European Commission

Annual Activity Report 2024

Annexes

DG COMPETITION

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ANNEX 1: Statement of the Director in charge of Risk Management and Internal Control

I declare that in accordance with the Commission's communication on the internal control framework [1]*, I have reported my advice and recommendations on the overall state of internal control in the DG to the Director-General.*

I hereby certify that the information provided in section 2 of the present annual activity report and in its annexes is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate and complete.

Brussels, 8 April 2025

(signed)

Stina Soewarta, Director in charge of Risk Management and Internal Control

(1) C(2017)2373 of 19.04.2017.

ANNEX 2: Performance tables

1. A European Green Deal

General objective 1: A European Green Deal				
Impact indicator: Share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption **Source of the data:** Eurostat (Eurostat online data code: sdg_07_40)				
Baseline (2018)	**Interim Milestone**		**Target** (2030)	**Latest known results** (2023)
	(2020)	(2022)		
19.11%	20%	23%	32%	24.5%

Specific objective 1.1: *State aid control contributes to environmental protection, renewables and energy savings]* *Related to spending programme: Programme for Single Market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, and European statistics*			
Result indicator: Total State aid expenditure for environmental protection, renewables and energy savings as a percentage of total State aid in the EU **Source of the data:** Under Article 6(1) of Commission Regulation (EC) 794/2004, the Commission shall publish an annual State aid synopsis ("State aid scoreboard") based on expenditure reports provided by the Member States			
Baseline (2018)	**Interim Milestone**	**Target** (2024)	**Latest known results** (2023)
	(2022)		
55.5%	18.2%	Increasing trend (%)	29.7%

Main outputs in 2024:			
Public consultations			
Output	**Indicator**	**Target**	**Latest known results** (situation on 31/12/2024)
Revision of the State aid Railway Guidelines	Public consultation on draft Guidelines	Q2 2024	Q2 2024
Commission State aid Land Transport Block Exemption Regulation (LTBER)	Public consultation on draft Regulation	Q2 2024	Q2 2024
Revision of the Commission Guidelines on State aid in the aviation sector (airports and airlines)	Public consultation	Q3 2024	Q4 2024
Enforcement actions			
Output	**Indicator**	**Target**	**Latest known results** (situation on 31/12/2024)
Enforcement of EU State aid control	Number of opening decisions per year	No target	3

Output	Indicator	Target	Latest known results (situation on 31/12/2024)
Enforcement of EU State aid control	Number of Commission decisions adopted	No target	49
GBER schemes under Section 7 Environmental protection aid	Number of GBER schemes implemented under Section 7	No target	790

2. A Europe fit for the digital age

General objective 2: A Europe fit for the digital age

Impact indicator: Real GDP growth rate
Source of the data: Eurostat (online data code: **TEC00115)**

Baseline (2019)	Interim Milestone		Target (2024)	Latest known results (2023)
	(2022)	(2023)		
1.8%	3.4%	Stable/increasing trend (x%)	2%	0.4%

Specific objective 2.1: *Updated rules and policy guidance in support of A Europe fit for the digital age, including tackling systemic competition in the platform economy and beyond*

Related to spending programme(s): see above under 1.1

Result indicator: Ratio between adopted policy initiatives by the Commission in the area of EU competition policy to support A Europe fit for the digital age headline ambition and policy initiatives in the area of EU competition policy included in the Commission Work Programmes 2020-2024
Source of the data: European Commission

Baseline (2020)	Interim Milestone		Target (2020-2024)	Latest known results (2024)
	(2022)	(2023)		
N/A	Increasing trend	0 [2]	100%	0 [3]

Result indicator: Proportion of legislative initiatives involving simplification and burden reduction
Source of the data: European Commission

Baseline (2024)	Target (2024)	Latest known results (2024)
N/A	100%	66%

(2) No Commission Work Programme 2023 item.
(3) No Commission Work Programme 2024 item.

Main outputs in 2024:			
Initiatives linked to regulatory simplification and burden reduction			
Output	**Indicator**	**Target**	**Latest known results** (situation on 31/12/2024)
Revision of the Notice on market definition	Adoption	Q1 2024	Q1 2024
Revision of agricultural de minimis regulation	Adoption	Q4 2024	Q4 2024
Evaluations and fitness checks			
Output	**Indicator**	**Target**	**Latest known results** (situation on 31/12/2024)
Evaluation of Regulation 1/2003 and Regulation 773/2004	Publication of the Evaluation Staff Working Document	Q2 2024	Q3 2024
Evaluation of the Technology Transfer Block Exemption Regulation	Publication of the Evaluation Staff Working Document	Q3 2024	Q3 2024
Public consultations			
Output	**Indicator**	**Target**	**Latest known results** (situation on 31/12/2024)
Guidelines on the application of Article 102 TFEU to exclusionary abuses	Publication consultation on draft Guidelines	Q2 2024	Q3 2024
Motor Vehicle Block Exemption Regulation and Supplementary Guidelines	Public consultation	Q4 2024	Q1 2025

Specific objective 2.2: *State aid control contributes to high performant broadband network* *Related to spending programme(s): See above under 1.1*			
Result indicator: Total State aid expenditure for broadband in the EU as a percentage of total State aid in the EU **Source of the data:** Commission services			
Baseline (2018)	**Interim Milestone** (2022)	**Target** (2024)	**Latest known results** (2023)
0.67%	0.19%	Increasing trend (%)	0.68%

Main outputs in 2024:			
Enforcement actions			
Output	**Indicator**	**Target**	**Latest known results** (situation on 31/12/2024)
Commission decisions authorising State aid for broadband measures	Number of the Commission decisions per year	Stable trend (follows from Strategic Plan 2020-2024)	7

Other important outputs			
Output	**Indicator**	**Target**	**Latest known results** (situation on 31/12/2024)
Commission giving trainings within the Broadband Competence Offices (BCO) network	Number of trainings given by year	Stable trend	6

