



Forthcoming NL EU presidency | January – July 2016

EU Presidencies set the EU agenda

Opportunities for influencing

September 2015 / Public Matters at request of AmCham the Netherlands

PUBLIC
matters



NL EU presidency priorities

“Point of departure of the Dutch Presidency: a Union that focuses on the essentials, creates growth and jobs through innovation, seeks engagement in European societies, and connects with citizens.”

POLICY LETTER, 28 JANUARY 2015



Outline NL EU presidency priorities at Ministries

(Annexe policy letter 28/01/2015)

Council	Priorities
General Affairs Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep the rule of law in the Union op top of EU agenda Press for coherence between internal and external human rights policy Interim evaluation of Multi-annual Financial Framework planned for 2016 (on agenda informal Council + conference)
Foreign Affairs Council – Defence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security, justice and future sustainability Review of the European Neighborhood Policy Lobby for a stronger link between the internal and external dimensions of security
Foreign Affairs Council – Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TTIP Promote sustainable trade through trade agreements
Foreign Affairs Council – Development Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put international CSR and sustainable global value chains on EU agenda
Competitiveness Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focal points: stronger internal market and an effective European investment agenda More ambitious implementation of the Services Directive Strengthening Europe's digital internal market Effective implementation of European research and innovation programmes (Horizon 2020)
Economic and Financial Affairs Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving and widening access to finance in the real economy Present detailed proposals for a more transparent budgeting system and more predictable EU contributions
Justice and Home Affairs Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cybersecurity and efforts to tackle cybercrime Make progress in Smart Borders package
Agriculture and Fisheries Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote sustainable, climate-smart, resource-efficient, animal-friendly agriculture and fisheries
Environment Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on three main themes: climate, the circular economy and healthy people in a healthy environment

Outline NL EU presidency priorities at Ministries

(Annexe policy letter 28/01/2015)

Council	Priorities
Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Priority to promote the strategic agenda to develop the knowledge, skills and employability of the working population▪ Priorities will be a debate on infrastructures and platforms required for the digital heritage, including Europeana, and making progress in the debate on the review of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive▪ Presidency conference on audiovisual works
Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Pursue a properly functioning European transport market with a fair global and European playing field and clear European state aid frameworks▪ Promote the further development and use of Intelligent Transport Systems, self-driving cars and the use of sustainable fuels such as LNG and bio kerosene▪ Support a global approach in maritime affairs▪ Strengthen the internal telecommunications market▪ Achieve a properly functioning internal energy market, and the transition to a carbon-neutral energy supply, with a focus on security of supply and European competitiveness
Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Prioritise action to promote decent work▪ Seek further European measures in the fight against antimicrobial resistance▪ Develop European agenda for the further improvement of market access rules for medicines
Ministerial conference on urban development (Urban Agenda)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Focus on the European urban areas and its economic and social potential
EU-US ministerial meeting on Justice and Home Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ EU dossiers with a bearing on cooperation between the EU and US on Justice and Home Affairs issues will be discussed. These include data protection, PNR data, counterterrorism and jihadism

More to come.....

SEP

2015

Trio programme

'An ambitious, but compact' NL EU presidency trio programme (Netherlands, Slovakia, Malta) will be sent to Parliament (*expected*).

'Q4'

2015

State of the Union

The Minister of Foreign Affairs will send a response to the State of the European Union to Parliament, which will be fully focused on the NL EU presidency.

DEC

2015

EU Presidency calendar

A complete NL EU presidency calendar will be presented to Parliament, in which the Dutch Government will lay down its priorities on one hand, and efforts and positions on the ongoing EU agenda and negotiations on the other.

General background NL EU presidency

“The Dutch government wants a functional and sober presidency, focusing on growth and jobs.”

