



Recommendations from members of the TEPSA network to the Luxembourg Presidency

The Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA) has the tradition to formulate recommendations to the incoming Council Presidency. These recommendations have been prepared by the following members of the TEPSA network: **Iain Begg** (TEPSA Board, London School of Economics and Politics, London), **Michal Kořan** (Institute of International Relations, Prague), **Petr Kratochvíl** (Institute of International Relations, Prague), **Diāna Potjomkina** (Latvian Institute of International Affairs, Riga) and **Mark Rhinard** (Swedish Institute of International Relations, Stockholm). They do not necessarily represent the view of TEPSA or its partner institutes.

Diāna Potjomkina will present the recommendations to the incoming Luxembourg Presidency at the occasion of the TEPSA-LIIA Pre-Presidency Conference on 4 and 5 June 2015 in Luxembourg. The conference is organised the Centre d'études et de recherches européennes Robert Schuman in cooperation with the Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA), and with the support of the European Parliament Information Office in Luxembourg, the European Commission Representation in Luxembourg, the Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and the Luxembourg Ministry of Higher Education and Research.

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Migration

In several previous Presidency recommendations, TEPSA has highlighted the shortcomings of EU migration policy. The immediate concern must be helping those in danger, which is both a moral obligation and legal requirement under international law. The European Council's conclusions of 23rd April 2015, which triple funding for search and rescue, are thus a step forward -- but more work has to be done. The Commission's EU Migration Strategy, published on 13th May 2015, is to be commended for forcing a broader – if difficult – debate amongst Member States regarding their internal solidarity obligations for relocating migrants, but it should not distract attention from Member States' external solidarity obligations to assist in stabilizing third countries, too.

Three linked recommendations for the Luxembourg Presidency are therefore put forward:

- First, the EU must recognize the interconnectedness of its policies and adopt a holistic approach to handling the onslaught of migration.
- The EU should improve the 'upstream' management of mobility and migration flows through sustained engagement with our southern neighbours. Engagement should focus on development, trade and economic assistance tools to improve conditions for potential migrants and undermine the main sources of migration: poverty and conflict.
- Attention must also be paid to 'downstream' flows of migrants once they arrive in Europe, including more rapid processing of asylum applications and a more coherent common framework for accepting and resettling migrants on EU territory.

Foreign affairs and security

Given its long standing commitment to the development of common European foreign and security policy, Luxembourg has an opportunity during its presidency to build a consensus on the future of the European Security Strategy (or a similar document). It is vital to ensure that the process of drafting a new strategy is inclusive and that Member States are encouraged to take ownership of the new strategy. A presidency priority should be to ensure that the document obtains strong political backing, so that it reflects both the EU's ambitions and the changing international security environment. This will entail finding the right balance between the EU's regional and global ambitions and its capacities. Fostering enhanced capacity building and resourcing it adequately will be among the most important issues that the Presidency should seek to achieve in moving towards a renewed European security policy.

While the Eastern Partnership's principle of 'more for more' is generally sound, the European Union must take into account the changing security environment in Eastern Europe and offer the partner countries tangible benefits that will increase the attractiveness of European integration compared to alternative integration groupings. Support for mobility, rule of law and economic development are the three key ingredients of a successful strategy. To this end, the Luxembourg presidency should aim to achieve three precise goals:

- Speeding up the process of visa facilitation/liberalization (bearing in mind the huge popularity, for example in Moldova, of Schengen visa-free travel) and ensuring that obstacles to implementation are overcome;
- Focusing the EU's attention as well as its financial means on comprehensive institution building;
- Strengthening the SME facility which is seen as essential in the partner countries.

Development

The Luxembourg Presidency should forge a strong, enlightened and coherent EU stance in the imminent multi-lateral negotiations on the follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals, at the same time aspiring to ambitious and value-based world standards. It is crucial not only to reach a sound agreement in September on the goals, but also to define exact, clear and time-limited mechanisms for achieving these. At the same time, the EU's own external policies must be reviewed to ensure overall coherence and a strategic approach (also in line with the changing situation in the Neighbourhood). The European Year for Development must be used to mobilize governmental and non-governmental resources, as well as the widest possible support from civil society in defining and implementing the new goals.

Media

With some Member States and neighbours confronted with aggressive propaganda efforts geared at destabilization of their societies and changes in their policies, the Luxembourg Presidency should strengthen the EU's regional media and strategic communication policy. A strategic response is needed: politically and financially supporting a truly liberal and open media environment; providing high quality information on the EU, its Member States and their policies; assisting in diversifying media (linguistically etc.) to reach out to all strata of population; and forging a clear legal response to violations of constitutional principles.



Europe 2020

The lack of urgency in dealing with the mid-term review and prospective recasting of the Europe 2020 Strategy (already, it should be emphasised, at its halfway point) is regrettable and risks becoming a source of embarrassment for the current trio Presidency. It is time to make decisive progress on what, after all, is a core EU policy aimed at stimulating much needed growth and employment. In this regard, more concrete initiatives should be launched in the course of the Luxembourg Presidency to exploit the employment potential of the 'green' and 'digital' economies.

The euro

While much has been done in recent years to improve macroeconomic governance, the momentum towards genuine economic and monetary union (GEMU) has slowed. The follow-up to the forthcoming Five Presidents' report on the next stages of GEMU should include a precise timetable for attaining key objectives, including a better means of establishing a coherent macroeconomic policy mix and sufficient mutualisation of debt.

