of the EU position before the G20 leaders' summit.

The Polish Presidency will be involved in the development and presentation of the EU's position on the forum of the **International Monetary Fund, the World Bank Group**, and it will maintain close relations with other international and regional financial institutions and organisations dealing with economic integration. The Polish Presidency will act to strengthen economic cooperation with partner countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy, in particular **countries participating in the Eastern Partnership**, the European Free Trade Association member countries and candidate countries for EU membership.

4. Competitiveness Council (COMPET)

Towards greater dynamics for Europe

Stronger internal market to benefit entrepreneurs and citizens

The Single Market has been the fundamental instrument of European Union economic growth. It also represents one of the EU's greatest assets. Its beneficiaries are the entrepreneurs and citizens of all Member States. The Polish Presidency will aim to accelerate changes in the Single Market to tap its full potential. Actions will focus on the implementation of initiatives laid down in the **Single Market Act** which have been selected following broad-based public consultations.

The Presidency will focus special attention on the development of **e-commerce**. In order to enable EU market participants to fully use electronic services, it will be necessary to reduce legal and administrative barriers and increase users' confidence and sense of security.

An efficiently operating and integrated **internal market for services** represents the key instrument of growth and job creation that Europe needs. The Presidency will promote the full implementation of the Services Directive and will support further actions aimed at ensuring proper application of its provisions.

Enterprises, especially the **SME sector**, should reap more benefits from the Single Market. Measures to which Member States have committed themselves by adopting the *Small Business Act* will be summed up in 2011. We will support and promote Commission initiatives that improve development opportunities for SMEs and their access to third country markets and venture capital.

As a result of the adoption of a decision to engage in enhanced cooperation, the Presidency will aim to conclude work on the creation of a **unitary patent protection system**. The measures proposed in this regard should lead to the establishment of an inexpensive patent, easily accessible to European entrepreneurs, which would result in increased patent activity and competitiveness, especially in the SME sector.

One of the Presidency's priorities will be to improve the regulatory environment in which European enterprises operate. As part of the **Smart Regulation**, special attention will be focused on the impact assessment instrument applied in the legislative process.

In order to make it easier to run a business in the EU, measures will be taken to **merge certain business registers**, as a technical tool facilitating access to information for entrepreneurs.

In the area of **copyright law**, the Polish Presidency will be working on a directive on the licensing of orphan works to enable the publication of library resources or archives in a digital format. It will also engage in a discussion on a Green Paper concerning audiovisual works.

In respect of **public procurement**, the Presidency will conduct work on the initiative concerning **concessions for services**.

A properly functioning internal market is not possible without ensuring a high level of **consumer protection**. The Presidency plans to start negotiations on the EC proposal for **applying alternative dispute resolution mechanisms** (ADR) in order to enhance the position of consumers and to provide them with mechanisms that would enable them to effectively enforce their rights.

The Polish Presidency will aim launch discussions on a directive on package travel, package holidays and package tours.

In an effort to bring the level of security to the same standard throughout the European Union and to enhance the system of market oversight, and having regard to the creation of a uniform internal market of harmonised and non-harmonised products and to ensure the overall protection of the interests of consumers and transparency for producers, the Presidency intends to work on **amending the General Products Safety Directive** once a draft, scheduled to be submitted in the second half of 2011, is presented.

The Presidency intends to support the European Commission in its work aimed at **enhancing internal market instruments**; among other things we want to improve administrative cooperation between Member States (**Internal Market Information System - IMI**).

In the area of the **Customs Union**, the Presidency will concentrate on the Action Plan for the Eastern Partnership. It will also oversee implementation of the Modernised Customs Code executive provisions. We will continue the process of amending legislation with respect to the operations of customs authorities against counterfeit goods.

A more competitive European economy

In the second half of 2011, the Competitiveness Council will become involved in developing **industrial policy**. Taking into account the economic crisis and its impact on enterprises, as well as the EU's climate policy objectives and the Europe 2020 strategy, the Presidency will focus on those elements of flagship initiatives promoting industry: "Industrial Policy for the Globalisation Era" and "Resource efficient Europe", which are of key importance.

Environmental regulations, including those designed to increase the efficient use of resources, significantly influence the conditions under which industry operates. Hence, all important consequences of such regulations should be discussed when considering their implementation. The Presidency will support the intensification of cooperation between national authorities and the European Commission with respect to the effective application of competition law. Addressing this subject at the Competitiveness Council will bring added value to discussions about the competitiveness of the EU economy.

The future of the Lead Markets Initiative and the concept of European Innovation Partnerships will be the subject of a conference in Warsaw scheduled for October.

In addition, the Presidency will address the future of **space policy** with an optional future space programme.

In order to streamline the free movement of goods in the internal market, it is necessary to continue efforts in the area of **technical harmonisation**. The Presidency recognizes the need to ensure an EU-wide modern and flexible standardisation system. It will also continue

discussions on key legislation for the **chemical industry** concerning issues such as reducing the use of phosphates in detergents and precursors of explosives. In 2011, we will celebrate the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the REACH chemical package. The Presidency will organise a conference on this occasion. The adaptation of sectoral directives with the New Legislative Framework should also be ensured.

The Presidency attaches great importance to improving the competitiveness of the **tourism sector** in the EU, including by developing innovation in tourism, reviewing existing initiatives and analysing new challenges in this area, as well as by organising the European Tourism Forum in Kraków in October 2011.

Integrated European Research Area

The Presidency intends to contribute to the building of a **sustainable and integrated European Research Area (ERA)**, which should be regarded as a European community actively responding to global challenges and fully using the intellectual capital of all the states and regions of Europe. The Presidency plans to organise a ministerial conference on the functioning of the ERA and its governance in the context of the aim of making full use of Europe's intellectual capital, as well as a conference on national/regional specialisation and the effects of the Cohesion Policy on science and innovation.