TWITTER, 4 SEPTEMBER 2015



EU Presidency

MAIN TASKS

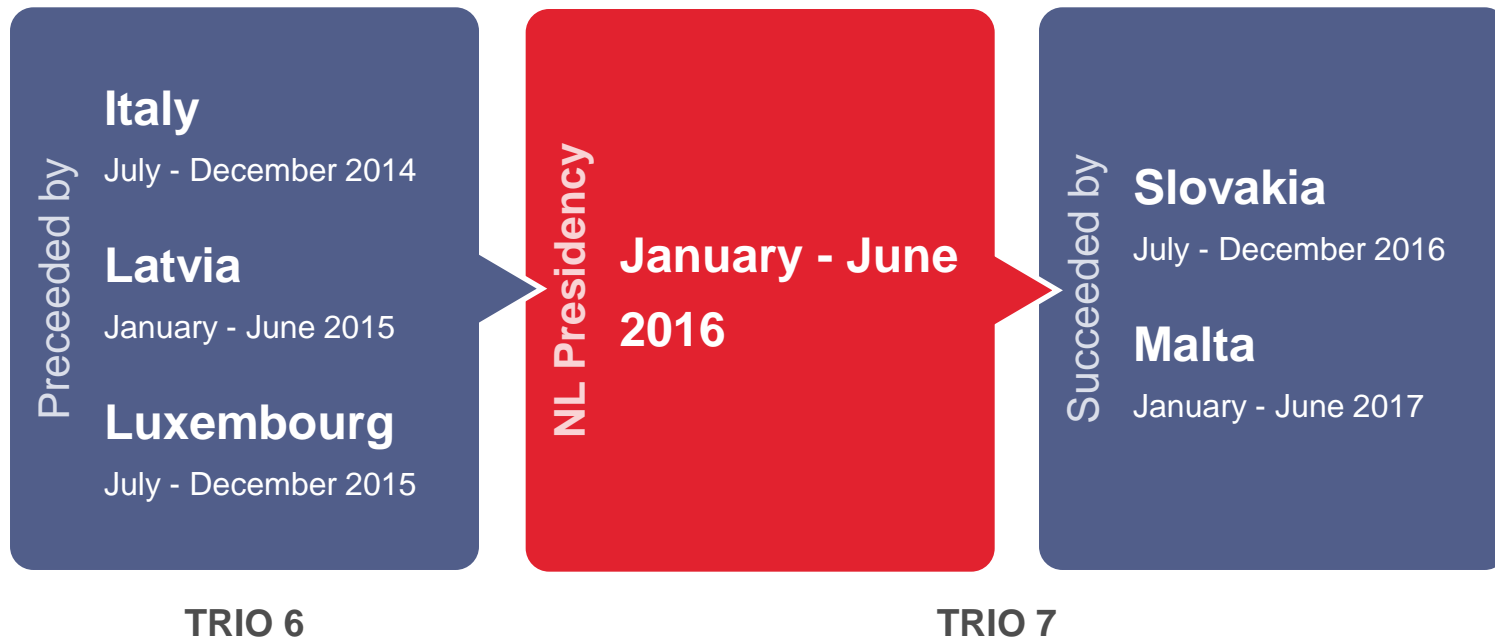
Planning and chairing meetings in the Council and its preparatory bodies

