

# Preparation for the Presidency of the Council of the EU

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Sofia, 16 October 2015

# Part I

## The Presidency from Brussels' perspective



# Structure and functioning of the **Permanent Representation**

# The Structure of the Permanent Representation

- Mainly follows the structure of the Council
- Permanent Representative, Deputy Perm Rep
- Antici, Mertens
- Horizontal Services: Press, EP and Legal office
- The Presidency meeting room co-ordinator
- The Attachés
- + PSC sector (Ambassador to PSC, Nicolaidis)

# The Presidency working week

COREPER I Presidency - Working Week Timeline										
<i>Comment: Timeline only includes regular Coreper I meeting. Most weeks with also include a Council and/or trilogue so times indicated are only indicative and may move forward or back depending on times for Council meetings and/or trilogues</i>										
Week 1	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
1.00 pm	Coreper 1 team: Review Diary for week	All day	10.30 am	9.00 am	10.00 am	9.00 am				
1.30 pm	Corper 1, Corper 2, Institutions, PSC: Presidency Coordination	11.00 am	11.00 am	10.00 am	pm	10.00 am				
2.30 pm	Coreper 1 team + All Attachés: - Review week ahead	1.00 pm	1.00 pm	am	4.00 pm	am/pm				
3.00 pm	Coreper 1 team + Attachés by section. See standing meeting agenda									
		2.00 pm	pm	am/pm		1.00 pm				
		pm				pm				
						5.00 pm				
						CoB				

## Relations with the Capital

- Brussels-based vs Capital-based Presidency?
- Who does what?
  - Capital: Strategic thinking and Political guidance
  - Brussels: Day-by-day management and negotiations
- Constant exchange of information



# The Presidency's **Legal Environment**

# The Presidency's legal environment

- The functions of the Presidency
- The prerogatives of the Presidency
- Constraints and conditioning
- Co-decision as the ordinary legislative procedure



# The Presidency legal environment

## **Tools?**

- Trio Programme and national programme
- Calendar of Council meetings
- Draft agendas
  
- **Strengths?** Drive and Energy
- **Weaknesses?** Inexperience, lack of continuity, limited time



# Relations with **key players**

## Relations with other Member States

- All Member States are equally important
- Decisions are mostly taken by QMV
- Importance of informal contacts and negotiations



