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NOTE

From: HLG Trio Presidency Chair
To: The High Level Working Group on Competitiveness and Growth
Subject: Draft HLG work programme: January 2019 - June 2020

Delegations will find in Annex a draft HLG work programme: January 2019 - June 2020, in view of the meeting of the High Level Working Group on Competitiveness and Growth on 24 January 2019.

Work Programme for High Level Group on Competitiveness and Growth

January 2019 – June 2020

The HLG Trio Presidency presented the preliminary orientations of the work programme at the HLG meeting on 8 November 2018. The presentation was made on the basis of Council document 13515/1/18 REV 1 (Information note prepared by incoming HLG Chair).

The core elements of the draft HLG work programme have remained unchanged. However, the draft work programme has been developed further based on the constructive feedback from the HLG delegates. The draft HLG work programme is attached to this note.

The Member States are invited to express their views on the updated draft work programme. Following the discussion at the meeting on 24 January, COREPER will approve the HLG work programme in February 2019.

The work of the HLG will focus on the future key policies affecting sustainable growth and competitiveness of Europe. The strategic priorities for the European Union and the five-year work programme of the next Commission will be adopted during the Trio Presidency. This offers the HLG a special opportunity to make an impact on the future orientation of the EU's policy agenda.

In view of the above, the Trio Presidency highlights the thematic areas such as the future of the Single Market and digitalisation, industrial policy and transition to low carbon economy, as well as the external dimension of the EU competitiveness. These themes form the core elements of the forthcoming HLG work programme. The objective of the HLG work is to prepare and facilitate the discussions at the COMPET Council. Moreover, the work programme retains sufficient flexibility to raise other topical issues of particular importance for sustainable growth and competitiveness. For example, the informal HLG meetings that the Romanian and Finnish presidencies intend to organise in May and September 2019 would offer us this opportunity.

The Trio Presidency strives to make the HLG work beneficial for the EU's Growth Agenda by strategic planning of the meeting agendas and transparent communication, as well as by doing its best to create an atmosphere that inspires open and constructive dialogue. To this end, all delegations are encouraged to be open and ambitious in contributing to the HLG work and in shaping the strategic debate on the future growth and competitiveness of Europe.

Draft Work Programme of the High Level Working Group on Competitiveness and Growth January 2019 - June 2020

Overarching theme: Creating conditions for sustainable growth for the EU (2019-2024)

ROMANIA 01/2019-6/2019	FINLAND 07/2019-12/2019	CROATIA 01/2020-06/2020
<p>January 2019</p> <p>a) TRIO HLG work programme for January 2019 – June 2020 b) Coordinated Plan on AI / Impact of AI on the competitiveness of EU industry c) Single Market project, next steps (Check-up) d) IPCEI – Important Projects of Common European Interest</p>	<p>July 2019</p> <p>a) Single Market and Digital economy ‘Integrated Action Plan’ b) Future of EU Trade Policy and Competitiveness c) Future approach to European competitiveness in relation to MFF (TBC)</p>	<p>Spring 2020</p> <p>a) COM work programme kick off – presentation and discussion b) Investment policy in the EU – growth perspective</p>
<p>April 2019</p> <p>a) A holistic approach to EU agenda for sustainable growth including industrial policy – crucial elements needed for successful policy delivery b) Data and competition policies related to platform economy c) Transition of EU industry towards low carbon economy – new technologies and their impact on industrial competitiveness</p>	<p>November 2019</p> <p>a) Discussion on the future Commission work programme with focus on Single Market and digitalisation b) Future of automotive industry in Europe</p>	<p>Spring 2020</p> <p>a) Sustainable tourism b) Absence of ‘level-playing field’ in global trade relations – Implications for EU industry and competitiveness</p>

In addition, RO and FI Presidencies intend to organise informal HLG meetings in May and September 2019.