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Bulgarian Presidency of the Council
of the European Union

Bulgarian Presidency

Progress and achievements

1 January - 30 June 2018





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Bulgarian Presidency of the Council
of the European Union

Dear Colleagues and friends,

The First Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU ended on 30 June 2018. 181 days have passed filled with long hours of hard work, negotiations, debates, reports, analyses, meetings, events, talks, pictures, videos, designs, interviews, travel, excitement, and moments of happiness, difficulties, satisfaction....

We live in a very dynamic environment, with geo-political challenges and realities, risks and threats for the unity and security in Europe, as well as new opportunities for progress and development. As Presidency, we faced some difficult times and yet we achieved a lot. We worked with a sense of confidence and responsibility. Europe and the world have gotten to know us and now look at us with understanding, appreciation and satisfaction. We are convinced that everyone is left with a little piece of Bulgaria in their heart! In these 6 months, Bulgaria became the heart of the continent and we made the best of this opportunity, writing the newest chapter in Bulgarian history. We are proud that we could put important topics on the European agenda, and succeeded in giving new impetus to the European perspective of the Western Balkans. The Bulgarian Presidency carried the message that it was a Citizens' Presidency. And every Bulgarian who was part of that cause spared no effort and worked in the name of the common goal. Together with all our European colleagues, we worked tirelessly for a more secure, stronger and more united Europe!

We worked intensively on many legislative acts with a view to making people's lives easier. We set the foundations for the new EU budget beyond 2020. Based on the consensus and the shared effort of the Member States, we achieved progress in the social area, in the Banking and Monetary Union, in the Energy Union; in protecting the environment and in strengthening security, stability and efficient justice in Europe. We proposed innovative solutions for the development of the digital economy. We worked hard to promote economic growth, competitiveness, and a better future of Europe and the young people. The assessment we leave to the future. But, with our head held high, we can say that the Bulgarian Presidency has fulfilled its mission. We now pass the baton to Austria to continue the mission of an honest and neutral broker as the rotating Presidency of the Council of the EU.

It was an honour and privilege for each and every one of us to work together for this historic cause.

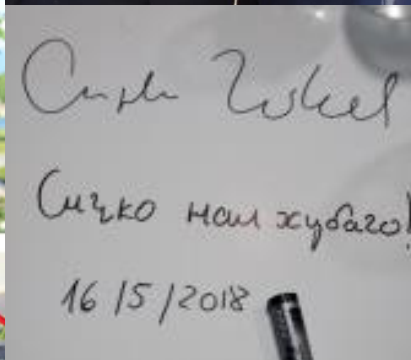
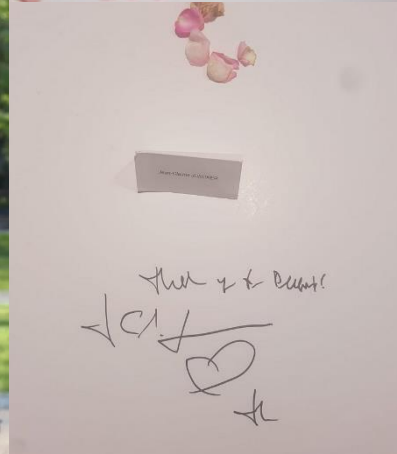
Because we believe that "United We Stand Strong"! Thank you!



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Liliyana'.

Liliyana Pavlova, Ph.D.

Minister for the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU 2018



Съединението прави силата

United We Stand Strong

the motto of the Bulgarian Presidency



Key achievements (1)

- The Presidency worked in a **dynamic, result-oriented, pragmatic and consensual** way.
- We achieved important results in all  priority areas:
 - ✓ **Future of Europe and youth:** debate on MFF launched successfully and all youth-related legislative files have been agreed and closed. All legislation related to the European elections in 2019 has also been agreed and finalised.
 - ✓ **Western Balkans:** EC-WB Summit on 17 may 2018
The Sofia declaration and Sofia priority agenda confirmed the European perspective of the Western Balkans. All partners agreed to invest in connectivity and identified concrete objectives for the benefit of the citizens in the EU and the region.

Key achievements (2)

- ✓ **Stability and security:** border and migration management has been strengthened through better information exchange, ETIAS system for third country nationals, upgraded EU-Lisa agency, upgraded Schengen Information system (SIS). The first-ever EU industrial programme for military capability has been agreed.
- ✓ **Digital Europe and skills for the future:** on 1 January 2018 the Presidency ‘inherited’ 13 legislative files related to Digital Europe. 9 of those files have been closed or a general approach in the Council has been reached. In the social field, the Presidency has focused on key files for EU citizens and found compromises in the Council on Social Security Coordination, work-life balance and transparency of working conditions.



EUROPE AND THE WORLD



CHALLENGES

Geopolitical Situation

USA

*new course under
President Trump*



Migratory pressure
*68.5 million
displaced persons in
the world*

Climate

*drastic changes
have severe
economic impact*



Terrorism
*continued threat to
EU and its citizens*

Brexit

*Political and
economic impact*

Middle East
Continued instability

Turkey and Russia
*how to defend EU
interests and build
strategic relationships*

Political Situation in Europe

Questions and challenges

- ✓ Brexit
- ✓ Populism and political shake-ups in traditional policy
- ✓ Globalisation
- ✓ The future of Europe
- ✓ Security and anti-terrorism

Positive framework to find solutions

- ✓ Financial stability
- ✓ Stabilisation and control of migratory flows
- ✓ Active legislative initiative and commitment of all EU institutions to respond to the real needs of the citizens
- ✓ Political will to take forward the Future of Europe
- ✓ Unity and assertiveness at the level of EU Leaders

Trio Presidency

01 July 2017 - 31 December 2018

Common priorities of the Estonia-Bulgaria-Austria Trio:

- A UNION FOR JOBS, GROWTH AND COMPETITIVENESS
- A UNION THAT EMPOWERS AND PROTECTS ALL ITS CITIZENS
- TOWARDS AN ENERGY UNION WITH A FORWARD-LOOKING CLIMATE POLICY
- A UNION OF FREEDOM, SECURITY AND JUSTICE
- THE UNION AS A STRONG GLOBAL ACTOR



Estonia

1 July 2017 - 31 December 2017



Bulgaria

1 January 2018 - 30 June 2018



Austria

1 July 2018 - 31 December 2018

Strong and United Europe

Sofia, 17 May 2018,
EU-Western Balkans
Welcome of President
Macron, PM Teresa
May and Chancellor
Merkel by PM Borissov



Varna, 26 March 2018
EU-Turkey

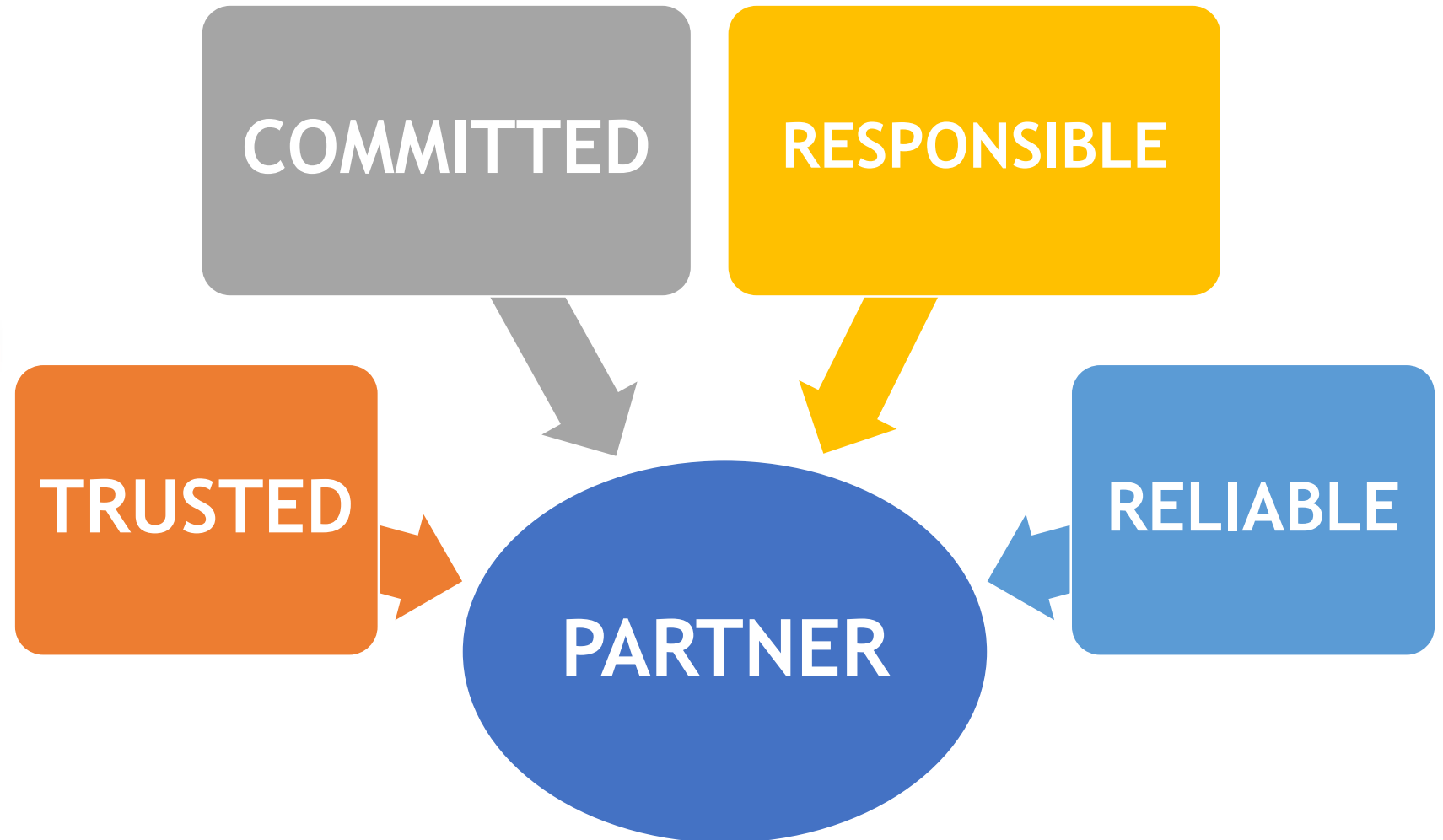


Sofia, 17 May 2018
EU-Western Balkans
Family Photo



Bulgarian Presidency

Over the past 6 months Bulgaria has proven to be a:



