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From: Presidency
To: Council

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Subject: Implementation of the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making
– Council practical arrangements on annual programming

1. Paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making¹ provide the basic framework for the bilateral and trilateral annual consultations on the Commission's Work Programme and follow up.
2. These provisions need further implementation both internally in the Council and with the European Parliament and the Commission.
3. Following agreement by the Permanent Representatives Committee on 9 March 2016, a proposal for Council practical arrangements containing timelines and steps in the annual programming process is set out in the Annex.

¹ Doc. 15506/15.

4. The arrangements may be reviewed according to need and in light of experience gained, including in the contacts with the other two institutions.
 5. The Council is invited to approve the practical arrangements set out in the Annex.
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Council practical arrangements on annual programming Timeline and steps¹

May/June General Affairs Council

With a view to providing an early input to the Commission's Annual Work Programme for the following year the Council will hold an exchange of views with the Commission on the priorities for the upcoming year.

The basis for the exchange of views will mainly be the Strategic Agenda adopted by the European Council and its implementation in the Commission's current and previous Annual Work Programmes.

The input from the GAC to the Commission could be reflected in a letter by the Presidency to the Commission summarizing the discussion.

May/June - debate with the Parliament and the Commission

On the basis of the Council's early input, the Presidency will participate in a debate with the Parliament and the Commission on the implementation of the Joint Declaration. On that occasion the three institutions could also exchange views on simplification. The modalities of such a debate would need to be agreed between the three institutions.

September General Affairs Council

The Commission will submit detailed information on the main elements guiding the preparation of the forthcoming Commission Work Programme ("letter of intent"), including as concerns the withdrawal of legislative proposals, in September.

On that basis, the General Affairs Council will hold an exchange of views with the Commission.

The input from the Council to the Commission could be reflected in a letter by the Presidency to the Commission summarizing the discussion.

November General Affairs Council

The Commission will adopt its Annual Work Programme for the following year in October.

The Commission will present its Annual Work Programme to the Council followed by a discussion. The discussion might also serve to identify elements that the Council will want to see reflected in the Joint Declaration.

November/December - agreement on a Joint Declaration with the Parliament and the Commission

The current Presidency and the two (incoming) presidencies of the year covered by the Declaration will represent the Council in the talks and negotiations on the Joint Declaration.

Following agreement, the Council will approve the draft Joint Declaration followed by signature.

The various exchanges of views in the Council will inform the planning of the incoming presidencies and provide a basis for the exchanges among the three institutions.

¹ The exact calendar may vary from year to year depending on the timing of the various events underpinning the process.