

Brussels, 14 March 2025
(OR. en)

6809/25

INST 60
POLGEN 20
AG 27

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Council
No. prev. doc.:	6524/2/25 REV 2
Subject:	Legislative programming - Joint Conclusions on Policy Objectives and Priorities for 2025-2029

**Joint Conclusions of the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the
European Commission on
Policy Objectives and Priorities for 2025–2029**

For the legislative term until 2029, the three Institutions acknowledge the need for an urgency mindset in order to resolutely deliver on an ambitious agenda to foster a more united, prosperous, secure and resilient Europe. This is crucial in times when the European Union navigates an era marked by increasing instability, global challenges and strategic competition. Drawing on the successful collaboration of previous terms, we are resolved to shift gears and combine all our strengths and resources to meet the generational challenges we are facing. In this spirit, we will prioritise the following objectives to ensure a stronger Europe for all our citizens:

1. In a volatile, complex and increasingly hostile global environment, we will act with resolve to boost our **security and defence** and reaffirm the principle of solidarity between EU Member States. To achieve this, we will work towards a surge in **investments in Europe's defence and its defence industry**. Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine constitutes a manifest violation of the Charter of the United Nations and represents an existential challenge to the European security architecture. We remain united and true to our promise to support Ukraine for as long as it takes. Beyond strengthening defence capabilities, we will collaborate with like-minded nations to uphold the rules-based international order, develop **strategic partnerships** and reinforce our **cooperation with NATO**. Moreover, as the EU is facing increasing challenges from foreign and home-grown actors through **disinformation, hybrid warfare, terrorism and organised crime**, we are committed to employing all available instruments to ensure the security of European citizens and to enhance the resilience of our critical infrastructure.¹
2. Europe needs to take a more active approach to be ready to face a variety of simultaneous crises, from natural disasters to cyber and health emergencies. To this end, we will strengthen the EU's **preparedness and resilience** by building on the recommendations of the Niinistö report and adopting an **all-hazards and whole-of-society approach, including preventive health policies**. Therefore, we will work with the private sector, local communities and civil-society organisations to enhance **societal resilience**.

¹ This paragraph is without prejudice to the specific character of the security and defence policies of certain Member States, and takes into account the security and defence interests of all Member States, and in accordance with the Treaties.

3. We will take decisive action to ensure Europe's continued prosperity by boosting **long-term competitiveness** following the direction set in the Competitiveness Compass, which draws on the recommendations contained in the Draghi report. We are determined to fully exploit the potential of the **Single Market** and overcome remaining barriers, including through the new European Savings and Investments Union, building on the Letta report. We are committed to making it **easier and faster to do business in the EU**, including for SMEs, **to creating quality jobs** and to providing swift relief to companies by urgently reducing administrative burden, and achieving a far-reaching simplification of European legislation by prioritising the related proposals. We will provide a harmonised legal regime of EU-wide rules for companies wherever they invest and operate in the Single Market. We will encourage **innovation** by European businesses by harnessing the potential of **data**, giving **circularity and technological neutrality a much more prominent place in our economy**, supporting start-ups and investing in **frontier technologies** to close our productivity gap with other economies. We will stay on course with the goals of reaching **climate neutrality in the Union by 2050**, boosting our competitiveness and committing to a just transition promoting social cohesion and equity. We commit to **decarbonising** our economy, boosting strategic sectors, strengthening strategic **energy sovereignty** and bringing down **energy prices**.
4. **Migration** is a European challenge that requires a European response. We will strengthen work on all strands of action in our **comprehensive approach** to manage migration and borders, and stress the importance of **implementing and applying adopted EU legislation**. Irregular migration is placing significant pressure on the EU's external borders. To address this and protect the EU from security threats, we will work together to safeguard our external borders, address the root causes of migration, consider new ways to prevent and counter irregular migration, in line with EU and international law, and dismantle smuggling networks. We will also work to make the process of returns simpler, swifter and more efficient, while promoting safe and legal pathways for migration, in line with national competences, by working more closely with our international partners. We recall the importance of the proper functioning of the **Schengen area**, intrinsically linked to a stronger Single Market.

5. The **social market economy** is central to our European social model, guiding our approach to fairness and prosperity. We will work to make sure that its benefits reach all citizens. As we face the challenge of **demographic change**, a coordinated response is essential to ensure economic vitality for all regions and opportunities for **all generations**. We will uphold the **European Pillar of Social Rights** to increase **upward social convergence** throughout the EU by supporting fair and effective labour markets, promoting equal opportunities and quality jobs, including by helping attract people with the right skills, by ensuring adequate working conditions and by addressing poverty and affordable housing. Developing **future-ready training and education** to foster the right skills for tomorrow is crucial for maintaining quality jobs and our long-term competitiveness. We will invest in these areas to prepare the European workforce for a rapidly changing world, fostering innovation, and working towards territorial cohesion and inclusive growth across all regions.
6. To ensure our **future**, we are committed to just and fair transitions that enhance our long-term competitiveness. In this spirit, we will continue efforts to address the necessity of **fighting climate change and protecting nature and biodiversity**. We will also reform our agricultural policy to ensure a thriving food and farming sector that, on a level playing field, rewards our farmers for ensuring citizens' food security and safeguarding nature.
7. We will work to strengthen the **resilience of our democracy** and our capacity to respond to foreign interference. The common **values** of the European project, including the **rule of law, fundamental rights and equality**, must remain our strength and guidance. We will work with all levels of government and across society to protect and promote them within the Union and globally. We will remain committed to preserving media freedom and **free speech** within the EU and ensuring the integrity of democratic processes.

8. Having recently celebrated the success of the 20th anniversary of the EU's biggest enlargement, we recognise that continuing this process is a geostrategic investment in peace, security, stability and prosperity. We remain committed to a **merit-based enlargement policy** and to an **ambitious reform agenda** to achieve our goals and ensure the proper functioning of a larger Union. Additionally, we will enhance our **economic security** by reducing strategic dependencies on third countries and forming **long-term partnerships** with allies who uphold our values. We will also continue to strengthen our **trade links** around the world, ensuring a level playing field and an effective **multilateral trading system**. Beyond trade, we will defend and promote the **rules-based international order**, working to enhance its inclusivity and effectiveness. We will ensure that the EU and its Member States continue to be one of the leading humanitarian aid donors.
9. To deliver on those long-standing priorities, we will increase our efforts to mobilise **sufficient private and public funding** and ensure that the **multiannual financial framework** is fit for purpose, more focused, simpler and more impactful. This includes continuing to work towards the introduction of new own resources.

These priorities outline our vision for a more united, dynamic and inclusive Europe, committed to the well-being of its people. We will collaborate closely to ensure their full delivery while maintaining citizens' participation at the heart of our efforts by actively engaging with communities and stakeholders across the Union. In implementing these priorities, we will adhere to the principles of European added value, subsidiarity and proportionality. Together, we will strive to build a resilient and prosperous Europe that stands strong in the face of current and future challenges.