Your main ally  
**The Council Secretariat**

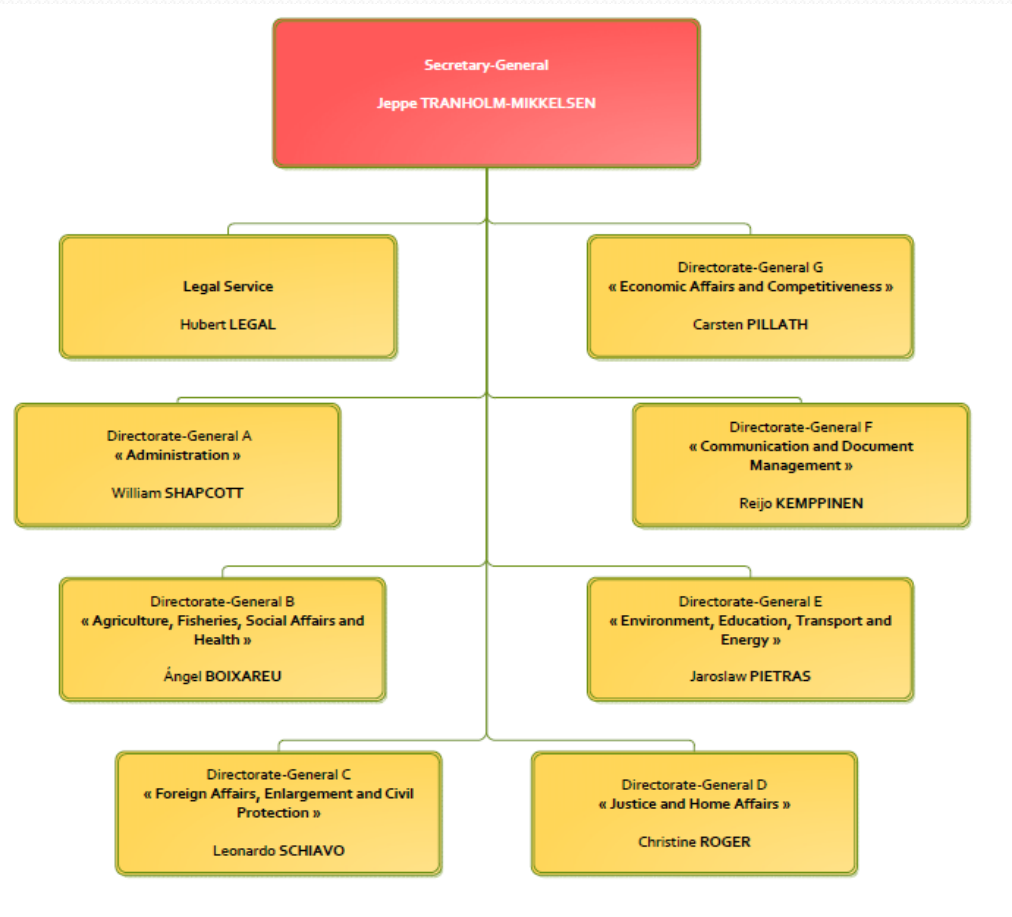
# The role of the Council Secretariat

- **Art. 23 rules of Procedure:**

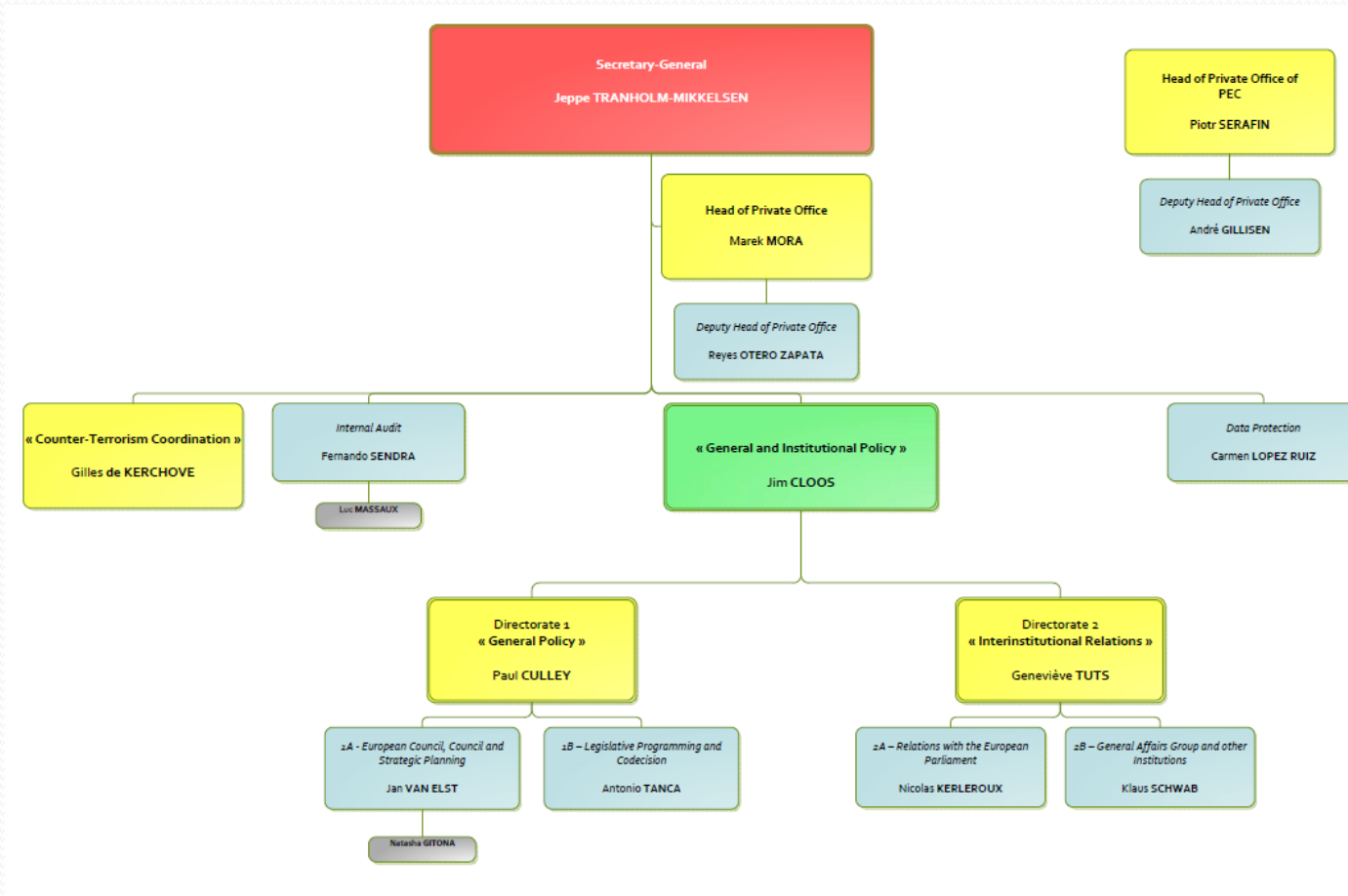
The GSC shall be closely and continually involved in organising, coordinating and ensuring the coherence of the Council's work and the implementation of its 18-month programme. *Under the responsibility and guidance of the Presidency, it shall assist the latter in seeking solutions.*

