Council of the European Union

Brussels, 9 November 2026
(OR. en)

15344/26

INST 398
POLGEN 239
AG 177

NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Legislative programming: Commission work programme for 2027 - Exchange of views

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At a time of continued geopolitical instability, persistent security challenges at the Union's borders, and accelerating global competition in critical technologies and industrial capacity, the EU is entering a decisive phase of the current legislative cycle. In its conclusions of March 2026[1], the European Council reaffirmed that strengthening Europe's competitiveness, economic security and strategic autonomy must remain at the heart of the Union's agenda.

2. In the same spirit, the Commission work programme 2027, places a strong emphasis on implementation and delivery. It prioritises securing agreement on key proposals already tabled and focuses on a limited number of new initiatives. The work programme 2027 prioritises the simplification and effective implementation of existing EU legislation, while pursuing targeted strategic initiatives in support of competitiveness, digital and AI transformation, economic security, defence preparedness and the protection of democracy.

[1] EUCO 1/26.

II. BACKGROUND

3. In 2016, the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission agreed to reinforce the Union's annual and multiannual programming through the interinstitutional agreement on better law-making[2] (IIA-BLM). Also in 2016, the Council approved its practical arrangements on annual programming[3]. These programming tools should aim to ensure that the three institutions, each acting within their own powers and prerogatives, work effectively together in delivering the common policy objectives of the Union. In accordance with the IIA-BLM, the Commission is to engage in a dialogue with the European Parliament and the Council, both before and after the adoption of its annual work programme.

4. On 22 September 2026, the Commission presented to the Council (General Affairs) its *Letter of intent*[4], which set out the main elements guiding the preparation of the Commission work programme 2027. Following this meeting, the Presidency provided its input in the form of a letter[5].

5. On 4 November 2026, the Commission adopted its work programme 2027[6], entitled *European Union - standing up for one another*. It serves as the Commission's fundamental policy planning document for the third year of its current mandate. It outlines key strategies, action plans, and legislative initiatives, structured in the headline priorities set out in the Commission's Political Guidelines for 2024-2029.

6. The work programme presents 23 new policy initiatives, 17 of which are of legislative nature completely or partially, and six of non-legislative nature. It also includes a list of 23 pending priority proposals which the Commission considers a priority for adoption in 2027, coming from the Commission work programme 2026 and the 'One Europe, One Market' Roadmap[7]. Additionally, the work programme 2027 includes a list of 23 proposals for withdrawal (in the next six months) and 14 proposals for which repeal is envisaged.

---

2 OJ L 123, 12.5.2016, p. 1.
3 6879/16.
4 12894/26.
5 14094/26.
6 15343/26.
7 8473/26.

7. On 11 November 2026, the Commission will present its work programme 2027 to the European Parliament.

III. THE WAY FORWARD

8. On 19 November 2026 the Commission will present its work programme 2027 to the Council (General Affairs), which will hold an exchange of views to identify elements that the Council aims to see reflected in the Joint Declaration on the EU legislative priorities for 2027 and will also have the opportunity to express its views on the intended withdrawals.

9. Subsequently, the three institutions will work towards preparing the Joint Declaration on the EU legislative priorities for 2027. The planned calendar foresees that the Declaration will be presented to the Council (General Affairs) for approval on 15 December 2026 in order to proceed with the signature by the three Presidents on the margins of the European Council meeting on 17-18 December 2026.

10. In view of the above, the Presidency would like to invite delegations to focus on the following questions:

    a) Which policy areas or themes – and which specific ordinary legislative procedure proposals listed (new and/or pending) - should receive priority attention during the remainder of the current institutional cycle?

    b) Regarding the proposals identified by the Commission for withdrawal, which withdrawals would you support, and are there any proposals not included in the list that could also be considered for withdrawal?