Specific objective 2.3: *Strengthening competition enforcement in support of A Europe fit for the digital age*

Related to spending programme: see above under 1.1

Result indicator: Estimate of customer benefits resulting from cartel prohibition decisions
Source of the data: Commission services (OECD Guidance 2014)

Baseline (2019)	**Interim Milestone**		**Target** (2024)	**Latest known results** (2024)
	(2022)	(2023)		
EUR 1.5-2.3 bn	EUR 0.2-0.3 bn	EUR 0.05-0.08 bn	Increasing or stable (EUR x-y bn)	EUR 0.05-0.08 bn

Result indicator: Estimate of customer benefits resulting from non-cartel antitrust interventions
Source of the data: Commission services (OECD Guidance 2014)

Baseline (2019)	**Interim Milestone**		**Target** (2024)	**Latest known results** (2024)
	(2022)	(2023)		
EUR 6.4-7.6 bn	EUR 5.6-11.2 bn	EUR 0.1 bn	Increasing or stable (EUR x-y bn)	EUR 5.5-6.6 bn

Result indicator: Estimate of customer benefits resulting from merger interventions
Source of the data: Commission services (OECD Guidance 2014)

Baseline (2019)	**Interim Milestone**		**Target** (2024)	**Latest known results** (2024)
	(2022)	(2023)		
EUR 5.7-9.4 bn	EUR 16.1-26.8 bn	EUR 3.2– 5.3 bn	Stable (EUR x-y bn)	EUR 3.5– 5.8 bn

Main outputs in 2024:

Enforcement actions			
Output	**Indicator**	**Target**	**Latest known results** (situation on 31/12/2024)
Enforcement of antitrust rules	Number of the Commission decisions per year (intervention rate) [4]	No target	9

(4) Intervention rate consists of antitrust interventions (decisions) by the Commission. Intervention rate indicator includes the Commission's antitrust decisions (prohibition decisions, commitment decisions, cooperation decisions) and cartel prohibition decisions and settlement decisions.

Output	**Indicator**	**Target**	**Latest known results** (situation on 31/12/2024)
Effective support to NCAs on individual cases with a view to ensure coherent and effective application of Articles 101 and 102 TFEU	Number of envisaged enforcement decisions and similar case consultations in the European Competition Network (ECN)	No target	65 (only Art. 11(4))
	Implementation rate of comments on envisaged decisions received from the NCAs pursuant to article 11.4 of Regulation (EC) No 1/2003.	No target	100% completely or partially implemented
	Time to reply to NCAs pursuant to article 11.4 of Regulation (EC) No 1/2003	Within 30 days or as otherwise agreed with the NCA	100%
Enforcement of EU merger control	Number of the Commission decisions per year	No target	398
	Number of the Commission decisions per year in a simplified procedure per year	No target	351
	Intervention rate ([5])	No target	2.5%
	Ratio of the Commission merger decisions adopted in a simplified procedure	Stable trend	88%
Enforcement of EU State aid control	Number of opening decisions per year	No target	11 (and 1 extension of an opening)
	Adoption of Commission decisions in the field of State aid in accordance with EU State aid rules	No target	613
Monitoring of schemes in the field of State aid	Number of aid schemes subject to ex-post monitoring	Around 50	77 schemes monitored in 2024
Prevention and recovery of incompatible aid	Adoption of recovery decisions in the field of State aid in accordance with EU State aid rules	No target	10 final negative decisions with recovery in 2024
Enforcement of Digital Markets Act (DMA)	Number of designation/changes in designation/decisions to accept rebuttal per year	No Target	9
	Number of cases notified by NCAs for cooperation/coordination under Article 38(2)/(3) DMA	No Target	4

([5]) Intervention rate indicator includes the Commission's prohibition decisions and mergers approved subject to commitments, as well as withdrawals during second phase investigation (in-depth investigation by the Commission).

Output	**Indicator**	**Target**	**Latest known results** (situation on 31/12/2024)
Enforcement of Foreign Subsidies Regulation	Number of Commission decisions per year	No Target	- 2 inspection decisions; - 1 decision to open an in-depth investigation; and - 1 decision closing an in-depth investigation with commitments

External communication actions

Output	**Indicator**	**Target**	**Latest known results** (situation on 31/12/2024)
Merger conference '20 years of Merger Regulation & 35 years since the first European Merger Regulation'	Number of attendees	1,000 onsite and online	370 in person, 720 online
Final Episode of 'Making Markets Work for People' Debate Series	Number of attendees	1,000 onsite and online	200 in person, 300 online
Media Relations	Number of online views of media releases	+770,000	+560,000
	Number of press conference attendees	80/press conference	+38/press conference (both in person and online)
Videos, Photos, Podcasts	Number of views per item	15,000 (across all social media channels and website)	LinkedIn: +12,000 X: + 5,000 YouTube: +629 Website AV page: +239 Overall Average: +6,500
Weekly Newsletter	Number of Readers	12,000	12,500
Website	Number of views	2.7 million	10.8 million
Social Media	Followers Growth Rate:	LinkedIn: 25% X (formerly Twitter): 10% YouTube: 10%	LinkedIn: ±30% X: +1% YouTube: +125%

Other important outputs

Output	**Indicator**	**Target**	**Latest known results** (situation on 31/12/2024)
Report on Competition Policy 2023	Adoption	Q1 2024	Q1 2024
DMA Annual Report 2023	Adoption	Q1 2024	Q1 2024
State of EU Competition Publication	Adoption	Q2 2024	Q2 2024
Ex-post evaluation study on acquisitions of innovative competitors in the pharma sector	Publication	Q4 2024	Q4 2024
Survey of practitioners on the deterrence effect of EU competition enforcement	Publication	Q4 2024	Study has been prolonged till 30/04/2025, publication in 2025.

