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Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the EU

European Union in 2013

EU moving towards economic recovery

- Need to ensure growth, job creation and better competitiveness
- Implementation of EU political agreements

End of EU legislative cycle

- New elections of European Parliament in May 2014

Finalization of legal framework related to EU Budget 2014–2020

- Agreement on EU budget 2014



Focus Europe

Credible Europe

- Restore confidence in EU economy

Growing Europe

- Boost employment and competitiveness

Open Europe

- Strengthen openness and security



Credible Europe

Implement enhanced economic governance framework

- Implement EU Fiscal Compact, focus on balancing national budgets
- Prudent application of the Stability and Growth Pact (reinforced by six-pack)
- Strengthen budgetary surveillance mechanisms in Euro area (implementing two-pack)
- Discuss ex-ante coordination of major economic reforms in Euro area

Deepen Economic and Monetary Union with special focus on Banking Union framework

- Proceed with discussions on deepening EMU
- Progress on negotiations on Single Resolution Mechanism

Protect financial interests of EU and Member States

- Agree on actions to fight against tax fraud and tax evasion
- Focus on anti-money laundering files

Credible Europe for citizens

- Encourage and facilitate citizens' wider involvement in the EU



Growing Europe

EU budget for growth

- MFF-related legislative proposals, EU2014 annual budget

EU Internal Market for growth

- Digital Agenda: TEN-tele, e-identification, broadband cost reduction, network security
- Complete Single Market Act I, progress on Single Market Act II
- Research, industry and innovation framework
- Better regulation and governance, SMEs, services

Boost employment

- Youth employment: Guarantees scheme, Alliance for Apprenticeships

Complete EU internal energy market

- Proper implementation of third energy package, market design, integration of renewables (progress monitoring and evaluation)
- First Europe-wide list of projects of common interest
- Solid external dimension of EU energy policy (stock-taking of actions agreed in 2011)

Move forward macro-regional strategies for growth

- Review of EU macro-regional strategies for the Baltic Sea and Danube regions



Open Europe

Strengthen Eastern Partnership

- Finalize and sign Association Agreements, including DCFTAs
- Advance dialogue on visa facilitation and liberalization

Continue enlargement

- Advance EU accession negotiations (Iceland, Montenegro, Turkey)
- Progress on European perspective of other Western Balkan countries

Promote free trade worldwide and with strategic partners

- Negotiate free trade agreements with United States and Japan
- WTO ministerial conference in Bali

Effective control of EU external borders

- Smart borders package, legal migration and fight against smuggling

Strengthen Common Security and Defence Policy

- Better response to new security challenges and closer cooperation between partners

Increase impact of EU Development policy

- Promote better use of EU Member States' transition experience in development cooperation



More information

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