



## Synopsis of the Main Results of the Cyprus Presidency 1 July - 31 December 2012

Throughout its Presidency, Cyprus has worked continuously towards safeguarding the European project, with all actions aiming towards restoring confidence in the European Union and preserving its ideals. In the midst of the ongoing crisis in the Euro area and the intensified dialogue on the Union's future, Europe, undoubtedly, had to enhance its role at international level and reinstate credibility, not only to the markets but also to its citizens.

The Presidency has been committed from day one to do its utmost in further deepening European integration and also to promoting growth-oriented measures in combination with fiscal consolidation and stability. Additionally, it has showed commitment, in strengthening social cohesion and ensuring better quality of life for European citizens. The driving force for the necessary reforms, was the underlying values and principles of the EU.

Working Towards a Better Europe more relevant to its citizens and to the world, the Presidency set four priorities: (i) Europe, more efficient and sustainable, (ii) Europe, with a better performing and growth-based economy, (iii) Europe, more relevant to its citizens, with solidarity and social cohesion, (iv) Europe in the world, closer to its neighbours. The Presidency drew guidance from the conclusions of the European Council and it ensured a constructive and smooth cooperation with the co-legislator, the European Parliament. As all Presidencies, it allowed for flexibility in adjusting its priorities according to current political and economic developments.

### *1. Europe, more efficient and sustainable*

The overarching aim, under this priority, was the focus on integrated and effective policies with a main emphasis on progressing work on the Multiannual Financial Framework and its related policies. The Presidency put momentous efforts in moving forward the negotiations on the MFF. It presented issues papers and two revised negotiating boxes introducing numbers in the negotiations and assuming warranted political choices, which resulted in bringing the file to a level of maturity that has laid the ground for the President of the European Council and the Heads of State or Government to come close to an agreement. The Cyprus Presidency also placed emphasis on actions promoting sustainable development and growth. Towards this end, the Presidency achieved the following results:

#### ***Promoting Efficiency, mainly through the Multiannual Financial Framework (2014-2020) and sectoral Policies***

- Presentation of two revised negotiating boxes for the **Multiannual Financial Framework** and introducing numbers in the negotiations
- Results relevant to the **MFF sectoral policies and programmes**:
  - Partial agreement in the Council on **Cohesion Policy** legislative package and preliminary agreement with the European Parliament on programming for Cohesion Policy (2014-2020)
  - Partial agreement in the Council on the **Horizon 2020**
  - Partial agreement in the Council on the **European Institute of Innovation and Technology**
  - Partial agreement in the Council on the **European Maritime and Fisheries Fund**
  - Partial agreement in the Council on the **Financial Instruments in the area of Home Affairs**

- Partial agreement in the Council on the **Creative Europe Programme**
- Partial agreement in the Council on the **Customs 2020 Programme**
- Partial agreement with the European Parliament on the **Consumer Programme**
- Partial agreement with the European Parliament on the **Health for Growth Programme**
- Agreement with the European Parliament on the **European Statistical Programme (2013-2017)**
- Progress report on the **Common Agricultural Policy** reform
- Progress report on the revision of the **Staff Regulations**
- Progress report on the negotiations with the European Parliament on the **External Financial Instruments**
- Adoption of the **Financial Regulation**
- Agreement with the European Parliament on the **amendment of SOLID Fund Regulations**, regarding the increase of co-financing rate for Member States facing serious financial difficulties

#### ***Annual Budgets***

- Agreement with the European Parliament on the **EU Budget for 2013**
- Agreement with the European Parliament on the **Amending Budgets No 5/2012 and No 6/2012**

#### ***Contributing to Sustainability***

- Agreement in the Council on **Fisheries Total Allowable Catches and Quotas (2013)**
- Agreement with the European Parliament on the **Energy Star Regulation**
- Agreement in the Council on the **Allocation of Slots at EU Airports**
- Agreement with the European Parliament on **Land use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF)**
- Agreement with the European Parliament on the **Mechanism for Monitoring and Reporting**
- Adoption of the **Limassol Declaration on the EU Integrated Maritime Policy**
- Council conclusions on the follow up to the **Rio+20 Conference**
- Council conclusions on the preparation for the **Climate Change Convention (COP18)**
- Council conclusions on the **Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Waters**
- Council conclusions on **Renewable Energy** sources

## ***2. Europe, with a better performing and growth-based economy***

Addressing the deepest crisis the Union has ever been confronted with, the Cyprus Presidency was committed to promote growth-oriented measures that would enhance investment, competitiveness and create job opportunities in harmony with fiscal consolidation and stability. The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Single Market Act has been marked by the agreement on a number of important legislative proposals, most importantly the EU patent. The European Council conclusions of June 2012 called for a genuine Economic and Monetary Union, including taking steps towards Banking Union. The Cyprus Presidency's achievement of an agreement in the Council on the Single Supervisory Mechanism was admittedly a significant step towards this end.

