

## NON – PAPER

### Main issues to be dealt with during the Cyprus Presidency

Cyprus will hold the Presidency of the Council of the EU for the first time since its accession in the EU. During the second semester of 2012, it will be important for Cyprus to promote policies that will improve the effectiveness of EU, via more targeted policies. At the same time, the principle of solidarity, a core value of the Union, will be pursued. The overarching aim will be to add value to the process of European integration, paving the way towards a better Europe, a European Union more relevant to its citizens and in the world.

One of the key issues that most likely will still be on the agenda during the Cyprus Presidency is the negotiations of the new Multiannual Financial Framework covering the period 2014-2020, seeking to reach a political agreement that will contribute to economic, social and territorial cohesion. With regards to the eurozone crisis and the strengthening of economic governance, special emphasis will be given to the implementation of the Six-Pack - trying to reinforce the surveillance of fiscal and macroeconomic policies - and to the promotion of any new additional measures that may be required.

Focus will also be placed on policies for European citizens, while addressing societal challenges and, thus, achieving more inclusive growth for the Union. Within this framework, particular emphasis will also be given on providing employment opportunities and a more secure future to young people. Another priority will be the implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy, in order to help the EU to achieve sustainable growth and high levels of employment and social cohesion.

The Cyprus Presidency will also continue its efforts to achieve sustainable development and resource efficiency, highlighting the importance of a more competitive Union based on a low carbon and green economy and reinforcing the ambitious efforts of the European institutions for more concrete results. An essential issue will also be the further consolidation of the 20-year-old Single Market. The re-launching of the Integrated Maritime Policy, the further implementation of the Stockholm Programme for an open and secure Europe and the completion of the Common European Asylum System by 2012 will also be high on the Cyprus Presidency agenda.

Cyprus will continue working on the ongoing enlargement process and, after the recent developments in neighbouring countries following the Arab Spring, Cyprus will also seek to bring Europe closer to its neighbours and work towards the further enhancement of the Union's role in the world.