3. An economy that works for people

General objective 3: An economy that works for people			
Impact indicator: Real GDP growth rate **Source of the data:** Eurostat (Eurostat online data code: TEC00115)			
Baseline (2019)	**Interim Milestone** (2022)	**Target** (2024)	**Latest known results** (2023)
2%	3.5%	Increasing trend (%)	0.4%

Specific objective 3.1: *State aid control facilitates aid in the common interest* *Related to spending programme: see above under 1.1*			
Result indicator: Total State aid expenditure falling under the General Block Exemption Regulation as a percentage of total State aid in the EU **Source of the data:** Commission services			
Baseline (2019)	**Interim Milestone** (2022)	**Target** (2024)	**Latest known results** (2023)
37%	25.7%	Increasing trend (%)	35.2%

Main outputs in 2024: **Enforcement actions**			
Output	**Indicator**	**Target**	**Latest known results** (situation on 31/12/2023)
State aid falling under the GBER	State aid scoreboard value	Increasing trend	EUR 65.78 bn

Specific objective 3.2: *Banking aid necessary to safeguard financial stability, while protecting competition* *Related to spending programme: see above under 1.1*				
Result indicator: Ratio of balance sheet growth of aided banks to balance sheet growth of unaided banks **Source of the data:** Commission services and the European Central Bank				
Baseline ([6]) (2019)	**Interim Milestone** (2023)		**Target** (2024)	**Latest known results** (2024)
-2.19% (aided banks) vs +4.17% (banking sector) => i.e. a ratio of approximately -52.5%	To remain below 90%	-3.0% (aided banks) vs 25.8% (banking sector) => i.e. a ratio of approximately -11.6%	To remain below 90%	-0.2% (aided banks) vs 28.4% (banking sector) => i.e. a ratio of approximately 0.7% confirming that aided banks on average show little or no growth compared to the banking sector

Result indicator: Ratio of State aid to all banks in the EU in the form of liquidation aid (capital or liquidity) to Total Assets of banks being liquidated **Source of the data:** Commission services and the European Central Bank			
Baseline (year)	**Interim Milestone** (2022)	**Target** (2024)	**Latest known results** (2024)
N/A	To remain below 3% ([7])	To remain below 3%	4.2% ([8])

Main outputs in 2024:			
Evaluations and fitness checks			
Output	**Indicator**	**Target**	**Latest known results** (situation on 31/12/2024)
Evaluation of State aid rules for banks in difficulty	Publication of evaluation results Staff Working Document	Q4 2024	Staff Working Document in preparation

([6]) The aim of this indicator is to verify that aided banks do not grow as fast as the average of the European Banking sector. We monitor the balance sheet evolution of all aided banks that are still in their restructuring period at the end of the reporting year and compare with the balance sheet growth of the entire European banking sector (excluding aided banks) since 2019. Sources of both datasets are Bloomberg, the ECB Data Portal and the financial statements made available by the banks involved.

([7]) The aim of this indicator is to put into context the amount of liquidation aid approved by comparing it to the size of the liquidated banks. The non-binding target of 3% is chosen to ensure that the State aid granted for an orderly exit from the market remains limited in relative terms.

([8]) The breach of the target and interim milestone originates in 2022 and is explained by the liquidation aid approved for the resolution of the Polish Getin Noble Bank. Due to this bank's size and the resulting aid amount, the outcome of the result indicator is higher than what had been expected when the target and milestone were set. Related to this entity, it is worth noting that the Polish resolution authority has in 2024 concluded the sale of the Getin Noble bridge bank to an investor for a positive price. There have been no new banks receiving liquidation aid in 2024.

Enforcement actions			
Output	**Indicator**	**Target**	**Latest known results** (situation on 31/12/2024)
State aid enforcement in the financial sector	Number of Commission decisions adopted in 2024	No target	7 (9)
State aid enforcement in the financial sector	Ratio of Total Balance Sheets of Banks provided with legal certainty through a no-aid decision to Total Balance Sheets of the EU banks.	No target	0.0% (10)
State aid enforcement in the financial sector	Ratio of Amount of non-performing loan (NPL) transactions benefitting from the State guarantee of the year to Decrease of the stock of NPLs in the banks' books	No target	9.8%

Specific objective 3.3: *Temporary support of the economy through COVID-19 aid (expired in 2023)*

Related to spending programme: see above under 1.1

Result indicator: Total COVID-19 aid as a percentage of total State aid in the EU

Source of the data: Commission services

Baseline (2020)	**Interim Milestone** (2021)	**Target** (2022)	**Latest known results** (2022)
55.5%	57%	Decreasing trend (%)	33.6%

Main outputs in 2024:

Enforcement actions			
Output	**Indicator**	**Target**	**Latest known results** (situation on 31/12/2024)
Commission decisions adopted based on the State aid Temporary Framework to support the economy in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak, based on Article 107(3)(b) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union	Number of Commission decisions adopted, decreasing trend	N/A (no target in 2024, follows from Strategic Plan 2020-2024)	0

(9) This concerns the prolongation or reintroduction of 6 (restructuring or liquidation aid) schemes for small banks, and 1 no aid decisions (Prolongation of the Hercules scheme).

(10) In 2024, no individual banks have received a no-aid decision, resulting in a zero-value indicator.

Output	Indicator	Target	Latest known results (situation on 31/12/2024)
Commission guidance provided to the market participants in the field of antitrust in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak	Number of comfort letters adopted per year	N/A (no target in 2024)	0
Amount of COVID-19 aid	Aid granted under the Temporary Framework (Article 107(3)(b)) and Article 107(2)(b)	N/A (no target in 2024)	0
Commission decisions related to reforms and investments included in Member States' recovery and resilience plans	Number of Commission decisions adopted in 2024	Stable	at least 40
Commission decisions related to Crisis Temporary Framework (TCTF)	Number of Commission decisions adopted in 2024	No target	129
Other important outputs			
Output	**Indicator**	**Target**	**Latest known results** (situation on 31/12/2024)
Assessment of impact of the current State aid policy on the Single Market as well as on the EU's global competitiveness (Report on Competition Policy 2023)	Adoption of Annual Competition Report and related Staff Working Document 2023	Q1 2024	Q1 2024

