

Brussels, 19 February 2025
(OR. en)

6340/25

LIMITE

ANTICI 2

'I' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee
Subject: Antici Group on simplification: draft mandate

1. In October 2024, the European Council called on all EU institutions, Member States and stakeholders, as a matter of priority, to take work forward, notably in response to the challenges identified in the reports by Enrico Letta ('Much more than a market') and Mario Draghi ('The future of European competitiveness').
2. The Budapest declaration (8 November 2025) subsequently called for "*launching a simplification revolution*", by ensuring a clear, simple and smart regulatory framework for businesses and drastically reducing administrative, regulatory and reporting burdens, in particular for SMEs. One of the key objectives to be implemented without delay includes reducing reporting requirements by at least 25 % in the first half of 2025.
3. On 11 February 2025, the Commission put forward a communication on implementation and simplification which announces a number of omnibus packages and simplification proposals as part of its work programme in the context of strengthening the EU competitiveness. The Commission intends to start publishing these proposals from 26 February 2025. It furthermore asks the co-legislators to consider fast-tracking these initiatives.

4. Against this background, the Presidency announced that Coreper 2 would have a coordination role in respect of all related simplification issues and announced the creation of a dedicated horizontal preparatory body for this purpose. This preparatory body, organised as a subgroup of the Antici Group, will operate under the General Affairs Council.
5. It is the Presidency's intention that this preparatory body will take work forward on the Commission's proposals for omnibus packages, as well as - upon decision of Coreper ('I' item after examination at the Antici group) - on other Commission proposals primarily aimed at simplification in the context of strengthening the EU competitiveness.
6. The creation of the preparatory body and the coordinating role of Coreper 2 do not seek to preclude discussions on simplification-related matters in other Council formations. Rather, where such discussions occur, the Presidents of other Council formations may choose to send letters to the President of the General Affairs Council summarising their outcomes in order to provide input to the Council's work on simplification and related legislative proposals.
7. The Presidency foresees a standard format of 1+1 for meetings of the preparatory body to allow for the attendance of one permanent delegate and one sectoral expert depending on the subject matter under discussion. Meetings in a more inclusive format (i.e., 1+2) may be organised, where needed.
8. Interpretation during meetings of the preparatory body will be provided upon request.
9. The mandate of the preparatory body will expire upon the Presidency's assessment that all relevant legislative proposals have been adopted. It will inform Coreper of this.
10. In view of the above remarks, Coreper is invited to approve:
 - the creation of a formation of the Antici group dedicated to simplification;
 - the terms of reference in the Annex.

Antici Group (Simplification)

Code	A.14. a
Council configuration	<p>The group operates under:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General affairs <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign affairs <input type="checkbox"/> Economic and financial affairs¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Justice and home affairs² <input type="checkbox"/> Employment, social policy, health and consumer affairs <input type="checkbox"/> Competitiveness (internal market, industry, research and space)³ <input type="checkbox"/> Transport, telecommunications and energy <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and fisheries <input type="checkbox"/> Environment <input type="checkbox"/> Education, youth, culture and sport⁴
Sub-areas or Subgroup(s)	<p>Antici Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Simplification
Policy area(s)	<p>Under the authority of Coreper⁵, the group is responsible for handling the legislative proposals on simplification omnibus packages and, as identified by Coreper, other proposals primarily aimed at simplification in the context of strengthening the EU competitiveness. <i>(Please list and explain the policy areas covered by the preparatory body.)</i></p>
Type of work	<p>The group is mainly in charge of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Work on Union legal acts (i.e. legislative acts and other legal acts) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy preparation <p>In particular, the group is in charge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> legislative act(s): <p>The group is responsible for all proposals for omnibus and, as identified by Coreper, other proposals primarily aimed at simplification in the context of strengthening the EU competitiveness.</p>

¹ Including budget

² Including civil protection

³ Including tourism

⁴ Including Audio-visual affairs

⁵ In accordance with Article 240(1) TFEU and the Council's Rules of Procedure

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- other Union legal acts: *(Add reference to a specific policy area or sub-area)*
 - external documents or instruments:
(Add reference to a specific policy area or sub-area, or to specific international organisations/fora)
 - policy document(s): all those relevant to the policy areas listed above
(Please choose from Commission/EEAS communications, action plans, strategies, declarations, conclusions or please indicate other policy documents)
 - other:

Chairing arrangement

The group is chaired by:

- the six-monthly Presidency
- a representative of the High Representative
- other, namely:

(For example if the preparatory body has a fixed chair (GSC, or elected chair), please indicate so. If applicable, please also include a reference to the relevant Coreper/Council Decision)

Observations

- Date of establishment:
Date of CRP decision.
- If applicable, duration of the mandate and/or expiry date:
The mandate will expire as soon as all the relevant legislative proposals have been adopted.
- If applicable, evolution of the mandate and last update:
n/a
- If applicable, main links with other Working Parties:
When dealing with the aforementioned proposals, the group will draw on the expertise of delegates working in relevant areas, as appropriate. Its activities shall be without prejudice to the work carried out within other Council preparatory bodies not concerning the legislative proposals handled by the group.