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Polish Presidency of the Council of the EU

Polish EU Presidency

- The Republic of Poland takes over the presidency of the Council of the European Union for the next 6 months (January-June 2025).

- The Polish presidency marks the beginning of the current presidency “trio” made up of Poland, Denmark and Cyprus.

- Poland takes over the presidency from Hungary, the previous member of the most recent “trio”.

This is the second time Poland holds the EU Council presidency since it took it for the first time 13 years ago, with Donald Tusk chairing both of them as Polish Prime Minister.

This is an opportunity for the Central-European country to rejoin the mainstream of European discussions, coinciding with the 20-year anniversary of Poland's EU membership.

However, the Polish presidency arrives at a critical time for the EU after a 3-year war in Ukraine, with dire consequences to energy and cohesion; the arrival of Donald Trump to the US presidency; and the responsibility of enhancing competitiveness within the EU.

At the same time, Polish presidential elections will be held in May and Poland is expected to gain momentum during its EU Council presidency.

Where we come from?

Hungarian EU Presidency

The Budapest Declaration has succeeded in setting common guidelines to address EU competitiveness. It may be considered the greatest achievement of the former presidency incumbents along with the fully Schengen entry of Bulgaria and Romania and the advancing negotiations towards the Western Balkans integration into the EU.

Nonetheless, the Hungarian presidency has had numerous disarrangements with the EU. Orban's visits to Moscow and Beijing in his first week of mandate, the opposition to cut on Russian energy imports, its critical attitude towards the EU migration policy and its "opening to the East" stance have definitely cracked the EU wished political cohesion.

Even if Poland is expected to be a smoother partner for the EU, issues like migration could still raise concerns from EU member states and leaders.

What to expect? Security

“The Polish presidency will support activities strengthening European security in all its dimensions: external, internal, economic, information, energy, food and health”

Adam Szłapka, Polish Minister for European Union Affairs.

Security, Europe!

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Top Seven Priorities

- Defence and Security
- Protection of People and Borders
- Resistance to Foreign Interference and Disinformation
- Ensuring Security and Freedom of Business
- Energy Transition
- Competitive and Resilient Agriculture
- Health Security

Defence and Security

Ukrainian-backed oriented programme centered in strengthening defence capabilities.

Its commitment to increase member states' military spending contrasts with the Hungarian aid blockades position.

Strengthen cooperation with NATO and the Baltic States, reinforcing the East Shield and the Baltic Defence Line infrastructures.

Protection of People and Borders

Reduce irregular migration and strengthen the effectiveness of the return policy.

Stay the course on working towards an adequate EU response against the instrumentalisation and weaponization of migrants.

Ensure the functioning of the Schengen Area and respond to internal security threats.

Resistance to Foreign Interference and Disinformation

Strengthen the resilience of democracy by reinforcing democratic institutions.

Recognise and eliminate disinformation and manipulation but also promote civic awareness, credible media and crisis preparedness.

Strengthen coordination and strategic communications in order to prevent the effects of hostile cyberspace actions.

Ensuring Security and Freedom of Business

Strive for economic competitiveness is a top priority as it was for the former Hungarian EU presidency.

Deepen the single-market, reinforce trade policy instruments and reduce bureaucratic burden were as well brought up in Budapest Declaration.

Move from energy-climate obligations and penalties and focus on rewards and incentives.

Energy Transition

Cut on any type of dependency from abroad, with a full withdrawal from imports of Russian energy sources.

More assertiveness when it comes to embark on clean energy transition, contrary to Hungarians reluctance.

Not discriminating against any of the clean energy sources, opening the door to a possible consideration of nuclear energy as a clean source.

Competitive and Resilient Agriculture

Secure the post-2027 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) budget and shape the debate on its future reform.

Manage the possibilities of a future EU enlargement for Ukraine as it would strengthen trade relations within the union.

Ensure that non-EU producers comply with EU food quality, safety and sustainability standards.

Health Security

Accelerate the adoption of a unified stance on pharmaceutical legislation, balancing between competitiveness within the sector and affordable drugs.

Mental health of children and youngsters is a priority, especially in the digital age, assessing the impact of technologies on health.

Promote the digital transformation of healthcare.

Clash points with the EU

New Polish migration laws introducing the possibility of temporarily suspending asylum rights have raised concerns within the EU and could struggle with the EU’s Fundamental Rights Charter.

Nuclear energy is a definitely controversial issue for the EU while Poland is building its second nuclear power plant and gives no clue whether it will push nuclear energy as a clean source during its mandate.

Addressing the climate agenda through the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) will be a significant challenge for Poland, especially after its Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development expressed opposition to implementing climate goals, stating that such measures should not compromise funds aimed at maintaining competitiveness and food security for Europe and Poland.

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