The Presidency intends to continue discussions about a Common Strategic Framework for EU Research and Innovation, including the **next Framework Programme in this area**. Work on the document will proceed in the context of the Europe 2020 strategy priorities and the "Innovation Union" flagship initiative. The Presidency's aim will be to create an effective and coherent system of supporting research and development at the UE, national and regional levels.

The Presidency will aim to support activities that lead to the creation of a **simpler and more harmonised Framework Programme, which will be consistent with other support instruments, especially instruments applied under the Cohesion Policy**. Special attention will be paid to streamlining administrative and financial rules governing participation in the Framework Programme and its accessibility for small research teams and SMEs.

In the context of work on the **decision to extend the EURATOM Programme**, the Presidency intends to conclude negotiations and bring about the adoption of the aforesaid decision at the end of 2011. Actions taken in this area will also concern, among others, a possible discussion on the statutes of the Joint Understanding of the "Fusion for Energy", which implements the ITER project on behalf of the EU.

In addition, the Presidency intends to continue the work of implementing the Europe 2020 strategy, especially "Innovation Union"– its flagship initiative. In this context, the Presidency will engage in activities connected with partnerships in research and innovation.

5. Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (TTE)

Cohesion and integration

Transport policy

The main priority of the Presidency in transport policy will be a **revision of the guidelines for the Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-T)**. These networks represent a key element of an integrated and coherent Europe. Their future shape is of great importance for all Member States – both in terms of the development of the common market and social mobility, and on account of the continued differences between European regions in the development of transport infrastructure. The Polish Presidency aims to create a coherent and integrated transportation system that will boost the EU's economic development; this is its objective in revising the TEN-T network guidelines.

The Presidency will also attach great importance to deeper transport integration with third countries on the EU's eastern border. Consequently, it intends to hold a debate on a communication regarding international transportation policy vis-à-vis neighbouring countries. The objective of this communication will be to adapt the EU's transportation policy vis-à-vis neighbouring countries to new conditions determined by the results of the revision of the TEN-T network guidelines and by a number of initiatives undertaken vis-à-vis neighbouring countries, such as the Eastern Partnership. The development of transportation links with third countries is important not only from the point of view of countries which share borders with the EU, but also from the point of view of social mobility and economic development in the EU as a whole.

Poland wishes to apply its extensive experience in higher maritime education. Hence, the Presidency plans to initiate work on the so-called **Maritime Social Agenda Package**. It will cover issues such as competitiveness in shipping, working conditions, qualifications and the training of seamen. The Presidency considers the Maritime Social Agenda to be a very important element of EU maritime policy, especially in its social dimension.

An increasing number of EU citizens travel by plane. Therefore, there is a need to increase the air traffic capacity of EU airports. It is also necessary to adapt legislative provisions to the existing market conditions, and to ensure greater competitiveness of the services needed to operate EU airports. These issues will be on the Presidency's **Airport Package** agenda. The Presidency intends to pay special attention to the revision of the Directive on access to the ground handling market at Community airports.

Telecommunications

The Polish Presidency will continue work on the **Radio Spectrum Policy Programme (RSPP)**. Improved coordination of the management of the radio spectrum within the EU and at its external borders is very important for reducing barriers to the development of wireless telecommunication technologies. This issue will be the topic of a ministerial conference on the new perspectives for the development of the electronic telecommunication market in the EU.

The Polish Presidency will also hold a debate on the **Regulation on roaming on mobile telephone networks**. Pursuant to the European Commission report, the Presidency will enable the Council to adopt a position regarding the possible revision of this regulation, guided primarily by the interests of EU consumers. It is possible that the scope of the Roaming Regulation could be extended to cover retail prices for data transfer following its review during the Polish Presidency.

Information society

The Presidency will continue work on the effective implementation of the objectives of the **Digital Agenda for Europe** – the Commission's strategy for the development of information

society and the creation of a digital single market - which is one of the flagships of the Europe 2020 Strategy. The implementation of the provisions of the *Digital Agenda for Europe* will contribute to the effective use of the potential of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for economic growth and social progress. The Presidency will focus considerable attention on the Commission's activities as part of the first assessment of the implementation of the *Digital Agenda for Europe*.

The Polish Presidency will also focus on the development of **eGovernment**. In line with the *European eGovernment Action Plan 2011-2015*, the governments of EU Member States will develop eGovernment services designed around users' needs, reinforcing the mobility of citizens and businesses, also in the cross-border dimension, and providing benefits for the economy and protection of the natural environment. The Polish Presidency, jointly with the Commission, will organise a ministerial conference on eGovernment.

The **issue of security and privacy in the field of ICT** is another important subject to be addressed by the Presidency. The Polish Presidency is ready to continue work on a regulation modernising the European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA) and aims to make effective progress in this area.

Integrated EU in a global energy dialogue

The changing situation in the EU energy market poses new challenges for Europe which require a joint and deeper effort on the part of Member States in order to implement the goals of EU energy policy as set out in the Lisbon Treaty. The EU needs a stable and long-term strategy to promote the development of the energy sector in the 2050 perspective. The Presidency wishes to address these challenges. The Polish Presidency will support the aspirations of European countries and institutions to fully implement measures already adopted, such as the third liberalisation package.

The Presidency intends to achieve the greatest possible progress on the **Infrastructure Package and Energy Efficiency Acts**, which represent the core energy legislation on the agenda in the second half of 2011. Close and good cooperation between all the actors in the EU decision-making process will be necessary, especially with regard to infrastructural legislative acts, if they are to be adopted within a time-frame that allows for the implementation of 2011-2020 EU energy strategy objectives.

The Polish Presidency intends to finalise the ongoing negotiations on the Regulation on the Integrity and Transparency of the Energy Market (REMIT). The Presidency also plans to conclude work on legal acts whose adoption is conditional on external time constraints, as is the case with the new EU-US Energy Star Agreement.

