

Priorities of Hungarian Presidency in EU Council (01/01 - 30/06/2011)

The main priorities of Hungarian Presidency are:

1. **GROWTH, JOBS AND SOCIAL INCLUSION**
2. **STRONGER EUROPE**
3. **A UNION CLOSE TO ITS CITIZENS**
4. **ENLARGING RESPONSIBLY AND ENGAGING GLOBALLY**



On 1st January 2011 Hungary took over the Presidency of the EU Council. Its programme is built on four key priorities. The main priority is strengthening of economic recovery after global crisis, creation of new jobs and supporting of small and medium businesses that are the main fuel of economic growth, innovation and employment. There are some new tools to support growth, employment and economic stability – Strategy EU2020 and European semester that allows EU to interfere in budget preparation and reforms. Task of Hungarian Presidency will be to implement these tools.

1. Growth, jobs and social inclusion

EU established new rules for macroeconomic surveillance mechanism, strengthening of fiscal discipline, economy coordination and created framework for crises management. December EU Council agreed on implementing of permanent mechanism to ensure financial stability of the Eurozone. This will require amendment of the Lisbon Treaty that will have to be done during the Hungarian Presidency. The Hungarians also will have to reach agreement on the Single Market Act that includes 50 proposals on re-starting of the Single Market and the dismantling of the remaining barriers to reach the potential of the Single Market. The proposals of the Act should be adopted in 2011 or 2012 the latest (20th Birthday of the Single Market).

2. Stronger Europe

The second priority called Stronger Europe aims to strengthen the economic, social and territorial cohesion in order to make the EU more competitive globally. In the field of energy many key topics are awaiting Hungary to define the directions of the European energy policy for the next decade: Energy 2020 –the midterm energy strategy for the period 2011-2020, a plan for integrated European energy network and energy efficiency. The EU Council will discuss this topic on 4th February. Last but not least

the Hungarian government will be devoting its attention to the water policy in the context of climate change. The intent is to focus on an integrated and sustainable waste water management.

3. A Union close to its citizens

The third priority of Hungary is to bring Europe closer to its citizens. The Presidency wants to reach tangible achievements in the field of freedom, security and justice which influence the everyday life of the citizens. The key items of discussion are: public security, legal certainty, protection of personal data, cross border inheritance cases, matrimonial property regimes, asylum system and a better management of migration flows and the integration of migrants. 2011 is the European Year of Volunteering and the Hungarian Presidency will promote this initiative.

4. Enlarging responsibly and engaging globally

The last priority is dedicated to an open Europe. Hungarians intend to finalize the Croatian accession negotiations and support the accession of Romania and Bulgaria to the Schengen area. They also support the integration process of the Western Balkans and they are ready to take on the relevant presidency tasks if it is decided to start the accession negotiations with Turkey. Based on its geographical location, the Hungarian Presidency will work on the renewal of the EU's neighbourhood policy towards its Eastern neighbours. In the field of trade policy the Presidency will have to implement a new strategy. Intensive negotiations can be expected in the first half of 2011 in order to close Doha development round or alternative final discussion the accession of Russia to the WTO. Hungary awaits significant progress of bilateral free trade agreement negotiations with India, Singapore, Ukraine and Canada.