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#### 'I' ITEM NOTE

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)
Subject:	Work programme of the High Level Working Group on Competitiveness and Growth - Approval

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1. On 31 October 2014, the Permanent Representatives Committee approved the establishment of a High Level Working Group on Competitiveness and Growth (COMPCRO HLG) with the mandate to *"monitor the state of Single Market integration and discuss the policy priorities set out in the relevant documents, including within the European Semester"* and *"support the Council in its reinforced role of monitoring and mainstreaming competitiveness, in particular industrial competitiveness"*<sup>1</sup>.

The Committee agreed on arrangements concerning the membership of the COMPCRO HLG, the appointment of its chair and its work programme. In particular relating to the work programme, the Committee agreed that *"in order to align the COMPCRO HLG's agenda with the Trio Presidency Programme of the Council, the High Level Working Group will have a work programme, with a duration corresponding to the 18-month Trio Programme, taking into account the Commission's work programme, and which will be submitted for consideration and approval to the COREPER"*.

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<sup>1</sup> Doc 15006/14.

2. According to the above agreement, the current Trio Presidency Romania, Finland and Croatia, appointed the chair and vice-chairs of the group and prepared a draft work programme for the period from January 2019 to June 2020, which was sent to Member States for comments.
  3. At the meeting of the COMPCRO HLG on 24 January 2019, Member States expressed broad support for the above draft work programme, exchanged views and made suggestions on it. A deadline was set for possible further comments, following which the draft work programme is deemed endorsed and is now submitted to COREPER for consideration and approval.
  4. The Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1) is invited to consider the draft work programme of the COMPCRO HLG for the period from January 2019 to June 2020, as set out in the Annex, and approve it.
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**Work Programme for the High Level Group on Competitiveness and Growth  
January 2019 - June 2020**

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

<b>ROMANIA 01/2019-6/2019</b>	<b>FINLAND 07/2019-12/2019</b>	<b>CROATIA 01/2020-06/2020</b>
<p><b>January 2019</b></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><b>July 2019</b></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 (in particular innovation and digital policies)</p>	<p><b>Spring 2020</b></p> <p>a) COM work programme kick off – presentation and discussion            b) Investment policy in the EU – growth perspective</p>
<p><b>April 2019</b></p> <p>a) A holistic approach to EU agenda: interlinking Industrial and Single Market policy including services – 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><b>November 2019</b></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><b>Spring 2020</b></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. This offers further flexibility to include topical issues to the agenda as well as the possibility to use break-out groups to discuss specific topics in more concrete terms.