



BELGIAN PRESIDENCY, COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Belgium holds the rotating presidency of the Council of the EU from 1 January to 30 June 2024. This Infotableau presents relevant data in relation to certain programmes of the presidency trio and the Belgian Presidency. Information on Belgium is available in Infotableau [No. 2024/3](#), while programme details can be found in the European Bulletin [No. 2024/1](#).

THE ROTATING PRESIDENCY



The Presidency of the European Council rotates every six months between the Member States.



Member States work closely together in groups of three (trios): they set long-term goals and announce a joint programme.

1

CURRENT TRIO PRESIDENCY

2

July 2023 – December 2024



PRIORITY AREAS FOR THE TRIO PROGRAMME*

3



Protecting citizens and freedoms



Developing our economic base: the European model for the future



Building a climate-neutral, green, fair and social Europe



Promoting Europe's interests and values in the world

*Priorities set out in the European Council Strategic Agenda 2019-2024

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

4

Share of higher education graduates in ICT, 2021 (%)



Employed ICT specialists, 2022 (as a % of total employment)



The trio will continue to further develop digital education and training, as well as monitor the EU Cybersecurity Strategy.

FOREST AREAS, 2020

5

There are 160 million hectares of forest in the EU, accounting for 4 % of the world's total forest area.



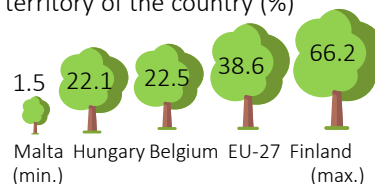
Most of Europe's forests (60%) are privately owned.



Share of forests in the total territory of the country (%)



Forests cover 39 % of the EU's land area.

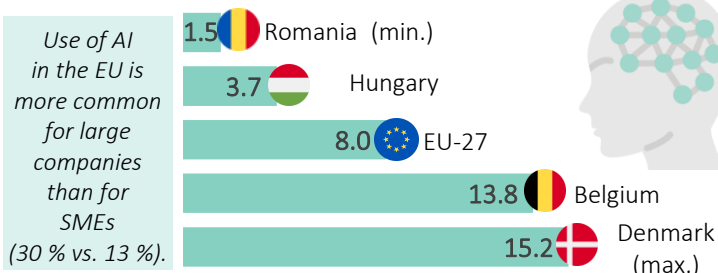


The trio aims to improve sustainable forest management in view of the new EU Forest Strategy.

ENTERPRISES USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI), 2023

6

Percentage of enterprises with more than 10 employees



The trio will promote digital transformation, ensuring the trustworthiness of AI.

EU-CANADA TRADE RELATIONS IN GOODS, 2022

7

Billion euros and Canada's ranking among trading partners (imports, exports)



The annual growth of EU exports to Canada between 2018 and 2022 is 7.7 percent.

The trio supports the strategic partnership with Canada.

LOGO, MOTTO AND MESSAGE OF THE BELGIAN PRESIDENCY **8**

Belgium holds the rotating EU Presidency for the 13th time.

Its motto is: "Protect. Strengthen. Prepare."

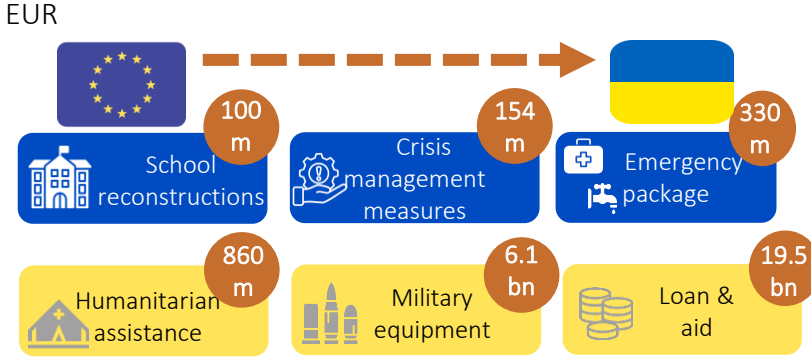
The logo captures the intersection of Belgian identity and European spirit. It expresses Belgium's historic commitment to European integration and cooperation.



