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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee

Subject: **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL (GENERAL AFFAIRS) ON 18 MARCH 2025: PREPARATION**
Legislative programming
- Joint Declaration on the EU legislative priorities for 2025
- Joint Conclusions on Policy Objectives and Priorities for 2025-2029
= *Approval*

1. 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-making¹ (IIA-BLM paragraphs 4-11). Also in 2016, the Council approved its practical arrangements on annual programming².
2. With regard to multiannual programming, it is foreseen that upon the appointment of a new Commission, in order to facilitate longer-term planning, the three Institutions will exchange views on the principal policy objectives and priorities for the new term. They will, on the Commission's initiative and as appropriate, draw up joint conclusions to be signed by the Presidents of the three Institutions.

¹ OJ L 123, 12.5.2016, p. 1.

² 6879/16.

3. With regard to annual programming, the Commission should engage in a dialogue with the European Parliament and the Council, both before and after the adoption of its annual work programme. Following the adoption of the Commission work programme and drawing on it, the three Institutions will exchange views on initiatives for the coming year and agree on a joint declaration on annual programming, to be signed by the Presidents of the three Institutions.
4. At its meeting on 17 December 2024, the Council (General Affairs) held an exchange of views on programming with the Commission. A summary of the exchange of views and of the written comments received after the meeting was reflected in a letter³ by the President of the Council to the President of the Commission.
5. The Commission adopted its work programme for 2025 on 11 February 2025⁴ and presented it to the Council (General Affairs) on 25 February 2025, followed by an exchange of views on programming, which provided a basis for the following interinstitutional negotiations.
6. Subsequently, the Presidency, accompanied by the incoming Presidency, negotiated the draft Joint Declaration and Joint Conclusions with the European Parliament and the Commission on the basis of texts put forward by the Commission. The outcome of these negotiations is set out in documents 6523/25 (Joint Declaration) and 6524/25 (Joint Conclusions); the texts, provisionally agreed, are now submitted for approval to the respective political authorities.
7. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore invited to recommend that the Council (General Affairs) approve the Joint Declaration and Joint Conclusions set out respectively in documents 6523/25 and 6524/25 at its meeting on 18 March 2025.
8. The signature by the Presidents of the three Institutions is envisaged in the margins of the European Council on 20 March 2025. After being signed, the Joint Declaration and Joint Conclusions will be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

³ 16982/24.

⁴ 5985/25 + ADD 1.