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Denmark's Presidency of the Council of the European Union

After many months of preparation, Denmark took over the presidency of the Council of the European Union from Poland on the 1st of July.

The first half of 2025 has left no doubt. Europe is facing challenges on a historic scale, and Denmark is assuming the Presidency at a crucial time in modern history.

Russia's illegal war in Ukraine continues in its fourth year, with profound implications for Ukraine, Europe and the international order. In parallel, we are witnessing intensifying global strategic and technological competition, increased trade restrictions, climate change, conflicts in the Middle East and challenges related to irregular migration. These are among the dynamics that Denmark has to navigate as president of the Council.

The Danish EU Presidency will work for a strong and resolute EU that takes responsibility for its own security and for strengthening its competitiveness. This calls for the EU to match words with action and deliver on the challenges it faces, embedding its values in every step throughout the process.

The Danish Presidency is guided by two main priorities, unified under the slogan "A strong Europe in a changing world":

- A secure Europe
- A competitive and green Europe

Let us unpack what realising these priorities will entail in practice:

Denmark will work towards a more robust and resilient EU that takes greater responsibility for its own security. The goal is for Europe to be able to defend itself by 2030. This requires a strengthening of Europe's defence industry and production. An EU upholding its own security, all while continuing to work closely with NATO, will also constitute a credible contribution to our Euro-Atlantic security.

On the security front, the EU's continued support for Ukraine's fight for peace and freedom – politically, economically, civically and militarily – also remains a key priority. This involves more donations to Ukraine and greater isolation of Russia.

Security is also linked to migration, and therefore it is essential to ensure stability at the EU's external borders. Denmark will work for new and innovative solutions to manage irregular migration and control the flow of people into the EU.

Finally, further enlargement of the EU to include its neighbours with shared values and principles is a geopolitical necessity, too. This is the only way for the EU to effectively contribute to stabilising the European continent and strengthening the resilience of countries vulnerable to unwanted external influence.

In terms of competitiveness, Europe should be able to compete at the global level: Fewer burdens, strategic investments, and the green transition as a fundamental driver for growth and jobs.

The intensified global competition demands targeted joint and national action to strengthen the EU's competitiveness. Particularly through productivity-enhancing reforms that improve the framework conditions for businesses and their ability to grow, innovate, and invest in new technology, skills, production, and jobs.

The green transition can and should serve as part of the growth engine, and climate and energy policy must continue to be closely aligned with competitiveness policy.

The last decade has showed us, that EU is still capable of unity and collective action, when it matters the most. Take for instance the financial crises, the migration crises, the Covid pandemic, and Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine. This unity must be developed further, and leveraged to actively promote and defend both European interests and the international legal order.

As I started by saying, the world as we know it is changing. This calls for ambition if we want Europe to matter where it counts.

Our ambitions as the presidency are clear: we want to lead with responsibility, to act in unity, and to deliver concrete results for our Union. The challenges are many, but so are the opportunities.