In verifying its commitment, the Presidency has achieved the following:

### *Enhancing economic governance and the financial services regulatory framework*

- Agreement in the Council on a **Single Supervisory Mechanism**
- Agreement with the European Parliament on **Credit Rating Agencies (CRAs III)**
- Completion of discussions with the European Parliament on most substantial issues of the **Two-Pack for economic governance**
- Substantial progress on the negotiations with the European Parliament on the **Capital requirements (CRR/CRD IV)**
- Agreements in the Council on the **Market Abuse Regulation & Directive**
- Agreement with the European Parliament on the **European System of National and Regional Accounts (ESA 2010)**
- Council conclusions on **Tax Fraud and Tax Evasion**
- Progress report on the **Markets in Financial Instruments (MiFIR/MiFID)**
- Facilitation of work for enhanced cooperation on the **Financial Transaction Tax**

### *Deepening of the Internal Market and other Growth enhancing actions*

#### *Single Market Act I measures:*

- Adoption of the **Unitary Patent package**
- Agreement with the European Parliament on **Venture Capital Funds**
- Agreement with the European Parliament on **Social Entrepreneurship Funds**
- Agreement with the European Parliament on **Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)**
- Agreement with the European Parliament on **Online Dispute Resolution (ODR)**
- Agreement with the European Parliament on **Guidelines for Trans-European Energy Infrastructure**
- Agreement in the Council on the **Public Procurement package**
- Progress report on **Posting of Workers Directive**
- Progress report on **Professional Qualifications**
- Report on the **Energy Taxation Directive**

#### *Other growth-enhancing measures:*

- Adoption of the Regulation on **Mini One Stop Shop** for cross border VAT compliance
- Agreement with the European Parliament on the **Approval and Market Surveillance of Two- or Three-wheel Vehicles and Quadricycles**
- Agreement with the European Parliament on the **Approval of Agricultural and Forestry Vehicles**
- Agreement with the European Parliament on **Customs Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights**
- Progress report on the **Trans-European Telecommunications Networks**
- Progress report on the **re-use of Public Sector Information (PSI)**
- Council conclusions on **Single Market Act II**
- Council conclusions on **actions to be taken in favour of a job-rich economic recovery and better chances for Europe's youth**
- Council conclusions on the **contribution of education and training to economic recovery and growth**

### *3. Europe, more relevant to its citizens, with solidarity and social cohesion*

The promotion of the underlying values and principles of the EU and the well-being of European citizens were key priorities for the Cyprus Presidency. In achieving this, the Presidency has put significant effort towards completing the Common European Asylum System and bringing Europe closer to its citizens, as well as enhancing social inclusion.

With the current year being celebrated as the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity, the Presidency put emphasis in promoting relevant actions. An important achievement of the Presidency was also, the settlement on the interinstitutional crisis that occurred in June 2012 between the European Parliament and the Council, in relation to the issue of the Schengen Governance.

#### *Towards completing the Common European Asylum System*

- Agreement with the European Parliament on the **Reception Conditions Directive**
- Agreement with the European Parliament on the **Dublin Regulation**
- Substantial progress on the negotiations with the European Parliament on the **Asylum Procedures Directive**
- Agreement in the Council on the **Eurodac Regulation**

#### *Promoting Justice and Home Affairs*

- Adoption of the **SIS II Regulations**
- Adoption of the recast of the **Brussels I Regulation**
- Agreement in the Council on the **Protection Measures in Civil Matters Regulation**
- Agreement in the Council on the **Freezing and Confiscation of Proceeds of crime in the EU Directive**
- Agreement in the Council on the **Seasonal Workers Directive**
- Agreement with the European Parliament on the **Regulation on the Marketing and use of explosives precursors**
- Agreement in the Council on the **EUROSUR Regulation**
- Agreement with the European Parliament on the Schengen Borders Code - technical amendments
- Adoption of the new **EU Drugs Strategy (2013-2020)**
- Council conclusions on the **EU Strategy on Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings**
- Council conclusions on the **protection of soft targets from terrorist activities**
- Progress report on the **Data Protection Package**

