

ESTONIA'S PRIORITIES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION DURING THE SWEDISH PRESIDENCY

The Swedish Presidency's main priority areas are Economy and Employment, climate, Stockholm programme, Strategy for the Baltic Sea, and the EU as the global actor. Estonia intends to actively contribute to all of the abovementioned topics, but also to the discussions which continue from the previous presidencies. Estonia's focus during the Swedish Presidency will be on the following issues:

1. **Accession to the euro area** would help to restore investor confidence and favourable economic climate in Estonia. Estonia's aim is to achieve technical preparedness by 1 July 2010 and adopt the single currency at the latest in 1 January 2011. Estonia aims to meet the Maastricht convergence criteria during the Swedish presidency.
2. Estonia aims to support and contribute to the preparations of the European Union for the upcoming **United Nations Climate Change Conference** in December. It is important that a comprehensive and ambitious climate agreement is achieved in Copenhagen. The agreement should guarantee sufficient funding for measures against climate change and adaptation, and the implementation of the measures must be measurable, verifiable and reportable.
3. Estonia's objective is to ensure that the **Baltic Sea Strategy** is adopted in October 2009 and that the strategy will be successfully launched and implemented from 2010. During the Swedish presidency it is therefore important to reach agreement on practical issues regarding the implementation of the strategy.
4. In the area of freedom, security and justice it is important for Estonia that the **Stockholm Programme** includes concrete principles and targets for using new and modern IT-developments to strengthen the security of the Schengen area. Estonia considers that the establishment of an **Agency for the operational management of large-scale IT systems** in the area of freedom, security and justice is necessary. Estonia would like to host the seat of the Agency
5. During the Swedish presidency, Estonia aims at practical implementation of the principles and provisions endorsed under the Joint Declaration of the Prague **Eastern Partnership** Summit. Estonia is keen to see Eastern partnership evolving into an explicit and comprehensive policy, which would underpin the eastern partners' efforts in getting closer to the EU, incorporating the EU's support and means for fostering this partnership, concluding the association agreements, mutual economic integration and perspective of the visa-freedom, as well as substantial cooperation on energy and transportation issues.