***“...this is a Bulgarian Presidency
and when it is successful, it is a
success for all of Bulgaria.***

***...the only salvation for Europe is
for us all to be united.”***

*From the joint press conference with European
Council President Donald Tusk and Commission
President Jean-Claude Juncker at the EU-
Western Balkans Summit
Sofia, May 17, 2018*



**Mr. Boyko Borissov
Prime Minister of
the Republic of Bulgaria**



We worked for:

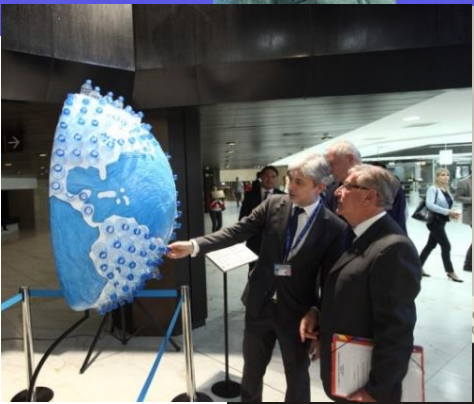
United

Secure

Digital



Europe



Meetings (1)

In Bulgaria:

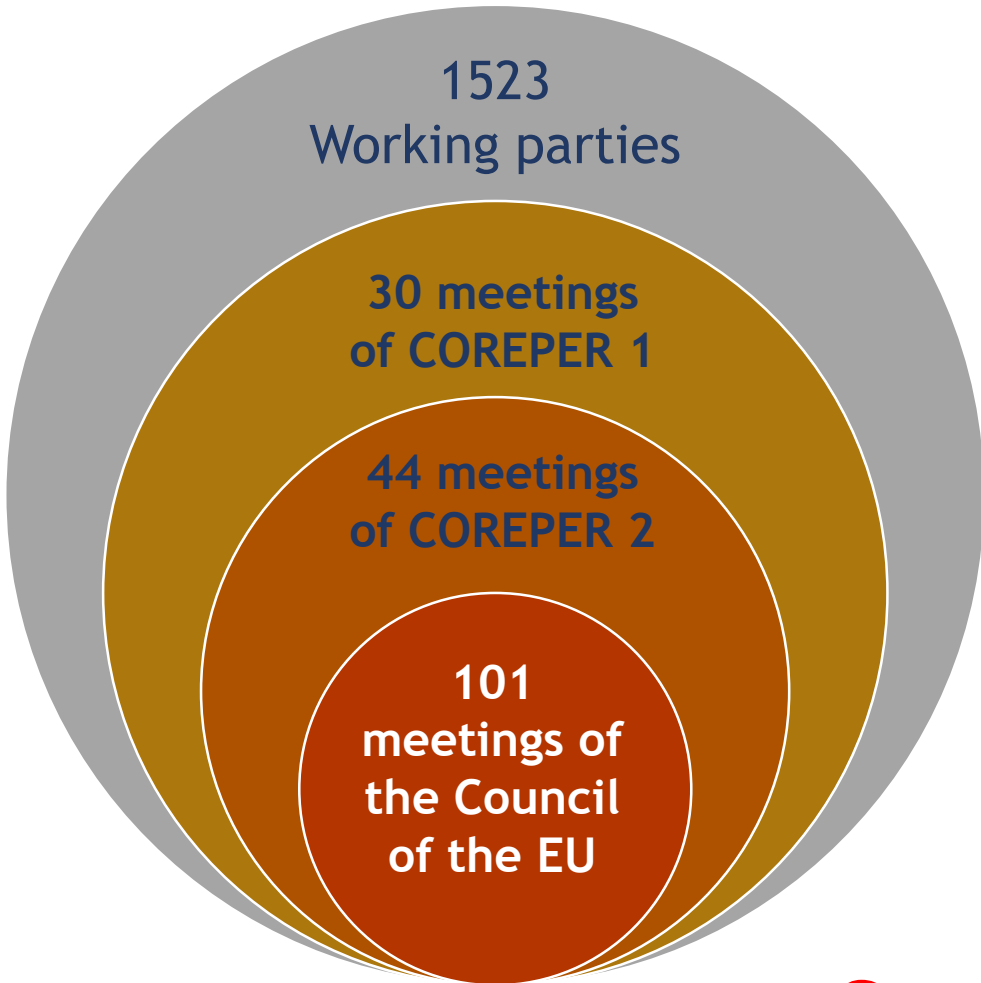
- ✓ 284 events
- ✓ 12 informal Councils
- ✓ 5 events in the Parliamentary Dimension format
- ✓ More than 36,000 delegates
- ✓ More than 4,700 journalists
- ✓ 150 volunteers support the events



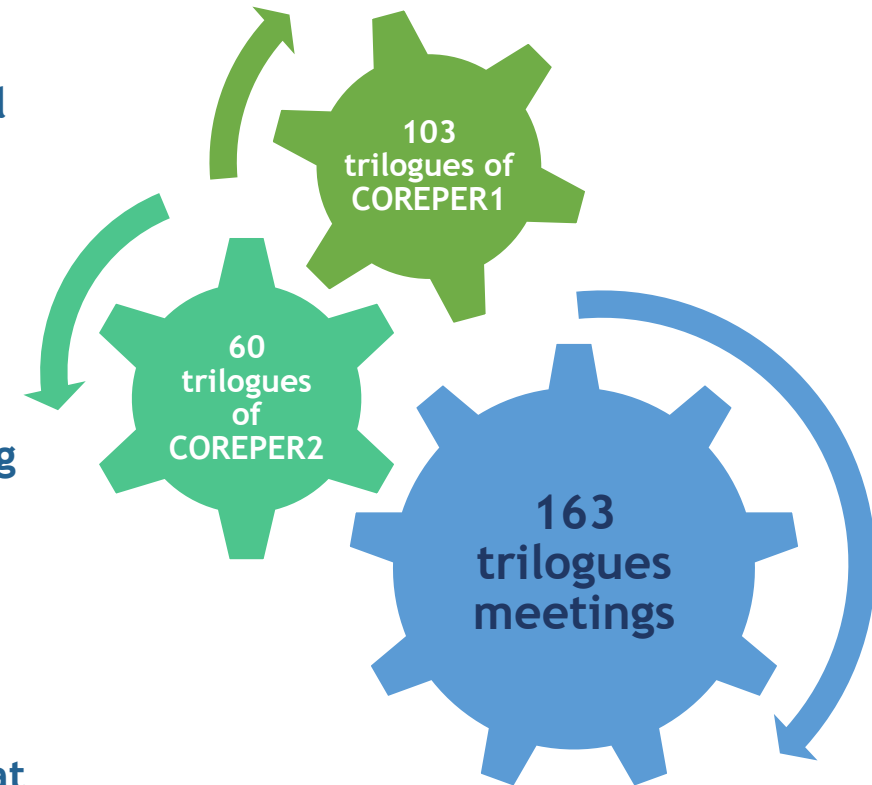


The team of the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Bulgaria to the EU in Brussels

Meetings (2)



- In Brussels and Luxembourg:
- ✓ 101 meetings of the Council of the EU
 - ✓ 44 meetings of COREPER 2 (incl. Art. 50)
 - ✓ 30 meetings COREPER 1
 - ✓ 163 trialogues held including in Strasbourg
 - ✓ 1,523 meetings of working parties
 - ✓ 1 event in Brussels in the Parliamentary dimension format



Over 94,000 participants



The team of the Ministry for the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2018

Who are we?

213

at the Permanent
representation of
the Republic of
Bulgaria in
Brussels

240

Chairpersons and Deputy
Chairpersons of Working
Parties

183

Training
sessions of
chairpersons,
experts



Over 2000 persons
responsible for
logistics, security,
organisation

THE EXPERTS BEHIND THE SUCCESS

1550

employees of
35 Bulgarian
institutions
involved

1,670

Trainees
(chairpersons,
experts)

70

Employees of the
Ministry for the
Bulgarian
Presidency of the
Council of the EU



Parliamentary dimension

**Meeting of the chairpersons of the committees on European Affairs of the EU parliaments
(COSAC)**

21-22 January 2018, Sofia

- Bulgaria received broad support for the priorities set by the Bulgarian Presidency
- Debate on the Future of Europe
- Debate on the role of the macro-regional strategies of the EU for sustainable development, stability and security

**Interparliamentary conference on the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP)
and the Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP)**

15-17 February 2018, Sofia

- Declaration setting out the opportunities for the EU to address the challenges before us and confirming the need for a strategic focus on the Western Balkans
- European Perspective for the Western Balkans, the acceleration of the reforms in the region and the strategic energy and transport connectivity of the Western Balkans were a major focus of the discussions as well as
 - the implementation of the Global Strategy on CSDP,
 - the situation in the Black Sea region,
 - the Danube Strategy and
 - relations between the EU and China.
- Delegations welcomed the establishment of a permanent structured cooperation on security and defense.

