



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

No. prev. doc.: 14470/23

Subject: Legislative programming: Commission work programme 2024

1. In the context of the annual legislative programming process, the Commission presented to the Council (General Affairs) its work programme 2024¹ at its meeting of 15 November 2023.
2. On that occasion, the Presidency invited Member States to provide written comments on the basis of document 14470/23.
3. Delegations will find in the Annex the contributions received.

¹ 13917/23 + ADD1

Comments by Latvia

Latvia supports the identified priority actions for 2024. We appreciate that the main emphasis is on concluding files that already are on the table and working on issues requiring immediate attention.

We welcome the horizontal emphasis on reducing administrative burden on economy and business. Therefore, Latvia is looking forward to the first legislative proposals to reduce reporting obligations by 25%.

We agree on further emphasis on modernisation and decarbonisation. We also note with interest the announced European Wind Power package.

We share the sense for a need to update the legal framework and the need to strengthen cooperation in combating smuggling of migrants.

Security is the basis for implementing all of the priorities. Therefore, we have to maintain focus on Ukraine and will have to continue giving Ukraine our maximum support as Ukraine's fate is closely linked to Europe's security.

We need to address the needs voiced by Ukraine as well as start EU accession negotiations in December.

EU enlargement will secure EU's geostrategic place in the world stage as a key player. We cannot afford to leave grey zones in Europe.

We will have to move forward with preparing ourselves for an enlarged EU in terms of geography as well as diversity. Discussions about EU adaptation should be in parallel with the EU accession process.

We need to agree on a roadmap for enlargement with a concrete timeframe as soon as possible.

It is utmost important that our action in the next 12 months is guided by principles of unity, solidarity and convergence.

Comments by Finland

The most important sentence in the Commission Work Programme is ‘The EU will not waver in its solidarity with Ukraine’. We need to live up to this promise by ensuring predictable, long-term economic and military support to Ukraine. Finland is strongly committed to supporting Ukraine, its reconstruction and its path towards EU membership.

Preparing for a successful enlargement is a key task for the coming years. Accession countries need to step up their reforms, notably in the area of rule of law and anti-corruption. We must support them more effectively. Opening the Commission’s Rule of Law Reports to the accession countries is welcome.

We also need to discuss how the EU itself should prepare for enlargement. As a basis for more detailed discussions, we need a thorough overview of the challenges and opportunities ahead in different policy areas. We hope that the Commission’s communication on pre-enlargement reforms and policy reviews will answer to this need.

The Commission proposal on European defence industry strategy is a key priority. There is an urgent need to strengthen the European defence industrial base.

We look forward to the work on setting the EU’s 2040 climate target. Predictable and consistent EU climate policy lays the ground for investments and innovations. The EU’s robust and effective climate policy should have emission reductions and emissions trading as its core. The role of clean innovations should be emphasized in emission reductions, inter alia by creating incentives for technological sinks. Technological neutrality should be guiding principle in all measures.

We must continue determined efforts to boost the EU’s long-term competitiveness. We need a dynamic single market and ability to conclude trade deals swiftly. Our success lies in innovations, education, research and skills. For future growth, it is essential to have fair competition. We need to return to normal state aid rules as soon as possible. Reducing administrative burden on businesses is important.

Finally, we need to advance the Capital Markets Union and keep progressing on the completion of the Banking Union.