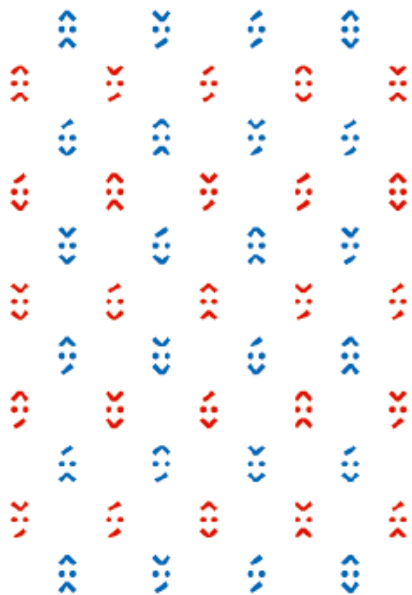
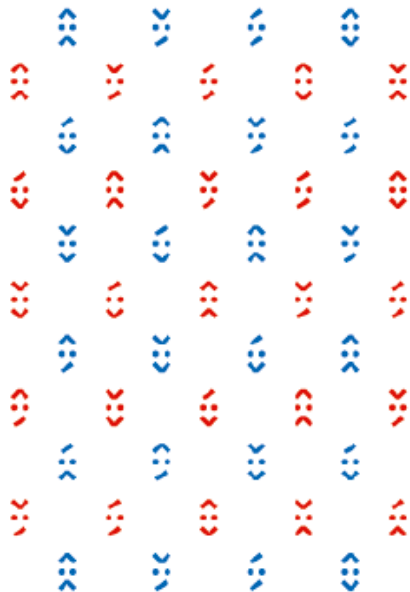
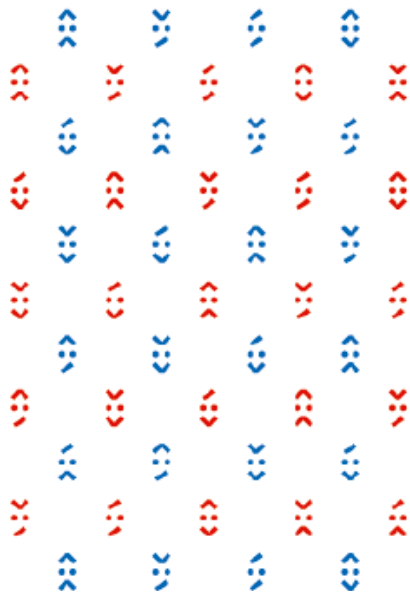


Presenting priorities of the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the EU in the Parliamentary Committee on EU Affairs

Lisbon, 17. 06. 2016

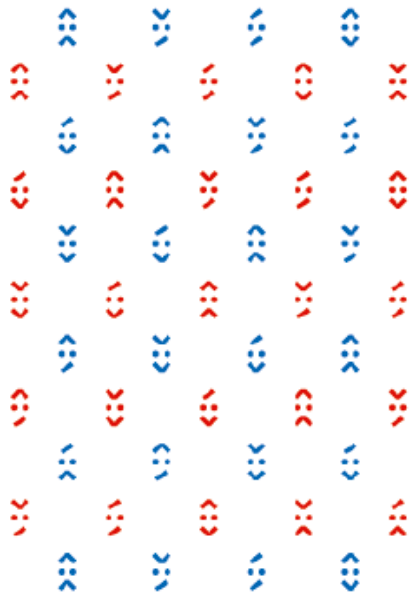
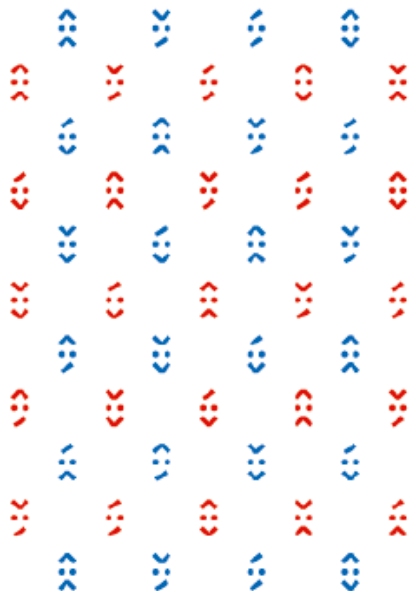


Mrs Iveta Hricová
Director-General for the EU Affairs
The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic



