



2021 PORTUGAL.EU

PORTUGUESE PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EU

Economy and Digital Transition

Over the past six months, the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union (PPEU2021) has endeavoured to promote an open and inclusive dialogue on the digital agenda, industrial policy and a fair post-COVID-19 recovery.

The digital transformation of the EU was one of the priorities of the Portuguese Presidency. In this sense, Portugal worked towards establishing clear objectives in order to accelerate the digital transition, as this is an essential driver for economic recovery. The Presidency committed itself to advancing the negotiations of the legislative proposals of the so-called “Digital Package”, namely the Regulation on Digital Markets and the Regulation on Digital Services.

PPEU2021 also promoted a broad reflection on European strategic autonomy and the creation of a level playing field in the Internal Market, with special attention to European Small and Medium-sized enterprises.

The approval of the National Recovery and Resilience Plans was a central element of the PPEU2021, promoting, within this framework, the establishment of cross-border projects between the EU Member States, to respond to the failures of the value chains and to foster equitable and sustained European growth, which prepares for the twin transition - green and digital.

Additionally, in the Competitiveness Council, the Portuguese Presidency contributed to the approval of Conclusions on the New Consumer Agenda, on Sustainable Tourism, and on Better Legislation. PPEU2021 succeeded in approving the EU's COVID Digital Certificate, which aims to help re-establish the free movement of EU citizens in a context of security, helping, among other sectors, the recovery of the tourism sector.

HIGHLIGHT

THE LISBON DECLARATION

From the Digital Assembly, held on 1-2 June, we highlight the signing of the Lisbon Declaration : “**Digital Democracy with a Purpose**”, a key document for the preparation of a Joint Interinstitutional Declaration of Digital Principles, proposed by the Commission.

The Lisbon Declaration highlights Europe's geostrategic influence as an area of security, trust and balance between economic and technological development, anchored in ethical principles. This Declaration also aims to promote the **European Way of Life doing Business**, valuing partners outside the EU who share European principles and values.



- André de Aragão Azevedo,
Secretary of State for the Digital Transition

[More info here](#)

DELIVERABLES

High-Level Conference “Travel Guide to a Competitive Economy”

The Conference “Travel Guide to a Competitive Economy”, on 28 April, promoted a debate on the valorization of national production factors and the best way to leverage them, with a focus on clusters.

This conference was attended by representatives of the main national competitiveness clusters, business associations, public entities and academia. All were gathered for an open discussion, through which we tried to find an answer to the current questions of “What will be the way to strengthen the competitiveness of the Portuguese economy, generating added value?” and “What is the best path to encourage the rise of Portuguese companies to international value chains?”.

[More info here](#)

Digital Assembly

The Digital Assembly, co-organized by the European Commission and the Portuguese Presidency, took place on 1 and 2 June, in digital format, around the theme “Leading Europe's Digital Decade“. The event brought together Ministers from the different Member States, as well as representatives from the private sector and civil society.

The first day of the event focused on the presentation of the Communication “2030 Digital Compass: the European way for Digital Decade“. The second day was, in turn, dedicated to the launch of the Digital Europe Programme, the first EU financial instrument for European projects in digital. This event was also associated to the formal inauguration of the Ellalink submarine cable between Europe (Sines, Portugal) and Latin America (Fortaleza, Brazil).

[More info here](#)

Digital Services Package

At the Meeting of the Competitiveness Council, Internal Market and Industry, on May 27, the Council took note of the progress report with the negotiation of the Proposals for Regulation for the Digital Package (Digital Markets Act and Digital Services Act).

The Portuguese Presidency also concluded the negotiation on the Electronic Privacy Regulation. These achievements of the Portuguese Presidency allowed a significant advance, with the expectation of a quick conclusion of the negotiations of the Digital Services Package.