ANNEX 3: Draft annual accounts and financial reports

Annex 3 Financial Reports - DG COMP - Financial Year 2024

Table 1 : Commitments

Table 2 : Payments

Table 3 : Commitments to be settled

Table 4 : Balance Sheet

Table 5 : Statement of Financial Performance

Table 5 Bis: Off Balance Sheet

Table 6 : Average Payment Times

Table 7 : Income

Table 8 : Recovery of undue Payments

Table 9 : Ageing Balance of Recovery Orders

Table 10 : Waivers of Recovery Orders

Table 11 : Negotiated Procedures

Table 12 : Summary of Procedures

Table 13 : Building Contracts

Table 14 : Contracts declared Secret

Table 15 : FPA duration exceeds 4 years

Table 16 : Commitments co-delegation type 3 in 2024

TABLE 1: OUTTURN ON COMMITMENT APPROPRIATIONS IN 2024 (in Mio €) for DG COMP			Commitment appropriations authorised*	Commitments made	%
			1	2	3=2/1
Title 02 European Strategic Investments					
02	02 04	Digital Europe Programme	0,34	0,34	100,00 %
	02 20	Pilot projects, preparatory actions, prerogatives and other actions	0,33	0,32	98,67 %
Total Title 02			**0,66**	**0,66**	**99,35 %**
Title 03 Single Market					
03	03 01	Support administrative expenditure of the `Single Market¿ cluster	0,06	0,06	99,84 %
	03 02	Single Market Programme	18,51	18,25	98,61 %
Total Title 03			**18,56**	**18,31**	**98,61 %**
Title 07 Investing in People, Social Cohesion and Values					
07	07 07	Justice	0,00	0,00	0,00 %
Total Title 07			**0,00**	**0,00**	**0,00 %**
Title 20 Administrative expenditure of the European Commission					
20	20 02	Other staff and expenditure relating to persons	1,17	1,17	99,98 %
	20 03	Administrative operating expenditure	0,29	0,29	98,92 %
	20 04	Information and communication technology-related expenditure	0,22	0,22	99,82 %
Total Title 20			**1,68**	**1,67**	**99,78 %**
Total Excluding NGEU			**20,90**	**20,64**	**98,73 %**
Total DG COMP			**20,90**	**20,64**	**98,73 %**

** Commitment appropriations authorised include, in addition to the budget voted by the legislative authority, appropriations carried over from the previous exercise, budget amendments as well as miscellaneous commitment appropriations for the period (e.g. internal*

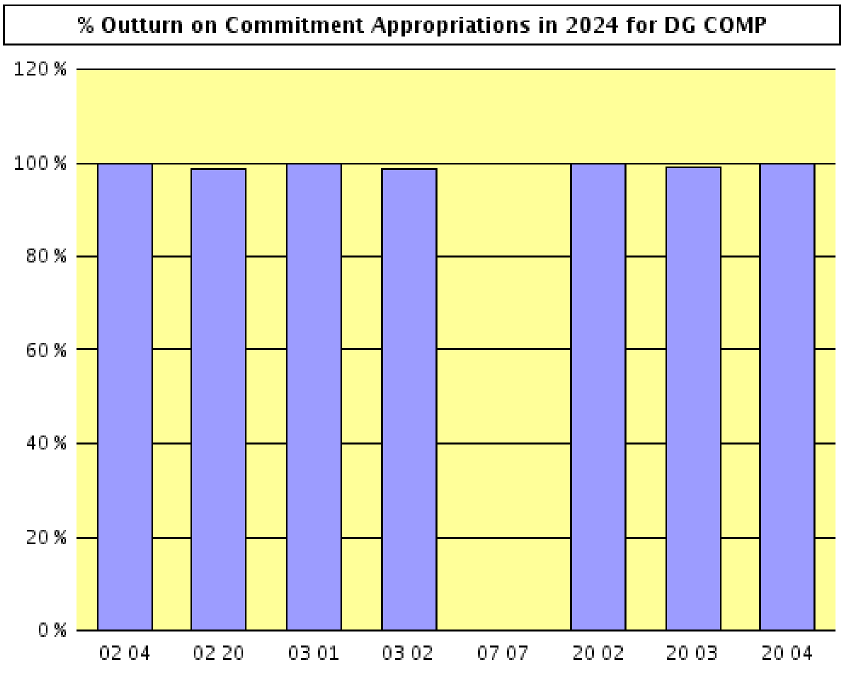


TABLE 2: OUTTURN ON PAYMENT APPROPRIATIONS in 2024 (in Mio €) for DG COMP			Payment appropriations authorised *	Payments made	%
			1	2	3=2/1
Title 02 European Strategic Investments					
02	02 04	Digital Europe Programme	0,24	0,24	100,00 %
	02 20	Pilot projects, preparatory actions, prerogatives and other actions	0,33	0,08	25,72 %
Total Title 02			**0,57**	**0,33**	**57,43%**
Title 03 Single Market					
03	03 01	Support administrative expenditure of the `Single Market¿ cluster	0,12	0,06	49,15 %
	03 02	Single Market Programme	24,66	24,36	98,77 %
Total Title 03			**24,78**	**24,41**	**98,54%**
Title 07 Investing in People, Social Cohesion and Values					
07	07 07	Justice	0,22	0,22	100,00 %
Total Title 07			**0,22**	**0,22**	**100,00%**
Title 20 Administrative expenditure of the European Commission					
20	20 02	Other staff and expenditure relating to persons	2,55	1,53	60,19 %
	20 03	Administrative operating expenditure	0,31	0,13	41,47 %
	20 04	Information and communication technology-related expenditure	0,55	0,54	97,92 %
Total Title 20			**3,41**	**2,20**	**64,56%**
Total Excluding NGEU			**28,98**	**27,16**	**93,74%**
Total DG COMP			**28,98**	**27,16**	**93,74 %**