Setting EU Council agendas

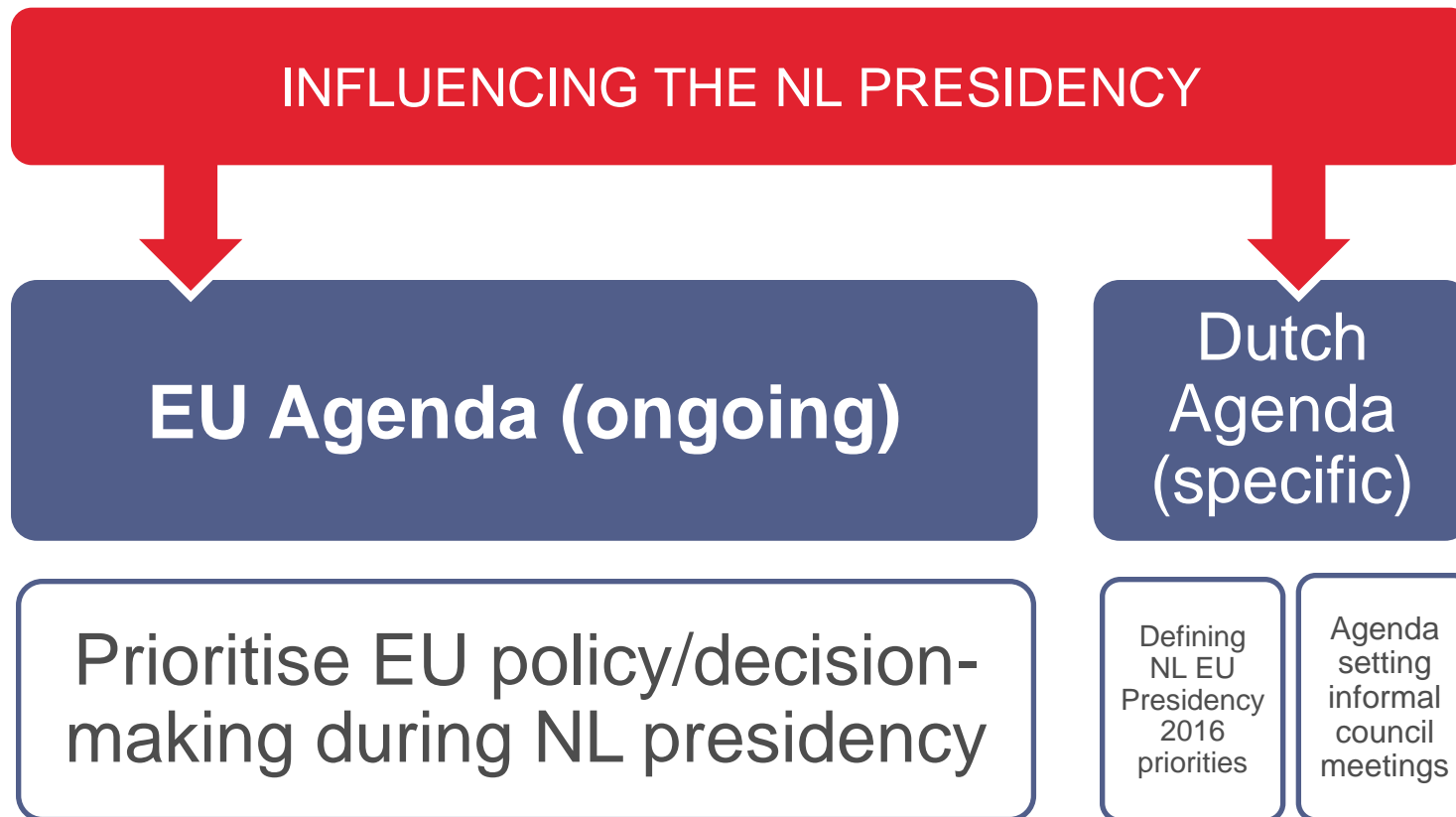
Representing the Council in relations with the other EU institutions

Aim for “EU decision-making milestones” to increase power/reputation

Timeframe NL EU Presidency 2016



Opportunities to influence