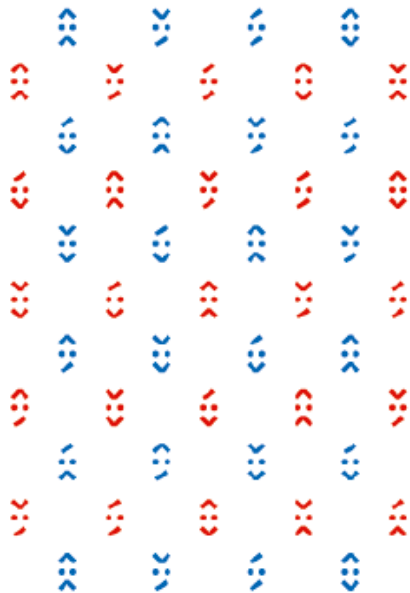
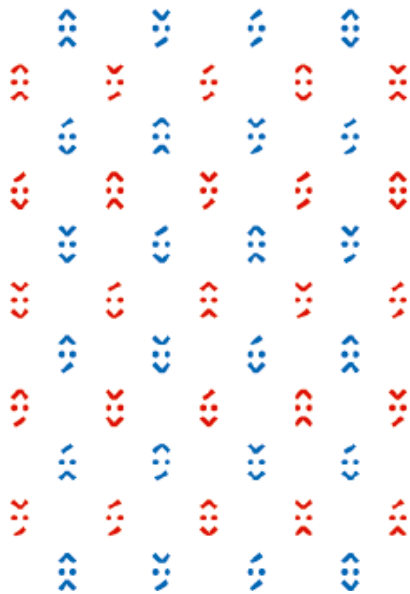
CONTENTS

- Current situation and challenges
- Our guiding principles
- Priorities of the Slovak Presidency
- Closing remarks



Current situation and challenges

- UK referendum
- Financial crisis
- Situation in Eastern Ukraine, Syria, Libya, Iraq, Afghanistan
- Migration
- Terrorism
- Decrease of trust in the EU among citizens
- Increase of extremism



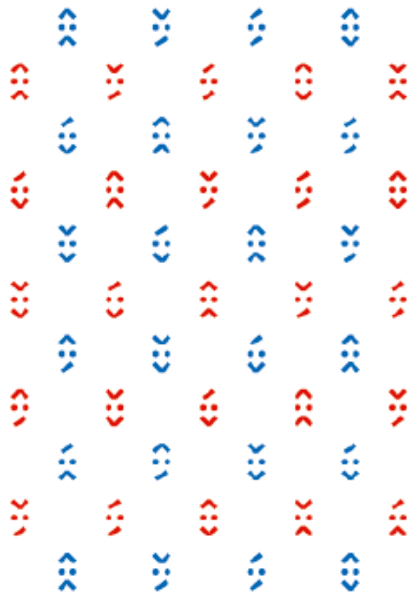
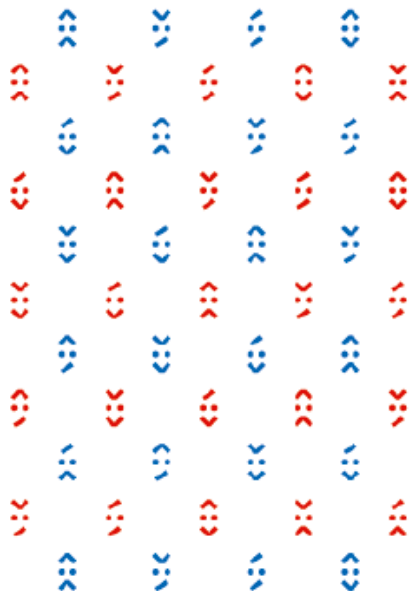
Guiding principles of the Slovak Presidency

- Focus on the positive agenda – such as the very successful Single Market which should be further deepened
- Concentration on our citizens
- Progress in areas bringing tangible results
 - mainly through the EU legislation
- Overcoming fragmentation
 - remove barriers between MS – digital area, flow of energy, capital