Parliamentary dimension

Interparliamentary conference for stability, economic coordination and governance in the EU
19-20 February 2018, Brussels

- Possibilities to deepen the cooperation between the national parliaments and the European Parliament in the implementation of the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union (the ‘fiscal compact’)
- The future of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) post 2020 and expanding the funding opportunities for EU spending policies
- The future of EU tax policy, taxation and the digital economy
- Managing the balance between risk-sharing and risk prevention in relation to the Banking Union
- Digitalisation and the future of work
- Inequalities and Member States

Meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on EUROPOL
18-19 March 2018, Sofia

- Adoption of the Rules of Procedure of the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group
- Discussion on Europol's multiannual planning for the period 2019-2021
- Combatting illegal online content and optimising cybersecurity
- Europol's contribution to the fight against terrorism and the prevention of organised crime

Parliamentary dimension

Meeting of the Chairpersons of the Energy committees of the EU parliaments
13-14 May 2018, Sofia

- Energy infrastructure and security of supply
- The mechanisms for the transition to renewable energy

Plenary Meeting of the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (LIX Plenary COSAC)
17-19 June 2018, Sofia

Conclusions adopted:

- welcomes the European perspective for the Western Balkans with a strong focus on the region's connectivity and improved links with the EU single market as a strategic key priority of the Bulgarian Presidency;
- underlines the importance of all regions benefiting from cohesion policy, with the least developed regions being its main objective;
- a call for improvement with regard to lengthy and complex administrative procedures, the lack of flexibility in project management and the co-financing procedure;
- special attention should be paid to the development of transport infrastructure and the extension of the European Transport Network
- supports a strong and secure European Pillar of Social Rights, which aims to promote and extend existing social standards and principles.

The results in numbers



The results in numbers (before & after)

105 open legislative files
on 1 January 2018

37 general approaches
reached till the date of
30 June 2018

41 political agreements
with the EP till the date
of 30 June 2018

30 new
Commission
proposals
since 1
January 2018

78
files



Results



EU BUDGET FOR THE FUTURE

#EUBudget



TO BETTER DETER AND PROSECUTE CROSS-BORDER ONLINE PAYMENT FRAUD

Reform of the electoral law of the European Union



PROTECTING HEALTH, SAVING LIVES EU cooperation against vaccine-preventable diseases

Worldwide vaccines prevent every year

- 2.7 million MEASLES
- 2 million NEONATAL TETANUS
- 1 million PERTUSSIS



VACCINATION IN THE EU

Influenza vaccination coverage rates among people aged 65+

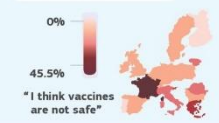
UK	71%
NL	67%
EU	34%
BG	2%
EE	2%

INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON THE RISE

More than 14 000 measles & 696 rubella cases in 2017

RO	5 608 measles
IT	5 098 measles
DE	929 measles
GR	957 measles

DISTRUST IN VACCINES



EU ACTION

- Ensure ACCESS to vaccines for all
- Control all vaccines to ensure HIGHEST SAFETY STANDARDS
- Share CLEAR, INDEPENDENT and TRANSPARENT information
- More RESEARCH to develop new vaccines

European Commission: ec.europa.eu/health/vaccination/overview_en
 European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control: [#EU_Health](http://ecdc.europa.eu/@EU_Health) #EUVaccines

12 million farmers in the EU



Responsible for 48% of the EU's land (almost half of Europe)

500 million consumers in the EU



Providing 44 million jobs in the food chain



The European Union Youth Orchestra



Completed files in Council or with EP

General Affairs Council

File	Result	Summary/aim
<i>Reform of the EU Electoral Law (the "Electoral Act")</i>	Agreed by the Council of the EU	Contains a package of improvements aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the system for conducting European elections as well as the functioning of the European Parliament.
<i>Statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations</i>	Agreed and entered into force on the 4 th May 2018	Improvements of the Regulation with a view to strengthening the European dimension of European political parties and increasing transparency while guaranteeing the proper use of European funds.
<i>European citizens' initiative</i>	Council position agreed, mandate for negotiations with EP.	Improvements on the ECI tool for bringing citizens closer to the EU.
<i>Transparency Register</i>	Council position agreed, mandate for negotiations with EP, trilogues started.	The Transparency Register concerns the sensitive issue of the contacts between EU institutions and lobbyists.
<i>Date of the EP elections</i>	Decision adopted by Council, entered into force on the 25 th May 2018	The Council unanimously adopted its decision setting 23 to 26 May 2019 as the dates for the next European Parliament elections, after consulting the European Parliament
<i>Compositions of the EP</i>	Agreed by the Heads of State and Government	Reduction of the size of the EP from 751 to 705 for the next legislature (2019-2024), with no loss of seats for any Member State

Completed files in Council or with EP

General Affairs Council

File	Result	Summary/aim
<i>Accession negotiations with Montenegro and Serbia</i>	Opening of negotiations chapters	Fisheries (Chapter 13) Serbia Financial and budgetary provisions (Chapter 33) Serbia Economic and monetary policy (Chapter 17)
<i>Council Conclusions on Enlargement and Stabilisation and Association Partnerships</i>	<i>Adopted</i>	Follow-up to the Enlargement package of the Commission from April 2018.
<i>Location of the seat of the European Medicines Agency</i>	Council position agreed, mandate for negotiations with EP, trilogues started.	Relocation of the seat of the European Banking Authority due to the UK leaving the EU.
<i>Location of the seat of the European Banking Authority</i>	Council position agreed, mandate for negotiations with EP, trilogues started.	Relocation of the seat of the European Medicines Agency due to the UK leaving the EU.
<i>Criteria for the use of delegated and implementing acts (Delineation criteria)</i>	Approval of additional Council position on the last 4 elements of the EP resolution.	Aims to define common criteria on the use of delegated and implementing acts to facilitate the work of the co-legislators.
<i>PRAC Alignment</i> - <i>General</i> - <i>JHA</i>	Council position agreed -partial general approach.	Both regulations aim for a horizontal alignment of all the existing legislative acts to the provisions set out in the Treaty of Lisbon on delegated and implemented acts.

Completed files in Council or with EP

General Affairs Council

File	Result	Summary/aim
<i>Paragraph 40 of the IIA on Better Law-Making - Practical arrangements for cooperation and information-sharing on international agreements</i>	Council position agreed, mandate for negotiations with EP, trilogues started.	Aims at agreeing improved practical arrangements between the Council, Parliament, Commission, and EEAS for cooperation and information-sharing on international agreements.
<i>Council Conclusions on EU external cyber capacity building guidelines</i>	Adopted	Providing guidance for a coherent, holistic and strategic approach to external cyber capacity building that is based on EU values and helps prioritise EU efforts in assisting partner countries and organisations
<i>Council Conclusions on EU coordinated response to large-scale cybersecurity incidents and crises</i>	Adopted	Recognising the roles of the different players, the major components of the response mechanism, and recommends further steps for an effective response.

Completed files in Council or with EP

Economic and Financial Affairs Council

File	Result	Summary/aim
<i>Banking Package (Risk Reduction Measures) - CRD, CRR, BRRD, SRM</i>	Position of the Council agreed - general approach.	The RRM package aims to further reduce the risks in the banking sector in order to complete the Banking union. CRD - Capital Requirements Directive CRR - Capital Requirements Regulation BRRD - Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive SRM - Single Resolution Mechanism Regulation
<i>Pan-European Personal Pension Product (PEPP)</i>	Council position agreed, mandate for negotiations with EP.	Aims to create a single market for personal pensions by establishing a new, additional and voluntary pension regime in all EU Member States as well as to contribute to the completion of the Capital Markets Union.
<i>Facilitating cross-border distribution of collective investment funds</i>	Council position agreed, mandate for negotiations with EP.	Aims to enhance the cross border activity of the collective investment schemes and alternative investment funds.
<i>Facilitating cross-border distribution of collective investment funds</i>	Council position agreed, mandate for negotiations with EP.	Aims to enhance the cross border activity of the collective investment schemes and alternative investment funds.

Completed files in Council or with EP

Economic and Financial Affairs Council

File	Result	Summary/aim
<i>Cross-Border Payment</i>	Council position agreed, mandate for negotiations with EP	The regulation aims at lowering the fees for cross border payments in Euro aligning them with the fees for domestic transactions in national currencies. It also introduces transparency rules for charges related to currency conversion services.
<i>Insurance Distribution Directive (IDD) (quick-fix)</i>	Political agreement	The delay of the date of application will enable the insurance industry to better prepare the changes necessary to comply with the implementing rules.
<i>Facility for refugees in Turkey (FRIT) - prolongation</i>	Provisional agreement reached between Member States with pending reserve of one Member State only	Financing of the second tranche of EUR 3 billion for the Facility for refugees in Turkey. Provisional agreement: EUR 2 billion to be provided by the Union budget and EUR 1 billion by Member States` contributions due from 2019 onwards.
<i>2016 Discharge recommendations</i>	Adopted by the Council and presented to the Committee on Budgetary Control of the EP on 26 February 2018	The Council recommended that the European Parliament grants discharge to the Commission for the implementation of the EU budget for 2016.