Ongoing EU Agenda: as it stands

“STRATEGIC AGENDA FOR THE UNION IN TIMES OF CHANGE”

(adopted during EU council meeting on 26-27 June 2014)

Stronger
economies
with more
jobs

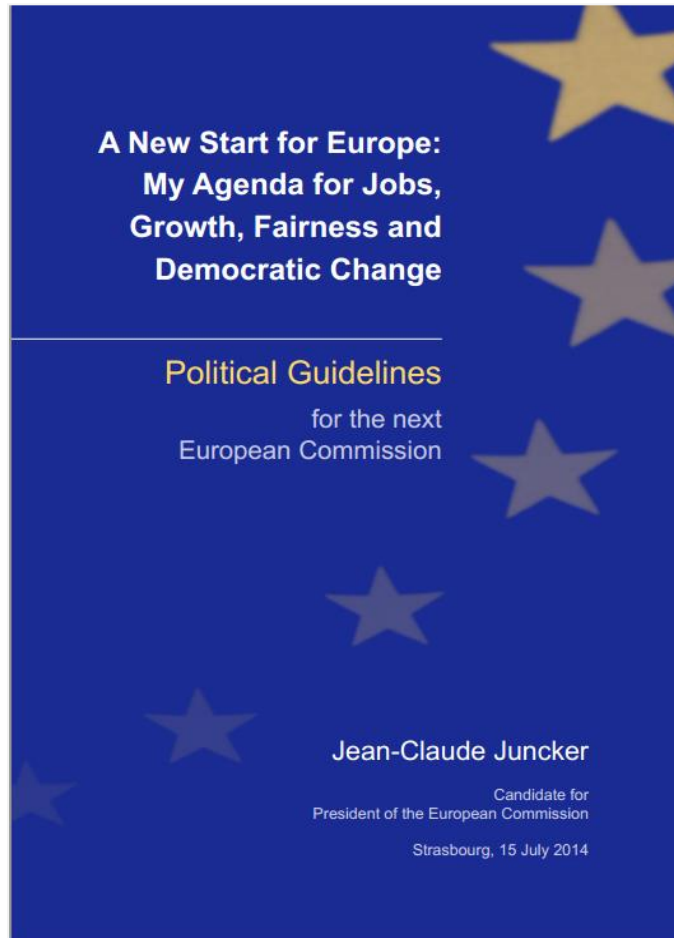
Societies
enabled to
empower
and protect

