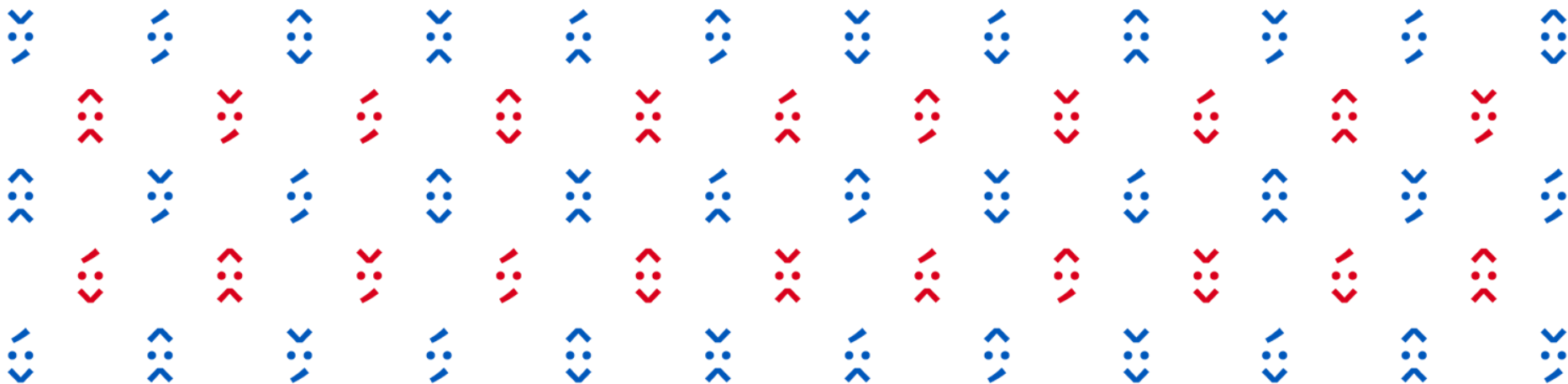


# SK EU2016

Slovak Presidency of the Council  
of the European Union



# SLOVAKIA'S FIRST EU PRESIDENCY – CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES

## FOUR BASIC ELEMENTS

- context / the point of departure for SK PRES
- our ambition as PRES of how to contribute
- priorities of the PRES program
- vision of Europe that we aim for

# CONTEXT - POINT OF DEPARTURE FOR SK PRES



- Slovakia is taking over the steering wheel of the Council of the EU **after NL PRES** on 1<sup>st</sup> of July
- It is **12<sup>th</sup> NL PRES**
- **An excellent predecessor**



- **The story of SK** is much different to that of the **NL**
- **NL: 12<sup>th</sup> PRES – SK: 12 years of EU membership**



# CONTEXT - POINT OF DEPARTURE FOR SK PRES

## Challenging set-up:

- migration and refugee crisis
- Brexit
- fragile Eurozone
- terrorism
- conflicts in our neighborhood – UA/RU, ISIS (SY)

**A difficult context to digest**, both for the Member States and EU citizens.

**As a result:** attempts to draw divisive lines, to finger point, question the unity of the EU or the credibility of the core integration projects (such as Schengen or euro).

# CONTEXT - POINT OF DEPARTURE FOR SK PRES

And: **rising Euroscepticism** and **radicalization** / almost **endless prophecies of the end** of the Union

But, we do not like such **defeatist mentality**.

**Any community** would have **huge problems**, if it was confronted with such type of challenges.

Those who only criticize do it with a view to **mobilize and manipulate the public against** the EU.

**The EU is the only solution** that we have at hand!

# HOW CAN PRES CONTRIBUTE?

**PRES is an excellent opportunity to substantially contribute to the joint search for solutions and answers.**

Therefore, we are **not painting** gloomy pictures.



# SK PRES PROGRAMME

The EU needs **long-term solutions**.

And we intend to be:

- **Pragmatic** - we need to **deliver tangible results**.
- **Uniting** - we want to **overcome fragmentation** in Europe.
- **People's voice** - we will focus on the **needs of citizens** in order to restore their trust in the EU.

These principles are **mutually reinforcing** – we believe that with (1) tangible results that (2) help overcome the fragmentation, we can bring (3) real added value for our citizens.



# SK PRES PROGRAMME

## PRIORITY AREAS:

- **stronger European economy**  
focus on EFSI, CMU and EU budget; deepening of EMU; mid term review MFF
- **single market**  
enrichment by DSM and EnU, Cohesion Policy
- **sustainable migration and asylum policy**  
joint efforts; functioning Schengen area; smart borders; cooperation with third countries; asylum policy
- **external relations and trade**  
TA - TTIP; CFSP Strategy; ENP; enlargement



# WHAT EUROPE DO WE AIM FOR?

The **most challenging part** of our PRES will be our ability to assume the true role of PRES: **to put aside national priorities** and clearly pursue a **common European interest**.

## TO DO SO, WE NEED

- to fight our complacent mentality
  - to restore trust among MSs
- to deliver on what has been agreed

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

SK  EU2016