Priorities of the Slovak Presidency

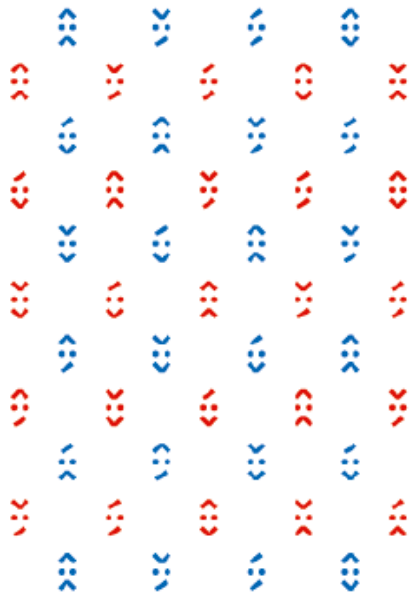
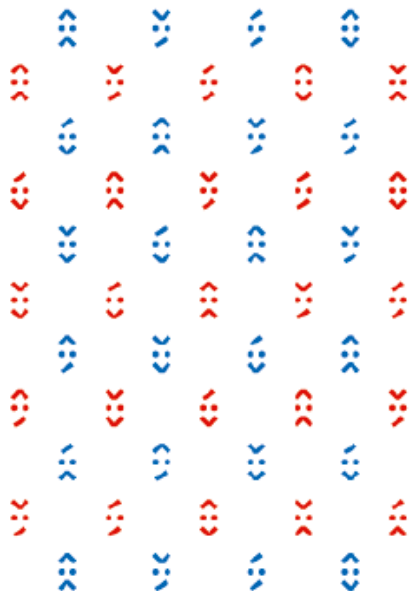
- I. Economically strong Europe
- II. Modern Single Market
- III. Sustainable migration and asylum policy
- IV. Globally engaged Europe



I. Economically strong Europe

- Remove barriers to investment, pursue structural reforms and responsible fiscal policies
- Overcome the fragmentation of the capital markets
 - Progress towards the Capital Markets Union
- Diversify the funding sources for Europe's businesses (SMEs)
- Budget 2017
 - review of the MFF 2014-2020
 - reflections on the MFF post-2020
- Economic and Monetary Union
 - unfinished Banking Union

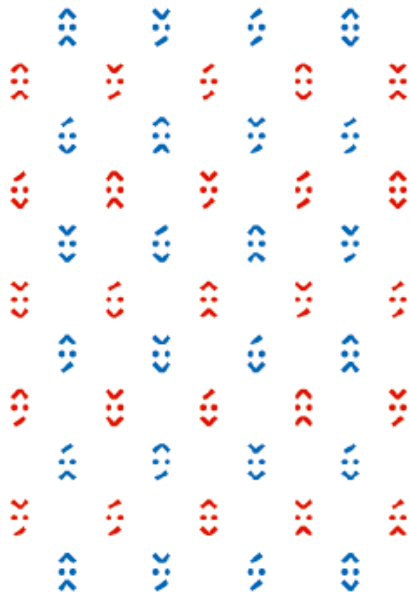
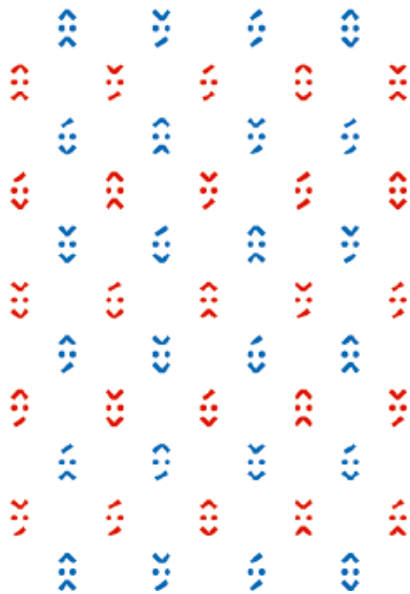
Risk reduction and risk sharing have to go hand in hand



II. Modern single market

Adapt to today's realities, remove unjustified barriers that hamper its functioning

- Offer high-level of consumer protection and help Europe to social convergence
- The Energy Union
 - more affordable, secure and sustainable energy
- The Climate
 - Paris Agreement 2015
 - Leadership in the global transition to a low-carbon economy
- Transition towards a more circular economy
- Digital Single Market
 - cross-border data portability
 - e-commerce – unjustified geo-blocking
- Roaming charges

