

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 10 January

Greece takes on Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Greece took over the rotating six-month Presidency of the Council of the European Union on Wednesday 1 January and will hold the Presidency of the European Union in the first half of 2014, before handing over reins to Italy on 1 July 2014. It is the fifth time that Greece has held the EU Presidency since its accession to the European Communities in 1981. The Greek Presidency has published the main principles which will guide their six month tenure of the Presidency. These are summarised below:

- Enhancing civic and society engagement in the EU, through policies and initiatives in response to citizens' everyday problems, concerns and insecurities. Therefore, the effort will focus in the areas of economic recovery, employment, cohesion, mobility of Union citizens and European security, internal and external. The ultimate goal is the development of the EU in a community of shared values and "common destiny" for all its citizens, while preserving and strengthening the European model.
- Deepening the Union, especially the EMU, by promoting policies and actions to improve initial deficiencies in the Euro area architecture, which have been unveiled by the ongoing crisis. The aim remains to safeguard the irrevocability of the common currency, on a solid and sustainable basis. The Presidency sees the euro as a fundamental building block of the European integration project. As first step, the Presidency will strive for concrete progress on the banking union (Single Resolution Mechanism). In any case, all EMU deepening will take place fully respecting the Single Market, in a procedure open to non-Eurozone member-states.
- Reinforcing EU democratic legitimacy and accountability along with collectivity and solidarity links among member states, as well as in incrementally constructing European democracy and in expanding civil rights.

The four specific fields of action that the Presidency has highlighted are:

- Growth – Jobs – Cohesion
- Further integration of the EU-eurozone
- Migration – Borders – Mobility
- Sea Polices – A thematic that will run horizontally through the Presidency's priorities.

(Source: The Greek Presidency)

<http://gr2014.eu/eu-presidency/the-greek-presidency/programme-and-priorities>

Arnaud de David-Beauregard appointed as the new CLEPA President

CLEPA has appointed Mr Arnaud de David-Beauregard, Vice-President, FIEV, as its new President at their General assembly in Madrid. Mr David-Beauregard took on the role from 1 January 2014. Commenting on the announcement CLEPA CEO, Jean Marc Gales, stated: "I am confident that with his background in automotive operations and national associations, Arnaud will further build on the solid track record of Mr Peter Tyroller, Member of the Board Management of Robert Bosch, who was at the helm of the European Association of Automotive Suppliers for four years". (Source: CLEPA)

<http://www.clepa.be/>

December 2013: Economic Sentiment rises further in both the euro area and the EU

The European Commission has published its December Economic Sentiment Indicator (ESI) for December. This shows that ESI increased by 1.6 points in the euro area (to 100.0) and 1.4 points in the EU (to 103.5) in December. Sentiment in the euro area is thus back to its long-term average for the first time since July 2011. In the EU, the average had already been passed in September.

(Source: European Commission)

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-7_en.htm?locale=en