** Payment appropriations authorised include, in addition to the budget voted by the legislative authority, appropriations carried over from the previous exercise, budget amendments as well as miscellaneous payment appropriations for the period (e.g. internal and external assigned revenue).*

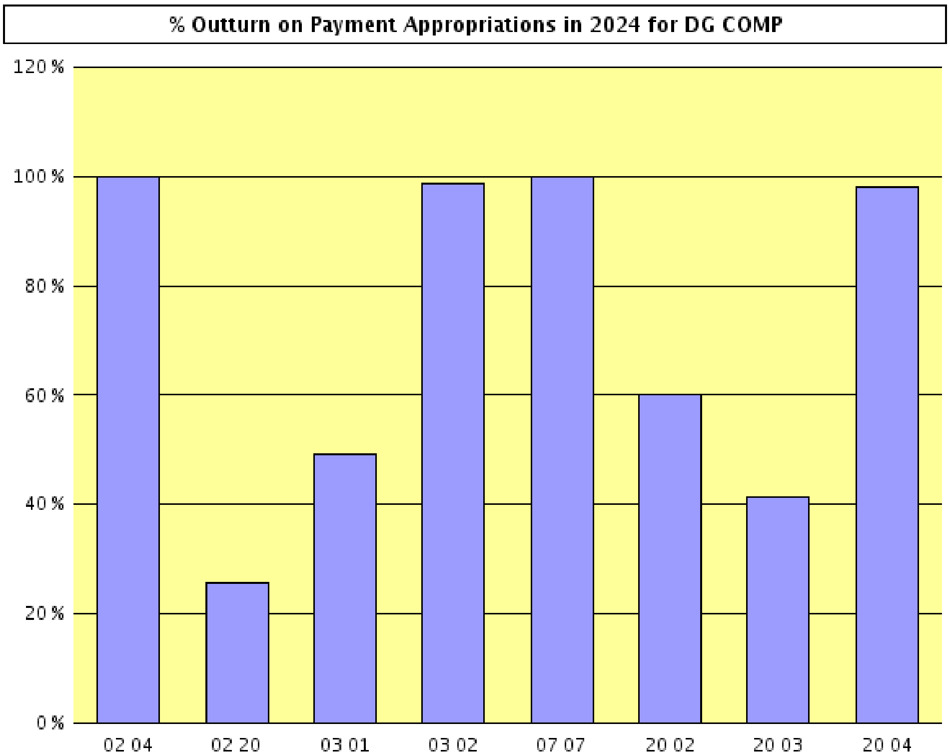


TABLE 3 : BREAKDOWN OF COMMITMENTS TO BE SETTLED AT 31/12/2024 (in Mio €) for DG COMP									
Chapter			Commitments to be settled				Commitments to be settled from financial years previous to 2023	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2024	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2023
			Commitments	Payments	RAL	% to be settled			
			1	2	3=1-2	4=1-2/1	5	6=3+5	7
02	02 04	Digital Europe Programme	0,34	0,24	0,09	27,84%	0,00	0,09	0,00
	02 20	Pilot projects, preparatory actions, prerogatives and other actions	0,32	0,08	0,24	73,93%	0,00	0,24	0,00
Total Title 02			**0,66**	**0,33**	**0,33**	**50,37%**	**0,00**	**0,33**	**0,00**

TABLE 3 : BREAKDOWN OF COMMITMENTS TO BE SETTLED AT 31/12/2024 (in Mio €) for DG COMP									
Chapter			Commitments to be settled				Commitments to be settled from financial years previous to 2023	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2024	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2023
			Commitments	Payments	RAL	% to be settled			
			1	2	3=1-2	4=1-2/1	5	6=3+5	7
03	03 01	Support administrative expenditure of the `Single Market¿ cluster	0,06	0,00	0,06	99,34%	0,00	0,06	0,06
	03 02	Single Market Programme	18,25	7,17	11,08	60,73%	3,61	14,69	21,35
Total Title 03			**18,31**	**7,17**	**11,14**	**60,86%**	**3,61**	**14,75**	**21,41**

TABLE 3 : BREAKDOWN OF COMMITMENTS TO BE SETTLED AT 31/12/2024 (in Mio €) for DG COMP									
Chapter			Commitments to be settled				Commitments to be settled from financial years previous to 2023	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2024	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2023
			Commitments	Payments	RAL	% to be settled			
			1	2	3=1-2	4=1-2/1	5	6=3+5	7
07	07 07	Justice	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00%	0,27	0,27	0,50
Total Title 07			**0,00**	**0,00**	**0,00**	**0,00%**	**0,27**	**0,27**	**0,50**

TABLE 3 : BREAKDOWN OF COMMITMENTS TO BE SETTLED AT 31/12/2024 (in Mio €) for DG COMP									
Chapter			Commitments to be settled				Commitments to be settled from financial years previous to 2023	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2024	Total of commitments to be settled at end of financial year 2023
			Commitments	Payments	RAL	% to be settled			
			1	2	3=1-2	4=1-2/1	5	6=3+5	7
20	20 02	Other staff and expenditure relating to persons	1,17	0,17	1,00	85,32%	0,00	1,00	1,38
	20 03	Administrative operating expenditure	0,29	0,11	0,18	62,46%	0,00	0,18	0,02
	20 04	Information and communication technology-related expenditure	0,22	0,21	0,01	4,79%	0,00	0,01	0,33
Total Title 20			**1,67**	**0,49**	**1,19**	**70,96%**	**0,00**	**1,19**	**1,73**
Total Excluding NGEU			**20,64**	**7,98**	**12,66**	**61,34%**	**3,89**	**16,55**	**23,64**

Total for DG COMP	**20,64**	**7,98**	**12,66**	**61,34 %**	**3,89**	**16,55**	**23,64**