The Polish Presidency intends to play a role in defining the **EU's external energy policy**. The enhancement of this policy area is our priority. The Presidency plans to hold a debate on the ways in which this policy should be developed in the coming years and on the mechanisms that could help strengthen the EU's voice in the global energy dialogue. Based on this debate, the Presidency intends to adopt the TTE Council conclusions in November 2011. Those conclusions should contain a clearly defined set of actions and instruments (such as the solidarity and coordination mechanism), which, once implemented, will represent the EU's position appropriately at international level.

6. *Justice and Home Affairs Council (JHA)*

Protection of EU citizens' rights and security

Effective achievement of the Stockholm Programme goals as the main challenge

Considering the existing development of the area of freedom, security and justice, the Presidency will focus its efforts on the effective implementation of initiatives of fundamental importance for the implementation of the Stockholm Programme. The Presidency will engage in activities aimed at further implementing and developing mechanisms protecting citizens and facilitating their access to justice. The Presidency's actions will also be focused on improving management in the Schengen area, initiatives addressing border management, the establishment of new migration and asylum policy instruments, and enhancing cooperation mechanisms for fighting organised crime. Special attention will be paid to streamlining civil protection mechanisms and measures aimed at further development of the internal security concept.

The Presidency hopes to make progress in negotiations on the European Union's accession to the European Convention on Human Rights. It will support the European Commission in its efforts to negotiate the accession agreement. Pursuant to a proposal from the European Commission, the Polish Presidency will start discussions in the Council concerning adoption of the decision authorising the signing of this agreement. It will also continue drafting internal legislative provisions laying down the rules of conduct in matters arising from the application of the Convention and the accession agreement. It will also pay due attention to the proposal regarding the Multi-Annual Work Programme of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA).

Home Affairs

One of the most important tasks to be implemented by the Presidency will be cooperation in combating drug-related crime. The Presidency intends to develop, and submit for adoption by the EU Council, the **European Pact against Synthetic Drugs**. In addition, it will concentrate on renewing cooperation between the EU and third countries from Eastern Europe in combating drug-related crime, promoting regional cooperation to combat drug-related crime, in particular with Eastern European countries, and it will address the issue of the new synthetic drugs. The Presidency will also launch the **Evaluation of EU Anti-Drugs Strategy** for the years 2005-2012 and the 2009-2012 Action Plan.

In the second half of 2011, work will continue on the development of police cooperation in the EU, hence also on the implementation of the **Internal Security Strategy**. Achieving progress on the following issues will be a priority:

- Implementation of the EU policy cycle concerning serious and organized crime policy (Harmony);
- Supporting activities relating to the establishment of the EuroEast Police long-term training programme for Eastern Partnership countries;
- Evaluation of the CATS and SCIFA Committees and an analysis of the grounds for their operation after 2011;

- Development of institutional mechanisms of cooperation between CSDP and JHA (including between COSI and PSC) to improve planning and enhance CSDP civilian mission capabilities;
- Continuation of work to ensure a cohesive EU policy concerning the exchange of information between law enforcement agencies while fully respecting personal data protection standards, aiming for full implementation of the EU Information Management Strategy, monitoring of the implementation of the Prüm Decisions, work on the draft Directive on the European PNR and continuation or conclusion of negotiations of agreements on PNR with the US, Australia and Canada, and day-to-day monitoring of negotiations on a data protection agreement with the US;
- Taking action to amend the Data Protection Directive and the start of a discussion on the possibility of creating an EU TFTP, based on the EC's Communication;
- Combating sexual abuse of children and child pornography in cyberspace; measures to protect currencies, in particular the euro, against counterfeiting; identifying and combating trafficking in human beings; identifying crimes against cultural property; counteracting illegal production of, and trading in, tobacco products; improving security at mass sports events; and initiating actions to standardise forensics.

September 11th, 2011 will mark the 10th anniversary of the World Trade Center terrorist attacks. The memory of those tragic events and lessons learned will be the topic of reflection during a debate organised as part of a seminar on the role of Member States' Anti-Terrorist Centres in combating terrorism and on structural and procedural changes in the anti-terrorist policy of EU Member States in the last decade.

Mass events protection against terrorist threats (including enhancing CBRN security) will be an important theme. The Presidency will also focus on issues relating to combating cyber-terrorism, the phenomenon of radicalisation (in the context of the impact of conflict in the region of the Southern Caucasus on national minorities from this region in the EU), as well as links between left-wing extremism and terrorism.

Work will begin on new tasks and directions for **customs cooperation**, with special emphasis placed on the management of customs services in crisis situations. The Presidency will act to encourage closer cooperation between customs and the police.

With respect to population protection, the Presidency will act to improve the population protection mechanisms existing in the EU in order to make Community measures more effective and to improve practical cooperation between EU agencies and Member States. The start of the process of transforming the Community Civil Protection Mechanism and the Civil Protection Financial Instrument will serve this purpose. The Presidency will also focus on an integrated approach to crisis communication with the aim of further developing its social and technological aspects.

Migration, asylum, and border management

The Presidency will continue work on the development of instruments to manage **legal migration**, in line with the directions and guidelines of the Europe 2020 strategy.

It will also start a debate on the future of the **Global Approach to Migration (GAM)** in relation to Eastern Europe and Central Asia in order to continue implementing the Action Plan for the Prague Process. Another priority of the Polish Presidency will be to develop capabilities for managing migration and crisis situations characterised by the sudden influx of

citizens from third countries, such as the one we are now witnessing in the Southern Neighbourhood region.

Effective measures against **illegal migration** are an important element of the common migration policy. Therefore, the Presidency will continue to develop an effective and sustainable policy concerning returns and readmissions of immigrants, primarily by supporting voluntary returns while respecting fundamental rights.

The Presidency will engage in actions required to conclude work on the **Common European Asylum System** by the end of 2012, in particular those referring to political agreement on the Dublin III and Eurodac regulations, and will undertake the necessary efforts to finalise work on the draft Qualification Directive. In addition, the Presidency will take the action necessary to finalise work on the proposed Reception Conditions Directive and will actively support the work of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO).

