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NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject: Legislative programming
- Exchange of views

Delegations will find in [Annex](#) a Presidency note for the exchange of views on Legislative Programming at the Council (General Affairs) meeting of 21 September 2021.

Legislative programming

- Exchange of views -

Introduction

The 2016 Inter-Institutional Agreement on Better Law-Making (IIA) was set out to reinforce the EU's annual and multiannual programming, with a view to improving law-making and to focusing EU action and initiatives on the main policy priorities with European added value. Since then, the three institutions have engaged together in annual programming cycles to determine the political and legislative priorities each year.

The coronavirus pandemic caused an unprecedented health, economic and social crisis which the EU and its Member States had to face with rapid and decisive action during 2020 and 2021. In 2022, the EU will have to continue to act firmly to cope with and overcome the effects of the pandemic. It will also have to face other pressing global challenges such as the effects of climate change and the wider role of the EU on the international scene.

Annual programming cycle

The Commission's 2021 Strategic Foresight Report (doc. 11601/21) published on 8 September 2021 sets out a forward-looking and multidisciplinary perspective on the EU's open strategic autonomy in a world which is increasingly multipolar. Four main global trends are identified: climate change and other environmental challenges; digital hyper-connectivity and technological transformation; challenges to democracy and values; and shifts in the global order and demography. It additionally sets out ten areas of action where the EU can seize opportunities for its global leadership role.

The Commission's *Letter of intent* (doc. 11603/21), expected to be issued on 15 September 2021, will set out the main elements guiding the preparation of the forthcoming 2022 Commission Work Programme.

Against this background, Ministers are invited to exchange views on the main priorities and initiatives for next year around the following questions:

1. Do Ministers agree with the envisaged initiatives presented in the *Letter of intent*?
2. Which initiatives are for you the most needed?

Next steps

The Presidency will summarise the discussions at Ministerial level in a letter to the President of the Commission. This will serve as input for the rest of the annual legislative programming cycle over the coming months, culminating in the 2022 Joint Declaration on legislative priorities.