- Presidency consults, but does not need always to follow advice.
- SGC serves successive Presidencies loyally, even if policy shifts 180°

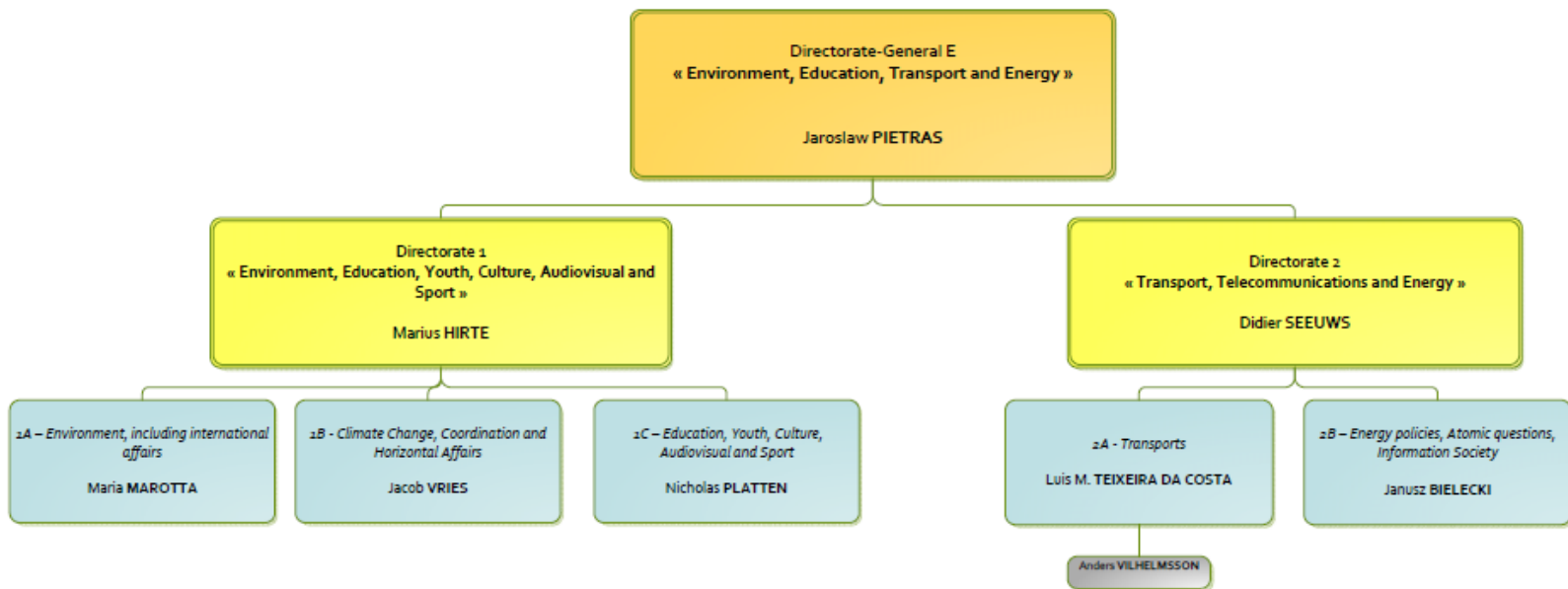
# Structure of the SGC



# Structure of the SGC



# Structure of the SGC (example of DG)





# Support by the Council Secretariat

No political opinions but choices on form and procedure

## **Before the Presidency**

- tools for planning and prioritising

## **During the Presidency**

- Working party
- Coreper/Council level
- Trilogues/relations with EP
- Document management, logistics

## The Legal Service

- Legal adviser to the Council and the European Council
- Independent opinions
- Attends meetings at all levels
- Oral or written opinions
- Responsible for the drafting quality of legislation
- Represents the Council when it is party to proceedings before the ECJ



Your strategic partner  
**The European Commission**

# The European Commission

- How to work with the Commission?
- The Commission and the incoming presidency
  - Trio programme / 6 month presidency programme
  - Draft Council agendas.
- The Commission during the Presidency
- Level of representation in the Council



# **The European Parliament**

# The European Parliament

- An increasingly powerful Parliament
- The role of the Presidency
  - Legislative activities
  - Non legislative activities
- Internal Council Coordination

# Other actors

- EESC, CoR
- European Associations, lobbyists

Always find time!



Questions?

Thank you for your attention!