Development of the practical aspects of **Integrated Border Management**, including work on the concept of “smart borders” (the establishment of the EUROSUR system) and the diffusion of best practices in border management, will be given priority.

The Polish Presidency will launch the debate to improve the functioning of the Schengen area. In the second half of 2011, work will begin on adopting amendments to the **Schengen Border Code**, which will streamline border control procedures. The Presidency will aim to conclude work on amending the Frontex Regulation so as to enhance its capabilities of implementing tasks supporting Member States in crisis situations. The Presidency will engage in efforts to carry out an efficient evaluation of Schengen and to keep to the timetable for launching the second generation **Schengen Information System (SIS II)**.

The Presidency’s **visa policy** priorities include the continuation of effective implementation of the Visa Code, pursuing visa dialogues (hence the process of visa liberalisation) with third countries and achieving operability of the Visa Information System. In the monitoring of the implementation of action plans concerning visa liberalisation, special emphasis will be placed on support for the process of visa facilitation and visa liberalisation with Eastern Partnership countries and the Russian Federation.

Another priority will be to carry out technical modifications to Council Regulation 539/2001 of 15 March 2001, listing third countries whose citizens must have visas when crossing external borders and those countries whose citizens are exempt from this requirement and also to ensure an efficient process of adoption of the decision of the European Parliament and the Council laying down a list of documents entitling their holders to cross the EU’s external borders.

Justice

In judicial cooperation on **civil matters**, the Presidency will focus on measures aimed at streamlining the exercise of property rights enjoyed by citizens. In this respect, major importance will be given to work on a draft regulation on succession and international inheritances and on the amendment of the **Brussels I regulation**, which lays down the rules governing jurisdiction, recognition of judgements and their enforcement in the majority of civil and commercial cases.

The Presidency intends to hold a debate on the European Commission's proposal concerning European contract law, which should eliminate real barriers in **international Internet trade** which create obstacles for consumers.

The Presidency will also commence work on a proposal for effective **enforcement of judgments** in the European Union with respect to cross-border debt recovery.

In judicial cooperation on **criminal matters**, the Presidency will focus on two issues. The first one is to enhance the procedural and non-procedural rights of victims of crime. In the opinion of the Presidency, special attention should be paid to the planned proposal for a directive on **strengthening the position of victims in criminal proceedings**. In addition, the Presidency will continue actions to **reinforce the procedural rights of suspects and accused in criminal proceedings** by focusing on creating an instrument that would guarantee access to a trial lawyer for suspects.

In addition to these two priorities, work will also be continued on the technical implementation of the ECRIS and a manual for practitioners. The Presidency will also continue work on the **European Investigation Order** and on the proposed directive on attacks against information systems.

External dimension of the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (AFSJ)

The Presidency will aim to enhance the external dimension of the AFSJ as a tool for streamlining the process of management of migratory flows and to improve the internal security of the EU and its partners. Emphasis will be placed on ensuring better correlation between actions taken in AFSJ external relations and other EU policies, especially foreign, defence, development and trade policies. An important task will be to engage in a debate on ensuring the complementarity and cohesion of measures undertaken by the EU and Member States vis-à-vis third countries.

The Presidency will ensure a smooth continuation of strategic cooperation with the United States, the Russian Federation, the Western Balkan countries and the countries of the Union for the Mediterranean.

Special emphasis will be placed on the development of mobility and security in the framework of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) by initiating new and enhancing existing forms of cooperation in border protection, improving capabilities for managing migration (hence promoting legal and combating illegal migration) and the development of police cooperation (combating organised crime and serious offences, including combating trafficking in human beings). The Presidency will aim to efficiently implement visa liberalisation action plans for Ukraine and Moldova, placing emphasis on performance of commitments and on criteria related to security, the rule of law and the administration of justice. A visa dialogue will also be developed with other EaP countries on the basis of individual readiness assessments.

7. Agriculture and Fisheries Council (AGRIFISH)

Reforms for meeting common challenges

CAP effectively serving EU goals

In the second half of 2011, discussions on the **future of the Common Agricultural Policy** will enter their decisive phase. The European Commission will submit to the Council and the European Parliament a package of legislative proposals concerning, among others, the system of direct payments and the policy of rural development and market regulation. Solutions dealing with these important elements of the CAP will be of key importance in effectively tapping the potential of agriculture and rural areas to implement EU's long-term goals and ambitions, laid out, among others, in the Europe 2020 strategy. The CAP should be an instrument that builds a strong, competitive and sustainable European agriculture, responding to global challenges and contributing towards the sustainable social and economic development of rural areas. The Presidency will start working on the Commission's legislative proposals to enable successive Trio countries to work out a common position of Member States and to conduct effective negotiations between the Council and the European Parliament. One of the Presidency's aims will be to identify a basis for an agreement on a new system of direct payments, based on objective and not historical criteria. The Presidency will also work on an agreement on a strong second pillar, together with all of its existing links to the Cohesion Policy.

In the context of a debate on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy and the improvement of European agriculture's competitiveness, the Polish Presidency will pay special attention to supporting investments relating to the **development of renewable energy in rural areas** and will promote measures aimed at increasing energy production from by-products of agriculture and the leftovers of the agri-food industry.

The Presidency will continue discussions on the **future of the milk and milk products market** in the context of the lifting of the milk production quota system planned for 2015. This discussion will be based, *inter alia*, on recommendations of the High Level Group on the Competitiveness of the Agro-Food Industry and the High Level Expert Group on Milk, as well as on proposals on the milk package submitted by the European Commission.

Measures concerning the agricultural product quality policy will be an important element of the CAP overhaul. The Presidency will continue working on a relevant legislative package.

Streamlining the Common Agricultural Policy invariably remains a significant priority for action. The proposed solutions regarding the future form of the CAP should also take account of this aspect. In addition, the Presidency will try to reach an agreement on legislative proposals that would repeal redundant legal acts.

Work will also be continued to adapt legal acts to the Lisbon Treaty.

