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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Legislative programming - <i>Exchange of views</i>

Introduction

1. In 2016, the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission agreed to reinforce the Union's annual and multiannual programming through the interinstitutional agreement on better law-making¹ (IIA-BLM paragraphs 4 - 11). Also in 2016, the Council approved its practical arrangements on annual programming².
2. Both the multiannual programming and the successive annual programmes should aim to ensure that the three institutions, each acting within their own powers and prerogatives, work effectively together in delivering the common policy objectives of the Union.

¹ OJ L 123, 12.5.2016, p. 1

² 6879/16

3. In accordance with the IIA-BLM (paragraph 6), the Commission is to engage in a dialogue with the European Parliament and the Council, both before and after the adoption of its annual Work Programme. At its meeting on 15 September 2023, the Council (General Affairs) held an exchange of views on the basis of the Commission's *Letter of intent*³, which set out the main elements guiding the preparation of the Commission work programme 2024.

The Commission work programme 2024

4. The Commission work programme 2024⁴ includes six headline ambitions, 15 new policy objectives, two to five new legislative initiatives and six proposals for withdrawals, in addition to the identification of 154 ongoing priority files.

It also identifies burden reduction for businesses, administrations and citizens as a horizontal priority, including 41 proposals and initiatives to rationalise EU reporting requirements, notably for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and start-ups (of which 36 put forward ahead of or alongside the work programme 2024 and five to be presented afterwards) and 16 evaluations and fitness checks.

5. On 15 November 2023 the Commission will present its work programme 2024 to the Council (General Affairs), which will hold an exchange of views on it.
6. Delegations will find in the Annex the Presidency questions for the exchange of views.

³ 12541/23

⁴ 13917/23 + ADD 1

Legislative programming: Exchange of views

At a time of continued and heightened conflict in the neighbourhood, on top of the climate, health and cost-of-living crises that our institutions and societies have been dealing with in the last few years, the European Union is gearing up for a decisive year for its future. In its conclusions of October 2023⁵, the **European Council** noted that in the face of increasingly complex challenges the European Union needs a strong economic base that ensures its long-term competitiveness and a level playing field both internally and globally with a fully functioning Single Market and its four freedoms at its core. It also underlined the need to accelerate work in a number of areas, including reducing the regulatory burden.

In the same spirit, the Commission work programme 2024, the last one adopted in the current legislative term, prioritises delivering on pending legislative proposals over new initiatives as well as reducing administrative burden and reporting requirements.

For the exchange of views on legislative programming in the Council (General Affairs) on 15 November 2023, the **Presidency** would like to invite delegations to focus on the following questions:

- Which policy areas or themes should receive priority treatment before the end of the legislative term 2019-2024? And which deserve attention beyond 2024?
- In the accompanying list of proposals to the Commission work programme 2024, which OLP proposals (new and/or pending) should be highlighted in the run-up to the end of the current legislative term?

⁵ **EUCO 14/23**