Secure
energy and
climate future

A trusted
area of
fundamental
freedoms

Effective joint
action in the
world

Ongoing EU Agenda: as it stands



1. A new boost for jobs, growth and investment
2. A connected Digital Single Market
3. A resilient energy union with a forward-looking climate change policy
4. A deeper and fairer internal market with a strengthened industrial base
5. A deeper and fairer economic and monetary Union
6. A reasonable and balanced free trade agreement with the US
7. An area of justice and fundamental rights based on mutual trust
8. A new policy on migration
9. A stronger global actor
10. A union of democratic change

Ongoing EU Agenda: as it stands

SEP

9

State of the Union by EC president Juncker

State of the Union address to the European Parliament on development of the EU and an outline of the 2016 policy priorities.

OCT

27

Presentation of EC Work Programme for 2016

The European Commission's agenda on new initiatives and decision making for the upcoming year.

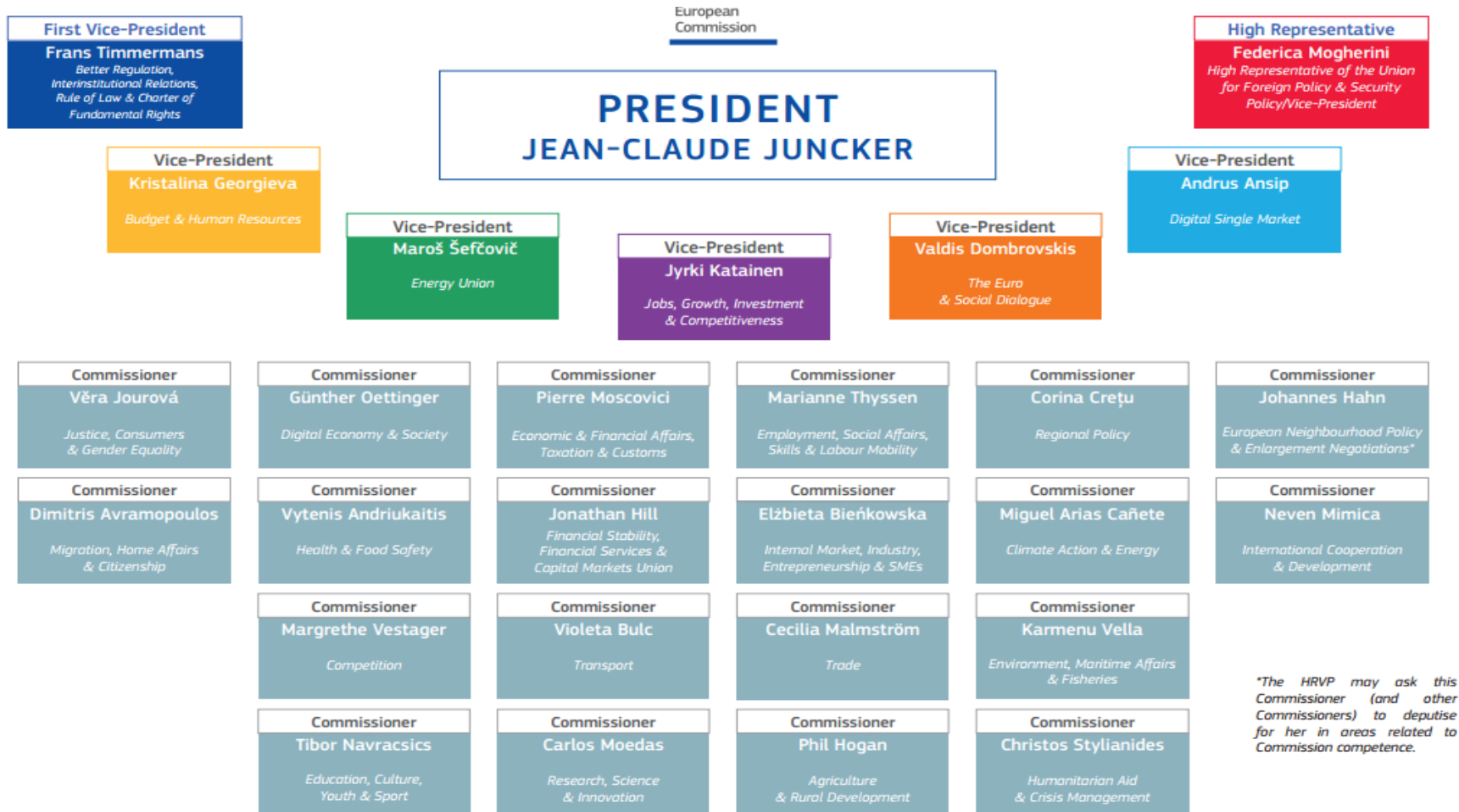
DEC

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COP 21 - Paris

International climate conference in Paris which is aimed at creating consensus to achieve a new international agreement on the climate, applicable to all countries, within the United Nations as well as within the European Union.

Ongoing EU Agenda: as it stands



Defining NL EU presidency priorities



Little room to manoeuvre

- Strategic agenda, CWP 2015 & 2016 and Tusk programme will lead the way for the NL EU presidency.
- In 2016: mid-term review of Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 is planned.
- The NL EU Presidency leads the Trio/troika programme coordination (leaving more room for initiative during the other two presidencies of Trio 7).

Defining NL EU presidency priorities



Frans Timmermans, NL Commissioner

- Dutch Policy letter on subsidiarity of European regulation (June 2013, as Minister of Foreign Affairs): 54 (future) EU initiatives that should be closely checked on subsidiarity and proportionality with national legislation.
- Main role as first vice-president of the EC is “to remove administrative burdens within the EU”.



No new initiatives on EU legislation are therefore expected during NL EU presidency.

Defining NL EU presidency priorities

External factors (unforeseen)