Reforming the Common Fisheries Policy

With regard to fisheries, the most important objective of the Presidency will be a comprehensive **reform of the Common Fisheries Policy**. The Presidency recognises the need to continue this work, based on the progress made since the 2002 reform, in order to create a sustainable fishing sector in all of its dimensions, so that it can address the challenges

brought about by the current state of the EU fisheries sector. The reform of the Common Fisheries Policy should ensure the sustainable and responsible management of fish stocks in a multiannual perspective and contribute to the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy objectives. In addition to the work of reforming the Common Fisheries Policy, the Presidency will focus on a new European Fisheries Fund during negotiations on the 2014-2020 Financial Perspective.

The Presidency intends to devote considerable attention to the **setting of 2012 fishing quotas** in the Baltic Sea, the Black Sea, as well as in other deep-sea waters, in order to reach an agreement in line with the principle of sustainable fisheries.

The Presidency will also become involved in managing the external fisheries policy and in negotiating bilateral agreements with third countries, as well as in coordinating work in the framework of regional fisheries management organisations.

Veterinary and phytosanitary issues

The Presidency intends to swiftly start work on the upcoming Commission proposal to introduce electronic identification in bovine animals.

In addition, it will continue cooperating with the European Commission on the **assumptions for a new EU Plant Health Strategy**. Summing up the Sixth Session of the Commission for Phytosanitary Measures and working out an EU position on drafts of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures, which have been submitted for consultations to states parties to the International Plant Protection Convention, will be an important issue.

In addition, the Presidency will be involved in the preparation and running of a conference called: “Legal Protection of Plant Varieties in the European Union in the 21st Century”, organized by the European Commission (DG SANCO) as part of a summing up of the results of the evaluation of the right to plant varieties and its implementation in the European Union.

Forests and forestry

The Presidency will focus its interest on stable and sustainable forest management and the significant contribution it makes to the green economy in the context of sustainable development and to mitigating and adapting to the consequences of climate change. The Presidency will also devote special attention to a possible legally binding agreement on forests in Europe in the framework of the FOREST EUROPE process.

8. Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO)

Demographic challenges, health and consumer protection

Employment and social policy

The Presidency's employment and social policy priorities will be as follows:

- Intergenerational solidarity: towards Europe's demographic future;
- Active Europe (A working Europe);
- Civic partnership: public authorities and non-governmental organisations in the implementation of social policy goals.

In the framework of the *Intergenerational solidarity: The Demographic Future of Europe* area, the Presidency will promote measures facilitating work-life balance, including improved access to childcare and elderly care services, increasing and extending the professional activity of different social groups, improving the profitability of mobility in the labour market, and increasing the importance of social dialogue for the achievement of social policy goals. Work will continue on revising Directive 92/85/EEC on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health at work of pregnant workers and workers who have recently given birth or are breastfeeding. Work will also be initiated on work-life balance, to be prepared by the European Institute for Gender Equality. The work-life balance issue will be reflected in the conclusions worked out by the Council.

In implementing the *Active Europe* priority, the Presidency will launch a debate on the *flexicurity* model's impact on the level of employment, especially among older people. The debate will also concern the positive aspects of occupational activity. A review of the factors motivating and de-motivating employees to maintain and prolong their occupational activity will be carried out during our Presidency. Within this priority, the Presidency will attempt to assess the extent to which the economic crisis has contributed to labour market reforms, and will propose an outlook for the future of the European labour market after 2020. The outcome of this debate will be reflected in the Council conclusions. Moreover, the Polish Presidency will hold negotiations on amendments to the regulation establishing the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund to be proposed by the European Commission.

Civic partnership: public authorities and non-governmental organisations in the implementation of social policy goals – in this area the Presidency will initiate a debate on the role and importance of non-governmental organisations and other partners in the implementation of social policy. A discussion will take place on virtual volunteering as an innovative instrument enabling implementation of social goals and its further development. An important event that will coincide with Poland's Presidency of the EU Council will be the summing up of the European Year of Volunteering 2011.

Strengthening the role of consumers, ensuring consumer safety and more effective protection

Consumer protection policy at EU level is an important part of internal market functioning. If the common market functions well, consumers will have greater confidence in international transactions, which will positively impact competition and prices and, in effect, bring benefits

to all EU citizens. Enhanced consumer protection aims to implement this goal and strives to create a genuine internal market for the exchange of consumer goods. With this in mind, the Presidency will assess the implementation of the Consumer Policy Strategy 2007-2013 and will start work on a new **Consumer Policy Strategy 2014-2020**, which will set out the challenges of the European Union in the field of consumer protection for the coming years.

The Polish Presidency will organise the **European Competition and Consumer Day**, which will bring together the heads of European consumer and competition protection agencies. Partners from Ukraine and Russia will be invited to participate in the conference.

Health

In the area of public health, special emphasis will be placed on **reducing the gaps in health status of the European Union's population**.

In this respect, the Presidency will firstly pay attention to actions targeting the determinants of health, especially nutrition and physical activity, mainly through prevention, health promotion and education.

Secondly, in the area of chronic diseases, the Presidency will focus on the prevention and control of respiratory diseases in children. Thirdly, the Presidency will address topics that help to better detect and treat communication disorders in children through e-health and an innovative approach to treatment and enhanced cooperation between countries. A special discussion will be held on the need to develop instruments and screening tests, and to create a network of institutions that would monitor health outcomes leading to prevention and adequate treatment of such diseases and the creation of better conditions for later stages in life, as well as easier integration of patients afflicted by such diseases into social and economic life.

The Presidency also intends to **continue actions aimed at preventing and treating brain and neurodegenerative diseases, including Alzheimer's disease**. Such actions are of great significance for Europe's ageing populations and the social and economic challenges facing Member States. In this context, a special debate will be held on setting priorities in brain research, innovative diagnostics, the treatment and the organisation of care, and the social integration of the elderly afflicted by such diseases.

