Preparation for the Presidency of the Council of the EU

Carlo Jacobucci Sofia, 16 October 2015

Part I The Presidency from Brussels' perspective

Structure and functioning of the **Permanent Representation**

The Structure of the Permanent Representation

- Mainly follows the structure of the Council
- Permanent Representative, Deputy Perm Rep
- Antici, Mertens
- Horizontal Services: Press, EP and Legal office
- The Presidency meeting room co-ordinator
- The Attachés
- + PSC sector (Ambassador to PSC, Nicolaidis)

The Presidency working week

												_	
		_	-	COREPER I Presidency - Working Week									
			+										
			T	<u>Timeline</u>									
			Ť			ı	ı		ı				
Comment:	nt: Timeline only includes regular Coreper I meeting. Most weeks with alo include a Council and/or trilogues o times indicated are only indicative and may move forward or back depending on times for Council meetings and/or trilogues										es		
Week 1													
Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday	DPR + Mertens (+ WG Chairs?):	Thursday		Friday	DPR + Mertens (+ WG Chairs?):	Saturda	
1.00 pm	Coreper 1 team: Review Diary for week	Ali day	Attachés: Identify issues for Coreper Agenda Week 2	10.30 am	Mertens meeting pre-briefing with CS & CION			10.00 am	Video conference with capital?		Pre-Coreper briefing with CS,		
							& CION				CLS & CION	FREE	
			,			2.20 0111			Coreper 1 team: Provide				
1.30 pm	Corper 1, Corper 2,		Coreper I team + Attachés:						feedback to CS on draft				
	Institutions, PSC:	11.00 am	Prepare items on Coreper	11.00 am	Mertens meeting	10.00 am	Coreper Week 1 meeting	pm	Coreper Agenda Week 2	10.00 am	Coreper Week 1 meeting		
	Presidency Coordination		Agenda Week 1, Wednesday					•	following cross reference with				
	_		meeting						attachés' views				
2.30 pm											WG Chair: Prepare operative		
									Coreper 1 team + attachés:		Report on Coreper item within 1		
	Coreper 1 team		Mertens Team prepares &		Mertens report prepared		DPR + Mertens: Receive draft		Briefing session for Coreper 1		hour of discussion.		
	+ All Attachés:	1.00 pm	circulated Presidency Flash	1.00 pm	& circulated	am	Coreper Agenda Week 2	4.00 pm	Week 1, Friday meeting (if	am/pm	Mertens: Collate operative		
	- Review week ahead		for Coreper Week 1						required)		reports and prepare Coreper		
											summary report (to be circulated on same day)		
	Coreper 1 team + Attachés by										Circulated on same day)		
3.00 pm	section. See standing meeting												
	agenda												
	-						WG Chair: Prepare operative						
							Report on Coreper item within 1						
			Number Agenda for Coreper		Coreper I team + Attachés:		hour of discussion.				Mertens gives green light to CS		
		2.00 pm	Week 1 circulated	pm	Prepare items on Coreper	am/pm	Mertens: Collate operative			1.00 pm	to circulate draft provisional		
					Agenda Week 1		reports and prepare Coreper				Coreper Agenda Week 2		
							summary report (to be circulated						
							on same day)						
											Coreper 1 team + attachés:		
		pm	Bilateral meetings/phone calls							nm.	Initial briefing on Coreper		
		pin	with CION, EP, CS, MS etc.							pin	Agenda Week 2 & review items		
											for Coreper Week 2 & 3		
											Receive Coprer Brief Week 1		
										5.00 pm	from Council Secretariat		
										CoB	All Fiches updated for items on		
										COB	Coreper I agenda Week 1		

Relations with the Capital

- Brussels-based vs Capital-based Presidency?
- Who does what?
 - Capital: Strategic thinking and Political guidance
 - Brussels: Day-by-day management and negotiations
- Constant exchange of information

The Presidency's Legal Environment

The Presidency's legal environment

- The functions of the Presidency
- The prerogatives of the Presidency
- Constraints and conditioning
- Co-decision as the ordinary legislative procedure

The Presidency legal environment

Tools?