[More info here](#)

Single Market Forum

On 25 June, the PPEU 2021 organized, together with the European Commission, the Single Market Forum 2021. The theme of the Forum was “Moving forward”, addressing the challenges and weaknesses in the Single Market created by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the main changes and trends for the future. The importance of removing obstacles to the proper functioning of the Single Market was also discussed, namely in the context of notification procedures arising from the Services Directive and the Transparency Directive.

[More info here](#)

"As a continent, Europe has to ensure that its citizens and businesses have access to a choice of state-of-the-art technologies that will make their life better, safer, and even greener – provided they also have the skills to use them. In the post pandemic world, this is how we will shape together a resilient and digitally sovereign Europe. This is Europe's Digital Decade."



2nd TRIMESTER EVENTS

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MINISTERIAL
CONFERENCE ON
FOOD SUPPLEMENTS

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HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE
“TRAVEL GUIDE TO A
COMPETITIVE ECONOMY”

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EUROPEAN METROLOGY
NETWORK FOR CLEAN
ENERGY INITIAL
MEETING

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THE IMPACT OF
STANDARDIZATION ON
EUROPEAN ECONOMIC
RECOVERY

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HIGH-LEVEL FORUM
FOR A SUSTAINABLE
TOURISM

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WORLD METROLOGY DAY
2021

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COMPETITIVENESS
COUNCIL

Internal Market and Industry

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DIGITAL ASSEMBLY

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ATTACHÉS MEETING
WORKING PARTY ON
COMPETITIVENESS AND
GROWTH

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WEBINAR
"PACT4SKILLS IN EU
INDUSTRIAL
ECOSYSTEMS"

[More info here](#)

25

INTERNAL MARKET FORUM
(SIMFO)

Closing Conference

[More info here](#)

APR

MAY

JUN



UPDATE OF THE INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

On 5 May 2021, the European Commission published the update of the 2020 Industrial Strategy: towards a stronger Single Market for Europe's recovery.

The Industrial Strategy update focuses on three domains:

- A Resilient Single Market – in this context, the Strategy highlights the importance of creating an emergency instrument for the Single Market, removing barriers and developing more services, as well as promoting greater transparency through monitoring.
- The identification of Europe's strategic dependencies, an aspect of fundamental importance for international partnerships and industrial alliances.

- The importance of the twin transition - green and digital, considering the positive impact it can have on the EU industrial sector, through the promotion of transnational projects and the decarbonisation of the sector.

Following the Communication, three documents were also available, (1) Annual Report on the Single Market 2021; (2) Dependencies and strategic capabilities; (3) For clean and competitive steel production.

[More info here](#)

ATTACHÉS TRIP

Between 7 and 9 June, the Economic Advisers of the "Competitiveness and Growth" Working Group visited Portugal. During this trip, the European delegates' program combined cultural visits with visits to research centers applied to industry, the University of Minho and a company.

The delegation, which involved 38 participants, visited the International Iberian Nanotechnology Laboratory (INL), the Biological Engineering Center of the University of Minho, the DONE LAB laboratory, a partnership between Bosch and the University of Minho, the textile company CALVELEX, CITEVE, and CENTI.

[More info here](#)

NEXT PRESIDENCY

Dear Slovenian friends,

At the time of writing this Newsletter, Portugal is almost finishing its role as President of the Council of the EU. Over these six months, Portugal pledged to act in order to promote a fair, green and digital recovery. However, there is still a way to go. All European citizens are eager to return to normality and to help Europe progress and remain an area of greater economic growth and well-being for its populations.

It was precisely with the well-being of our European citizens in mind that, 6 months ago, we accepted the testimony of the German Presidency and under the motto "Time to deliver: a fair, green and digital recovery" we committed to contribute to improving this reality.

And that is what Slovenia will continue to do. That is, to continue to "deliver".

Portugal, and the Ministry of Economy and Digital Transition in particular, wishes Slovenia the greatest success in the exercise of the Presidency. We believe that a united Europe, not only will win this crisis, but will also rise stronger, more sustainable and resilient.