Breakdown of Commitments Remaining to be Settled (in Mio EUR) in 2024 COMP

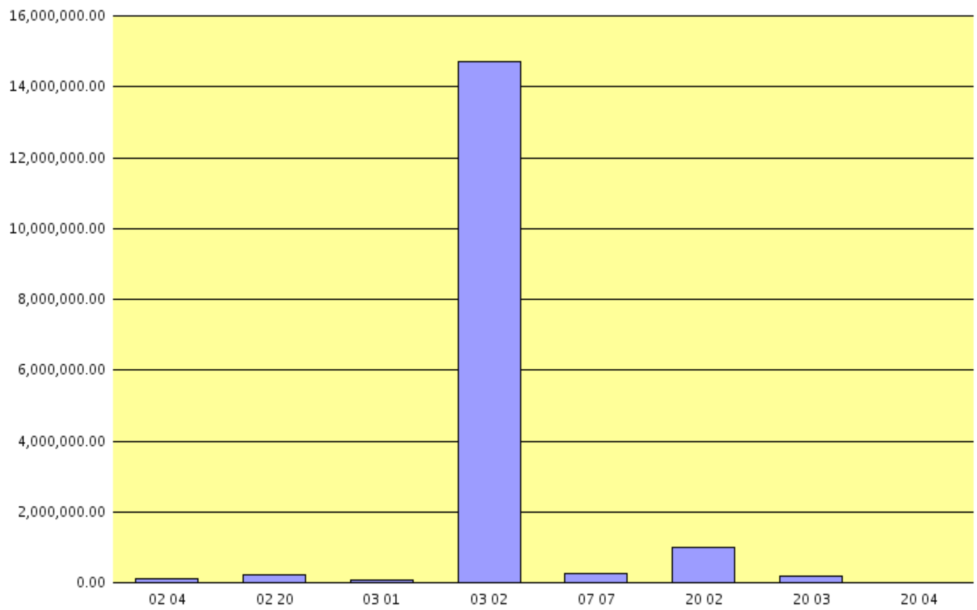


TABLE 4 : BALANCE SHEET for DG COMP

BALANCE SHEET	2024	2023
A.I. NON CURRENT ASSETS	19.096.150,18	21.075.674,54
A.I.1. Intangible Assets	19.096.150,18	21.075.674,54
A.II. CURRENT ASSETS	11.317.374.216,44	12.602.304.482,98
A.II.2. Current Pre-Financing	1.585.234,41	1.388.737,49
A.II.3. Curr Exch Receiv &Non-Ex Recoverables	11.315.788.982,03	12.600.915.745,49
ASSETS	**11.336.470.366,62**	**12.623.380.157,52**
P.I. NON CURRENT LIABILITIES	0,00	-21.360.822,65
P.I.2. Non-Current Provisions	0,00	-21.360.822,65
P.II. CURRENT LIABILITIES	-68.889.902,82	-765.703.129,00
P.II.2. Current Provisions	-68.517.957,37	-765.703.129,00
P.II.3. Current Financial Liabilities	-33.554,76	
P.II.4. Current Payables	-338.390,69	0,00
P.II.5. Current Accrued Charges &Defrd Income	0,00	0,00
LIABILITIES	**-68.889.902,82**	**-787.063.951,65**
NET ASSETS (ASSETS less LIABILITIES)	**11.267.580.463,80**	**11.836.316.205,87**

P.III.2. Accumulated Surplus/Deficit	-22.411.929.250,00	-22456515002

Non-allocated central (surplus)/deficit*	11.144.348.786,20	10.620.198.796,46

TOTAL DG COMP	**0,00**	**0,00**

TABLE 5 : STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE for DG COMP

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE	2024	2023
II.1 REVENUES	-3.727.272.979,07	-1.341.922.746,41
II.1.1. NON-EXCHANGE REVENUES	-3.727.280.435,33	-993.563.561,96
II.1.1.5. FINES	-3.538.680.689,00	-993.500.968,33
II.1.1.6. RECOVERY OF EXPENSES		-6.220,80
II.1.1.8. OTHER NON-EXCHANGE REVENUES	-188.599.746,33	-56.372,83
II.1.2. EXCHANGE REVENUES	7.456,26	-348.359.184,45
II.1.2.1. FINANCIAL INCOME	-1.290.829,04	
II.1.2.2. OTHER EXCHANGE REVENUE	1.298.285,30	-348.359.184,45
II.2. EXPENSES	1.215.812.040,21	1.386.508.498,74
II.2. EXPENSES	1.215.812.040,21	1.386.508.498,74
II.2.11.OTHER EXPENSES	1.166.784.848,57	1.382.025.398,32
II.2.2. EXP IMPLEM BY COMMISS&EX.AGENC. (DM)	7.085.974,92	4.483.100,42
II.2.8. FINANCE COSTS	41.941.216,72	
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE	**-2.511.460.938,86**	**44.585.752,33**

TABLE 5bis : OFF BALANCE SHEET for DG COMP

OFF BALANCE	2024	2023
OB.2. Contingent Liabilities	0,00	-0,78
OB.2.7. CL Legal cases OTHER	0,00	-0,78
OB.4. Balancing Accounts	0,00	0,78
OB.4. Balancing Accounts	0,00	0,78
OFF BALANCE	**0,00**	**0,00**

Table 6: Average payment Times

Legal Times

Maximum Payment Time (Days)	Total Nbr of Payments	Nbr of Payments within Time Limit	Percentage	Average Payment Times (Days)	Nbr of Late Payments	Percentage	Average Payment Times (Days)	Late Payments Amount	Percentage
30	959	952	99,27 %	9,09	7	0,73 %	47,71	760.948,78	3, %
60	27	26	96,30 %	34,04	1	3,70 %	61,00	17.568,65	0, %
90	5	5	100,00 %	75,20				0,00	0, %

Total Number of Payments	991	983	99,19 %		8	0,81 %		778517,43	3, %
Average Net Payment Time	10,40363269			10,09			49,38		
Average Gross Payment Time	11,6629667			11,1098678			79,625		