- Trio Programme and national programme
- Calendar of Council meetings
- Draft agendas
- Strenghts? Drive and Energy
- Weaknesses? Inexperience, lack of continuity, limited time

Relations with key players

Relations with other Member States

- All Member States are equally important
- Decisions are mostly taken by QMV
- Importance of informal conctacts and negotiations

Your main ally The Council Secretariat

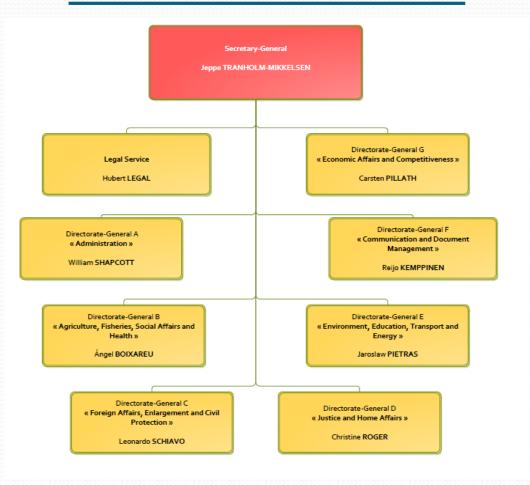
The role of the Council Secretariat

• Art. 23 rules of Procedure:

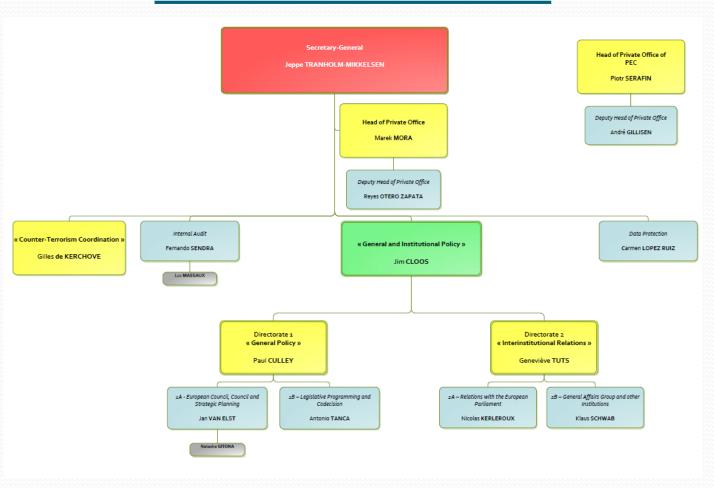
The GSC shall be closely and continually involved in organising, coordinating and ensuring the coherence of the <u>Council's</u> work and the implementation of its 18-month programme. Under the responsibility and guidance of the <u>Presidency</u>, it shall assist the latter in seeking solutions.

- Presidency consults, but does not need always to follow advice.
- SGC serves successive Presidencies loyally, even if policy shifts 180°

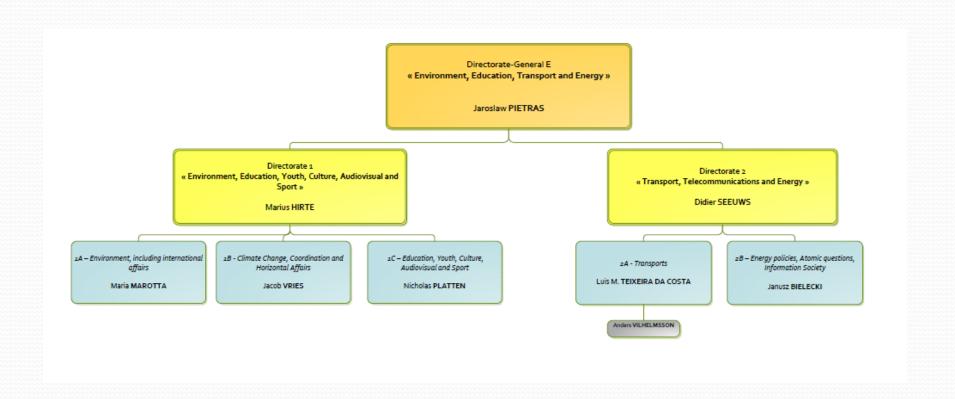
Structure of the SGC



Structure of the SGC



Structure of the SGC (example of DG)



Support by the Council Secretariat

No political opinions but choices on form and procedure

Before the Presidency

tools for planning and prioritising

During the Presidency

- Working party
- Coreper/Council level
- Trilogues/relations with EP
- Document management, logistics

The Legal Service

- Legal adviser to the Council and the European Council
- Independent opinions
- Attends meetings at all levels
- Oral or written opinions
- Responsible for the drafting quality of legislation
- Represents the Council when it is party to proceedings before the ECJ

Your strategic partner The European Commission

The European Commission

- How to work with the Commission?
- The Commission and the incoming presidency
 - Trio programme / 6 month presidency programme
 - Draft Council agendas.
- The Commission during the Presidency
- Level of representation in the Council

The European Parliament

The European Parliament

- An increasingly powerful Parliament
- The role of the Presidency
 - Legislative activities
 - Non legislative activities
- Internal Council Coordination

Other actors

- EESC, CoR
- European Associations, lobbyists

Always find time!

Questions?

Thank you for your attention!