

Priorities of the Belgian EU Council Presidency 2024

#EBDGratik



Assessment of priorities from the EM Germany's perspective



Defending rule of law, democracy, and unity

- Strengthen media freedom and pluralism for the upcoming 2024 European elections and protect the election from disinformation
- Support youth participation in the 2024 European elections and promote interest in the EU, e.g. through election campaigns and education on important European issues (enlargement, democracy, etc.)
- Follow up on the measures and objectives of the Democracy Defense Package



Reinforcing our social and health agenda

- Strengthen the social dimension of the European Semester, in particular through the first implementation of the Social Convergence Framework and the potential of social investment
- Develop a strategy to support the health and care workforce in the EU



Strengthening our competitiveness

- Preserve the integrity of the EU internal market and strengthen the EU's digital and technological sovereignty
- Strengthen the resilience and competitiveness of key EU value chains through intensified research, development and innovation



Protecting people and borders

- Continuing the steps to integrate Romania and Bulgaria into Schengen
- Combat cross-border organized crime, extremism and terrorism



Pursuing a green and just transition

- Address long-term reform of the energy market and continue to reduce strategic dependencies, in particular on critical raw materials and energy sources
- Promote the circular economy and strengthen the EU's adaptation and preparedness capabilities to mitigate the effects of climate change



Promoting a global Europe

- Advance EU accession with the countries of the Western Balkans, in particular Ukraine and Moldova in a targeted manner
- Ambitious and balanced trade policy that is open, sustainable and assertive
- Pursue vigorously EU efforts to strengthen its resilience and autonomy and to defend its interests and values

What is missing?

- Advance efforts to reform and enlarge the EU, taking into account the proposals of the EP and the Conference on the Future of Europe
- Measures/goals in the area of European security (security policy) --> Strengthen and possibly further expand the EU's common foreign and security policy, particularly with regard to possible enlargement in the Western Balkan regions
- Systematic strengthening of synergies with the Council of Europe

✓ Important for the EM Germany

- Advance the accession process with the Western Balkan states, Ukraine, Moldova and other candidate countries, including tangible intermediate steps: E.g. observer status in the EP
- Make further efforts and targeted progress on the new migration and asylum package in line with European values
- Make targeted progress on implementing the measures and objectives of the Defending European Democracies Package
- Support youth participation in and ahead of the 2024 European elections and promote interest in the EU

Further information (Trio Council Presidency order)



<https://belgian-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/de/>