Suspensions

Average Report Approval Suspension	Average Payment Suspension Days	Number of Suspended Payments	% of Total Number	Total Number of Payments	Amount of Suspended Payments	% of Total Amount	Total Paid Amount
0	21	60	6,05 %	991	2.598.295,94	9,56 %	27.170.893,12

TABLE 7 : SITUATION ON REVENUE AND INCOME in 2024 for DG COMP								
Chapter		Revenue and income recognized			Revenue and income cashed from			Outstanding balance
		Current year RO	Carried over RO	Total	Current Year RO	Carried over RO	Total	
		1	2	3=1+2	4	5	6=4+5	7=3-6
42	Fines and penalties	1.867.753.118,55	13.822.619.251,11	15.690.372.369,66	-1.654.896.570,45	5.084.457.978,93	3.429.561.408,48	12.260.810.961,18
60	Single market, innovation and digital	249.625,00	0,00	249.625,00	204.625,00	0,00	204.625,00	45.000,00
67	Completion for outstanding recovery orders prior to 2021	0,00	2.272.856,59	2.272.856,59	0,00	0,00	0,00	2.272.856,59
Total DG COMP		**1.868.002.743,55**	**13.824.892.107,70**	**15.692.894.851,25**	**-1.654.691.945,45**	**5.084.457.978,93**	**3.429.766.033,48**	**12.263.128.817,77**

Table 8 : Recovery of undue Payments

Not applicable

TABLE 9: AGEING BALANCE OF RECOVERY ORDERS AT 12/31/2024 for DG COMP

	Number at 1/1/2024 1	Number at 12/31/2024	Evolution	Open Amount (Eur) at 1/1/2024 1	Open Amount (Eur) at 12/31/2024	Evolution
2003	1	1	0,00 %	1.060.000,00	1.060.000,00	0,00 %
2006	1		-100,00 %	11.500.000,00		-100,00 %
2009	4	1	-75,00 %	8.161.477,83	2.272.856,59	-72,15 %
2010	8		-100,00 %	16.082.469,00		-100,00 %
2011	1	1	0,00 %	9.000.000,00	9.000.000,00	0,00 %
2013	2	2	0,00 %	27.082.000,00	27.082.000,00	0,00 %
2014	13	4	-69,23 %	429.949.150,40	102.771.583,89	-76,10 %
2015	1	1	0,00 %	7.146.000,00	7.146.000,00	0,00 %
2016	3	3	0,00 %	454.316.331,62	453.575.186,61	-0,16 %
2017	19	18	-5,26 %	4.105.879.662,85	1.146.950.885,68	-72,07 %
2018	5	2	-60,00 %	4.715.255.000,00	4.419.933.000,00	-6,26 %
2019	5	2	-60,00 %	1.747.450.000,00	1.736.501.000,00	-0,63 %
2020	5		-100,00 %	165.210.000,00		-100,00 %
2021	16	11	-31,25 %	604.382.000,00	602.758.000,00	-0,27 %
2022	7	3	-57,14 %	168.119.000,00	43.668.000,00	-74,03 %
2023	13	5	-61,54 %	968.748.410,00	451.283.000,00	-53,42 %
2024		18			3.522.695.689,00	
	104	**72**	**-30,77 %**	**13.439.341.501,70**	**12.526.697.201,77**	**-6,79 %**

TABLE 10 :Recovery Order Waivers >= 60 000 € in 2024 for DG COMP					
Waiver Central Key	**Linked RO Central Key**	**RO Accepted Amount (Eur)**	**LE Account Group**	**Commission Decision**	**Comments**
3233240020	3240809228	-11.500.000,00			
3233240048	3230914082	-5.000.608,60			
3233240049	3230914081	-888.012,64			
3233240182	3241011305	-253.600,00			
3233240183	3241011306	-381.162,04			

Total DG COMP	**-18.023.383,28**
Number of RO waivers	**5**

There are no waivers below 60 000 €

TABLE 11 : Negotiated Procedures in 2024 for DG COMP

The procedures are presented in the Annual Management and Performance Report of 2024

Internal Procedures > € 60,000

,	Number of Procedures	Amount (€)
Annex 1 - 11.1 (a) - Follow-up of an open/restricted procedure where no (or no suitable) tenders/requests to participate have been submitted	1	12.000.000,00
Annex 1 - 11.1 (b) - Artistic/technical reasons or exclusive rights or technical monopoly/captive market	1	322.465,00
Total	**2**	**12.322.465,00**

TABLE 12 : Summary of Procedures in 2024 for DG COMP

The procedures are presented in the Annual Management and Performance Report of 2024

Internal Procedures > € 60,000

Procedure Legal base	Number of Procedures	Amount (€)
Negotiated procedure without prior publication (Annex 1 - 11.1)	2	12.322.465,00
Open procedure (FR 164 (1)(a))	3	6.750.000,00
Total	**5**	**19.072.465,00**

