



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 12 June 2017  
(OR. en)

10003/17

INST 243  
POLGEN 84  
AG 19  
CODEC 986

**NOTE**

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From: Presidency  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council  
Subject: Legislative programming  
- Exchange of views - input ahead of the Commission's Letter of Intent

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As foreseen in the Council practical arrangements<sup>1</sup>, delegations will find attached a note from the Presidency in preparation of an exchange of views with the Commission at the General Affairs meeting of 20 June 2017 with a view to providing an early input to the Commission's Annual Work Programme for 2018.

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<sup>1</sup> Document 6879/16

## NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENCY

### Early input to the Commission's Annual Work Programme for 2018

The Strategic Agenda adopted by the European Council at its meeting on 24-25 June 2014 provides guidance for the work of the European Union over the next five years.

The Interinstitutional Agreement on Better-Law making of 13 April 2016<sup>2</sup> (paragraph 6) provides that the Commission will engage in a dialogue with the European Parliament and the Council respectively, both before and after the adoption of the Commission Work Programme (WP).

In 2016, this dialogue took place and the Commission subsequently adopted its WP for 2017. The WP for 2017 focused on a targeted set of key strategies grounded in the 10 priorities set out in the Political Guidelines by the President of the Commission, inspired by the Strategic Agenda.

Following the adoption of the WP, and in accordance with the IIA (paragraph 7), the three Institutions exchanged views on initiatives for 2017 and agreed on a joint declaration on annual interinstitutional programming which was adopted on 13 December 2016<sup>3</sup>. The joint declaration set out broad objectives and priorities for 2017 and identifies items of major political importance which, without prejudice to the powers conferred by the Treaties on the co-legislators, should receive priority treatment in the legislative process.

In the perspective of the 'letter of intent' due to be submitted by the Commission in September 2017, the Council will hold an exchange of views with the Commission on the priorities for the upcoming year with a view to providing an early input. The basis for the exchange of views will mainly be the Strategic Agenda adopted by the European Council, its implementation in the Commission's current and previous WPs as well as the implementation of the joint declaration.

Against this background, the Presidency suggests holding a first open exchange of views with the Commission at the General Affairs meeting of 20 June 2017. Ministers are invited to provide their views on the following questions:

- Do the areas chosen by the Commission for 2017 continue to be the right ones in light of the priorities identified in the Strategic Agenda?
- Could some of these areas be adjusted in light of current developments, priorities and recent Commission proposals?
- Within those priority areas, are there initiatives that could usefully be included in the Work Programme for 2018?
- Are there other areas or initiatives which would deserve further attention?

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<sup>2</sup> OJ L123, 12.5.2016, p.1-14

<sup>3</sup> Document 15375/16