

# BELGIUM 2024 EU Presidency



# **Belgium as an “honest broker” with EU DNA in its veins**

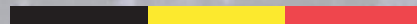
- **EU comitted and EU convinced**
- **Used to compromises for the benefit of the wider EU collectivity**
- **Founding member of the EU**
- **1rst Presidency of the Council of the EU (EEC) in 1958**
- **13th Presidency of the EU**



# **Bay Ganyo knew about this...**

**Помогнаха на бай Ганя да смъкне от плещите си агарянския ямурлук, наметна си той една белгийска мантия – и всички рекоха, че бай Ганьо е вече цял европеец.**

**They helped Bay Ganyo take off the Turkish cloak, he slipped on a Belgian mantle – and everybody decided that Bay Ganyo was already a complete European.**



# Context

13

Belgium assumes the rotating Presidency for the thirteenth time

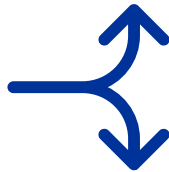


EU stands at a **crossroads**

→ Russian illegal aggression in Ukraine, the pandemic, the energy crisis, disinformation, extreme climate events, conflict in the Middle East ...



Concluding current institutional cycle



Supporting adoption of the Strategic Agenda 2024-2029

# Trio Presidency



Presidencies work together closely in groups of three

Main tasks:

- setting common agenda for an 18-month period
- ensuring coherence in the EU agenda

Spain, Belgium and Hungary as first trio of the EU in 2011 after the Lisbon Treaty

# Trio priorities (18-month programme)

-  Open strategic autonomy
-  Economic resilience
-  Twin green & digital transition
-  Rule of law
-  Fight against organised crime
-  Combatting gender-based violence and all forms of intolerance
-  Fight against impunity, respect for international law and human rights
-  Support to Ukraine and its reconstruction
-  Continue merit-based enlargement, taking into account European Council methodology & EU capacity
-  Reflection on the Future of Europe and the next Strategic Agenda

# Spanish Presidency



## Achievements:

### Re-industrialisation:

- Regulation on critical raw material
- AI act
- EU-CELAC (Mercosure, Chili)

### Green transition:

- Regulation on nature restoration
- Sustainable air transport
- Eco-design requirements
- COP-28

### Social and economical fairness:

- Tri-partite top in Brussels on fair transition
- Reform of the electricity market
- Fight against discrimination against women and domestic violence

### EU unity:

- UA, MD, GE
- BG & RO Schengen Accession

# Belgian half-yearly programme

- Inherits much of the priorities



A presidency is a **fair arbiter** or “***honest broker***”: determines what is feasible & where compromises are possible

- **Belgian accents** are reflected in the way the programme is written:

## → Defending rule of law, democracy, and unity

Defending the principles of democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights will be an essential element in the work of the Belgian Presidency of the Council.

## → Strengthening our competitiveness

The Belgian Presidency wants to focus on how we can help our companies, our industries to deal with the green and digital transition in the best possible way,

## → Pursuing a green and just transition

Our Presidency will have 3 major priorities in this area: working towards a just transition, adapt to climate change and enhance our resilience, and move towards a circular economy.

## → Reinforcing our social and health agenda

The Belgian Presidency will defend an ambitious future social and health agenda.

## → Protecting people and borders

The Belgian Presidency will work towards a Europe that protects its people as well as its borders.

## → Promoting a global Europe

To adapt to the strain faced by the multilateral system and the rules-based international order, the Presidency will vigorously pursue the efforts made by the EU to strengthen its resilience and autonomy and defend its interests and values.



# Protect, Strengthen, Prepare



# Legislative Agenda

# Continued support for Ukraine

- Asylum and Migration Pact
- Schengen Border Code
- Supply chain economy
- Level Playing field in the internal market
- Gender equality in the workplace
- Supply and availability of medical products
- Air quality/used water
- EU action plan for wind energy
- Regulation on pesticides
- ...

- 50 billion aid
- EPF

- Negotiating framework for UA & MD
- IGC for AL & NMK
- Opening chapters for RS and MO
- New Growth Plan for WB
- Gradual integration
- ...

- How do we want to spend our money?
- What money do we want to spend?

**Enlargement**

**EU  
Multiannual  
financial  
framework**

# Strategic Agenda

## **What do we want to do together? What is our vision?**

- Enlargement vs. Reforms (Grenada top octobre 2023 & EUCO December 2023)
- Strategic Agenda (2024-2029): What is our vision?
- Guidelines for the next Commission
- How do we decide?

**Belgium still believes in the vision  
of the founding fathers**

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

## FOLLOW US ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

 @EU2024BE

 Permanent Representation of Belgium to the EU

 @EU2024BE

 @EU2024BE

 @EU2024BE

 [www.belgium24.eu](http://www.belgium24.eu)

**be**  
**EU**  
  
**belgium24.eu**