



## Hungarian Presidency of the EU: Challenges and Priorities

### The Priorities

The programme of the Hungarian Presidency is structured around several core topics which have been determined in compliance with the European agenda on the one part and to Hungary's own sensitivities on the other part:

#### Economy

Most important task of the Hungarian EU Presidency will be **consolidation of the EU economy**. High priorities are:

- Implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy
- Strengthening of the economic policy coordination
- Deepening of EU policies

#### Budget

**Budget** planning of the EU for the coming years will have high priority in the Hungarian programme.

#### EU Policies

Future of the **EU policies** will also be on the agenda of the Hungarian Presidency.

- Open consultation related to the future of CAP has started in May 2010. Determination of future priorities of CAP may happen until the end of the Hungarian EU Presidency.
- It will be task of the Hungarian EU Presidency to strengthen the cohesion policy and to further the debate on the framework of the cohesion policy following 2013 among the states.
- Planned measures to create joint energy policy; energy infrastructure and energy efficiency actions plans will also be issues of that half year period of time.



CEC

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

### **Internal market**

Strengthening the **internal market** is also an important mean to reach stronger competitiveness. Legislative tasks deriving from the Monti-report, which proposes the deepening of the internal market, will strongly affect the agenda. The Hungarian government is dedicated to strong EU policies, strong internal market and will help the possibly earliest adoption of these proposals.

### **Integration of the West Balkan**

Integration of the **West Balkan** into the EU is a basic priority of the Hungarian foreign policy. We have an interest in contributing to the stability and the competitiveness of the region. It is a historical opportunity that signing the accession treaty with Croatia may happen in the course of the Hungarian EU Presidency.

### **Eastern Partnership**

It is an important goal to use the Hungarian EU Presidency and the Hungarian-Polish Presidency year of 2011 also for strengthening the '**Eastern Partnership**'. We organize the second Eastern Partnership summit to achieve this goal.

### **Danube Region Strategy**

The **Danube Region Strategy**, which should be approved in the course of the Hungarian EU Presidency, is of high priority. This will be the EU's second transnational, macro-regional development strategy. Approval of the strategy harmonizes with the Hungarian Presidency's object that water as central element should be present in EU policies.

### **Migration, Equal Opportunities, Minorities**

Following the adoption of the Lisbon Treaty, expectations are high with regard to that whether the new legal framework will in fact bring the EU closer to the citizens. Furthering this process will also be priority of the Hungarian EU-Presidency demonstrating that the EU is for the citizens.

Therefore the Hungarian EU Presidency considers the fundamental rights as priority and lays stress upon the preservation of cultural diversity.

It would also be of symbolical significance, if enlargement of the Schengen zone would be realized and border control between Hungary and Romania would cease in the course of the Hungarian EU Presidency.



CEC

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Concerning the field of equal opportunities issues of child poverty and social integration of gypsies will be put emphasis on.

## **The Hungarian Political Context**

The April 2010 general elections in Hungary have not just swept away the ruling post-communist government but caused an earthquake in the political scene. During the last 20 years in Hungary conservative parties and the coalition of Socialists and Liberals were fighting each other in a bipolar system. Now, after 8 years of mismanaging leftish government (with overspendings, deeply corrupt, pseudo-reforms and the falling apart of state bureaucracy) Fidesz, the EPP member conservative party achieved an overwhelming victory (68,14%). The two-third majority in the Parliament not only shows major support, but also provides the ability to amend all types of legislation, including the Constitution.

The Socialist Party lost almost 2.5 million voters (15,28%), and has just a few more MP's than the emerging extreme right wing protest party, Jobbik (12,18%).

Moreover, LMP (4,15%) is a new urban, green, human rights formation, which creates now a credible, innocent and likeable challenger from the left for the Socialists.

In addition, the October 2010 municipal elections also brought the landslide victory of Fidesz. Most important consequence of the municipal elections was that Fidesz as a matter of fact received full political power: after two-third majority in the Parliament, control over most cities and districts of the capital were obtained.