

**Aide Memoire**

**Presentation of Priorities of the Cyprus Presidency at the Meeting of the COSAC Chairpersons'**

**Meeting, by the Deputy Minister to the President on European Affairs**

**Limassol, 9 July 2012**

President,

Dear Deputies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for inviting me to present to you the priorities of the first Cyprus Presidency – Cyprus at the helm of the Council of the EU; Last country of the Trio; Achievements of the Danish Presidency; Last week presentations of the priorities by President to the Plenary of the EP; close cooperation with EU essential; Visits of Commissioners to Cyprus and COSAC Chairs Meeting – contacts with House of representatives as well; tightening of relations, exchange of views, achievement of common goals; Commitment to cooperation and coordination with EP.

Timely and active involvement of EP is important; the success of the Presidency s inextricably linked to quality of cooperation.

Increased role of National Parliaments after Lisbon treaty; preservation of principle of subsidiarity; close cooperation with House of Representatives in last two years; Mutual exchange of information; Consultation with all political parties; consultation with Committee of Foreign and European Affairs regarding the priorities of the Cyprus Presidency and the programme for the six months; help and understanding regarding requests by the government to House of Representatives whenever needed

I am pleased that the Presidency of the Council of the EU has proved to be a national affair outside party political expediences. Today's meeting is very important for the inter-parliamentary activities which will take place during our Presidency; An important step in the further involvement of national parliaments in European procedures; also contribution to the broader goal of successful fulfilment of our obligations as country holding the Presidency

The Presidency is a great challenge and a unique opportunity; for an ongoing contribution to European integration; Presidential conduct independent of political problem; two parallel and independent processes

With a sense of responsibility and enthusiasm of the new arrival; Development of EU for future generations; Motto – ***For a better Europe, a European Union which means more to its citizens and the world*** - Difficult moments of indignation and disorientation, especially the Eurozone crisis; Need for hope and optimism among EU citizens, especially the youth; to be led to a better future

Two dimensions: 1) solidarity and social cohesion, reaction of EU to the crisis; and 2) efficiency and development which will contribute to a more effective and competitive Europe

Focus on development – Decisions of European Council June 2012; Europe 2020 Strategy aims at intelligent, sustainable, and comprehensive development; effort of Presidency to promote policies encouraging development, in harmony with budgetary consolidation and stability; results in development, prosperity and creation of job opportunities

A vision towards a better Europe, on the basis of 4 priorities

**A more effective and sustainable Europe:**

The Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 promotes development and efficiency; the aim is to complete negotiations; a just and effective budget which will bring about development and reinforce competitiveness and employment; improvement of the quality of expenditures and European added value; Principle of solidarity and contribution to economic, social, territorial cohesion; We embrace the view of EP that emphasis must be place don R&D, education, innovation, and competitiveness – contribution to Europe 2020 Strategy; Impetus to investment and economic development, governed by simplified procedures; Community Method and good cooperation among the EU Institutions, in order to effect an agreement before the end of the year; respect for the balance among the Institutions while continuing the current consultation procedure; productive cooperation with EP; informal councils of ministers in Cyprus

Progress with the same resources; achievement of a totally balanced agreement

Cohesion with basic common policies; Cohesion Policy; CAP and Fisheries Policy; Achievement of greatest possible progress

Emphasis on Energy Policy; Promotion of infrastructures for a safe and carbon-free energy sector; Completion of internal energy market; Achievement of targets for Renewable Energy Sources (further penetration with 2030 time horizon); Promotion of trans-European Transport Networks; telecommunications and energy; 'Connecting Europe' Facility; promotion of competitiveness of Europe

Qualitative and fair green development (Europe 2020 Strategy); sustainable and efficient management of European resources; sustainable development and management of resources – especially water; detailed approach; 'reactivation' of EU Comprehensive Marine Policy

#### **Europe with a more efficient economy based on development**

Development harmonised with budgetary consolidation; important Report: 'Towards a Genuine European Economic Union' (EC June 2012); dual approach; fiscal consolidation and sustainable economic development; emphasis on new stronger framework for economic governance; promotion of necessary measures (to strengthen fiscal surveillance and secure fiscal stability); strengthening of economic development and creation of job opportunities; monitoring of implementation of Europe 2020 Strategy

Regulation of framework of financial services for economic development (more market transparency, consumer and investor protection/effective management of financial crises); the aim is to regain market and citizens' trust

Deepening of single market (20<sup>th</sup> anniversary) – promotion of initiatives (emphasis on consumers and SMEs); Digital market

#### **A Europe that means more to citizens, with solidarity and social cohesion:**

Europe closer to its citizens, facing social challenges; opportunities for employment, with emphasis on the youth – employment package – Council conclusions); investment in skills and training; support for demand for workers and creation of job opportunities in neuralgic sectors of the economy

Completion of Common European Asylum System; adoption of pending legislative proposals

European Year of Active Ageing and Inter-generational Solidarity; Health (disease prevention, promotion of well-being); children's welfare (combating of child poverty); Education and Culture (promotion of literacy, quality education); relevant funding programmes; personal data protection; active participation in social life through implementation of Europe 2020 Strategy

**Europe in the world and closer to its neighbours**

Close cooperation with the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the European External Action Service

Southern dimension of European Neighbourhood Policy (to strengthen relations with Mediterranean partners); Multiculturalism and democrach; promotion of enlargement (each country to be judged on its merits and on strict conditions); strengthening of food safety and emphasis on EU developmental goals; strengthening of EU trade policy

Cooperation among all institutions is essential; Equally important is cooperation among institutions within member states

Let us work together for a better Europe