PRIORITIES OF THE PRESIDENCY PROGRAMME **9**

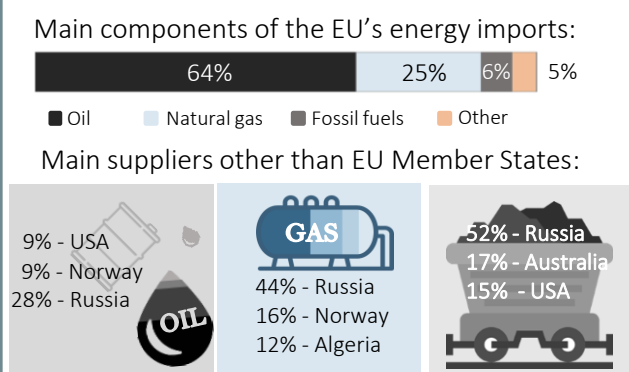
- Defending rule of law, democracy, and unity
- Pursuing a green and just transition
- Protecting people and borders
- Strengthening EU competitiveness
- Reinforcing the EU's social and health agenda
- Strengthening the EU's autonomy and defending its interests and values

EU SUPPORT TO UKRAINE UNTIL FEBRUARY 2024 **10**



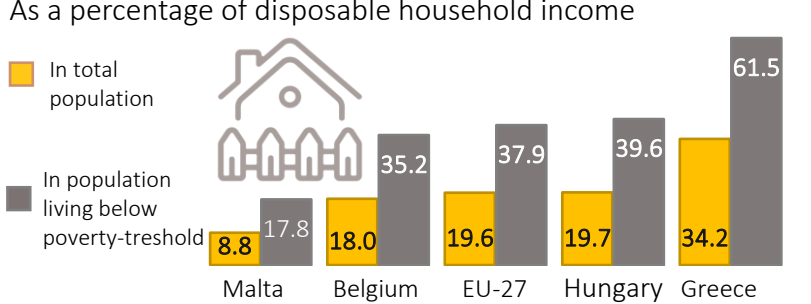
A primary focus of the Belgian Presidency is providing continued support to Ukraine.

ENERGY DEPENDENCY, 2021 **11**



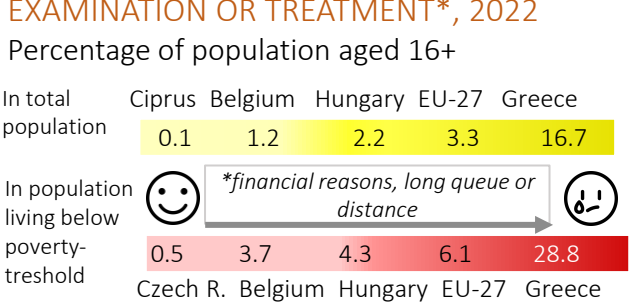
Citizens and the economy must be guaranteed a strong and reliable supply security.

HOUSING COST RATIOS, 2022 **12**



The Belgian Presidency aims to ensure access to decent and affordable housing for all.

UNMET NEEDS FOR MEDICAL EXAMINATION OR TREATMENT*, 2022 **13**



The Presidency will work to better address unmet medical needs.

SOURCES > 1 > [European Union](#) | 2 > [Council Decision \(EU\) 2016/1316](#) | 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 > [18-month Programme of the Council](#), 20 June 2023 | 4 > Eurostat [[educ_uoe_grad02](#)] [[isoc_sks_itcpt](#)] | 5 > [Forests, forestry and logging](#) (Eurostat, 2023); [The European Union and forests](#) (European Parliament 2023) | 6 > Eurostat [[isoc_eb_ai](#)] | 7 > Directorate-General for Trade, [2023](#) | 8, 9 > [Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU](#) | 10 > European Commission Factsheet [2023](#) | 11 > [Shedding light on energy – 2023](#) (Eurostat) | 12 > Eurostat [[ILC_MDED01](#)] | 13 > Eurostat [[hlth_silc_08](#)]