The Presidency, depending on the Member States' needs and the positions, also plans to address the following topics: partnership for innovation to promote healthy and active ageing, e-health, antibiotic resistance and ensuring that patients have access to reliable information about prescription medicinal products.

The proposal currently under discussion for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the provision of food information to consumers should ensure that consumers have important and reliable information which would permit them to make the right choices. During work on this proposal, the Polish Presidency will aim for a compromise. Efforts will also be undertaken to reach agreement regarding work on a proposed regulation on foods for particular nutritional uses which is scheduled to begin during the Polish Presidency.

9. Environment Council (ENVI)

Creating a new European framework for environmental policy

Preventing climate change and adapting Europe to this change

The world needs a new post-2012 climate policy, which would guarantee global and effective climate protection measures based on solidarity. The aim of the Presidency is to work out a common EU position in this regard in the Council and to strive to achieve a binding new agreement during the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Durban, Republic of South Africa (COP17/MOP7).

The Presidency considers it crucial to enhance measures designed to prepare Europe for the outcomes of climate change, and it therefore intends to hold a discussion on the possibility of intensifying adaptation measures.

Protection of biological diversity

The loss of biological diversity is one of the greatest environmental problems the European Union needs to address, in view of the real and measurable risks posed by this loss, such as: upsetting ecosystem functions, loss of energy resources and other chain reactions whose effects are difficult to predict and which affect human health and safety.

The task of the Presidency will be to continue work on implementing the EU Biodiversity Action Plan. The Presidency intends to hold a discussion on the subject of funds devoted to the conservation of biological diversity.

For the actions implemented to be effective, biodiversity conservation must be integrated with measures implemented in different sectors of the economy, such as agriculture and transportation. The Presidency intends to work on developing instruments that could help prevent the loss of biodiversity, such as spatial planning and sustainable forest management. It is planning to organise two high level conferences addressing these topics.

Effective use of resources

The European Union countries should look for new solutions that would effectively prevent the loss of resources at the EU and global levels. To this end, it is important to continue a political debate on solutions that would help us use resources efficiently. What is particularly important is to integrate these solutions with economic measures. The Presidency will hold a discussion at the informal Council in July on the transition to a resource-efficient Europe. In addition, the Presidency will work on a Road Map to plan EU actions in this area.

Global process of sustainable development (Rio +20)

An important event in 2012 will be the Conference on Sustainable Development which will sum up the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

The Conference will address two main tasks of paramount importance for the European Union and its global standing: the green economy and the global institutional framework for sustainable development. It will provide an opportunity to revise existing commitments and to propose new directions for environmental protection development, including a new

environmental management system – the International Environmental Governance, which will help to intensify global common environmental protection efforts. The Conference should result in concrete measures aimed at developing the green economy and at working out a more effective institutional architecture responding to new global challenges and serving both the developing and developed countries' needs. The Presidency intends to actively support an EU-wide dialogue to develop ambitious EU proposals for the 2012 Earth Summit.

The Presidency will give impetus to the EU's preparations for the UNCSD 2012 in order to map ambitious goals and proposals for the conference in 2012. To this end, a high level discussion on how to prepare the EU for this event is planned for October.

Current work on environmental policy instruments

Moreover, during the Presidency an important debate will take place on new environmental policy challenges. The Presidency intends to focus special attention on the review of the 6th Environmental Action Programme and to work on constructive input to a new proposal for the 7th Programme.

The Presidency will hold discussions with the European Parliament aimed at reaching agreement at second reading on the Biocidal Products Regulation and the WEFE Directive.

10. Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council (EYCS)

Competencies for Europe

Education (school and higher education)

In the field of education, the Presidency's priorities will be education for mobility and the modernisation of universities. The context for the implementation of the above priorities will include the following EU strategic documents: Europe 2020 Strategy and its flagship initiatives - Youth on the Move, Agenda for New Skills and New Jobs and the Strategic Framework for European Cooperation in Education and Training (ET 2020), as well as the European Commission communication on the modernisation of universities expected in the third quarter of 2011.

The Presidency will launch a debate on learning mobility issues in the framework of EU educational programmes, in a comprehensive way, taking into account its international dimension (including the EU's neighbours). The debate on priority areas of the second cycle of European cooperation in the field of education and training for the years 2012-2014 will also be an important part of the Presidency's agenda.

The Presidency will aim to advance work on developing competencies among young people and adults in the context of lifelong learning, including language competencies, thereby helping to make studying or working abroad more widespread. Enhancing cooperation between vocational training, higher education and employers, as well as other institutions in the social and economic environment, and helping to raise the quality of education and to create flexible lifelong learning paths are all important aspects of this work.

The full use of Europe's intellectual capital for the purpose of building Europe's competitive advantage requires, among other things, initiatives to modernise universities. The Presidency will put an emphasis on supporting quality in the context of popularisation of higher

education, primarily perfection in teaching and scientific research, as well as differentiation and transparency of higher education institutions, employability of graduates, partnership with the business community, and the social dimension of higher education.

In the second half of 2011, a declaration on the development of educational contacts between the EU member states and the Eastern Partnership countries, and their importance in enhancing the EU's position in global development processes, will be drafted and presented.

Youth

The Presidency's work in this area will focus on the field of action called "youth and the world". This topic contributes to the idea of the 2011 European Year of Voluntary Activities Promoting Active Citizenship, as well as to the European Commission's activities that proclaimed 2011 the EU-China Year of Youth.

The main objective of the Presidency will be to promote and increase cooperation between young people from the EU and their peers from Eastern European and the Caucasus countries (Eastern Partnership countries and Russia). This priority will be implemented through structured dialogue with young people (consultations and youth conferences), the exchange of good practices in this area between Member States, and a discussion on the strategic priorities of youth policy in the coming years (meetings of Directors General for Youth). A discussion will also be launched on the future of programmes that support mobility, including opening them up to neighbouring countries. The Presidency recognises the importance of the Eastern dimension of youth mobility.

