

Functioning of the European Institutions

Contribution by Ivan Korčok,
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Mr. President,

There is certainly nothing new when I say that the institutional structure is to meet the challenges of an enlarged Union. It is a key question for Slovakia and we support those ideas which are aimed at institutionally balanced and effective arrangements. We were glad that we have found some of the elements going in this direction in the recent French-German proposal. However, the devil lies in details, as it was clearly demonstrated by my Danish colleague. It will be a hard work for the Presidium to present us a concrete suggestion reflecting the prevailing tendencies based on our deliberations.

The **Council Presidency** is one of the most controversial topics and we are convinced that countries supporting an elected President of the European Council should have in mind that the strategic direction of the Union should be determined and shared equally by all its members. That is why we still think that the **rotating Presidency has its value** in the EU of 25 members. Several proposals to this end are worth exploring.

Demanded continuity, stability, transparency giving the Union face abroad might be achieved by overall strengthening of the post of **European External Representative** not only by **merging the position** of High Representative for CFSP and Relex Commissioner but also making him a Vice-President of the Commission.

Finally, we think it is fair not only for countries about to join but for many present members as well to maintain the principle **one country – one commissioner** with equality of the Commission members.

Thank you for your attention.