1. The Maltese EU Presidency: General overview

2. Environmental Priorities during January and June 2017 (and thereafter)

3. Discuss rough structure of the EU Presidency: meetings, upcoming decisions on the EU presidency agenda

4. Input from each eNGOs: preparation, planned actions and communication

5. Identify national and international engagement opportunities with other working groups

6. Communication during Maltese EU Presidency

7. Discuss way forward
The Maltese EU Presidency: General overview

• The presidency of the Council rotates among the EU member states every 6 months

• Tasks include: to chair meetings at every level in the Council, mediate compromises between the 28 EU member states between EU institutions

• Trio Presidency: sets long-term goals and prepares a common agenda, current trio is Netherlands (January to June 2016) and Slovakia (July to December 2016), Malta (January to June 2017) – first EU Presidency

• Malta will manages the daily EU policy debates, and to a certain extent has the possibility to shape EU agenda priorities

The current EU Presidency: Key Areas and Main Goals

- Stronger economies with more jobs
- Societies enabled to empower and protect
- A secure energy and climate future
- A trusted area of fundamental freedoms
- Effective joint action in the world

- **Environment**: improved resource management in the areas of waste, water, air and biodiversity, creating new green jobs and developing a more competitive resource-efficient economy (including circular economy)
Engagement of NGO’s during EU Presidencies

• The role of national NGOs is to advocate in close cooperation with international platforms for a few chosen priorities on EU and national level

• Engagement on both advocacy and project level

• Make use of the opportunity to strengthen the platform, relationships and individual NGOs

• Highlight own work and combine forces to achieve mutual goals

• Make use of the moment to promote environmental awareness among civil society
Environmental Priorities during January and June 2017

- **Sustainable development**, SDG’s and Agenda 2030
- Avoiding harmful **international trade and investment agreements** (e.g. TTIP)
- Fighting **climate change** and improving **energy security**
- Creating a **circular economy** through product design and **better management of waste**
- Improving **environmental governance**
- Protecting **biodiversity** and **ecosystems**
- New steps to **chemical safety**, including nanotechnology and mercury
- Towards a **sustainable food and farming policy** as part of a new EU Budget of results
- An ecosystem based approach to **fisheries management** and **aquaculture production**
BirdLife Priorities during January and June 2017

- Nature Directives post Fitness Check
- New policy for Climate and Energy, including sustainability criteria for Biomass
- Fisheries and marine environment
- Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)
- Multiannual Financial Perspective
- Preparations for Our Ocean 2017
## Dates: Important Meetings regarding Environment

- **Slovakian EU Presidency:**
  - Informal meeting of Water and Marine Directors of the European Union, Candidate and EFTA Countries **27 November 2016**
  - Environment Council (ENV) **19 December 2016**

- **Maltese EU Presidency**
  - High-level meeting on future of EU (EU Brexit) **3 February 2017**
  - Council Meeting of Ministers of Environment **25 April 2017**
  - International Meeting on Med-Fish Forever **29 – 30 May 2017**
  - Meeting on Habitat Directive **End of May**
  - Meeting on Water and Marine **End of June**
Communication Strategy and way forward

- Draft policy briefs and position papers and distribute among national stakeholders to raise awareness
- Sending official (“lobby”) letters to the national administration
- Organize events for general public
- Participating in ministerial and working groups
- Organizing roundtables and conferences in order to bring together multiple stakeholders to discuss relevant environmental issues in coordination with the EU calendar of meetings
- Meeting with all eNGO’s once per month to catch up
  - Mailing list
  - Cooperation with other NGO’s with overlapping agenda
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