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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Council
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Subject:	Legislative programming - Exchange of views

1. The 2016 Inter-institutional Agreement on Better Law-Making¹ (IIA-BLM) was set out to reinforce the EU's annual and multiannual programming with a view to improving law-making and focusing EU action and initiatives on the main policy priorities with European added value. In accordance, the Council approved its practical arrangements on annual programming².
2. Since then, the European Parliament, the Council of the EU and the European Commission have engaged together in annual programming cycles to determine the political and legislative priorities each year.

¹ OJ L 123, 12.5.2016, p. 1.

² 6879/16.

3. On 9 September 2025, the Commission published the 2025 Strategic Foresight Report³ aimed at informing policy priorities and long-term policy thinking. This year's report is focused on EU's long-term resilience, providing a forward-looking approach to ensuring the EU thrives amid uncertainty, anticipate new challenges and foster a secure space for citizens and business. It identifies eight areas of action where the EU can strengthen its economic, societal, environmental and political resilience.
4. On 10 September 2025, the Commission issued its Letter of intent⁴, outlining the main elements guiding the preparation of the forthcoming Commission Work Programme 2026. The letter emphasises the sense of urgency and the scale of the challenges facing Europe, and the need to respond with further action and initiatives. To this end, the *Letter of intent* identifies 30 key priorities and initiatives for 2026 across the Commission's 2024-2029 priorities.
5. On 16 September 2025, and after the presentation of the Commission of its *Letter of intent*, the Council (General Affairs) will hold an exchange of views on Legislative programming.
6. The Committee of Permanent Representatives prepared this exchange of views at its meeting on 12 September 2025.
7. The Presidency will summarise this exchange of views in Council in a letter to the President of the Commission as input for the forthcoming Commission Work Programme 2026.
8. The Commission Work Programme 2026, expected to be published on 21 October 2025, will be presented to the Council (General Affairs) on 17 November 2025.
9. The three Institutions will then work towards preparing the Joint Declaration on the EU legislative priorities for 2026. The planned calendar foresees that the Declaration will be presented to Council (General Affairs) for approval on 16 December 2025 in order to proceed with the signature by the three Presidents in the margins of the European Council meeting on 18 December 2025.

³ 12388/25.

⁴ 12387/25.