



Communication of the Presidency West Coast Model EU 2018

CFSP Reforms – Turkey and Battlegroups

The recent refugee crisis and the conflict in Syria are two examples that outline a need for deep levels of cooperation and coordination amongst European states. NATO and the EU work together closely, though the EU needs to ensure that both member states and non-member states alike are kept safe. **The first agenda item is to allow Turkey membership in the CFSP community.** Turkey, a member of NATO, has proven to be a key ally in the fight against ISIS. Turkey has worked alongside the EU in the recent refugee crisis, and has also played a very active role alongside its NATO allies in defeating ISIS. Turkey and the EU would both benefit greatly through further cooperation and coordination of intelligence and through a fixed multilateral forum. **As a second agenda item, the Presidency proposes to make the participation of EU battlegroups obligatory to all member states.** Battlegroups are Europe's flagship military rapid response tool and on stand-by for over seven years without being deployed. A long-term commitment to the battlegroups by all member states could put this tool finally to work and support an effective response to man-made or natural crises. This cooperation would send a strong signal that the EU is willing to take on its responsibility as an international actor but also pool military resources in times of financial austerity if necessary. The Presidency is convinced that only a uniform policy response by all 28 member states will ensure a swifter and stronger response to the international crisis challenging the security of the EU and its neighborhood.



CAP Reforms – Rural Development and Food Security

The Common Agricultural Policy has long been at the core of the European Union. The CAP has worked to equalize the balance between French goods and agriculture against German exports and manufacturing. Today the CAP is often criticized for its size, making up 39% of the overall EU budget (a massive reduction from 73% of the overall budget in 1983), and also for the negative effects of domestic subsidies on farmers in the developing world. In December 2013 the Council adopted a new policy of reform for 2014-2020, but more reforms can be prepared for when the current cycle ends. Specifically, we seek to include two agenda items for the upcoming summit. **The first agenda item is to reform our rural development program.** Given the disparity between wealthy and poor member states, and the capacity of the farmers in poorer states to compete with those in the wealthier, we need to ensure that the bulk of direct subsidies are not just going to those at the top. One such policy is to introduce a cap for the direct subsidies received by large farms, which is currently at the discretion of member state governments. A second policy is to increase the amount of money paid to newer member states. Currently, farmers in older member states receive higher rates by hectare in farm subsidies. **The second agenda item is to strengthen food security.** Climate change means that individuals are not merely affected by changing weather patterns, but are also affected by the effects of climate change on food production. Longer and hotter summers have had many consequences, such as devastating the growth of grapes for wine in Italy and Spain, and increasingly adverse weather has continuously threatened wheat yields, of which Europe is the largest grower internationally. As the world population grows, and climate change threatens food production, we need to find a way forward that allows production to grow, while also minimizing the negative effects on the environment. Food security is not just important for Europe, but also for the developing world. One objective of our food security mission is to make sure that the poorest amongst us are not priced out of food, and are fed nutritious meals. This is important for both those living in Europe, but also those living in areas that are less well-off such as in sub-Saharan Africa. We thereby are looking to find new ways for the CAP to aid in affairs both domestic and foreign in ensuring that the direct subsidies made to European farmers are not devastating those in need in other countries.