

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Priorities of the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU

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Report Highlights:

On January 1, 2021, Portugal 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 reaching a political agreement on the reform of Common Agriculture Policy, the greening of EU agriculture, strengthening rural areas and the importance of innovation in agriculture.

General Information:

On January 1, 2021, Portugal took over the rotating Council of the EU Presidency for the following six months. During that time, Portugal is responsible for scheduling and chairing all ministerial meetings at the EU level, with the exception of the Foreign Affairs Council. Portugal is the second 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.

On December 4, 2020, the Prime Minister of Portugal, António Costa, presented the [priorities of the Portuguese Presidency](#). He stated that the implementation of the budgetary and financial instruments created by the EU to achieve economic recovery is an absolute priority for Portugal. He also underlined the importance of guaranteeing European leadership in the twin climate and digital transitions.

Portugal laid down five priorities for the Council's work over the next six months:

- Resilient Europe
- Social Europe
- Green Europe
- Digital Europe
- Global Europe

Under the “Green Europe” priority, the Portuguese Presidency aims to promote the European Green Deal and implement the European Climate Law and laws on the decarbonization of the EU. The Presidency also wants to better coordinate the European Union's Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 with the new European Union Forest Strategy.

The Presidency's Program

As part of its [Presidency's Program](#), Portugal has identified specific priorities for the agricultural sector and will:

1. Common Agricultural Policy (CAP): The Portuguese presidency will focus on the negotiations for the reform of the common agricultural policy and strive to reach a political agreement.

2. Rural Development: Combat depopulation and facilitate rural areas economic development through a sustainable agricultural that allows for generational renewal, while also reducing the likelihood of natural disasters resulting from climate change and of forest fires is another of Portugal's Presidency Priorities.

3. Food Safety and Security: The Portuguese Presidency also plans to pay special attention to food security and safety, to the sustainability of the supply chain, and strengthen the plant protection measures that are substitutes or complements to chemical control.

4. Agricultural innovation: The Presidency will prioritize innovation, knowledge transfer and digitalization of the agri-food sector.

Agenda

The indicative calendar of meetings under the Portuguese Presidency (January – June 2021) can be downloaded from the Council's website at: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/47643/pt-presidency-2021.pdf>

Tentative calendar of Agriculture and Fisheries (AGRIFISH) Council meetings:

- January 25, 2021
- February 22, 2021
- March 22-23, 2021
- April 26-27, 2021
- May 31, 2021
- June 14-15, 2021 (informal meeting held in Portugal)
- June 28-29, 2021

Attachments:

No Attachments.