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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Legislative programming: Commission work programme for 2026 - Exchange of views

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.
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.

¹ OJ L 123, 12.5.2016, p. 1

² 6879/16

4. On 16 September 2025, 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 2026. Following this meeting, the Presidency provided its input in the form of a letter⁴ summarising the exchange of views to the President of the Commission.
5. On 21 October 2025, the Commission adopted its work programme 2026⁵, titled *Europe's Independence Moment*, and presented it to the European Parliaments' plenary on the same date.
6. The work programme 2026 serves as the Commission's fundamental policy planning document for the second year of its current mandate. It outlines key strategies, action plans, and legislative initiatives, structured in six headline priorities set out in the Commission's Political Guidelines for 2024-2029 and organised under 38 specific policy objectives.
7. In addition to the 72 new major policy initiatives, 47 of which are of legislative nature and 25 of non-legislative nature, the work programme 2026 also includes a list of 20 evaluations and fitness checks, 111 pending legislative proposals, and 25 initiatives the Commission intends to withdraw during 2026.
8. On 17 November 2025 the Commission will present its work programme 2026 to the Council (General Affairs), which will hold an exchange of views to identify elements that the Council wants to see reflected in the Joint Declaration on the EU legislative priorities for 2026 and express its views on the intended withdrawals.
9. Following the Council's exchange, the three Institutions will work towards preparing the Joint Declaration on the EU legislative priorities for 2026. The planned calendar foresees that the Declaration will be presented to the Council (General Affairs) for approval on 16 December 2025 in order to proceed with the signature by the three Presidents in the margins of the European Council meeting on 18 December 2025.

³ 12387/25
⁴ 13423/25
⁵ 14261/25 + ADD 1