Completed files in Council or with EP

Economic and Financial Affairs Council

File	Result	Summary/aim
<i>2019 Budgetary guidelines</i>	Adopted by the Council and presented before the EP during the spring budgetary trilogue in March 2018.	The guidelines call for prudent budgeting, with adequate resources to support priorities whilst leaving sufficient margins to deal with unforeseen circumstances. The focus should be on programmes and actions with EU added value.
<i>Mandatory automatic exchange of information in the field of taxation in relation to reportable cross-border arrangements (DAC 6)</i>	Adopted 25 May 2018.	Aims to strengthen tax transparency and fight against aggressive tax planning by including an obligation for intermediaries (e.g. tax advisors, lawyers etc.) to disclose potentially aggressive tax planning schemes with a cross-border element. National tax authorities will automatically exchange this information with the authorities of other Member States.
<i>Measures to strengthen administrative cooperation in the field of value added tax</i>	Political agreement	Part of the 'fair taxation package for the creation of a single EU value added tax area'. It aims at tackling cross-border VAT fraud and drastically and swiftly improving how tax administrations cooperate together and with other law enforcement bodies
<i>Common system of VAT as regards the obligation to respect a minimum standard rate</i>	Adopted.	The Directive amends Article 97 of the VAT Directive, by making permanent the current minimum standard VAT rate of 15 % in the EU

Completed files in Council or with EP

Economic and Financial Affairs Council

File	Result	Summary/aim
<i>Increasing the financial envelope of the Structural Reform Support Programme and adapt its general objective</i>	Council position agreed - general approach	An amendment to the SRSP Regulation which contains two main elements: a) Reinforcing the budget of the SRSP by an increase of EUR 80 million for the period 2019-2020 b) Creating a dedicated work-stream for supporting the implementation of reforms to help Member States in their preparation to join the euro area.
<i>Macro-financial assistance to Georgia</i>	Adopted	Decision to provide further MFA to Georgia of up to EUR 45 million (up to EUR 35 million in the form of loans and up to EUR 10 million in grants).
<i>Macro-financial assistance to Ukraine</i>	Political agreement with EP	The decision concerns the macro-financial assistance programme for Ukraine worth up to EUR 1 billion to support economic stabilisation and structural reforms in the country.
<i>Omnibus Revision of several sectoral rules</i>	Political agreement with EP	The aim is to simplify the use of EU funds for beneficiaries and increase flexibility in the budget.
<i>European Semester</i> - <i>Country specific recommendations</i> - <i>Recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area</i>	Adopted	European semester is the annual cycle for coordination of the macroeconomic and the fiscal policies in the EU

Completed files in Council or with EP

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

File	Result	Summary/aim
<i>Regulation on spirit drinks</i>	Council position agreed, mandate for negotiations with EP and trilogues started.	Revision of the regulation which defines categories of spirit drinks - such as whisky/whiskey, fruit spirit, liqueur, pastis and vodka. It also regulates the protection of geographical indications (GIs) of spirit drinks.
<i>Presidency Conclusions on the Communication from the Commission on the CAP post-2020</i>	Adopted	The Presidency Conclusions contain a vision about the main elements of the future CAP that is shared by the majority of the Member States. They are intended as guidance to the Commission in the preparation of the CAP legislative proposal.
<i>SPRFMO transposition measures</i>	Adopted	Relevant measures adopted by the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) will be incorporated into EU legislation .
<i>Veterinary medicinal products (VMP)</i> <i>(part of the “Veterinary medicines package”).</i>	Political Agreement with the EP	The new system of rules will improve the availability of these medicines, enhance competitiveness and innovation in the veterinary pharmaceutical sector and contribute to the fight against antimicrobial resistance (AMR) - the ability of bacteria to render the antibiotics used to treat infections ineffective.

Completed files in Council or with EP

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

File	Result	Summary/aim
<i>Medicated Feed</i> (part of the “Veterinary medicines package”)	Political Agreement with the EP	Medicated feed is one important route for administering veterinary medicinal products to animals, in particular to animals intended for food production. The proposal aims to harmonise the production standards and marketing of medicated feed in the EU, and to reflect technical and scientific progress in this area including medicated feed for pets.
<i>Newcastle disease</i>	Adopted	Aims to amend and align the procedure for designation of EU Reference Laboratory for Newcastle disease which affects poultry, racing pigeons and other birds kept in captivity.
<i>EU seed equivalence for Brazil and the Republic of Moldova</i>	Council position agreed	The proposal aims to establish new rules for the EU seed equivalence for Brazil and the Republic of Moldova.

Completed files in Council or with EP

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO)

File	Result	Summary/aim
<p>EMA Regulation (part of the “Veterinary medicines package”).</p>	<p>Political agreement with the EP</p>	<p>The amended regulation takes into account the changes introduced with the Regulation on veterinary medicinal products, as well as the introduction of the ordinary legislative procedure for the future system of fees for the European Medicines Agency (EMA).</p>
<p>Council Conclusions on Healthy Nutrition for Children: the Healthy future of Europe</p>	<p>Adopted</p>	<p>The Conclusions prioritize health of children and young people as the best investment in the future of a strong and competitive Europe. By putting health at the heart of all policies, they emphasise the need to address the worrisome trend of chronic diseases at the core: by increasing availability and affordability of healthy food, balanced nutrition, physical activity and a diet supporting a young generation in good health. The Conclusions flag priority areas of actions such as tackling marketing to children and encouraging the contribution of related EU policies, e.g. the Common Agricultural Policy, to health.</p>

Completed files in Council or with EP

Environment Council

File	Result	Summary/aim
<i>Monitoring and reporting of CO2 from HDV</i>	Adopted	The regulation establishes a mandatory monitoring and reporting system for all EU countries for heavy duty vehicles (HDV), similar to the scheme already in place for cars and vans. These obligations will only apply to new vehicles registered in the EU.
<i>Council conclusions on delivering the EU action plan for the circular economy</i>	Adopted	The aim of the action plan is to stimulate Europe's transition towards a circular economy. It introduces measures to cut resource use, reduce waste and boost recycling.

Completed files in Council or with EP

Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council

File	Result	Summary/aim
<i>Council Recommendation on key competences for lifelong learning</i>	Adopted	Aims to create an updated European Reference Framework of Key Competences and also outlines good practices supporting the development of competence-oriented approaches in education and training, including non-formal learning and in a lifelong perspective.
<i>Council Recommendation on promoting social inclusion and common, inclusive education, and the European dimension of teaching</i>	Adopted	In line with the Social pillar, the recommendation has 4 goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote common values at all levels of education;• Foster more inclusive education;• Encourage a European dimension of teaching, without prejudice to the national prerogatives in this realm;• Support teachers and teaching.
<i>Council conclusions on moving towards a vision of a European Education Area</i>	Adopted	The conclusions place special emphasis is placed on: Erasmus +, digital skills and education, higher education, high quality and inclusive education, involvement of new stakeholders including disadvantaged groups, language learning and the recognition of qualifications

Completed files in Council or with EP

Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council

File	Result	Summary/aim
<i>EU Youth Orchestra</i>	Adopted	The Youth Orchestra was founded in 1976. It brings together talented young musicians from all 28 member states, working to the very highest musical standards. The regulation will provide for continuing financing of the European Union Youth Orchestra until 2020 from the Creative Europe programme.
<i>Council Conclusions on the need to bring cultural heritage to the fore across policies in the EU</i>	Adopted	In light of the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage, Member states and the Commission are invited to bring cultural heritage to the fore in relevant EU policies.
<i>European Solidarity Corps</i>	Political agreement with the EP	The aim of the proposal is to strengthen cohesion, solidarity and democracy in Europe by offering young people the possibility to volunteer or work in beneficial projects across Europe. A wide range of solidarity activities will be proposed, including volunteering, traineeships, jobs and youth-led solidarity projects.

Completed files in Council or with EP

Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council

File	Result	Summary/aim
<i>Council Conclusions on the role of young people in building secure, cohesive and peaceful society</i>	Adopted	The conclusions aim to raise young people's awareness of their role in combating radicalisation, violent extremism, populism and marginalisation. The aim is also to create an enabling environment for future cooperation and the exchange of good practices on the role of young people in promoting peace, security and cohesive societies.
<i>Council Conclusions on the role of youth in building resilience and ensuring the demographic dividend based on effective partnership and equity across Europe</i>	Adopted	The EU is currently in demographic transition from high birth and death rates to lower birth and death rates, as the region moves towards a post-industrialised economic system. Against this background, the objective of the conclusions is to raise awareness of the demographic changes in Europe and their wide-ranging impact on societies in general, and young people in particular. The conclusions also highlight the role of mobility and the importance of equipping young people with relevant skills to face these challenges.
<i>Council Conclusions on promoting European values through sport</i>	Adopted	The conclusions underline the role of sport and volunteering as a tool for combating phenomena such as xenophobia, racism and intolerance.



