



Council of the  
European Union

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COMPET 421

#### '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 Germany, Portugal and Slovenia, appointed the chair and vice-chairs of the group and prepared a draft work programme for the period from July 2020 to December 2021, which was sent to Member States for comments.
  3. At the meeting of the COMPCRO HLG on 10 September 2020, 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 July 2020 to December 2021, as set out in the Annex, and approve it.
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**HIGH LEVEL WORKING GROUP ON COMPETITIVENESS AND GROWTH: DE-PT-SI WORK PROGRAMME****JULY 2020 – DECEMBER 2021**Programme overview:**“Forward-looking Single Market, industry and SMEs for a competitive, sustainable and resilient Europe”**

	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Germany (2<sup>nd</sup> half 2020)</b>	<b>Portugal (1<sup>st</sup> half 2021)</b>	<b>Slovenia (2<sup>nd</sup> half 2021)</b>
<b>Pillar I: Single Market</b>	Strengthening the Single Market	Contribute to strengthening the Single Market: Follow-up on Council conclusions and discussion on the Recovery Plan	Contribute to strengthening the Single Market, also with regard to the implementation of the Recovery Plan	Contribute to the discussions on resilience of the Single Market Continue and deepen the discussion on better implementation and enforcement of legislation, including monitoring barriers in the Single Market
	Fair competition and external dimension of competitiveness	Discussion on the modernisation of state aid policy	Contribute to the discussion on fair competition framework, including the external dimension of competitiveness, in an economic recovery and investment context	Follow-up the discussion on effective, open and fair competition framework from the digital economy perspective
	Better regulation and burden reduction	Better regulation and burden reduction with focus on supporting the economic recovery and building up resilience	Pursuing better regulation and burden reduction in the economic recovery context, including quality of Regulatory Impact Assessment	Better regulation with focus on a follow up of the functioning of new innovative mechanisms of better regulation

	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Germany (2<sup>nd</sup> half 2020)</b>	<b>Portugal (1<sup>st</sup> half 2021)</b>	<b>Slovenia (2<sup>nd</sup> half 2021)</b>
Pillar II: Industry	Strengthening Europe's industrial basis	Industry as the engine for a green and digital transformation and resilient economic recovery – discussion on monitoring of industrial competitiveness  Investment for recovery and strategic autonomy: strengthening ecosystems and key technologies (possibly including case study and the role of IPCEI)	Monitoring the EU Industrial Strategy implementation in specific ecosystems and sectors (incl. servification), adapted to the double transition (green and digital).	Follow-up of the monitoring exercise of the EU Industrial Strategy including industry aspects of the Recovery Plan implementation  Presentation on the application of EU Circular Economy Action Plan for specific sectors
	Digital and Data economy	Discussion on Industry 4.0 and the establishment of a digital infrastructure that enhances digital sovereignty in the EU	Follow-up on the strategy “Shaping Europe’s Digital Future” including circular economy of data, skills, ethics and public sector practices.  Discussion on competitiveness impact of the Digital Services Act	Artificial Intelligence: application in industry/SMEs
Pillar III: SMEs	SMEs for jobs, innovation and growth	Discussion on the future of SME policy, with referral to economic recovery and the SME Strategy; poss. special focus on services and microenterprises	SME definition, scaling up innovative SMEs and fostering technology transfer.  Discussion about revitalizing the tourism sector emphasizing sustainability, in the economic recovery context	Discussion on the implementation of the SME Strategy including monitoring the implementation of recovery measures for SMEs