



# 2021 PORTUGAL.EU

## PORTUGUESE PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EU

### Economy and Digital Transition

The Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union started on January 1, 2021 (PPUE2021). Exercised on a rotating basis by EU Member States, for periods of six months, this is the 4th time that Portugal holds this responsibility.

PPUE2021 is part of a trio of Presidencies that includes Germany (1 July to 31 December 2020) and Slovenia (1 July to 31 December 2021).

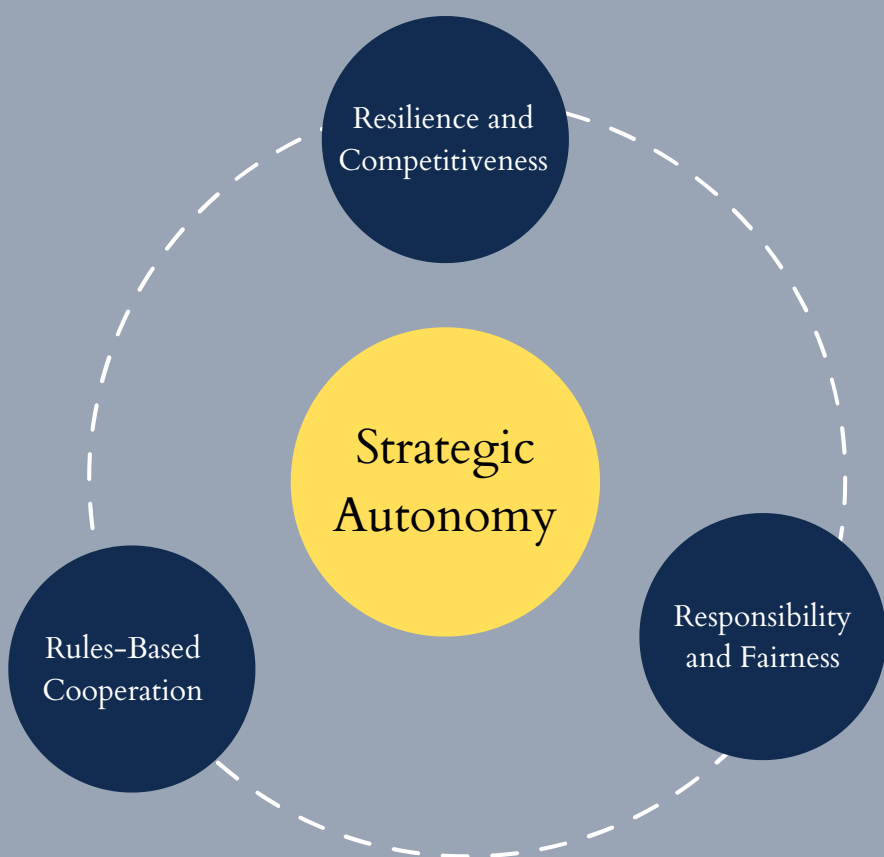
This Trio of Presidencies has prepared a common programme for the 18 months, setting out the main themes to be addressed during the respective Presidencies, which frames the most detailed national Programme of each of the Member States.

This newsletter includes themes in the area of the Competitiveness Council, comprising themes of the Internal Market and Industry, Consumer policy, Tourism and Digital.

[More information here](#)

### CONCEPT

## STRATEGIC AUTONOMY



Strategic autonomy in an open EU is a concept that has been discussed within the Council, namely at the Competitiveness Council (Internal Market and Industry), of 25 February and 22 March. The main objective behind the concept is to allow the EU to be stronger and more **economically resilient**, while assuring its position **of openness to trade and investment**. Under the recovery of a global health crisis, which has had a strong impact on the European economy, the EU is expected to become **a more active player worldwide**, maintaining its economic, social and environmental standards and encouraging **fair trade and investment practices**.

## DELIVERABLES

### The New Consumer Agenda

The European Council adopted conclusions on the New Consumer Agenda in response to the Commission communication "New Consumer Agenda - Strengthening the resilience of consumers for a sustainable recovery" ("Agenda"), which provides a holistic view of the EU consumer policy for the period 2020-2025. The conclusions provide policy guidance on a wide range of actions announced by the European Commission in the Agenda, highlighting the need to address consumer concerns in other EU sectoral policies, such as those related to the twin transition - ecological and digital. It also mentions the importance of consumer confidence to promote economic recovery following the COVID-19 crisis.