□ Sofia, 17 May 2018, EC-Western Balkans Summit

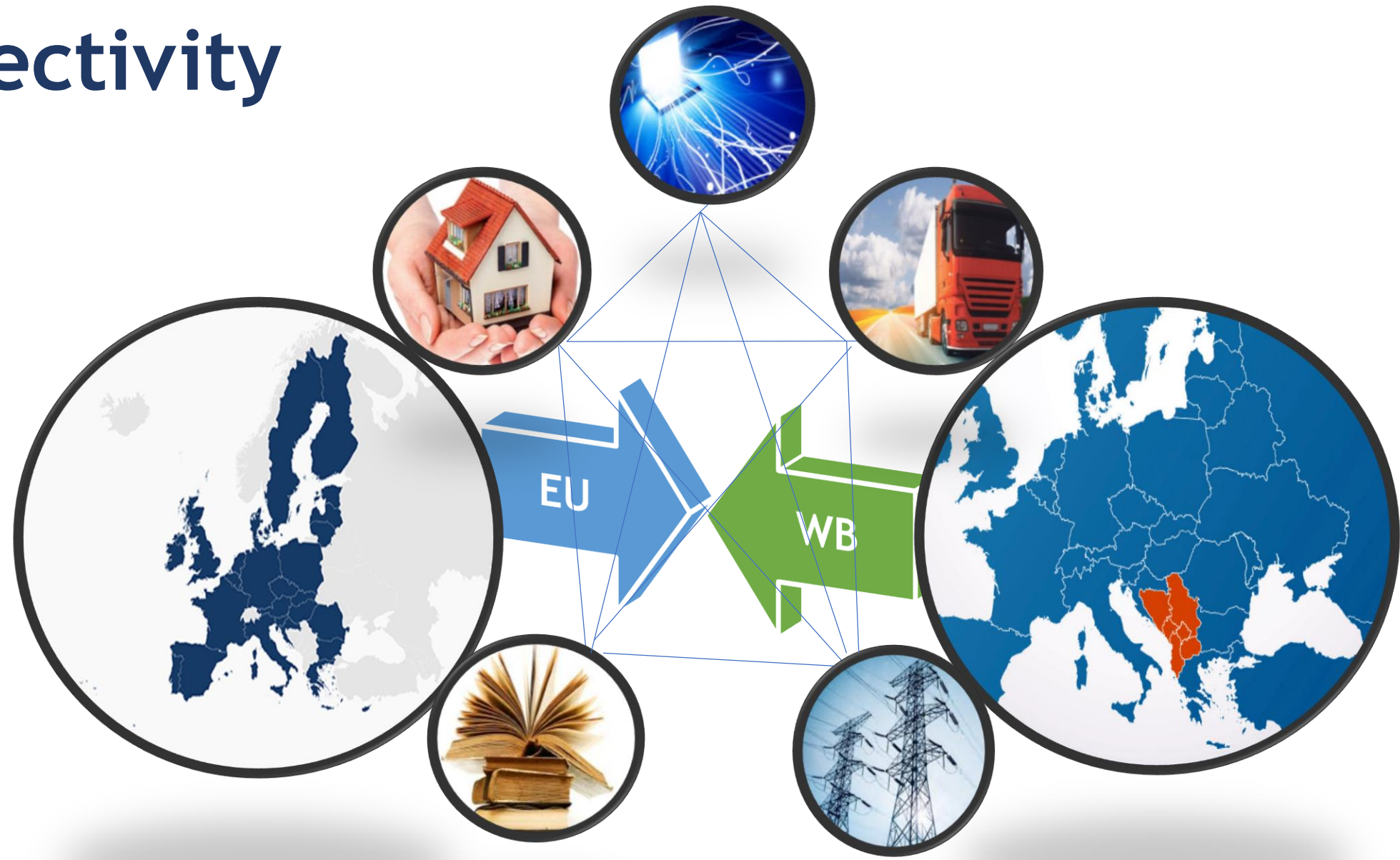
✓ Summit of the 28 EU Members States with the 6 Leaders of the Western Balkans and four key financial institutions and donors for the region

✓ *“Western Balkans’ European Perspective and Connectivity”*
- transport, digital, energy, educational, cultural, security in the region

Priority 2: European perspective and connectivity of the Western Balkans

- ✓ The European union is determined to strengthen its support to the region's political, economic, and social transformation, to develop regional economic cooperation
- ✓ These are huge steps for all of us because it will have a direct benefit for Europe, citizens, businesses, to live better and more calmly
- ✓ The Western Balkans are part of Europe and must be integrated economically and politically. **There is no other way!**
- ✓ This is the path to stability, sustainable peace, economic growth on the continent

Connectivity



Priority 2: European perspective and connectivity of the Western Balkans

- ✓ **Sofia Declaration:** confirmed that the European perspective of the region
- ✓ **Sofia Priority Agenda:** identified specific areas for joint cooperation and investment
 - Strengthening support to the rule of law and good governance
 - Reinforcing engagement on security and migration
 - Supporting socio-economic development and putting a special focus on youth
 - Increasing connectivity: transport, energy, digital
 - A Digital Agenda for the Western Balkans
 - Supporting reconciliation and good neighborly relations in the Western Balkans

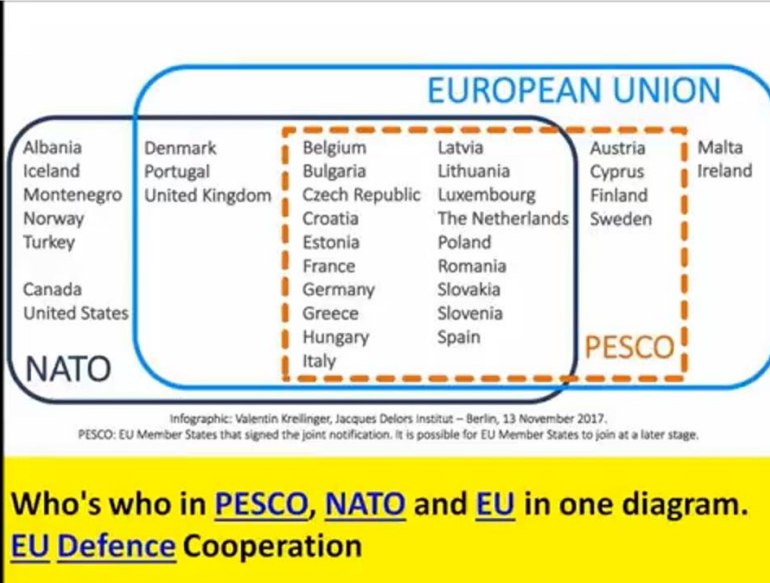
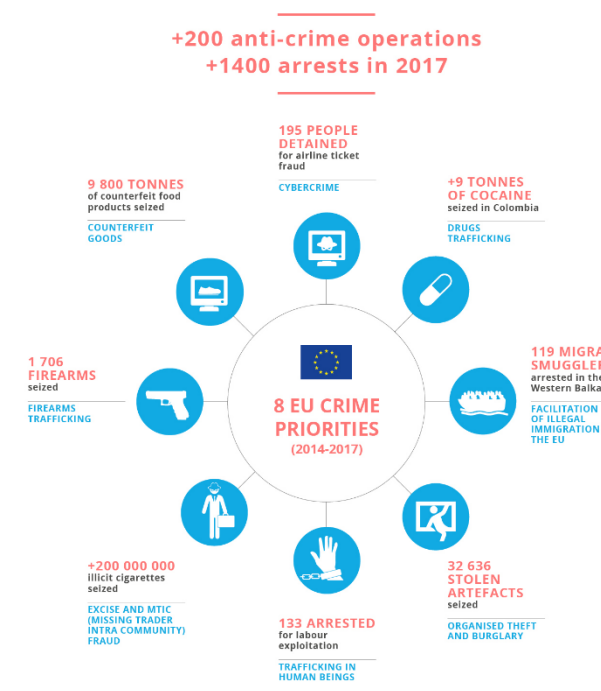
Priority 2: European perspective and connectivity of the Western Balkans

- ✓ Statement of support for the start of a digital program for the Western Balkans - signed in Sofia on 17 May 2018:
 - Western Balkans Leaders agreed to improve the investment climate and to develop digital projects
- ✓ Additional funds foreseen for 11 priority transport projects (road, rail, water):
 - Construction of new sections of the “Peace Highway” (Nis-Pristina-Durres) and the “Blue Highway” (Adriatic Coast)
- ✓ Increased support for youth and education through the Erasmus+ programme:
 - Launch of a pilot project for mobility in professional education and training “Youth Lab for the Western Balkans”
- ✓ Launch of a dialogue between the EU and the Leaders of the region on the common challenges in the area of security:
 - The dialogue will continue at the Summit in London on 10 July 2018 in the framework of the Berlin Process
- ✓ Confirmation of the commitment to the Energy connectivity :
 - In the framework of the EU-Western Balkans Summit in Sofia on 17 May, Bulgaria and Serbia signed a joint declaration on the construction of a gas interconnector