Culture

In the area of culture, the Presidency will continue working to promote a better understanding of the role of culture, using the potential of culture to enhance European integration and the EU's social and economic development, including in the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy goals. In this context, the Presidency will work on measures highlighting the important role played by the development of key cultural competencies and individual and community creativity in building Europe's intellectual capital (including its social and human capital). In the second half of 2011, work will begin to identify the most effective creative partnerships that contribute to the development of cultural competencies, and the role of NGOs in this process.

The Presidency will support the continuation of discussions on the assumptions underlying the EU instruments that will support culture after 2013.

The Presidency will also attach great importance to the place of culture in EU's external relations. The EU should play a leading role in the implementation of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of Diversity of Cultural Expressions. The Presidency considers it particularly important to develop and enhance cooperation with the Eastern Partnership countries. Promoting people-to-people contacts and mobility between the EU and the Partnership countries will be a priority.

We will also continue work on implementing the initiative to create a European Heritage Label by agreeing on a mechanism allowing the Council to nominate members of a European panel of experts on the Label.

Audiovisual policy

The Presidency will focus its attention on promoting cultural diversity and creative content (the Digital Agenda for Europe). Its main priority in audiovisual policy will be issues relating to digitalisation, access to and protection of cultural heritage, in particular audiovisual and film resources, also in the context of the development of the *Europeana* digital library.

The Presidency recognises the importance of the MEDIA 2007-2013 Programme, which has made a positive contribution to the development of the European film and audiovisual industry, and has enhanced European cultural diversity and supports the flow of film and audiovisual works in Europe. In addition, the Presidency will draw attention to the need to advance the process of digitalisation of European cinemas in the context of the challenges of the digital era.

The Presidency will also aim to initiate and advance measures to improve the protection of minors in the digital environment, media literacy, on-line access to audiovisual content and the legal protection of services based on or consisting of conditional access.

Sport

The Polish Presidency will have a key role in developing EU cooperation in the field of sport, as it will be the first Presidency working in the context of the new EU work-plan for sport adopted in May 2011. The Presidency will initiate a discussion on risks to the integrity of sport, focusing mainly on those caused by corruption.

Moreover, the Presidency will focus on the social and economic dimensions of sport, stressing issues relating to social exclusion and the significant impact of sport on the economy, which are fully in line with the Europe 2020 strategy.

In connection with the above, the Polish Presidency's priority will be **to develop new sport initiatives**. Poland plans to adopt documents addressing sport volunteering and representation, and coordination of the EU's position at the meeting of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

The Polish Presidency's actions in the above areas are directly linked to the directions of development of the European sport dimension as set out in the European Commission Communication "Developing the European Dimension in Sport".

APPENDIX. CALENDAR OF MINISTERIAL MEETINGS

July

5-6 July	Health Ministers' Meeting (Informal), Sopot
6-7 July	Eastern Dimension of Mobility Conference, Warsaw
7-8 July	Employment and Social Policy Ministers' Meeting (Informal), Sopot
8 July	Meeting of the members of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Poland and the EU College of Commissioners, Warsaw
11-12 July	Environment Council (Informal), Sopot
12 July	Economic & Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN), Brussels
13-15 July	High-Level Meeting on Energy, Bełchatów
14-15 July	Development Ministers' Meeting (Informal), Sopot
16 July	Ministerial Conference on the Use of Agricultural Biomass for Energy Purposes as an Important Element of the Common Agricultural Policy, Sopot
18 July	General Affairs Council (GAC), Brussels
18 July	Foreign Affairs Council (FAC), Brussels
18-19 July	Agriculture and Fisheries Council (AGRIFISH), Brussels
18-19 July	Justice and Home Affairs Council (JHA; Informal), Sopot
18-19 July	Conference on Promotion of Equal Opportunities Through Sport as an Element of Social Policy, Wrocław
18-20 July	Conference on Cultural Competence, Warsaw
20 July	Conference ahead of the Competitiveness Council (Informal) on the European Research Area, Sopot
20-22 July	Competitiveness Council (COMPET; Informal), Sopot
22 July	Economic and Financial Affairs Council – Budget (ECOFIN Budget), (poss.) Brussels
25-26 July	EU- US Senior Officials Meeting, Cracow
28-29 July	Meeting of Ministers for European Affairs (Informal), Sopot

September

2-3 September	Foreign Ministers' Meeting (GYMNICH format), Sopot
5 September	Conference on the Social Responsibility of Business, Gdańsk
5-6 September	Meeting of Transport Ministers (Informal), Sopot
6-7 September	IV Investment Forum, Tarnów
8-11 September	European Culture Congress, Wrocław
9 September	Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Audiovisual Policy (Informal),

	Wrocław
9 September	Expanding single European market to the Eastern Partners - giving mutual boost to our economic growth - new concept for neighbourhood policy, Krynica Zdrój
11-13 September	Agriculture and Fisheries Council (AGRIFISH; Informal), Wrocław
12 September	General Affairs Council (GAC), Brussels
12 September	e-volunteering Conference, Warsaw
13-14 September	Conference “From Volunteer to Sport Leader”, Warsaw
14-16 September	Eurofi Financial Forum (accompanying event), Wrocław
15 September	Ministerial Conference of the Ministry of the Economy on the occasion of the 15 th Anniversary of Poland’s Membership of the OECD, Warsaw
16-17 September	Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN; Informal), Wrocław
17-18 September	European Congress of Women, Warsaw
19-20 September	Agriculture and Fisheries Council (AGRIFISH), Brussels
19-20 September	Transportation, Telecommunications and Energy Council (TTE – Energy; Informal), Wrocław
22-23 September	Justice and Home Affairs Council (JHA), Brussels
22-23 September	Meeting of Ministers for National Defence (Informal), Wrocław
26 September	Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) – Trade Ministers Formation, Brussels
26 September	Formal lunch of Ministers of Trade, Brussels
26 September	Ministerial Conference of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy on the social priority: “Social Impact of the Economic Crisis. Short- and Long-Term Measures of the Anti-Crisis Policy”, Wrocław
26-28 September	Enterprise Europe Network Annual Conference, Warsaw
28-29 September	Ministerial Conference “Forestry for Climate and Biodiversity” combined with a meeting of Directors for Forests and Nature Conservation, Ryn
29-30 September	Eastern Partnership Summit, Warsaw
29-30 September	Competitiveness Council (COMPET), Brussels

