

# Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the EU



**Explained by**





## Presidency of the Council of the EU

- The Democratic Republic of Hungary holds the Council of the European Union presidency for the last 6 months of 2024.
- Hungary's mandate marks the end of the "trio" composed of Spain, Belgium, and the current mandate country.
- The next rotation, which will last from January 2025 to June 2026, will be composed of Poland, Denmark and Cyprus.

# EU COUNCIL PRIORITIES



## **A shift in priorities:**

The draft that will be adopted this June, marks a clear contrast from 2019-2024 period.

*“To defend our democracies and our values, to ensure lasting peace and prosperity for the benefit of our citizens, the European Union must be equipped with general political directions and priorities.”*



- Charles Michel, President of the EU Council

## **Expected Actions**

- Measures of democratic monitoring.
- Actions to strengthen and ensure democratic principles and rights.
- Protection of democratic elections from misinformation.

# What to expect from the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union?

## Defense

Reinforcement of EU Defense Policy.  
Enhance EU Defense Capabilities, International Crisis Management responsiveness and capacities



## Economy

Improve productivity and stimulate growth.  
Addressing key economic issues such as inflation, increased public debt, high energy prices ...

## Integration

Foster the enlargement process mainly focused on the Baalkans.  
Reach a consensus on robust EU security.

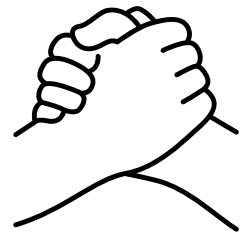
## Migration

Challenge both for the EU and countries individually.  
Enhance efficient cooperation, effective returns, innovation on asylum rules and border protection

## Unity

Safeguard Union's values and forging and sustaining concord to achieve key regional and international objectives

# Greener, Safer, and More Free Europe



**Security** Build consensus towards robust European security and defence, while continuing the support to the Ukraine issue.



**Competitiveness:** Implementation of the new EU Competitiveness Deal in order to restore economic development and boost productivity

