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EU-Presidency of the Council from January to June 2018

Bulgaria is the second in the Trio Estonia-Bulgaria-Austria



In the first half of 2018, the Presidency of the Council will be assumed by Bulgaria. Although the presidency's policy may be influenced and adapted in accordance with the circumstances of the day, the Trio of Estonia, Bulgaria and Austria decided to focus their 18 months' presidency period on security, strengthening the external borders of the EU, economic growth and competitiveness.

The motto of the Bulgarian presidency is "united we stand strong". The country wants to aim at strengthening the unity between the Member States and realising a "stronger, more secure and more solidary European Union".

The future of Europe is to the young of today. Aware of the importance of achieving greater social cohesion, Bulgaria wants to do its share in finding solutions to long-standing structural challenges such as high debt levels and weak pay growth. Those problems can be best handled by Member States working together.



Bulgaria's connectivity with the Western Balkans is unquestionable. The country sees the presidency as an opportunity to push for EU membership for six Western Balkan states. With a view to EU accession, those states have to implement necessary reforms and improve their regional cooperation.

Migration and security are top issues in the European Union of today. In particular, the views on migration may strongly differ among European Union Member States. Still, the country of Bulgaria wants to work towards promoting consensus among Member States about how to address existing vulnerabilities in the field of migration and security policies. Moreover, it wants to contribute to further laying the foundations for a European Defence Union and realising a Justice system which is efficient, fast and fair.



Estonia underscored the need for realising the "digital Europe" and Bulgaria wants to go on in this process with a view to "completing the digital single market". In order for Europe to remain competitive, it has to pay attention to promoting the development of digital-related skills and establishing the link between education and the needs of the future labour market.