



The Estonian Presidency Programme for the Competitiveness Council (COMPET)

Internal Market

For the **internal market**, the Estonian Presidency will aim to advance the negotiations rapidly in order to deliver on the numerous legislative and other proposals under the Single Market Strategy and the Digital Single Market Strategy within the Council as well as in cooperation with the Parliament.

The Estonian Presidency will finalise the approval of the regulation on unjustified **geo-blocking** within the Single Market. The Estonian Presidency also hopes to start the initial discussions on the **Company Law reform** package to be launched in autumn 2017. The future initiatives will hopefully update the rules on cross-border mobility of companies, including creating rules for cross-border transfer of registered office, and establish more digital solutions throughout a company's lifecycle.

The Estonian Presidency will ensure thorough discussions on the elements of the **Services Package** and build on the efforts made by the Maltese Presidency on the services notification procedure and proportionality tests for professional qualifications to start and advance trilogues. The Presidency aims to agree on a general approach concerning the introduction of a services e-card.

As the Estonian Presidency strongly believes that information on key procedures/services for people and companies should be available online and usable cross-border, the Presidency strives to advance the discussions on the **Single Digital Gateway**. Further down the road, the Presidency expects to launch debates on the goods package and the procurement package.

In the area of **technical harmonisation**, the Estonian Presidency will work on the proposal on the type approval and market **surveillance of motor vehicles** and their trailers. To restore the credibility of the sector, we see the need to have a transparent system with proper supervision, improve coordination on different levels and harmonise the application of EU regulation. The CE-marked **fertilisers proposal** is based on two main pillars – 1) high-level of human health and environmental protection and 2) opening the single market for secondary raw materials. In order to meet these targets, the Estonian Presidency stands ready to build on the achievements by previous presidencies to achieve the mandate for starting discussions with the Parliament.

The Estonian Presidency considers the subject of **Better Regulation** a vital issue. The Estonian Presidency intends to contribute effectively to the implementation of the Inter-institutional Agreement on Better Law-Making. In addition, the Estonian Presidency plans to focus on the digital dimension of Better Regulation, by sharing best e-governance practices and promoting e-solutions in order to simplify the lives of European citizens and improve business environment.

In regard to the Digital Single Market priorities, the Estonian Presidency will concentrate on the second **copyright reform** package. After the Maltese Presidency reached an agreement with the European Parliament on the instruments implementing the Marrakesh Treaty, the Estonian Presidency will aim to make as much headway as possible on the directive on copyright in the Digital Single Market, and the





regulation on broadcasting organisations.

Industrial policy and space

The Estonian Presidency will promote mainstreaming **industrial policy** into the EU strategic initiatives and conduct discussions for a way forward in strengthening EU industry and increasing its competitiveness. For the same purpose, the Presidency will advance the related initiatives supporting the uptake of new technologies and digitalisation, as well as follow up on the startup-scaleup communication.

Customs

In order to ensure **customs** authorities with the right tools to prevent and detect money laundering or terrorist financing, the Estonian Presidency will continue working on regulation on controls on cash entering or leaving the Union, and continue discussions on the planned regulation on imports of cultural heritage. The Estonian Presidency will provide the continuation of the governance reform of the Customs Union, especially in the area of information technology.

Research

In research, the priority topic of the Estonian Presidency is the **interim evaluation of the European Union Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon 2020**, including the interim evaluation of the European Institute of Innovation, and Technology (EIT) and the extension of the Euratom programme for the period of 2019-2020. In the lead-up to the preparations for the next multiannual financial framework (MFF) and Framework Programme, Estonia will focus on two priorities in the discussions at the Council.

The first priority focuses on **increasing the long-term impact and visibility of research, development and innovation (RDI) in the development of the European economy and society**. The aim is to build a case for ambitious investments of RDI in the EU and Member States. Secondly, we will initiate a discussion on **increasing the coherence of the EU research and innovation partnerships financed from the Framework Programme, and supporting the participation of newcomers**. Over the years, the number of different partnership instruments and initiatives in the Framework Programme has significantly grown, resulting in a rather complex landscape. We wish to contribute to the creation of a simpler, more integrated and accessible research and innovation Framework Programme.

Space

On the topic of **space**, the Estonian Presidency will contribute to the discussions about the future of the EU space programme **Copernicus**. To this end, the Estonian Presidency will work on Council conclusions on the Copernicus mid-term evaluation and will organise an EU-ESA **informal ministerial meeting on space** in Tallinn in November 2017. The topic for the meeting will be the future perspectives of the Earth observation in Europe in the years of 2020+.