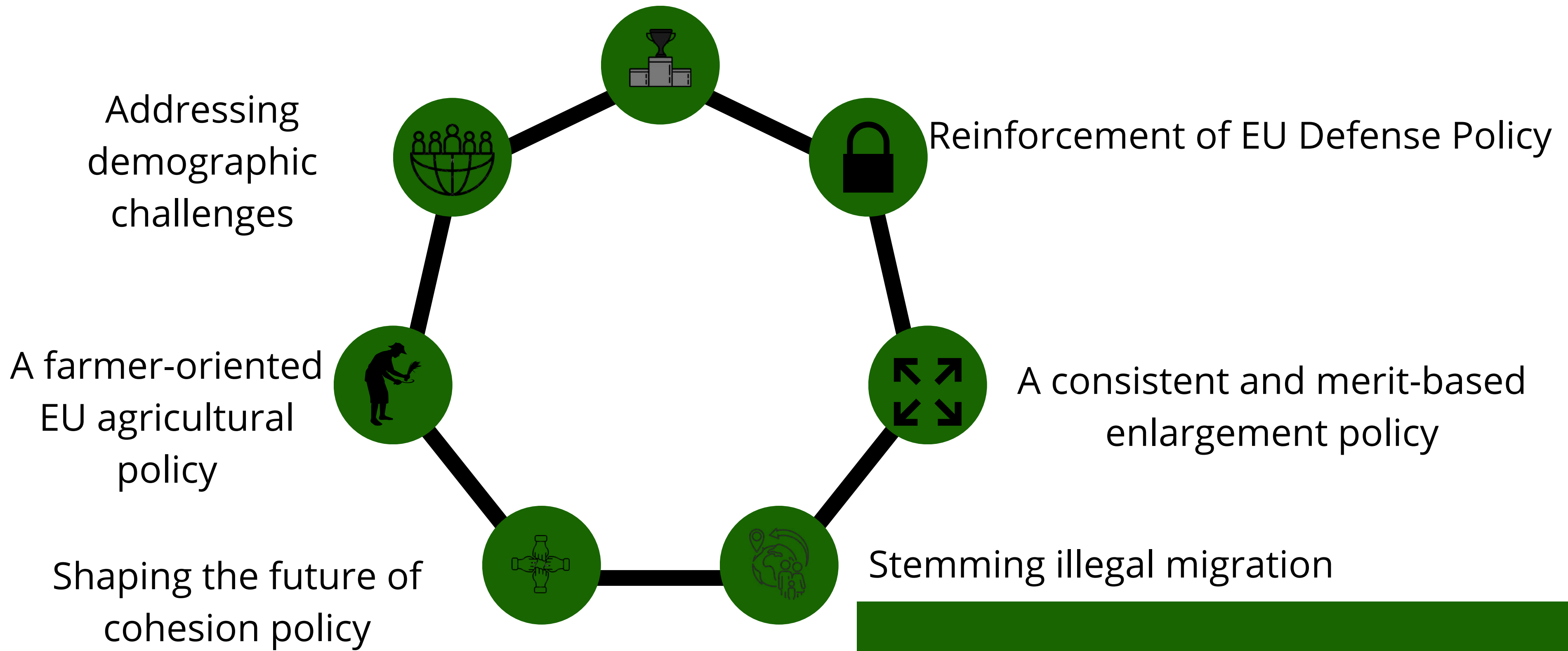


**Europe:** Creating the best conditions for an open economy and fostering innovation while working towards the green



# What to expect from the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union?

## New EU competitiveness Deal



7 priorities for 6 months

1

## New EU Competitiveness Deal: Main goals

### Improve Productivity

Integrate EU  
Competitiveness  
Framework for  
boosting EU  
Productivity

Development of a  
technology-  
neutral industrial  
strategy

### Stimulate growth

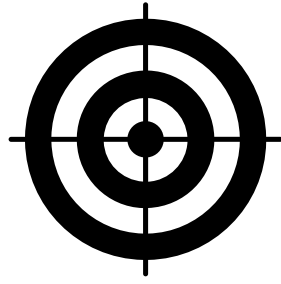
Open economy

International  
Economic  
Cooperation

Flexibility to the  
labour market

2

## The reinforcement of EU Defense Policy



Improve EU Defense Capabilities, International Crisis Management responsiveness and capacities.



Guaranteeing our own EU **security**.



Investment in defense **R&D**.



Enhancement of **cooperation** between Member States.



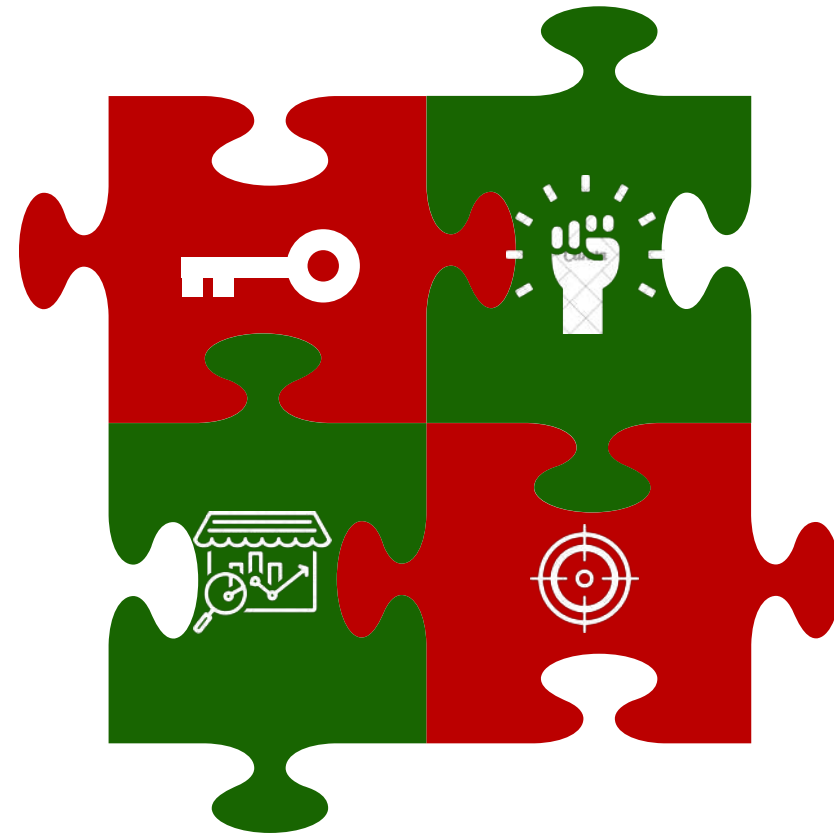
# Enlargement policy

## Consistent and merit-based

- Implementing reforms and investments through the [Recovery and Resilience Facility](#).