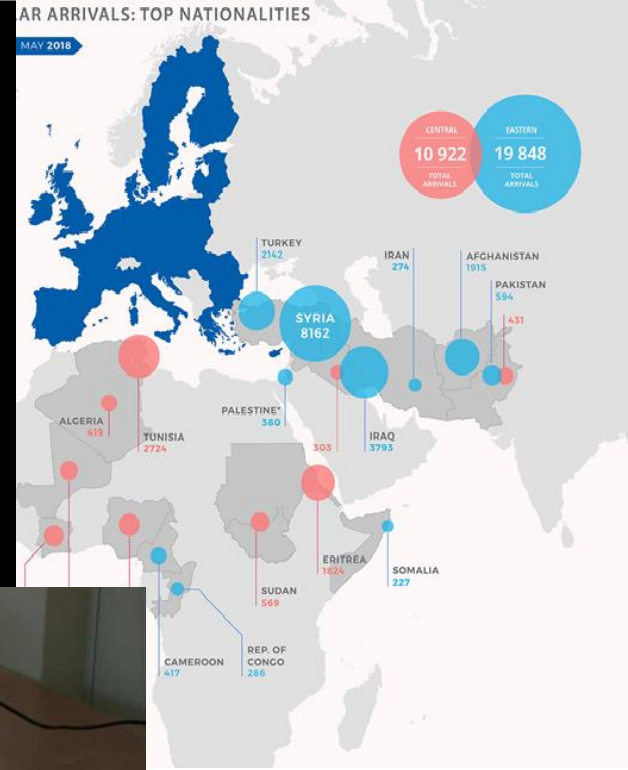


The European Public Prosecutor's Office will help ensure

EU fight against organised crime: highlights of 2017

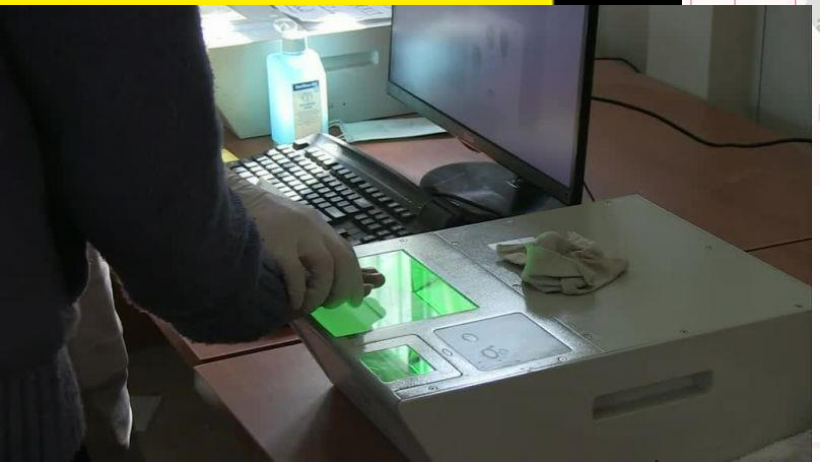
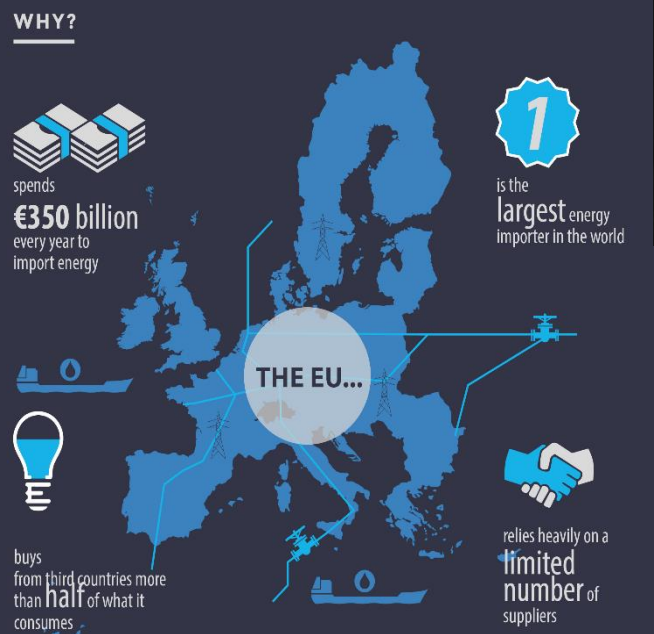


Who's who in PESCO, NATO and EU in one diagram. EU Defence Cooperation



Clean energy for Europeans: Key for driving forward the Energy Union

The Energy Union is the EU's strategy to ensure affordable, secure and sustainable energy for European citizens and businesses.



Completed files in Council or with EP

Justice and Home Affairs Council

File	Result	Summary/aim
<p><i>Asylum package</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Dublin Regulation</i> - <i>Asylum Procedure Regulation</i> - <i>EURODAC</i> - <i>Qualification Regulation</i> - <i>Reception Conditions Directive</i> - <i>Resettlement</i> - <i>EASO (agreed under EE PCY)</i> 	<p>Provisional agreement on 3 out of 6 open files: qualification, reception, resettlement.</p> <p>Agreement not (yet) confirmed in Council - linked to package approach on all files/awaiting agreement on Dublin</p>	<p>The reform aims to incorporate the lessons learnt from the 2015-2016 migration crisis and provide the EU with new tools to streamline asylum procedures, strengthen controls, prevent abuse of the system and provide support to frontline MS. Discussions in the Council focused on the Dublin regulation and the creation of a new crisis prevention mechanism. With the EP numerous trilogues were held on all the 4 open files, where the Council has a negotiating mandate.</p>
<p><i>Schengen Borders Code</i></p>	<p>Council position agreed, mandate for negotiations with EP.</p>	<p>The proposal will update the Schengen Borders Code to adapt the rules for the reintroduction of temporary internal border controls to the current needs to respond to evolving and persistent serious threats to public policy or internal security.</p>
<p><i>Interoperability between EU information systems</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>borders and visa</i> - <i>police and judicial cooperation, asylum and migration</i> 	<p>Council position agreed, mandate for negotiations with EP.</p>	<p>The proposed regulations aim to improve security within the EU, make checks at external borders more effective and efficient, and prevent and combat illegal migration. Interoperability between information systems will allow the systems to complement each other, help facilitate the correct identification of persons and contribute to fighting identity fraud.</p>

Completed files in Council or with EP

Justice and Home Affairs Council		
File	Result	Summary/aim
<i>Visa Code recast</i>	Council position agreed, mandate for negotiations with EP.	The proposed changes to the Visa Code will make it easier for legitimate travelers to obtain a visa to come to Europe, facilitating tourism, trade and business, whilst strengthening security and mitigating irregular migration risks
<i>ETIAS</i>	Political agreement with EP reached	ETIAS will allow for advance checks and, if necessary, deny travel authorisation to visa-exempt third-country nationals travelling to the Schengen area.
<p><i>SIS package</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Return of illegally staying third-country nationals Regulation</i> <i>Border checks Regulation</i> <i>Police cooperation and judicial cooperation in criminal matters Regulation</i> 	Political agreement with EP reached	The aim is to improve the Schengen Information System (SIS), taking into account the increasing number of alerts, queries and hits, and to help in the prevention of serious crime, including terrorism.

Completed files in Council or with EP

Justice and Home Affairs Council

File	Result	Summary/aim
<i>EU-LISA</i>	Political agreement with EP	This regulation will strengthen the agency's capacity to contribute to border management, law-enforcement cooperation and migration management in the EU. It entrusts EU-LISA Agency with new large-scale IT systems also with a view to improve interoperability.
<i>European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust)</i>	Political agreement with the EP	The proposal aims to increase Eurojust's efficiency by establishing a new governance model and to improve the Agency's operational effectiveness. It will also allow Eurojust to cooperate closely with the European Public Prosecutor's Office, once it is established.
<i>Mutual Recognition of Freezing and Confiscation Orders</i>	Political agreement with the EP	The aim is to improve the cross-border enforcement of freezing and confiscation orders in criminal matters.
<i>Directive on countering money laundering by criminal law</i>	Political agreement with the EP	The objective is to establish minimum rules concerning the definition of criminal offences and sanctions; remove obstacles to cross-border judicial and police cooperation by setting common provisions to improve the investigation; bring EU rules in line with international obligations.

Completed files in Council or with EP

Justice and Home Affairs Council

File	Result	Summary/aim
<p><i>Preventive restructuring frameworks, second chance and measures to increase the efficiency of restructuring, insolvency and discharge procedures</i></p>	<p>Council position - Partial General Approach on Chapters III, IV and V</p>	<p>The aim is to reduce the most significant barriers to the free flow of capital stemming from differences in Member States' restructuring and insolvency frameworks, and help develop a business culture in which entrepreneurs are allowed to fail and try again. The agreement covers aspects related to the discharge of debts, measures to increase the efficiency of procedures and the collection of data.</p>
<p><i>Combating Fraud and Counterfeiting of Non-Cash Means of Payment</i></p>	<p>Mandate for negotiations with the EP (general approach)</p>	<p>The directive aims at updating the current rules to ensure a clear, robust and technology-neutral legal framework is in place. It also eliminates operational obstacles that hamper investigation and prosecution as well as foresees actions to enhance public awareness of fraudulent techniques such as phishing or skimming</p>

Completed files in Council or with EP

Justice and Home Affairs Council

File	Result	Summary/aim
<p><i>Operating rules of the selection panel provided for in Article 14(3) of the Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 implementing enhanced cooperation on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office</i></p>	<p>Agreed at working party level</p>	<p>The Council implementing decision operating rules on the EPPO selection panel provide for the tasks, composition, secretariat and decision-making procedures of the EPPO selection panel, as well as for the ranking of candidates, financial provisions, the processing of personal data and the language regime of the selection panel.</p>
<p><i>Automated processing of personal data (Convention 108)</i></p>	<p>Common position of all EU Member States in the Council of Europe</p>	<p>The common position contributed to the adoption of the Amending Protocol to Convention 108 of the Council of Europe. The modernisation of Convention 108 brings it in line with the new EU data protection framework and further promotes the European standards in this area.</p>
<p><i>Protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data</i></p>	<p>Political agreement with the EP</p>	<p>The aim is to increase the protection of personal data used by EU institutions and ensure a free flow of that data between the institutions and the different bodies, insofar as it is necessary.</p>

Completed files in Council or with EP

Justice and Home Affairs Council

File	Result	Summary/aim
<i>Automated processing of personal data (Convention 108)</i>	Common position of all EU Member States in the Council of Europe	The common position contributed to the adoption of the Amending Protocol to Convention 108 of the Council of Europe. The modernisation of Convention 108 brings it in line with the new EU data protection framework and further promotes the European standards in this area.
<i>Protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data</i>	Political agreement with the EP	The aim is to increase the protection of personal data used by EU institutions and ensure a free flow of that data between the institutions and the different bodies, insofar as it is necessary.
<i>Council Decisions authorising the opening of negotiations for agreements between the European Union and Turkey, Lebanon, Israel, Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt and Algeria on the exchange of personal data between Europol and the competent authorities of those countries</i>	Agreement in Council on the mandate for the Commission to start negotiations	Europol would be able to exchange personal data with law enforcement authorities of third countries to the extent necessary for the accomplishment of its tasks and the cooperation will contribute to the security of the EU citizens.

