

Joint Trio Presidency Declaration: Together for Europe's future

The ministers for European affairs of Germany, Portugal and Slovenia jointly holding the Trio Presidency of the Council of the European Union during the 18-month period from July 2020 to December 2021, hereby present this joint declaration on the occasion of their meeting on 9 November.

Our second joint Trio Presidency of the Council of the European Union started on 1st July 2020. As always, we work closely and trustfully together. At the halfway mark of the German Presidency, we met to discuss the achievements so far and the way ahead.

As Trio partners, we will continue to work to ensure that the Council of the European Union maintains its decision-making ability under the difficult circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic. Overcoming the pandemic and its social and economic consequences will remain the key objective of our Trio Presidency. We will continue to work to further improve the coordination within the European Union to contain the further spread of the virus and to manage and overcome the Corona-related health crisis. We will also work to jointly identify lessons learnt for a more resilient EU and an even more effective crisis management in the future.

At the same time, we keep our ambitions high to achieve common political goals regarding a number of other key topics for the EU.

We need to urgently finalize the discussions regarding the Multiannual Financial Framework and the recovery plan "Next Generation EU". We welcome that we were able to reach common ground with the European Parliament on the conditionality mechanism in line with the conclusions of the July European Council underlining the importance of the respect of the rule of law. However, challenges remain in finalizing the package. Rapid implementation of the MFF and NGEU is key to ensuring a speedy economic recovery. The EU will undertake unprecedented efforts to support the recovery of the regions and economic sectors most affected by the crisis.

The future Common European Asylum System needs to be based on solidarity and shared responsibility, both in the internal and external dimension. The Trio will do its utmost to conclude the Asylum and Migration package during our Trio Presidency.

As the Trio, we aim to strengthen the respect for the rule of law as a fundamental value of the EU. The new rule of law dialogue will be a preventive and forward-looking mechanism which allows for an open and constructive dialogue among Member States and foster both a joint awareness and a common understanding of the rule of law. We are committed to continuing with this dialogue during our Trio Presidency.

We are committed to strengthening the social dimension with social safety nets for all EU citizens. Based on the upcoming Commission proposals, we aim for substantial progress in the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights.

The three Presidencies are fully committed to the objective of achieving a climate-neutral EU by 2050, in line with the objectives of the Paris Agreement. We will work together for the

endorsement by the EU of the climate objectives for 2030 and 2050 and to ensure their implementation in EU climate and energy legislation.

The need for European digital and technological sovereignty has become even more evident during the pandemic. We support a resilient, value-based digital transformation and the responsible use of artificial intelligence and will work on concrete digital targets for 2030 during our presidencies.

The Trio will work towards opening the first accession conferences with the Republic of North Macedonia and the Republic of Albania, on the basis of the Council Conclusions of March 2020.

As Trio partners we will cooperate closely with and collectively support the High Representative of the Union for Foreign and Security Policy in fulfilling his tasks and will seek the active engagement and dedicated support of all Member States to the Union's foreign policy. We will seek to bolster the EU's standing as a global leader, promoting peace, prosperity and human rights for all.

We are cooperating closely to deliver concrete results for the benefits our citizens. In this regard, we aim for a rapid start of the Conference on the Future of Europe. It will provide an important forum to discuss with European citizens how to prepare the EU even better for future challenges.