



TEPSA Recommendations to the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

On 17 June 2021, the TEPSA Recommendations to the incoming Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the EU were presented to State Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, Mag. Gašper Dovžan.

LJUBLJANA, 17/06/2021: On the occasion of TEPSA's Slovenian Pre-Presidency Conference, the TEPSA Recommendations to the upcoming Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union were formally presented to **Mag. Gašper Dovžan, State Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia** by Dr. Funda Tekin, director of Institute for European Politics and contributor to the recommendations.

The main message of the TEPSA Recommendations is that it is “time to move forward”:

- the Slovenian Presidency needs to aim for a **comprehensive and future-oriented COVID-19 recovery**,
- the Slovenian Presidency should guarantee the proper functioning of the **Conference on the Future of Europe** and not let down the citizens' expectations,
- the Slovenian Presidency should push the EU to take a **coherent stance on post-pandemic global matters** such as international trade and investments.

Three further recommendations were provided by researchers from the TEPSA Network. Andrea G. Rodríguez (Barcelona Centre for International Affairs) urges the Slovenian Presidency to “step on the gas for an accelerated digital era”; Louise van Schaik, Akash Ramnath, Giulia Cretti and Daniel Scholten (Clingendael Institute) calls on the Slovenian Presidency to ensure the EU steps up its actions to promote energy transition in third countries; and Natasha Wunsch (Sciences Po) urges the Slovenian Presidency to initiate a step change in the EU's engagement in the Western Balkans, shifting from stagnation and box-ticking to in-depth reform and valued partnership.

Upon reading the Recommendations, the State Secretary commented "**The TEPSA Recommendations highlight of the key challenges ahead for Europe and the Slovenian Presidency**". Funda Tekin, TEPSA Board Member and joint coordinator of the regular TEPSA Recommendations along with Nicoletta Pirozzi and Ilke Toygür, noted: "**our Recommendations are ambitious and call for action to the incoming Presidency**"

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