MEETING BETWEEN THE FUTURE ES PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL AND THE SECRETARIAT-GENERAL
BRUSSELS, 22 SEPTEMBER 2022

The meeting was organised at the request of ES to have a first exchange on key policy issues in the remit of Council formations prepared by Coreper for their future presidency (second semester 2023). The ES delegation was led by [name redacted]. Full list of participants is enclosed.

Main take-aways from the meeting:

1. **Overall priorities of the future ES Presidency:**
   a. ES plans to organise two Leaders’ summits, on South America and the open strategic autonomy. The latter will be articulated around three dimensions: health, food security and energy and will take place in Granada in October. ES requested the Commission support, possibly in the form of a communication to inform the discussions. The Commission pointed out that it could draw on number of relevant initiatives on the table at that time such as the critical raw materials and the design of the electricity market, as well as on the first state of health preparedness report to be issued in November this year.
   b. Food security is an important topic for the future ES Presidency. The Commission informed about the analytical work on food security drivers, which will be presented in the Farm to Fork Conference in December 2022.
   c. A first meeting of the Presidency trio ES-BE-HU is scheduled on 28 September in Madrid.

2. **Competitiveness (COMPET Council):**
   a. The Council will prepare the discussions in the informal Leaders’ summit on open strategic autonomy;
   b. Key topics for the future ES presidency are the internal market, tourism, industry and integrated maritime policy. The Commission informed that the envisaged communication on the single market could tally well with these priorities.
   c. It is committed to making progress on files such as the single market emergency instrument and the package travel (keen on the tourism dimension), consumer credit and the intellectual property-related files. On the single market emergency instrument, ES national position is supportive although it has concerns on the repeal of the strawberry regulation that should in their view be reconsidered. The Commission encouraged progress on forced labour (if placed under this formation), critical raw materials, late payment directive as part of the SME relief package.
   d. On research, ES keen on Commission presenting a proposal to renew and expand PRIMA (Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area).

3. **Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs (EPSCO Council):**
   a. Two Council meetings planned (9/10 and 4-5/12); the Tripartite Social Summit will be organised in October;
   b. Informal ministerial meeting in November (in Pamplona) will address equality/gender with a focus on violence against women. In connection to it, ES open to organising a Union of Equality event as suggested by the Commission.
   c. Event on LGBTIQ will take place early in the Presidency, likely early July.
   d. A key priority for the ES presidency is the social imbalance procedure. The Commission expressed support for reinforced monitoring of the social dimension but advised for a different name to reflect this reality.
   e. Files that the ES Presidency would like to advance are the directive on platform work and on the revision of the asbestos directive (for trilogues), social dialogue, the social economy, the
disability card, the equality bodies, the monitoring and enforcement of pay transparency, the equal treatment directive, the follow-up to the recommendation on minimum income and the care Strategy and the follow-up to the social partners negotiations on telework also in relation to the right to disconnect. The Commission encouraged the presidency to prepare to take forward also the European health data space. Work will also need to be advanced on the pharma package to be adopted early next year.

f. The Commission saw an opportunity for the presidency to contribute to actions and events under the European Year of Skills. Mental health would also be an important topic that the presidency could take forward.

4. **Transport (TTE Council):**
   a. Priorities for the presidency are the revision of the TEN-T Regulation (general approach expected by December 2022), the Single European Sky (trilogues ongoing), the air services Regulation (to be adopted end 2022 and the revision of the slots regulation (Q2 2023);
   b. The Presidency is ready to take forward the maritime safety package (Flag State Directive; Port State Control Directive; Accident Investigation Directive possibly to be adopted by end 2022).

5. **Telecommunication (TTE Council):**
   a. ES Presidency will work on the data act a priority and will be making a new attempt to progress on e-privacy if still pending. Cyber resilience is also an important topic.
   b. It expects the artificial intelligence and electronic identity files to be concluded under the SE presidency, but it is ready to pick them up if not materialising.

6. **Energy (TTE Council):**
   a. Of Importance for the presidency are the revision of the electricity market design (to be adopted early 2023), the methane emissions proposals (15/12/2022), the gas package (15/12/2022) and the energy performance of buildings if still pending;
   b. The ES anticipates a need to continue working on crisis management and is ready to prioritise work on measures needed to ensure preparedness for the 2023/2024 winter season.
   c. Strong interest in the plans for amending the Regulation for the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action. The Commission explained that guidance on the national energy and climate plans was envisaged for autumn 2022 and that a decision on amending the had not yet been taken.

7. **Environment (ENVI Council):**
   a. The top priority for the ES Presidency is the fit for 55 package, in case a final agreement is not reached under the previous CZ and SE Presidencies.
   b. The Presidency noted that several important files were pending adoption by the Commission, such as integrated water management, the revision of EU Air quality legislation, the classification, labelling and packaging; the review of CO2 standards from heavy duty vehicles; Revision of REACH. It was willing to advance work but was considering whether other formations could be involved to ensure a better distribution of the workload.

8. **Agriculture and Fisheries (AGRIFISH Council):**
   a. Five meetings of agriculture ministers and three meetings of fisheries ministers are planned;
   b. Priorities are the new genomic techniques (to be adopted in Q2 2023), the sustainable use of pesticides (adopted 22/06/2022) and geographical indications (31/03/2022, likely trilogues under way at the beginning of the ES presidency).
   c. Interest from the ES presidency in the EU agri-food promotion policy and the common marketing standards, not yet adopted.
d. On the fisheries, the ES presidency will handle the 2024 fishing opportunities and the report on the common fisheries policy (adoption end 2022/early 2023).

9. **Education, Youth, Culture and Sports (EYCS Council):**
   a. ES Presidency will prioritise the results of the Conference on the future of Europe on social values, with possible Council conclusions in this area.
   b. Key files are the European media freedom act and the two recommendations on digital education, which the ES Presidency would like to finalise if still pending.
   c. The EU degrees in electronic format, the European Education Area and the quality of university education will be important themes for the ES Presidency.

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**List of the participants in the meeting**

22.09.2022 – 11:30-13:00

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