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COVER NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Legislative programming - Letter from the Presidency to the Commission

Delegations will find attached a letter on legislative programming from the Presidency to the European Commission as follow-up to the presentation of the Commission's *Letter of intent* at the Council (General Affairs) meeting of 22 September 2026.

8 October 2026

General Affairs Council 22 September 2026
Follow-up letter on Legislative programming – *Letter of intent*

Dear President von der Leyen,
Dear Commissioner Šefčovič,

I thank you for your *Letter of intent* of 16 September 2026, which sets out the key priorities and new initiatives envisaged by the European Commission for 2027, and launches the annual legislative programming cycle.

As stated in the Commission's *Letter of intent*, at a time of profound geopolitical, economic and technological transformation, it is essential that Europe continue to strengthen its capacity to act as one and shape its own future. The progress achieved in recent years provides a solid foundation. The priority now is to deliver concrete outcomes, particularly through the completion of ongoing legislative work and the effective implementation and enforcement of existing commitments.

At its meeting of 22 September 2026, the Council gained further insight into the Commission's intentions regarding the Commission Work Programme for 2027 and a shared understanding of the priorities for the forthcoming year.

Our priority must be to boost Europe's economic competitiveness. We know that time is of the essence. The Council is fully committed to delivering on this objective and is working intensively to advance on the implementation of the *One Europe, One Market* Roadmap. The simplification agenda and the concrete legislative proposals underpinning it must remain a priority for all of us. These policies are essential to fostering innovation and growth while reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens. We must sustain both the momentum and the ambition of this agenda and strengthen our competitiveness, support jobs in Europe, while maintaining our policy objectives.

The Presidency is committed to advancing a security and defence agenda, acknowledging that no Member State can address the full spectrum of current and emerging security challenges on its own. The persistent hybrid activity observed by Member States is of particular concern. We will work to progress the EU agenda on countering hybrid and cyber threats.

We are determined to ensure that Europe's support for Ukraine remains steadfast and will continue to maintain pressure on Russia to end its illegal war of aggression. Peace and stability in the Middle East is a continued priority.

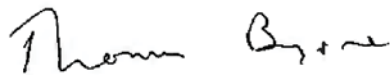
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Our commitment to the Union's values is equally unwavering. Now more than ever, the EU must defend and promote these values through its actions and initiatives, both within Europe and globally. In particular, the rule of law and democracy are the foundations of our Union, and the European social model remains a cornerstone of our societies.

It is of the utmost importance that we closely monitor progress on our legislative priorities to ensure their swift implementation. We look forward to our Institutions' continued cooperation in the quarterly reviews of progress in implementing the Joint Declaration on the EU legislative priorities for 2026 and the Roadmap. The next review is scheduled to be presented at the Council on 13 October and subsequently to the European Council on 15 October.

I look forward to a continued dialogue with the Commission and the European Parliament in the next steps of the legislative programming cycle, in accordance with the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas Byrne'.

Thomas Byrne T.D.
President of the Council of the EU
Minister of State for European Affairs and Defence
Ireland