#### *Improving the quality of life of EU citizens*

- Adoption of the **European Year of Citizens 2013**
- Agreement with the European Parliament on **Food Intended for Vulnerable People**
- Agreement in the Council on **Recording Equipment in road transport (tachographs)**
- Agreement in the Council on the **Periodic Roadworthiness Tests**
- Agreement in the Council on the **Minimum Health and Safety Requirements regarding the Exposure of Workers to the Risks arising from Electromagnetic Fields**
- Agreement in the Council on the **“Breakfast Directives”**
- Agreement in the Council on the **Serious Cross Border Threats to Health**
- Agreement in the Council on **Flag State Responsibilities**
- Agreement in the Council on **Port State Control**
- Council Declaration on the **European year for active ageing and solidarity between generations (2012)**
- Council conclusions on **Combating Violence against Women and the Provision of Support Services to Victims of Domestic Violence**
- Council conclusions on **Preventing and Tackling Child Poverty and Social Exclusion and Promoting Children’s Well-Being**
- Council conclusions on the **Participation and Social Inclusion of Young People with**

#### **emphasis on those with Migrant Background**

- Council resolution on the overview of the **Structured Dialogue with Young People on Youth Participation in Democratic Life in Europe**
- Council conclusions on **Organ Donation and Transplantation**
- Council conclusions on **Literacy**
- Council conclusions on **Cultural Governance**
- Council conclusions on **Strengthening the Evidence Base for Sport Policy-Making**

#### **4. Europe in the world, closer to its neighbours**

In the framework of this priority, the Presidency granted its full support to the efforts of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the European External Action Service, especially in supporting the democratic transformation of its southern partners. The objective of the Cyprus Presidency was to facilitate work towards stability, development and humanitarian assistance security and Union's trade policy with international key partners, as well as other issues of common concern, such as migration, mobility and security. In this framework, the Cyprus Presidency supported the following relevant actions.

##### ***Enhancing external trade***

- Agreement in the Council on the **opening negotiations for an EU - Japan Free Trade Agreement**
- Agreement in the Council to **launch negotiations for a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area with Morocco**
- Agreement with the European Parliament on the **Regulations Implementing the bilateral safeguard clause of the trade agreement with Colombia-Peru and the association agreement with Central America**
- Council decisions for the conclusion of the **trade agreement with Colombia and Peru, the association agreement with Central America, the agreement for the exports of wood from the Russian Federation and the agreement on conformity assessment and acceptance of Industrial Products with Israel**
- Agreement in the Council on the **Economic Partnership Agreements Market Access**
- Agreement in the Council on **Omnibus I**
- Conclusion of the negotiations for an **EU - Singapore Free Trade Agreement**
- Council conclusions on **EU relations with the Principality of Andorra, the Principality of Monaco and the Republic of San Marino (Microstates)**
- Council conclusions on **EU Relations with EFTA Countries**

##### ***Enlarging horizons and strengthening external relations***

- Opening of **9 negotiation chapters with Iceland**, while provisionally closing one
- Opening and provisionally closing the first chapter in the **accession negotiations with Montenegro**
- Council conclusions on **Enlargement and Stabilisation and Association Process**
- Agreement in the Council on the **Commission Recommendation to the Council to authorize the Commission to open negotiations for a framework agreement with Kosovo\*** concerning its participation in Union Programmes.
- Agreements in the Council on the signature of the **Agreements between the EU and Cape Verde, Ukraine & Armenia on facilitating the issue of short-stay visas**

\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

- **Agreement in the Council for the launching of the assessment of the benchmarks set out under the second phase of the Action Plan on Visa Liberalisation with the Republic of Moldova**
- **Agreement in the Council on the establishment of a Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM) with India**
- **Launch of a dialogue on migration, mobility and security between the EU and Jordan**
- **Adoption of the position to be taken by the EU on provisions for the coordination of social security systems provided for by the association agreements or similar agreements between the EU and Albania, Montenegro, San Marino and Turkey**
- **Council conclusions on Social Protection in EU Development Cooperation**