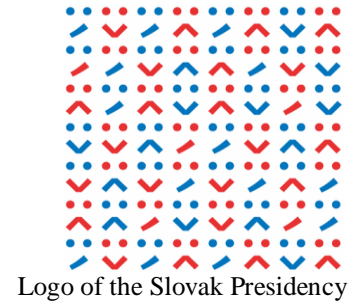


Brussels, 7 June 2016

Incoming Slovak EU Council Presidency

Overview of Energy Dossiers



Background

From July to December 2016, Slovakia will hold the Presidency of the EU Council for the first time, following the Dutch and preceding the Maltese Presidency (January to June 2017).

Although the final Presidency programme is only due to be approved by the Government on 29 June 2016, the Slovak priorities are expected to include:

- the Capital Markets Union proposals,
- the completion of Economic and Monetary Union (EMU),
- delivering on Energy Union measures and the Single Market, as well as
- external relations with a particular focus on the Eastern Partnership.

Inevitably, the migration crisis, revision of the Dublin system and the fight against terrorism will be high on the agenda too.

Energy Union and Climate Change

The Slovak Presidency is expected to follow the line prepared by the Commission with its package - presented on 16 February 2016 - of energy security measures. The package includes measures to equip the EU for global energy transition and to address possible energy supply interruptions, which does include measures to

- moderating energy demand,
- increasing energy production in Europe (including renewables),
- further developing a well-functioning and fully integrated internal energy market,
- diversification of energy sources, suppliers and routes.

In general, increasing energy security, promoting regional cooperation and solidarity between Member States will be high on the agenda of the Slovak Presidency.

Commission and Presidency work hand-in-hand

It is expected that the Slovak Presidency will open discussions on the revision of the

- *energy efficiency directive* (27/2012) and the
- *energy performance of buildings directive* (31/2010)

Both are expected to be presented by the Commission in the early autumn. This timeline was also confirmed by Miguel Arias Cañete, Commissioner responsible for Climate Action and

Energy, when replying to a Parliamentary Question. In his answer he further mentioned the revision of the Renewable Energy Directive.

Mr. Arias Cañete further confirmed that the Commission will come forward with a legislative proposal on the **Governance of the Energy Union** in 2016. This initiative is intended to streamline the current planning and reporting obligations in the energy and climate legislation. He indicated that this new initiative will also include obligations that are currently under the Energy Efficiency Directive.

Conference of the Parties (COP21)

The Agreement reached at the Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was signed by 177 of the 195 parties. EU Member States will now have to agree on their individual pledges to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase the share of renewable energies and improve energy efficiency.

Ratification of the Climate Agreement will be required by each Member State individually.

In the context of the Climate Agreement, the European Commission will present at the end of July *legislative proposals to implement the pledges made at EU level*, namely on

- burden-sharing between the Member States for non-ETS sectors (*transport, construction and agriculture*),
- the *decarbonisation of the transport sector*, and on
- land-use and forestry.

Circular Economy Package

Four legislative proposals on waste, including *Food Waste* as well as long-term targets to reduce landfilling and to increase preparation for reuse and recycling of key waste streams such as municipal waste and packaging waste are currently being considered and the vote in ENVI committee is expected in November 2016.

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Slovakia will hold the EU Council Presidency from 1 July 2016 until 31 December 2016. The Presidency of the EU Council rotates every six months. Currently the Netherlands are presiding Council meetings. Slovakia will be succeeded on 1 January 2017 by Malta.

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