

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: June 29, 2021

Report Number: SI2021-0002

Report Name: Slovenian Agricultural Priorities for EU Presidency

Country: Slovenia

Post: Vienna

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the Economy, National Plan, Policy and Program Announcements, Agriculture in the News, Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the Economy, National Plan, Policy and Program Announcements, Agriculture in the News

Prepared By: Roswitha Krautgartner

Approved By: Kimberly Sawatzki

Report Highlights:

On July 1, 2021, Slovenia will assume the six-month rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union, also known as the “EU presidency.” In this capacity, the Slovenian government will play an important role in shaping many EU processes and policies. This report provides details on Slovenia’s priorities for agriculture and food during this time. A major focus of the Slovenian Presidency will be further steps of the CAP reform, plus strengthening resilience in the food supply chain, and crisis preparedness.

On July 1, 2021, Slovenia will assume the six-month rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union, also known as the “EU presidency.” In this capacity, the Slovenian government will play an important role in shaping many EU processes and policies. During several recent meetings, press releases, and interviews, Slovenian Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food (MAFF), [Jože Podgoršek](#) announced his priorities in the agriculture and food sector for the coming six months of the Slovenian Presidency:

Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Reform

Minister Podgoršek pointed out that one of the key issues during his EU Council Chair will be the CAP reform. Currently it is unclear whether the Portuguese Presidency can finish the negotiations by the end of June. In any case, Slovenia will be prepared to either take over the final negotiations of the reform or to focus on preparing the CAP strategic plans when the reform is finished in the first half of this year. However, the aim is to finalize the formal adoption of the legislative package for the CAP reform and focus on the preparation of National Strategic Plans under the Slovenian mandate (discussion on this issue is penciled in for the October Farm Council).

Resilience in the Food Chain and Crisis Preparedness

Podgoršek will also highly prioritize the communication on the “Contingency Plan to ensure Food Supply and Food Security.” He said that the “recent emergency situation due to COVID-19 has reminded us about the strategic importance of food supply in the EU.” This will be discussed at the Farm Council in mid-November.

Sustainable Food Production

Podgoršek plans to address sustainable food production in a broader sense. This also includes the long-term vision for rural areas, measures for restoring biodiversity, ensuring access to safe and quality food, and addressing the issue of global hunger. He stated that the Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas, which is due to be unveiled by the EU Commission on June 30, is “an important horizontal theme for Slovenia, which goes beyond agriculture.”

The Slovenian Presidency will focus on three aspects of this blueprint:

- Enhancing the dialogue between urban and rural areas (this is up for discussion at the Informal Council gathering in Brdo pri Kranju in early September)
- Digitalization and modernization of rural areas
- The role of women in rural areas

Green Deal, Farm to Fork Strategy, Organic Farming Action Plan

Slovenia intends to continue planned activities deriving from the European Green Deal and particularly the Farm to Fork Strategy. In addition, Podgoršek plans to adopt Council Conclusions on the Organic Farming Action Plan.

Food Safety

Regarding food safety, Slovenia will dedicate utmost attention and care to ensuring consumer safety in nutrition, and increase attention in ensuring the traceability, indication of origin, and effective inspection and control. In the veterinary and phytosanitary sector, Slovenia will work hard on strengthening the

cooperation in combatting the spread over borders of certain cross-border animal diseases, and of emerging diseases, and in combatting the spread of dangerous or new plant pests.

UN World Food Systems Summit

In cooperation with Germany and Portugal – as part of the trio presidency – Slovenia will actively participate in the preparations of the [UN World Summit on Food Systems](#) in the fall, and in the pre-summit in late July.

Forestry Sector

The EU Forest Strategy will be at the forefront in the forestry sector. During its Presidency, Slovenia wants to conduct a substantive discussion and adopt Council conclusions. It is important that the new strategy recognizes sustainable, multifunctional and close-to-nature forest management as the main management principle, as well as the role of forests and forestry in rural preservation and development.

Fishery Sector

Slovenia will stress the importance of preserving sustainable fisheries, building a stronger focus on small-scale inshore fishing, and the preservation of fishing tradition in coastal areas. In addition, the Slovenian presidency will focus on conducting political negotiations between the member states on fishing opportunities for the coming year, as well as with the United Kingdom.

Further information on the Slovenian EU Presidency can be found at their official website:

<https://slovenian-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/>

Background

The colloquial term “EU presidency” technically means the presidency of the Council of the EU. The EU Council is one of three important EU institutions that are involved in the legislative process, the other two being the Commission and the EU Parliament. The presidency rotates every six months between the Member States, on January 1 and July 1. Its main tasks are 1) planning and chairing meetings in the Council and its preparatory bodies, and 2) representing the Council in relations with the other EU institutions. The country that holds the presidency is expected to act as moderator/broker of interests and remain neutral on the topics themselves. When it comes to voting, it also has to vote with the majority of member states even if it goes against their own position. Slovenia last held the EU presidency in 2008.

In 2009, the Lisbon Treaty introduced the so-called “trio-presidency,” where three consecutive presidencies work together on common goals over an 18-months-period. The current trio presidency consists of Germany, Portugal, and Slovenia.

List of Previous, Current, and Upcoming EU (Trio) Presidencies

Romania	January-June	2019
Finland	July-December	2019
Croatia	January-June	2020
Germany	July-December	2020
Portugal	January-June	2021
Slovenia	July-December	2021
France	January-June	2022
Czech Republic	July-December	2022
Sweden	January-June	2023
Spain	July-December	2023
Belgium	January-June	2024
Hungary	July-December	2024

Attachments:

No Attachments.