[More information here](#)

### Digital Day

Digital Day is one emblematic event organized by the Portuguese Presidency and the European Commission in the area of digital. At this event, three Ministerial Declarations were signed: the "European Data Gateways as a key element of the EU's Digital Decade" - which intends to explore the potential for Europe to become a data hub; the "EU Startup Nations Standard of Excellence" - which expresses its commitment to ensuring that all European start-ups and scaleups benefit from the best practices that sustain ecosystems; and finally, "A Green and Digital Transformation of the EU" - which establishes actions to mobilize investments in clean and digital technologies. The event's agenda also included an additional Declaration of the European Green Digital Coalition Members, signed by the private sector.

[More information here](#)

### Fiscal Transparency ("Public Country-by-Country Reporting")

The Presidency achieved political support in the Competitiveness Council - Internal Market and Industry (25 February) - and moved forward with rules on fiscal transparency for multinationals. The conclusions of this important political debate were forwarded to COREPER, to adopt formal decisions on the negotiating mandate related to the Public Country-by-Country Reporting (CbCR) directive, allowing the beginning of the trilogues with the EP.

This proposal for a directive sets a requirement for large companies, active in the internal market, to publish "country by country" information regarding the source of their profits and where they pay taxes.

[More information here](#)

### Tourism of Portugal

The Portuguese Presidency organized three major events dedicated to the tourism sector. The "International Forum: Education, Employment and Training in the Tourism sector" took place on 21 January 2021 and focused on the human resources in the sector and their qualifications. On 1 March 2021, the "EU Tourism Ministers' Meeting" took place, with the aim of promoting the debate around the challenges facing the tourism sector. Finally, On 8 March 2021, it was the Meeting of Directors-General for Tourism, which was followed by the "Big Data enabling tourism competitiveness" conference. On this occasion, the future of tourism and its competitiveness was discussed, with special emphasis on the role of Big Data in the sector.

[More information here](#)

"Fiscal transparency is a fundamental principle in any democratic society. It allows political decision-makers to take informed decisions and ensure that all economic agents contribute in a fair and equitable manner to the economies of the countries in which they operate. Today's debate has paved the way for the proposed directive to proceed as a matter of priority. "



- Pedro Siza Vieira, Minister of State, Economy and Digital Transition of Portugal

# 1ST TRIMESTER EVENTS

JAN

21

INTERNATIONAL FORUM:  
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT  
AND TRAINING IN TOURISM

[More information here](#)

22

CONSUMERS DIALOGUE

[More information here](#)

10

SEMINAR ON THE  
EUROPEAN UNION'S  
TRADE POLICY

Access to Markets and Trade  
Defence Instruments

[More information here](#)

25

MEETING OF  
COMPETITIVENESS  
COUNCIL (COMPET)

Internal Market and Industry

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23  
/26

INDUSTRY DAYS

[More information here](#)

FEB



MAR

1

INFORMAL VIDEO  
CONFERENCE OF  
MINISTERS OF TOURISM  
OF EU

[More information here](#)

8

MEETING OF DIRECTORS-  
GENERAL FOR TOURISM

[More information here](#)

8

BIG DATA ENABLING  
TOURISM  
COMPETITIVENESS

[More information here](#)

15  
/16

CONSUMERS  
SUMMIT

[More information here](#)

19

DIGITAL  
DAY

[More information here](#)

22

INFORMAL MEETING OF THE  
COMPETITIVENESS COUNCIL  
(COMPET)

Internal Market and Industry

[More information here](#)



SAVE  
THE DATE

APR

**21** HIGH LEVEL  
CONFERENCE ON  
FOOD SUPPLEMENTS

[More information here](#)

**28** CONFERENCE "TRAVEL  
GUIDE TO A COMPETITIVE  
ECONOMY"

[More information here](#)

**5** MEETING OF THE  
EUROPEAN  
METROLOGY NETWORK  
FOR CLEAN ENERGY

[More information here](#)

**11** CONFERENCE "IMPACT OF  
NORMALIZATION ON  
EUROPEAN ECONOMIC  
RECOVERY"

**14** HIGH LEVEL FORUM  
ON SUSTAINABILITY  
AND TOURISM

[More information here](#)

**20** WORLD METROLOGY DAY 2021  
- MEASUREMENT FOR  
HEALTH

[More information here](#)

**27** MEETING OF  
COMPETITIVENESS  
COUNCIL (COMPET)

Internal Market and Industry

[More information here](#)

JUN

**1/  
2** DIGITAL  
ASSEMBLY

[More information here](#)

**7** WORLD FOOD  
SAFETY DAY  
CONFERENCE

[More information here](#)

**7/  
10** WORKING PARTY ON  
COMPETITIVENESS  
AND GROWTH

Attachés Meeting

[More information here](#)

**24  
/25** SINGLE  
MARKET FORUM

[More information here](#)

MAY



REPÚBLICA  
PORTUGUESA

Direção - Geral das Atividades  
Económicas



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