The Netherlands EU Presidency 2016

Expert Group on Greening the Semester

15th January 2016

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The Dutch EU Presidency

- 12th time
- Formal Councils for legislative negotiations in Brussels (4/3) and Luxemburg (20/6)
- Informal Council for more open discussions in Amsterdam (14-15/4)
- Main task: “Honest broker”: build compromises between 28 member states
- Represent the Council in trilogues with Parliament and Commission
- After the Netherlands: Slovakia and Malta; shared ‘trio-programme’ to guarantee continuity.
Sober but hospitable .. 😊
Amsterdam – the Europe building
The Dutch Ambitions

- ‘Honest broker’ – The Netherlands as effective ‘polderaar’
- Hospitable
- Efficient
- Innovative

Three guiding principles:
1. An EU that focuses on the main issues
2. An EU that creates innovative growth & jobs
3. A Union that connects with its citizens
Most Important Dossiers for the NL

1. Migration and International Security
2. Europe as Innovator and Job Creator
3. Stable and Robust Currency Union
4. Future-oriented Climate and Energy Policy

But also: “known unknowns” and “unknown unknowns” – presidency will require **flexibility**: concrete solutions for actual problems.
NL Environment priorities

Climate Change (follow up COP 21 and ETS)
Circular Economy
Make it Work / delivering
Sdg’s
Air Quality
  1. NEC
  2. Euro 5/6
Climate change

- Ambitious agreement in Paris (COP 21)
- Expected to be scheduled in EU Council March (15/3)
- In March Environment Council
- And perhaps in Informal Council (April)
- European package: ETS to be discussed in June Council
- Perhaps in combination with non-ETS if presented by Commission
Circular Economy

- Stakeholder meeting 25th and 26th January ('unwrapping the package' – round tables)
- High level back to back with MiW (5th April) (removing barriers for CE etc.)
- 2 Environment Councils (March / June)
- Competitiveness Council (29th February)
- Poss. Agriculture and fisheries Council (27/28th June) – food losses
Make it work / goals

- **MiW Member state driven** project. Close cooperation Cion. Project team: NL, UK, GER
- Aims at delivering environmental outcomes more efficiently and effectively, without lowering existing protection standards.
- More consistent EU environmental legislation
- **Sets up drafting principles** for horizontal instruments / procedures (Compliance assurance / reporting)
- Aims for a more structural **Platform**
MiW during presidency

4th and 5th April: back to back with Circular economy - high level meeting Amsterdam
Link with CE: delivering better results through smarter legislation and additional instruments – beyond legislation (a.o. green deals)
Discuss: MiW deliveries; Commission initiatives (EIR, reporting); agenda & MiW governance for the next years

20th June Council debate on delivering better results
Sustainable development goals
Sustainable development goals

• Commission: proposal ‘next steps towards a sustainable future’ (EU 2030) expected
• (this week: roadmap with outline proposal expected)
• Debate in March Council
• feed into Cion process
Council agenda 4th March, Brussels

• **Circular Economy** Package - Policy debate
• Follow-up to **COP 21** - Exchange of views (lunch)
• European Semester/ AGS and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – Exchange of views (*incl sdg’s*)

AOB

• **Minamata** Convention “Package” – Information CION
Prov. Council agenda 20th June, Brussels

- **ETS reform** - Policy debate
- **Circular Economy Package** - Conclusions
- **Delivering** better results for the environment: “Make it Work” – Exchange of views
- Action against *wildlife* trafficking - Exchange of views/ (poss.) conclusions

**AOB**
- (poss.) Non-ETS – Information CION
- (poss.) Report Refit Birds and Habitat Directives – Information CION
- Circular Economy Package: state of play legislative proposal on waste – Information Presidency
- Work program incoming Presidency – Information Slovak delegation
Informal council 14th/15th April

Informal Transport council, Env Council and combined council

Theme: ‘smart and green solutions for mobility’;
Environment: sustainable mobility

Innovative: mobility innovation, policy innovation and innovative meeting (Scenarios4summits)

Use of innovative videos to stimulate discussion

Also focus on climate (follow up Paris)
Innovation expo (Eye across IJ)
interesting meetings

Circular economy stakeholders meeting ‘unwrapping the package’) 25th/26th January

Back to back high level on MiW and CE 4/5 April

Adaptation Futures conference 10th – 13th May

Space solutions Conference 30 May to 3rd June

Director’s meeting Water/Maritime 9th-10th June

Networking for Urban Vitality, 23 June 2016, Amsterdam

Future proof Nature policy meeting 27th – 29th June
International meetings

- Executive Body, CLRTAP, 2-4 May 2016, Geneva, Switzerland
- UNFCCC (SBI, SBSTTA), 16-26 May 2016, Bonn, Germany
- UNEA, 23-27 May 2016, Nairobi, Kenya
- OEWG Basel Convention, 30 May–3 June, Nairobi, Kenya
- 8th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, 8-10 June 2016, Batumi, Georgia
- COP-17 CITES – preparations in Brussels
hope to see you in Amsterdam in 2016!

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