Agenda setting informal Council meetings & conferences

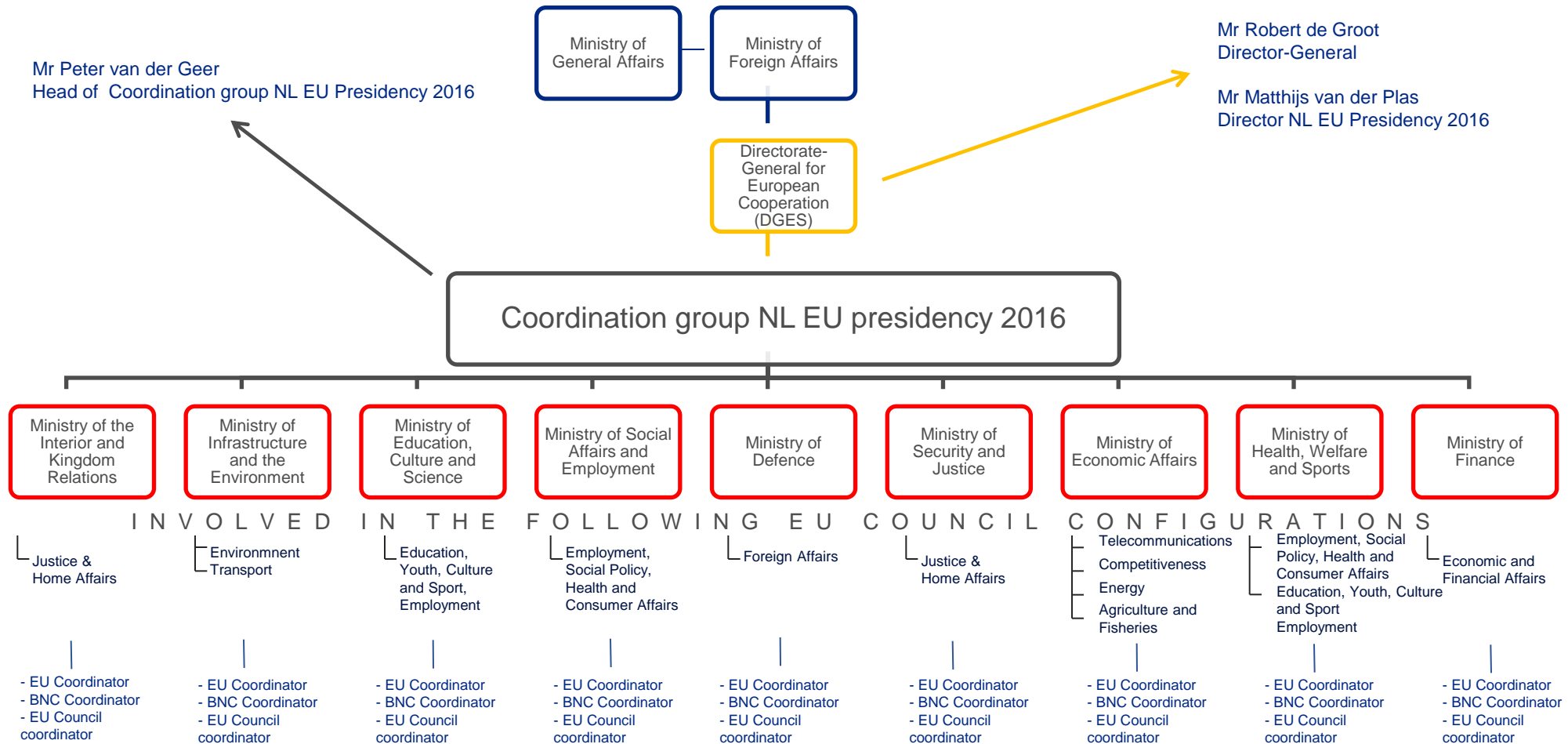
- Non-binding Council meetings, held at the Marine Etablissement Dockyard in Amsterdam.
- Aim: enable joint reflection and exchange of views as freely as possible.
- Ministries responsible for distinguished policy area's are in the lead.
- Between 10 and 13 informal Council meetings to be expected, timing to be determined.
- Next to informal council meetings some conferences will be organised with regard to the NL EU presidency.



EU Council meetings & conferences

EU Council configuration	NL Ministries involved	Informal Council meeting	Conferences
General Affairs	General Affairs	To be decided	
Foreign Affairs	Foreign Affairs	To be decided	
	Foreign Trade & Development		International CSR and sustainable global value chains: (December 7 , 2015)
Justice and Home Affairs	The Interior and Kingdom Relations, Security and Justice	January 25 -26	Cyber security: to be decided
Environment	Infrastructure and the Environment	To be decided	
TTE/ Transport, Telecommunications, Energy	Economic Affairs	Energy: april 11th Telecommunications: to be decided	
	Infrastructure and the Environment	Transport: to be decided	Short sea shipping
Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs	Social Affairs and Employment Health, Welfare and Sports	To be decided	Dysfunctional medical practitioners Dementia Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) Market access for medicines
Competitiveness	Economic Affairs	January 28 -29	
Agriculture and Fisheries	Economic Affairs	Agriculture: May 30	
Economic and Financial Affairs	Finance	To be decided	
Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council	Education, Culture and Science	To be decided	Audiovisual works