Completed files in Council or with EP

Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (Energy)

File	Result	Summary/aim
Energy Efficiency	Political agreement with the EP	The main objective of the directive is to increase EU headline target on energy efficiency up to 32.5 % by 2030 in order to ensure that the EU commitments and goals according to the Paris Agreement on Climate are met.
Renewable Energy Directive	Political agreement with the EP	The new regulatory framework will increase the use of renewable energy in the EU and includes a binding renewable energy target for the EU for 2030 of 32% with an upwards revision clause by 2023.
Governance Regulation (Energy Union)	Political agreement with the EP	The regulation establishes a cooperation and control mechanism to oversee the implementation of the 2030 EU climate and energy policy objectives and targets, in particular those regarding renewables, energy efficiency, interconnections and greenhouse gas emissions.
Regulation on ACER	Council position agreed - general approach	The aim is to improve collaboration between national electricity and gas regulators by updating the tasks of the EU Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER).

Completed files in Council or with EP

Foreign Affairs Council

File	Result	Summary/aim
<i>Regulation establishing the European Defence Industrial Development Programme (EDIDP)</i>	Political agreement with EP.	The purpose of the regulation, which is an integral part of the European Defense Fund, is to establish a programme aiming at supporting the competitiveness and innovation capacity of the Union's defense industry with a budget of 500 million euro for 2019-2020.
<i>PESCO Council Decisions</i>	Adopted in Council	The purpose of the Council decisions is the establishment of a list of projects to be developed under the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) and a common set of governance rules for PESCO projects.
<i>Revision of the EU Maritime Security Strategy Action Plan</i>	Adopted	Aims to ensure that the policy response remains fit for current and future challenges in line with political priorities in a rapidly changing security environment, taking into consideration the ongoing work in the area of security and defence, and recently adopted EU legislation, policies and other initiatives.
<i>Modernization of Trade Defence Instruments</i>	Entered into force	Ensures that fair competition, without distortions is maintained between domestic and foreign producers.

Completed files in Council or with EP

Foreign Affairs Council

File	Result	Summary/aim
<i>Investment screening</i>	Council position agreed, mandate for negotiations with EP.	Creates legal framework for screening of foreign direct investments (FDI) by Member States on grounds of security or public order, and establishes a cooperation mechanism between Member States and the Commission.
<i>Draft negotiating directives on the negotiations on Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with Australia and New Zealand</i>	Adopted	Determine the framework of negotiating FTAs with both countries.
<i>Draft negotiating directives on the establishment of Multilateral Investment Court</i>	Adopted	Negotiating a Convention establishing a multilateral court for the settlement of investment disputes.
<i>Council Decision on conclusion, signature and provisional application of the EU-Japan EPA</i>	Preparation of the adoption concluded under the Bulgarian Presidency with a view of final adoption under the AT Presidency	Aiming at signature of the FTA in beginning of July.

Completed files in Council or with EP

Foreign Affairs Council		
File	Result	Summary/aim
<i>Council Decision on conclusion, signature and provisional application of the IPA EU-Singapore</i>	Preparation for adoption concluded under the Bulgarian Presidency with a view of final adoption under the AT Presidency	Aiming at signature of both the FTA and Investment Protection Agreement (IPA) with Singapore on 18/19 October in the margins of the ASEM Summit.
<i>Finalization of negotiations on trade agreement with Mexico</i>	Political agreement, technical work still to be done under the AT Presidency	Negotiations for modernisation of the Global Agreement including comprehensive FTA provisions.
<i>Future relations between EU and ACP after the expiration of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement in 2020 - negotiating directive</i>	Negotiating directive agreed	The pursuit of a renewed partnership Agreement is a strategic opportunity for the parties to strengthen their longstanding relations and make these responsive to the challenges of a changed global context, focusing on common and intersected interests and shared responsibilities.
<i>Council Conclusions on malicious cyber activities</i>	Adopted	The conclusions aim to condemn the malicious use of information and communications technologies (ICTs), including in Wannacry and NotPetya, which have caused significant damage and economic loss in the EU and beyond.



Smart Specialisation and Technology Transfer as Innovation Drivers for Regional Growth

3-4 May 2018
National Palace of Culture
Sofia (Bulgaria)



Introducing the

Single

Digital

Gateway



Completed files in Council or with EP

Competitiveness Council

File	Result	Summary/aim
<i>Directive on Proportionality Test</i>	Adopted	The directive will require EU member states to carry out a proportionality test before establishing new requirements for professions.
<i>Regulation on Digital Single Gateway</i>	Political agreement with the EP	The digital single gateway will provide full access to a wide range of online procedures for citizens and businesses to help them when they want to move, work, retire, study or when they want to establish or carry out businesses in another country.
<i>Directive on Empowering Competition Authorities (ECN+)</i>	Political agreement with the EP	Better enforcement of competition rules will protect consumers from illegal business practices that keep the prices of goods and services artificially high. At the same time, it will ensure that companies compete fairly in Europe
<i>Regulations on mutual recognition and on market surveillance</i> (part of the Goods package)	Council position agreed - general approach	Aims to improve the application of the principle of mutual recognition in the internal market, and so ensure that goods lawfully marketed in one member state can be sold in any other, as long as they are safe and respect the public interest

Completed files in Council or with EP

Competitiveness Council

File	Result	Summary/aim
<i>Council Conclusions on EU industrial policy strategy</i>	Adopted	The conclusions stress the urgent need for a long-term strategy for European industry in order to boost competitiveness, growth and innovation in Europe. The ambition was confirmed at the European Council on 22-23 March, where Leaders confirmed that “To reap the maximum benefits of the Single Market the EU needs a strong industrial policy.”
<i>Directive on Copyright in Digital Single Market (DSM)</i>	Council position agreed, mandate for negotiations with EP.	Aims to modernise the European copyright framework and adapt it to the requirements of the digital age. The directive also seeks to strike the right balance between the remuneration received by authors and performers and the profits made by internet platforms when they make their works accessible (value gap).
<i>Extension of Euratom Research and Training Programme 2019-2020 (Council Regulation)</i>	Council position agreed - general approach.	Aims to align the programme it with the current Horizon 2020 research framework and extend it till 2020. The Euratom framework programme concerns research activities in nuclear energy (fusion and fission) and radiation protection. It will have an overall budget of € 770 million for 2019 and 2020.

Completed files in Council or with EP

Competitiveness Council

File	Result	Summary/aim
<i>European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking (Council Regulation)</i>	Council position agreed - general approach.	The European High-Performance Computing Joint Undertaking (EuroHPC JU) will pool European resources to develop top-of-the-range exascale supercomputers for processing big data, based on competitive European technology.
<i>Regulation on Cash Controls</i>	Political agreement with the EP	The aim is to improve the current system of controls with respect to cash entering or leaving the EU to combat money laundering and terrorism financing. Accordingly, the draft regulation extends the definition of cash to some instruments or methods of payment other than currency, such as cheques, traveler's cheques, gold and prepaid cards.
<i>Regulation on Application of the Euro 5 step to the type-approval of two- or three- wheel vehicles and quadricycles</i>	Council position agreed, mandate for negotiations with EP	The aim is to improve the reliability of tests on vehicles regarding their the emissions control system of a vehicle during its lifetime. 'L-category vehicles' covers a wide range of light vehicle types with two, three or four wheels, e.g. powered cycles, two- and three-wheel mopeds, two- and three-wheel motorcycles, etc.

Completed files in Council or with EP

Competitiveness Council

File	Result	Summary/aim
<i>Regulation on European statistics relating to persons and households</i>	Council position agreed, mandate for negotiations with EP and trilogues started.	The EU needs reliable and timely social statistics to monitor the social situation and the impact of economic developments and policies on social conditions in the Member States and their regions, and on the situation of different groups in the population. This necessitates that subjects such as poverty and social exclusion, inequalities, skills, access to employment for all, social protection expenditures, should be better described with sound and timely statistics.
<i>Regulation on Integrated Farm Statistics</i>	Political agreement with the EP	This Regulation establishes a framework for European statistics at the level of agricultural holdings and provides for the integration of information on production methods, rural development measures, agro-environmental aspects etc.
<i>Council Conclusions on Accelerating knowledge circulation in the EU</i>	Adopted	The conclusions put particular emphasis on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the transfer of knowledge to maximise the impact of research and innovation (R&I) - mobility of researchers, openness and dissemination of research results - the improvement of framework conditions and synergies between EU programmes

Completed files in Council or with EP

Competitiveness Council

File	Result	Summary/aim
<i>Council Conclusions on the European Open Science Cloud</i>	Adopted	The European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) will federate existing and emerging data infrastructures and will offer a virtual environment within which to store, share and re-use data across disciplines, thus providing 1.7 million EU researchers with an unique environment for interdisciplinary research.
<i>Council conclusions on the reformed ITER project</i>	Adopted	Launched in 2005 and now involving seven global partners (Euratom, United States, Russia, Japan, China, South Korea and India) ITER is a pioneering project to build and operate an experimental facility to demonstrate the scientific viability of fusion as a future sustainable energy source.

