



Council of the
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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: Legislative programming
- Exchange of views

Delegations will find in the Annex a background note with the Presidency questions for the exchange of views on Legislative Programming at the Council (General Affairs) meeting of 20 September 2022.

Legislative programming**- Exchange of views -****Introduction**

The 2016 inter-institutional agreement on better law-making (IIA) was set out to reinforce the EU's annual and multiannual programming with a view to improving law-making and focusing EU action and initiatives on the main policy priorities with European added value. Since then, the three institutions have engaged together in annual programming cycles to determine the political and legislative priorities each year.

The coronavirus pandemic caused an unprecedented health, economic and social crisis which the EU and its Member States faced with rapid and decisive actions since early 2020. Only two years later Russia's unprovoked and unjustified aggression against Ukraine poses another significant political, security, economic and humanitarian challenge. In February 2022¹ the European Council agreed on support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders. In its conclusions of March 2022², it has committed the EU to engage in Ukraine's reconstruction. These commitments will require increased efforts and coherent actions of the EU and Member States. At the same time, the EU has to address soaring inflation, accompanied by skyrocketing energy prices, as well as other negative impacts that Russia's aggression and its weaponising of energy exports are having on European citizens and economies.

¹ EUCO 18/22

² EUCO 1/22

Annual programming cycle

The Commission's 2022 strategic foresight report³, published on 29 June 2022, provides valuable input into the legislative programming cycle. It sets out several areas of action to maximise the synergies and interaction between the green and digital transitions, also addressing tensions between them in the new geopolitical context. It calls for a dynamic approach to anticipating change and adapting policy responses, so that by 2050 a successful twinning will support a new, regenerative, and climate-neutral economy, cutting the levels of pollution, restoring biodiversity and natural capital, enabled by sustainable digital and other technologies. This would contribute towards positioning the EU as a champion of competitive sustainability, strengthening its resilience and open strategic autonomy, whilst going hand in hand with a just transition.

The Commission's *Letter of intent*⁴, expected to be issued on 14 September 2022, will set out the main elements guiding the preparation of the forthcoming 2023 Commission Work Programme.

Against this background, Ministers are invited to exchange views on the main priorities and initiatives for next year around the following questions:

1. Do Ministers agree with the envisaged initiatives presented in the *Letter of intent*?
2. Which initiatives are for you the most needed?

Next steps

The Presidency will summarise the discussion in Council in a letter to the President of the Commission. This will serve as input for the rest of the annual legislative programming cycle over the coming months, culminating in the next joint declaration on legislative priorities.

³ 10889/22 + COR1

⁴ 12009/22