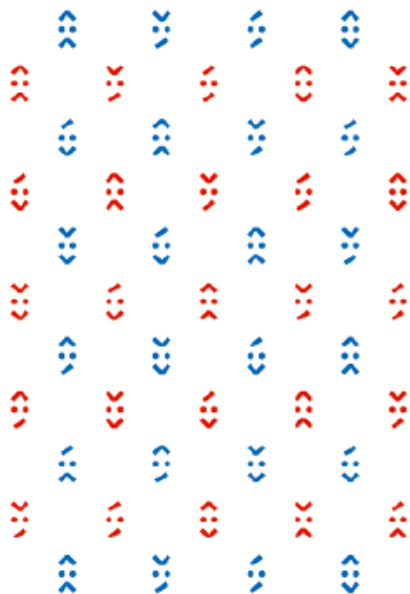
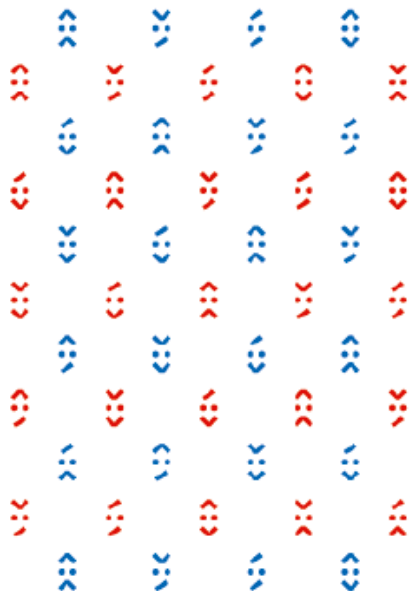


III. A sustainable migration and asylum policy

Ready to approach this topic in a constructive and comprehensive manner

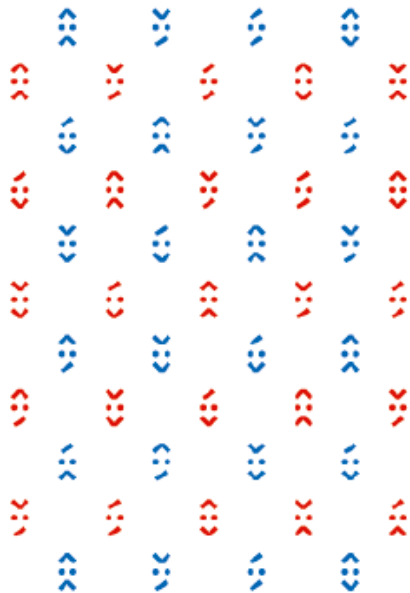
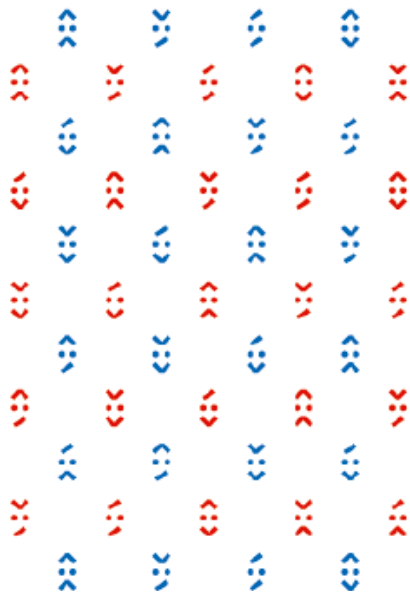
The building blocks of our approach:

- control over the EU external borders
 - European Border Guard
- restore full functioning of the Schengen area
- legislation on Smart Borders
 - manage the flow of travellers at our external borders
- the external dimension of migration
 - Partnership with the main countries of origin and transit
- Common European Asylum System
 - Dublin regulation, the Asylum Procedures Directive, the Qualification Directive,...



IV. Globally engaged Europe

- Fully support of the efforts of the High Representative and the EEAS
- Crisis and instability in the neighbourhood
 - Syria, Libya, Eastern Ukraine, Iraq, Afghanistan
- The EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy
 - provide the necessary vision and guidance
- Particular attention to the Enlargement policy
 - clear European perspective is key to economic and political stability in the region
- Trade policy
 - liberalized trade relations with the US and Canada
 - market economy status to China



Closing remarks

- Contribute to making Europe more resilient vis-à-vis the current challenges
- The road to go should be marked by sustainable and future-proof solutions
- Our role of honest broker means all Member States shall feel heard

Ambitious in those areas where a substantial progress can bring benefits to our citizens

Thank you for your attention!



Slovak Presidency of the Council
of the European Union