October

3 October	Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO), Luxembourg
2-4 October	Single Market Forum (SIMFO), Kraków
3-4 October	EU – Western Balkans Ministerial Forum, Ohrid
4 October	Economic & Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN), Luxembourg
5-6 October	Tourism Ministers’ Meeting (Informal), Kraków
5-7 October	European Tourism Forum, Kraków
6 October	Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council – Transport (TTE-Transport), Luxembourg

10 October	Environment Council (ENVI), Luxembourg
10-11 October	Foreign Affairs Council (FAC), Luxembourg
10-11 October	Ministerial Energy Conference and General Assembly of the Council of European Energy Regulators on “Competitive and integrated market as a guarantee of energy security”, Kraków
10-11 October	Russia-EU Permanent Partnership Council on Freedom, Security and Justice, Warsaw
10-11 October	Ministerial Conference of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy on Challenges and Opportunities for Employment opportunities in Changing Demographics, Warsaw
10-11 October	Meeting of EU Ministers for Education (Informal), Gdańsk
11 October	General Affairs Council (GAC), Luxembourg
11-12 October	European Heritage Forum, Wrocław
11-12 October	Conference in preparation for the Rio+20 Global Summit, Warsaw
13-14 October	Sports Ministers’ Meeting (Informal), Kraków
17 October	Tripartite Social Summit, Brussels
17-18 October	Convention of the European Platform Against Poverty, Kraków
17-18 October	EUROPEAN COUNCIL, Brussels
18-19 October	Ministerial Conference “Development of the European Statistical System in light of the Eastern Partnership – Directions and Strategy”, Kraków
19-20 October	Ministerial Conference “Perspectives for Development of the Electronic Communications Market in the European Union”, Warsaw
19-20 October	European Congress on Rural Development, Warsaw
19-21 October	Conference of Heads of Customs Services in the framework of the EU’s Eastern Partnership Programme, Kraków
20-21 October	Agriculture and Fisheries Council (AGRIFISH), Luxembourg
20-21 October	Union for the Mediterranean Senior Officials’ Meeting, Kraków
20-21 October	Meeting of Ministers for Family and Gender Equality (Informal), Kraków
20-21 October	Conference in cooperation with the <i>Academy of European Law</i> in Trier - Cross-border insolvency, Trier
24-25 October	Transport Ministers’ Meeting on Eastern Partnership, Kraków
24-26 October	EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region Forum and the Baltic Development Forum, Gdańsk
25-26 October	European Migration Network Conference, Warsaw
26-27 October	Conference on the Implementation of the LMI initiative and the European Partnership Initiative (EPI), Warsaw
27-28 October	Ministerial Conference “Approximation of Veterinary, Phytosanitary and Food Quality and Safety Legislation in Eastern Partnership Countries with European Union Law”, Kraków

27-28 October	Justice and Home Affairs Council (JHA), Luxembourg
November	
3-4 November	Second Prague Process Ministerial Conference – Building Migration Partnerships in Action, Poznań
7 November	EU-USA Ministerial Meeting in Justice and home affairs area, Washington
7-8 November	Ministerial Conference “Solidarity in Health – Closing the Health Gap between European Union Member States”, Poznań
8 November	Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN), Brussels
9-10 November	Conference on European Contract Law, Warsaw
14 November	Foreign Affairs Council (FAC), Brussels
14-15 November	Agriculture and Fisheries Council (AGRIFISH), Brussels
14-15 November	5 th Equality Summit, Poznań
15 November	General Affairs Council (GAC), Brussels
15 November	European Economic Area (EEA) Council, on the margin of the GAC, Brussels
17 November	Meeting of Ministers for eGovernment, Poznań
17-18 November	6 th European Ministerial Conference and Exhibition on E-administration “Borderless eGovernment Services for Europeans”, Poznań
18 November	Economic and Financial Affairs Council – Budget (ECOFIN Budget), Brussels
21-22 November	Fundamental Rights Conference 2011, Warsaw
23-24 November	REACH Fifth Anniversary Conference, Warsaw
24 November	Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council – energy (TTE - Energy), Brussels
24 November	Ministerial Conference “Integrated Approach to Development - Key to Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth”, Poznań
24-25 November	European Competition and Consumer Day, Poznań
25 November	Meeting of Ministers for Regional Policy, Cohesion, Territorial Cohesion and Urban Development (Informal), Poznań
28-29 November	Education, Youth, Culture and Sports Council (EYCS), Brussels
30 November	Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN), Brussels
December	
1 December	Foreign Affairs Council (FAC), Brussels
1 December	Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO), Brussels
1-2 December	High-level Conference for Southern Neighbourhood countries, Warsaw

2 December	Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council – Health (EPSCO- Health), Brussels
5 December	General Affairs Council (GAC) (TBC), Brussels
5-6 December	Competitiveness Council (COMPET), Brussels
5-6 December	Space Council on the margin of the Competition Council (COMPET) (poss.), Brussels
5-6 December	Conference on the financial aspects of legal aid in criminal matters in the EU Member States, Warsaw
9 December	EUROPEAN COUNCIL, Brussels
12 December	Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council – Transport (TTE - Transport), Brussels
13 December	Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council – Telecommunications (TTE – Telecom.), Brussels
13-14 December	Justice and Home Affairs Council (JHA), Brussels
15-16 December	Agriculture and Fisheries Council (AGRIFISH), Brussels
15-16 December	European Development Days, Warsaw
16 December	General Affairs Council (GAC) on Cohesion Policy (poss.), Brussels
16 December	Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) on the margin of the WTO ministerial conference (TBC), Geneva
19 December	Environment Council (ENVI), Brussels