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Report Name: Priorities of the German Presidency

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Report Highlights:

On July 1, 2020, Germany took over the Council of the EU rotating presidency. This report provides an overview of the Presidency's priorities for the next six months. Priorities include overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change mitigation, digital sovereignty, global engagement and negotiating two key EU economic strategies: the six-year EU budget- the multiannual financial framework and the EU's COVID-19 recovery. For the EU food and agricultural sector, the German Presidency will focus on advancing the EU's Green Deal food and agriculture and biodiversity strategies and negotiating the next five-year EU food and agriculture budget- the Common Agriculture Policy.

General Information:

On July 1, 2020, Germany took over the rotating Council of the EU Presidency for the next six months. Until the end of the year, Germany will be responsible for scheduling and chairing all ministerial meetings at the EU level, with the exception of the Foreign Affairs Council.

Germany is the first country of the Trio Presidency Program comprised of Germany, Portugal and Slovenia. The Trio Presidency Program is [a common program](#) developed by three consecutive Council presidencies to ensure continuity in their actions over the 18 months of rotating leadership.

The German Presidency comes at a critical time for the EU with the COVID-19 crisis response, the negotiations on the EU's next Multiannual Financial Framework- i.e. the EU budget, the recent launch of [Green Deal Strategies](#) by the European Commission, and advanced Brexit negotiations. Presenting the objectives of the German presidency, Chancellor Angela Merkel [said](#): “In order to boost the economic and social recuperation of all EU member states, we will work during Germany’s Council Presidency on a joint recovery plan and financial framework for the years ahead. Together, we want to emerge strengthened from this crisis. That means focusing firmly on the future. Climate change mitigation, digital sovereignty and Europe’s responsibility in the world are therefore key focuses of our Presidency.”

As a result, Germany laid down six priorities for the Council’s work over the next six months:

- Overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic permanently, as well as the economic recovery
- A stronger and more innovative Europe
- A fair Europe
- A sustainable Europe
- A Europe of security and common values
- A strong Europe in the world

The Presidency’s Program

The German Presidency has identified specific priorities for the agricultural sector and is expecting to:

- Adopt a Council General Approach¹ on the Common Agricultural Policy post-2020 by mid-October

¹ The Council may sometimes adopt a political agreement pending first reading position of the Parliament, also known as a 'general approach'. A general approach agreed in the Council can help to speed up the legislative procedure and even facilitate an agreement between the two institutions, as it gives the Parliament an indication of the Council's position prior to their first reading vote.

- Adopt Council Conclusions² on the Commission’s Green Deal “Farm to Fork” Strategy
- Adopt Council Conclusions on animal welfare labeling
- Adopt Council Conclusions on food losses and waste
- Adopt Council Conclusions on the Organic Action Plan of the European Commission
- Adopt Council Conclusions on Food Front of Pack Labeling
- Adopt Conclusions on the EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy

Julia Klöckner, Germany’s Federal Minister for Food and Agriculture, has also indicated that the Presidency will focus on the importance of digitalization in agriculture and the development of rural areas.

Agenda

The tentative calendar of meetings under the German Presidency (July – December 2020) can be downloaded from the Council’s website at <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/44765/de-psy-2020-council-calendar-v200630-1.pdf>

² The Council adopts Council Conclusions after a debate during a Council meeting. They can contain a political position on a specific topic. More information: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/council-eu/conclusions-resolutions/>

Attachments:

No Attachments.