

# West Coast Model European Union 2021

## Communication from the Presidency



### Heads of Government

#### **Governance - Enhanced Cooperation**

In light of the economic pressure and ongoing danger from the Novel Coronavirus, the Presidency suggests it is time to again consider long term enhanced cooperation on issues of economic growth and health protection.

Proposals:

**Economic Growth** – Ongoing stimulus package and EU-driven regional enhancement – Following up on the 2021 €672 Recovery and Resilience Facility.

Proposed - A two-year stimulus package for 2022-23 of €250b each year, exclusively directed to the ten EU member states with the lowest GDP growth that year.

**Health Protection** – With a goal of replacing individual national lockdown/quarantine mandates with EU Agency-driven requirements to allow for management of regional hotspots.

Proposed - A substantial expansion of the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control, from a 2020 budget of €60m to €600m annually by 2025, including emergency quarantine order authority and building an emergency stockpile of medicines, ventilators and Personal Protective Equipment like masks, gowns, gloves and face shields. A particular focus on equal access to disadvantaged communities is a critical part of this mission.

## **Post-Brexit Institutional Re-Alignment**

With the departure of the UK from EU institutions, it is an auspicious time to consider whether there are opportunities to streamline some provisions of the Lisbon Treaty's institutional structures. Agreements-in-principle reached here will be the foundation of the next round of Treaty negotiations.

Proposed – Reduce the Commission of the European Union to 20 permanent Directorates General, Commissioners to be rotated among members with each 5-year cycle, beginning in 2025.

Proposed – The Parliament of the European Union to be granted limited Right of Legislative Initiative after the 2029 elections. The Parliament will formally submit an outline to the Commission, highlighting the points they consider to be of particular note on a given topic.

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## **Foreign Ministers**

### **Turkey**

Migration – The EU and Turkey entered into an agreement in 2016 and again in 2018 calling for Turkey to retain immigrants passing through its territory, in exchange for a total of €6b, visa-free travel to the EU for Turkish citizens, and accelerated progress for Turkey's application to the EU and associated negotiations. Arrivals in EU countries are down 97% since this agreement was reached, and simultaneously, opportunities for full implementation of the elements of the agreement remain.

Proposed - Re-authorize €2b/annual support for migrants in Turkey for three years, through 2024.

Proposed - Re-authorizing EU/Turkey exchange of migrants found to qualify for asylum for those that entered the EU without documentation or who have been denied asylum status, with particular attention to providing opportunities for women and ethnic minorities in the EU.

Proposed - Offering Turkish citizens visa-free travel to the EU beginning in 2025, dependent on the European Commission's relevant Directorates General certifying that the Government of Turkey meets Rule of Law criteria as laid out in the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism for Bulgaria and Romania.

## **Russia**

Given the ongoing opportunities for friendship and cooperation in the greater European Neighborhood, we are committed to building an increased normalized set of opportunities for closer ties with Russia, extended Erasmus program exchanges, opportunities for women and disadvantaged minority communities, energy cooperation, law enforcement training programs, and increased market access.

Proposed - The Commission of the European Union will create a rotating €300m loan and grant facility to support joint EU/RU projects in these categories, starting in 2025.