Completed files in Council or with EP

Competitiveness Council

File	Result	Summary/aim
<p><i>EU Common position for UNISPACE +50</i></p>	<p>Adopted</p>	<p>The position:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - confirms the role of space as a driver for economic growth and innovations for the benefits of all people; - aims to strengthen the roles of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs; - includes agreement that the necessary steps will be undertaken within the United Nations, so that the European Union can exercise within COPUOS the rights it already can exercise under the UN General Assembly - permanent observer status - announces the development of an EU Space 2030 agenda and its implementation plan.
<p><i>Council Conclusions on the enforcement of Intellectual property rights</i></p>	<p>Adopted</p>	<p>Based on the non-legislative package on the IPR Enforcement the Council Conclusions support better application of the Directive on the enforcement of the intellectual property rights, specialization of judges on IP cases, harmonized use of standard essential patents and FRAND conditions for their licensing, as well as fight with counterfeit goods.</p>

Completed files in Council or with EP

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO)

File	Result	Summary/aim
<i>Directive on Posting of Workers</i>	Adopted	Implements the principle of equal pay for equal work, ensuring that all workers are treated fairly across the Union. Local or posted workers doing the same job at the same place will have the same working and wage conditions. The agreement is also fair and balanced since it helps preserve the free provision of services.
<i>Social Security Coordination (Regulation 883)</i>	Council position agreed - general approach.	Aims to ensure that citizens shall not be disadvantaged by the fact of working or living in another member state. These rules do not replace national systems with a single European one, instead they seek to coordinate them. The new regulation will update the rules so they are fair, simpler to apply and easier to enforce.
<i>Directive on Work-life Balance</i>	Council position agreed - general approach.	The proposal seeks to promote a good balance between family and professional commitments and to provide more equal opportunities for women and men in the workplace and at home.

Completed files in Council or with EP

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO)

File	Result	Summary/aim
<i>Transparent and Predictable Working Conditions Directive</i>	Council position agreed - general approach	Aims to address the challenges brought by developments in the world of work, including growing flexibilisation of the labour market and, in particular, the increase in the number of 'non-standard' forms of employment, such as temporary employment, part-time and on call work, zero hours contracts, on demand and multi-party employment. The draft directive includes revised obligations to inform workers of the essential aspects of their work, in a written form and in a timely manner
<i>European Framework for Quality and Effective Apprenticeships (Recommendation)</i>	Adopted	The recommendation encourages the development of a highly skilled and qualified workforce which is responsive to the needs of the labour market. By applying common criteria for the quality and effectiveness of apprenticeships, member states will be better able to develop and promote their national apprenticeship schemes.
<i>Council Decision on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States</i>	Adopted	The revised guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States have been amended to align the text with the principles of the European pillar of social rights, with a view to improving Europe's competitiveness and making it a better place to invest, create jobs and foster social cohesion

Completed files in Council or with EP

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO)

File	Result	Summary/aim
<i>Council conclusions on early childhood development and on the future of work</i>	Adopted	The conclusions were drafted on the basis of a dedicated peer review of the Social Protection Committee, which took place in Sofia on 21 March 2018. They highlight the importance of developing integrated policies in order to reduce poverty and promote social inclusion. The focus of the conclusions is in the social field, where much can be done to improve the situation of children
<i>Council Conclusions on the "Free Movement of Workers - the fundamental freedom ensured but better targeting of EU funds would aid worker mobility"</i>	Adopted	In a Special Report, the Court of Auditors found that free movement of workers is ensured, but improvements to facilitate workers' mobility can still be made. Important efforts have been made in recent years by the Commission and the Member States to ensure this fundamental freedom - the EURES reform, the implementation and enforcement of that legislation, as well as providing funds for the various projects and initiatives.
<i>Council Conclusions on the Future of Work: A Lifecycle Approach</i>	Adopted	The conclusions look at the future of work from the perspective of a lifecycle approach. They emphasise the need to plan ahead and analyze the development of the global and European labour market, taking into account demographic trends and the ongoing transformation, driven by technological development and globalisation.

Completed files in Council or with EP

Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (telecommunications)

File	Result	Summary/aim
<i>Directive on European Electronic Communications Code</i>	Political agreement with the EP	Within the Digital Single Market strategy, the directive establishing an Electronic Communications Code (EECC) is a critical file for the future of Europe. The Code creates a clear framework to facilitate the deployment and take-up of very high capacity broadband networks while continuing to ensure competition, investments and end-users' protection. It contains measures for broadening the scope of the legislative framework to cover new communications tools and to provide affordable functional internet access to end-users.
<i>Regulation on BEREC</i>	Political agreement with the EP	The regulation ensures the enhanced role of the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communication (BEREC) in the changing market and technological environment and the alignment of the tasks of BEREC with the Electronic Communications Code.
<i>Regulation on Free flow of data</i>	Political agreement with the EP	The regulation is part of the measures on building an European data-based economy. Aims to boost the EU data economy by removing any unjustified restrictions on the geographical location for storing or processing data. In essence, the new rules will create a single market for data storage and processing services, such as cloud computing.

Completed files in Council or with EP

Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (telecommunications)

File	Result	Summary/aim
<i>Cybersecurity Act (ENISA mandate & certification framework)</i>	Council position agreed - general approach.	The EU aims to enhance its cyber resilience by setting up an EU-wide certification framework for information and communication technology (ICT) products, services and processes. The industry could use the new mechanism to certify products such as connected cars and smart medical devices.

Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council

<i>Directive on Audio-Visual Media Services (AVMSD)</i>	Political agreement with the EP	The new rules will create a level playing field between all operators in protecting viewers, independently from the service they provide and the platform they use. This means that users will get equal protection whether they are watching a film on traditional TV or an on-demand TV. Moreover the protection of minors and all users from violent or harmful content, will be improved by introducing a clear responsibility for video-sharing platforms. It will also increase cultural diversity and promote European content, as providers of on-demand audiovisual media services will have to ensure that at least 30% of their catalogues consist of European content
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Completed files in Council or with EP

Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (transport)

File	Result	Summary/aim
<i>Regulation on Safeguarding competition in air transport</i>	Council position agreed - general approach.	The proposal aims to ensure fair competition between EU and foreign air carriers operating in the EU. At the same time it seeks to maintain conditions conducive to a high level of connectivity throughout the EU
<i>First Mobility Package - Directive on Electronic road toll systems</i>	Council position agreed - general approach.	EU countries want to make it easier to trace owners of foreign vehicles that fail to pay road tolls by granting each other access to national vehicle registration data. The aim is also that road users could travel across the EU and pay their electronic tolls with one on-board unit, one contract and one invoice
<i>Directive on Port reception facilities</i>	Council position agreed - general approach.	To combat dumping of waste at sea the updated directive on port reception facilities in the regulation will provide incentives for ships to dispose of their waste on land. In addition, the aim is to improve the efficiency of maritime operations in port by reducing the administrative burden for industry and other stakeholders



Cultural program

Leading institution - Ministry of Culture, supported by Sofia municipality and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs



“Abecedarium Bulgaricum” - Bulgarian art installation in the Justus Lipsius Council building in Brussels

Interactive exhibition welcomed the official guests at the Opening Ceremony for the Bulgarian Presidency



New Years' Concert “The spirit of Europe” in the National Palace of Culture launches the Bulgarian Presidency

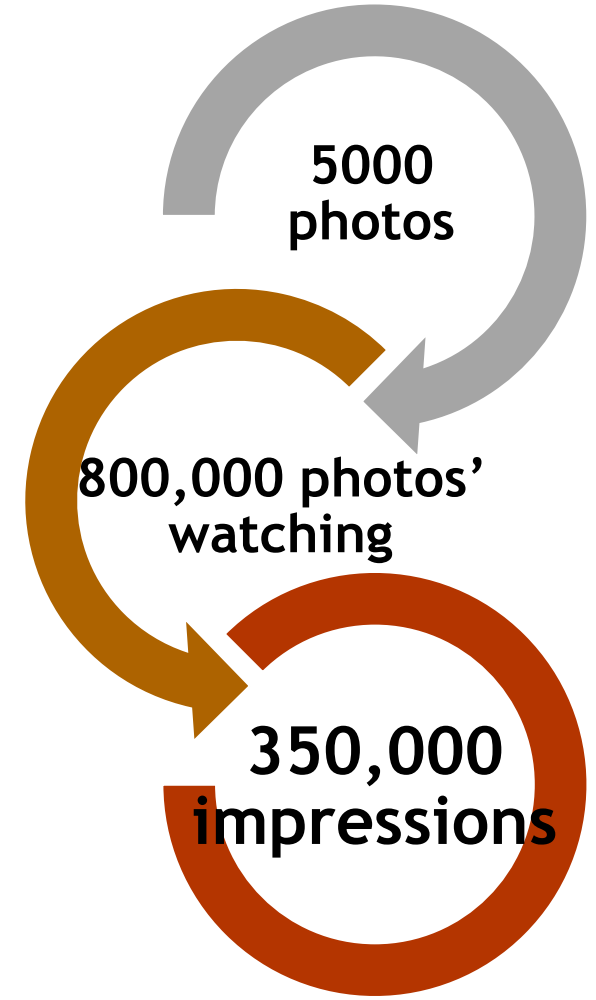






Formal Opening Concert for the Bulgarian Presidency in BOZAR, Brussels 1 February 2018

Formal concert in the National Palace of Culture for the end of the Presidency 27 June 2018







-  130,000 watching on-line
-  18,000 Facebook followers
-  10,000 Twitter followers
-  1,300 Instagram followers



‘You can’t help falling in love with her at first sight’



‘Bulgarian Presidency results’

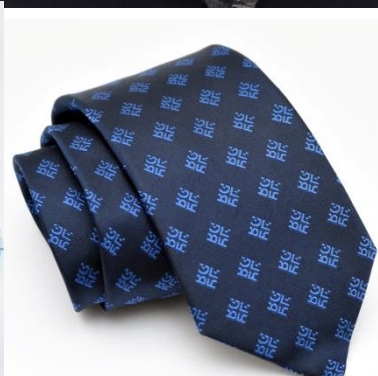
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‘Bulgarian achievements and inventions’



‘Priorities of the Bulgarian Presidency of the EU Council’





Ministry for the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2018



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Bulgarian Presidency of the Council
of the European Union

