



The Spanish EU Council Presidency



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

For further information MEUSAC may be contacted by email on info.meusac@gov.mt or by calling on 22003300

Spain takes on the six-month Presidency of the EU Council as from this month. It will be the first presidency to operate under the rules introduced by the Lisbon Treaty which came into force on 1 December, and also since the nomination of the first-ever permanent president of the European Council and foreign affairs High Representative.

In December, the Spanish Secretary of State for EU Affairs outlined his country's priorities. Spain's Presidency will focus on four main areas which include:

- **Jobs and the Economy:** Spain will be working on the recovery from the economic crisis and the creation of jobs. Following the launch in November of a public consultation by the Commission on the future of the 'EU 2020 Strategy' - which will be monitoring targets to make Europe a 'smarter, greener social market economy' - a formal proposal will

be presented this year with a view to it being adopted by EU leaders in March.

- **The Lisbon Treaty:** The Treaty will have an impact on the rotating presidencies and the EU's institutional structure. The Council Presidency will be in a key position to determine how the various institutions relate to one another. There will also be the introduction of the "Citizens' Initiative" and the European External Action Services.
- **European Citizenship:** Spain will ensure continuity with the outgoing Swedish Presidency, and the Stockholm Programme in particular, and will be pushing for the adoption of the non-discrimination directive.
- **EU Foreign Affairs:** The Presidency will have some important missions to fulfil and will adopt some common political positions. On the agenda are EU Summits with the US, Russia, Canada, and the Mediterranean and Latin American countries.

On Tuesday 26 January 2010 at 10.30am, MEUSAC and the Embassy of Spain are holding a Public Dialogue to present and discuss the priorities and programme of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the EU. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Tonio Borg and the Ambassador of Spain María Isabel Vicandi, will be among the main speakers.

Registration is by email on info.meusac@gov.mt or by calling on 2200 3300 by not later than noon of Monday 25 January.

Further details are available on the MEUSAC website.