Ministerial project organisation NL EU presidency

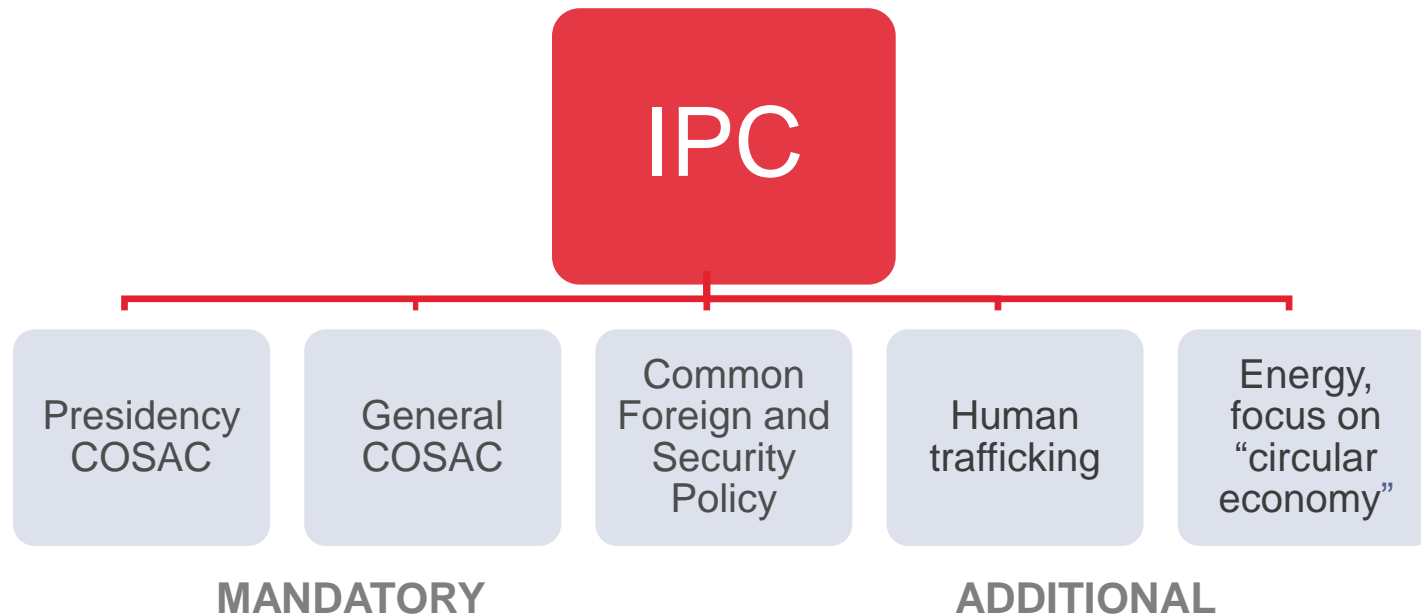


EU Presidencies set the EU Agenda

Dutch parliamentary involvement

- “Steering group parliamentary dimension EU presidency 2016”.
- Both senate and parliamentary representatives.
- Organisation of inter-parliamentary conferences (IPCs).
- Based on the Lisbon Treaty to strengthen the role of national parliaments in the EU decision-making process.
- Role:
 - Exchanging views on EU priorities among Member States;
 - Sharing “best practice” between Member States on EU legislation/implementation;
 - Coordination on EU decision making (yellow card procedures);
- Involved in coordination of other EP conferences (“Article 13 Conference”).

IPCs during NL Presidency



Mandatory IPCs

Presidency COSAC

- Conference of Community and European Affairs Committees of Parliaments of the European Union
- Discussion on strengthening the role of national parliaments
- Plenary Meeting with all COSAC Member State delegates

General COSAC

- Conference of Community and European Affairs Committees of Parliaments of the European Union
- Discussion on strengthening the role of national Parliaments
- Meeting only with chairmen of Member State delegations

Common Foreign and Security Policy

- Exchange views on EU foreign policy

Glossary of terms

- **Council of the EU:** one of the two decision-making institutions within the European Union (*along with the European Parliament*) where national ministers from each EU country meet to adopt laws and coordinate policies. Operating in ten different configurations/policy areas.
- **Presidency of the EU:** rotating system in which all EU Member States chair the Council of the EU. The rotation of the presidency takes place every six months according to a pre-set order.
- **Trio/troika:** group of three successive presidencies cooperating to ensure a more coherent approach to the Council's work over an 18-month period. The aim is to achieve continuity and consistency in the work of the Council of the EU, while enabling the three Member States to achieve better cooperation and exchange of expertise. (*Not to be confused with the Troika featuring the European Commission, the ECB and the IMF*).
- **European Union's Strategic Agenda:** priorities which will guide the work of the European Union over the next five years.
- **European Commission's Policy Guidelines:** main framework from EC President on policy direction of (new) European Commission.
- **European Commission Work Programme:** shows how the Commission will carry out the political priorities set out by the President. It provides a multiannual overview to help stakeholders and the other EU institutions plan their work with the Commission.
- **European Semester:** six-month period in which the Commission undertakes a detailed analysis of EU Member States' plans of budgetary, macroeconomic and structural reforms and provides them with recommendations for the next 12-18 months.

Get involved

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