## Key moments

- Establishment of the [European Innovation Council](#).
- Implementation of the [Horizon Europe Program](#).



## Region under the scope

- Building strong [trade relationships globally](#).
- Promoting sustainability in trade Agreements and reforms at the [WTO](#).

## Economic and Financial Affairs

- [Deactivation of the Stability and Growth Pact's general escape clause](#).
- Combatting money laundering and terrorism financing.
- Modernizing regulatory framework for financial management.

# 4

## Stemming illegal migration



Challenge for the the EU as a whole and for countries individually

Effective returns

EU funds for external border protection



Enhance efficient cooperation with relevant third countries



Innovative solutions for rules on asylum



5

## Shapping the future of EU Cohesion policy



Reducing regional disparities



Secure (economic, social, territorial) cohesion all over the EU



Enhance high-level strategic debate on the future and purpose of cohesion policy

## A farmer-oriented EU agricultural policy

### Challenges

Climate Change and  
Extreme weather  
conditions

Growing input costs

Increasing imports from  
third countries

### Proposed tools


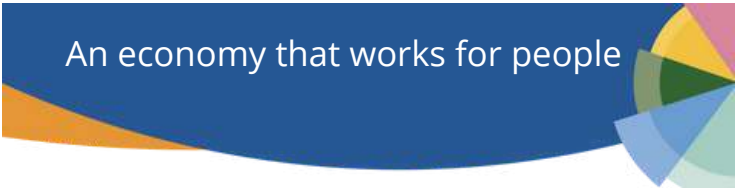
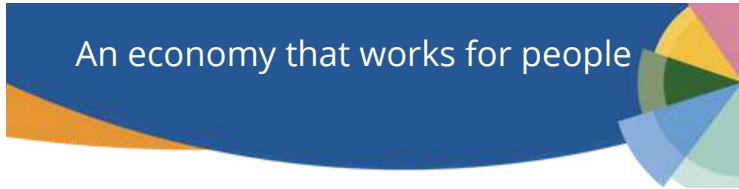



Locate agriculture as  
part of the solution for  
climate change

Encourage Agriculture  
and Fisheries Council  
role

Enhance food sovereignty  
and security

# 7

## Addressing key demographic challenges:

<p>1</p>  <p>Ageing of society</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>Sustainability of welfare systems</p>	<p>3</p>  <p>Labour shortages</p>
<p>4</p>  <p>Rural Depopulation</p>	<p>5</p>  <p>Green and Digital Transition</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>Increasing pressure on fiscal resources</p>

# What **obstacles** stand in the way of the Hungarian presidency?

## Approach to security

The Hungary government **idea of security** as well as its **geographical location** may confront with **EU Security policies** and approaches that have been developed during the recent years.

## Threat to integration policy

In an scenario where **EU cohesion** might be under serious threat, **Hungary's expected role as council president** could arise as an obstacle for **EU goals** in the area.

## Hungary PM role

Ever since **Viktor Orban** became PM, several concerns arised inside the **EU** regarding the **maintenance of democratic values** .

## Prospects?

- Viktor Órban connects himself, and Hungary, to the role of “protector of Europe”. To achieve this role, it has become a pattern to securitize political matters which defy the national controversial approach.
- The presented Programme of the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, for the second half of 2024, might revive the Hungarian appeal to tie “security” to national sovereignty, and to “identity” (national and European). Especially when we consider the plan’s emphasis on illegal migration, European borders integrity, the revision of the Rule of Law and the future of political integration (or (des)integration).

- The newly forged alliance of Austrian far-right leader, Herbert Kickl (FPÖ), Hungarian prime minister Viktor Orbán (Fidesz), and former Czech leader Andrej Babiš (ANO), on the 30th of June of 2024, aims to form a new parliamentary group- “Patriots for Europe”.
- Their joint manifesto emphasizes peace, security, and development, while opposing war, migration, and European political stagnation. To be officially recognized in the EU Parliament, they need support from parties in at least four other countries.
- The strengthening of the right-wing influence on European policies remains in further development.



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