



Council of the  
European Union

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**NOTE**

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Council
Subject:	Legislative Programming: Joint Declaration on the EU legislative priorities for 2023 and 2024 = Statements

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**Statement by Germany supported by the Netherlands**

Germany attaches great importance to the review of the EU's economic governance and will continue to work constructively in the process.

Fiscal rules play an important role in the EU to coordinate fiscal policy among member states. They should focus on the core objectives of debt sustainability and sound public finances. At the same time, any necessary consolidation measures should be designed in a way that facilitates growth; this is crucial in order to avoid long-term adverse effects on public finances and to meet investment needs.

### **Statement by Poland supported by Hungary**

Poland agrees with the objective to continue to defend the rule of law as well as to protect and strengthen our democracy across the Union and defend our common European values.

Nevertheless, in line with Poland's longstanding political and legal position we underline that any instrument can only support the strengthening of the rule of law, if it is duly based on the Treaties and applied in accordance with the respective provisions of Union law. The application of existing instruments cannot lead to double standards and should duly respect the principles of conferral, equal treatment and mutual trust as well as the constitutional systems, legal heritage and national identity of Member States as foreseen in the Treaties.

### **Statement by Slovenia supported by Hungary**

Slovenia supports the approval of the Joint Declaration of the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on the legislative priorities for 2023 and 2024, which represents an important step towards the coordinated and effective functioning of the institutions in addressing current issues and delivering on an ambitious EU agenda.

We are pleased that the Western Balkans are mentioned twice in the context of the enlargement process, but would draw attention to the inaccurate reference made in paragraph 4 of the Joint Declaration. The term used – ‘candidate countries’ – does not include Bosnia and Herzegovina or Kosovo. The wording thus excludes them from cooperation in view of future accession to the Union.

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