



1 July – 31 December 2020

## Germany's Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Gemeinsam. Europa wieder stark machen.  
Together for Europe's recovery  
Tous ensemble pour relancer l'Europe

# Priorities for the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Please note that our national programme for the German Presidency has not been finalized yet. Thus, the following remarks are indicative and may still be subject to some changes.

## A common EU response to the Covid-19 pandemic

- Continued crisis management and containment of the virus
- Coordinated Exit strategy
- Sustainable economic recovery and social cohesion
- Lessons learned

## Shaping Europe's future, inter alia

- Finalising Multiannual Financial Framework negotiations
- Negotiations on the future relationship with the UK
- Supporting a sustainable green recovery in line with the European Green Deal
- Digital transformation
- Strengthening the EU's economic base and social dimension
- A new start for the EU's migration and asylum policy
- Strengthening the EU's global role
- Strengthening internal security, rule of law and democracy

# Political priorities envisaged for the area of family affairs, senior citizens, women and youth

During the Covid-19 pandemic, social issues, the participation of youth and gender quality have become even more important, so have the political priorities in the area of family affairs, senior citizens, women and youth.

## Political priorities envisaged for the area of family affairs, senior citizens, women and youth

- **Youth for Europe – Europe for Youth**  
For a Europe which promotes dialogue and participation opportunities for young people.
- **Gender Equality – Strengthening Social Cohesion across the EU**  
For a Europe in which women can develop their full potential. We need good framework conditions – even more in times of crisis.
- **Solidarity – Supporting Vulnerable Groups in our Society**  
For a Europe which also tackles the challenges vulnerable groups have to face – children, families with low income, LGBTI+ persons, senior citizens.

## Europe for *YOUth*, *YOUth* for Europe – Space for democracy and participation

- **Engage** – Youth and democracy in Europe  
Ensuring at European level that the perspectives and ideas which young people have for democratic togetherness in Europe are heard.
- **Connect** – Mobility of young people in Europe  
Promoting communication between young people so that they become actively committed to Europe.
- **Empower** – Youth Work in Europe  
Strengthening young people growing up through our youth work, providing European impetus for further developing youth work in Europe.



## Gender Equality – Strengthening Social Cohesion across the EU

- Reducing the negative social and economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic for women and supporting women's economic independence
- Tackling the gender pay gap by promoting a gender equal distribution of unpaid care work (Council Conclusions)
- Ending all forms of violence against women and providing essential support services for every woman in need
- Enhancing the representation of women in leadership positions



## Solidarity – Supporting Vulnerable Groups in our Society

- **LGBTI+ persons:** Enhancing the rights and equality of LGBTI+ persons and rainbow families (launch and debate of the LGBTI+ Strategy).
- **Children and families with low income:** Strengthening children and families in Europe especially in times of crisis – protecting children and combatting child and family poverty.
- **Senior citizens:** Supporting the rights and participation of older persons in society in the era of digitalisation (Council Conclusions).



# Trio Presidency with Portugal and Slovenia

## Close and continued cooperation between the Trio partners

Within the Trio presidency, we aim to build a coherent European agenda for the coming 18 months.

- Ensuring coordinated crisis management at EU level
  - Learning all lessons from the crisis and tackling the socio-economic consequences
  - Addressing important future challenges together
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- Start of a new 18-month cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue on 1 July.
  - Trio Declaration on Gender Equality to be published on 6 July.

# Informal council meetings, high-level conferences & other presidency events

In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic, we unfortunately cannot rule out the possibility that we will have to adapt the event formats going forward in order to be able to guarantee a responsible implementation of the events. We will inform you immediately about any changes as soon as they are foreseeable.

## Informal council meetings, high-level conferences & other important presidency events

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 6 July          | Ministerial Meeting on Trio Declaration on Gender Equality                       |
| 28-29 September | Conference „Strengthening the rights of older people in times of digitalisation“ |
| 2-5 October     | European Youth Democracy Congress  |
| 13 October      | Council of Ministers for Employment and Social Policy (EPSCO)                    |
| 18-19 November  | High level Conference on LGBTI+ equality and the rights of rainbow families      |
| 19-20 November  | Informal meeting of the Ministers for Gender Equality                            |
| 30 November     | Council of Ministers for Youth (EYCS)  |
| 3 December      | Council of Ministers for Employment and Social Policy (EPSCO)                    |
| 7-10 December   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> European Youth Convention  |

# Contacts

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and Youth

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