Table 13 : Building Contracts

Not applicable

Table 14 : Contracts declared Secret

Not applicable

Table 15 : FPA duration exceeds 4 years

Not applicable

Table 16 : Commitments co-delegation type 3 in 2024

Not applicable

ANNEX 4: Financial scorecard

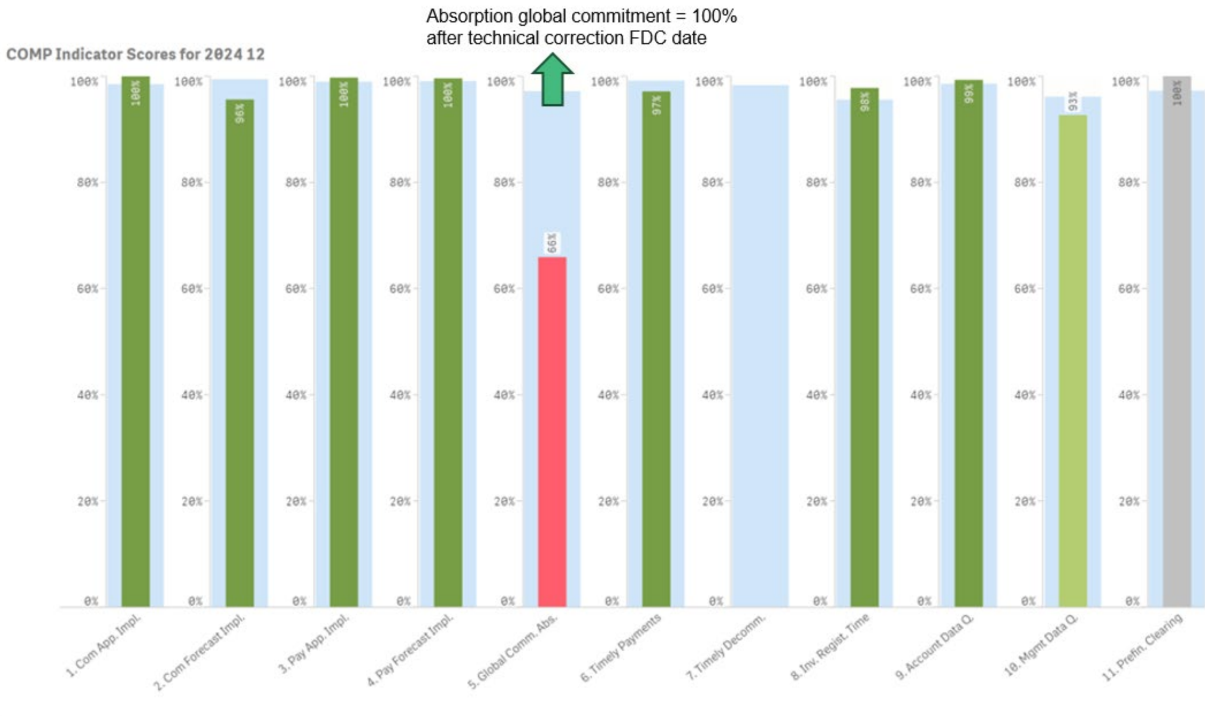
Annex 4 of each Commission service summarises the annual result of the standard financial indicators measurement. Annexed to the Annual Activity Report 2024, ten standard financial indicators are presented below, each with its objective and result for the Commission service and for the EC (for benchmarking purposes):

- Commitment Appropriations (CA) Implementation
- CA Forecast Implementation
- Payment Appropriations (PA) Implementation
- PA Forecast Implementation
- Global Commitment Absorption
- Timely Payments
- Timely Decommitments
- Invoice Registration Time
- Accounting Data Quality
- Management Data Quality

For each indicator, its value (in %) for the Commission service is compared to the common target (in %). The difference between the indicator's value and the target is colour coded as follows:

- 100 – >95% of the target: dark green
- 95 – >90% of the target: light green
- 90 – >85% of the target: yellow
- 85 – >80% of the target: light red
- 80 – 0% of the target: dark red

At year-end, a clerical error was included in the Final Date of Commitment when encoding the global commitment. This could not be corrected before year-end due to the migration from ABAC to SUMMA. After the migration of the fund reservations to SUMMA, this has now been corrected in SUMMA (correct N+1 deadline, so end-2025). This results in the Global Commitment absorption expiring in 2024 to reach 100%. However, this has not been reflected in the below financial scorecard, as it is based on ABAC.



For each indicator the light blue bar denotes the EC Score.

Indicator	Objective	Comment[11]	DG Competition Score	EC Score
1. Commitment Appropriations Implementation	Ensure efficient use of commitment appropriations expiring at the end of Financial Year		100%	99%
2. Commitment Forecast Implementation	Ensure the cumulative alignment of the commitment implementation with the commitment forecast in a financial year		96%	99%
3. Payment Appropriations Implementation	Ensure efficient use of payment appropriations expiring at the end of Financial Year		100%	99%
4. Payment Forecast Implementation	Ensure the cumulative alignment of the payment implementation with the payment forecast in a financial year		100%	99%
5. Global Commitment Absorption[12]	Ensure efficient use of already earmarked commitment appropriations (at L1 level)	At year-end, a clerical error was included in the Final Date of Commitment when encoding the global commitment. This could not be corrected before year-end due to the migration from ABAC to SUMMA. After the migration of the fund reservations to SUMMA, this has now been corrected in SUMMA (reflecting the correct N+1 deadline of December 2025). This update results in the Global Commitment absorption expiring in 2024 to reach 100% (though this could no longer be reflected in ABAC due to SUMMA migration).	66% 100% (after correcting FDC date in SUMMA)	97%
6. Timely Payments	Ensure efficient processing of payments within the legal deadlines	The timely payments indicator decreased in score compared to 2023, which relates mainly to one invoice related to internal billing which was sent to the incorrect contact person in DG COMP. When this was noticed by the colleagues in charge of payments (after a first reminder), the invoice was immediately paid.	97%	99%
7. Timely Decommitments	Ensure efficient decommitment of	The indicator is not applicable for DG COMP in 2024 due to the lack of	-	98%

(11) An explanation behind the indicator result can be provided, e.g. the comment about the achievement itself, reference to the whole Commission performance (better or worse), reasons behind this achievement. The comment is mandatory for the 'Timely payments' indicator. For the rest of indicators, the comment is mandatory only if the score is equal or below the target of 80%.

(12) Due to technical limitation: 1. the indicator does not consider the Com L1 Consumption between the FDC ILC date, and the FA FDI allowed as an exception in the external actions for Com L1 of type GF, i.e. with Financing Agreement, under the FR2018 Article 114.2. 2. it is technically not possible to exclude the decommitment of RAL (C8) which is subsequently re-committed for a new purpose. As a result, the actual Indicator score may be slightly higher than the one reported for DGs using the GF commitments.

	outstanding RAL at the end of commitment life cycle	underlying transactions recorded by DG COMP in 2024.		
8. Invoice Registration Time	Monitor the accounting risk stemming from late registration of invoices in the central accounting system ABAC		98%	96%
9. Accounting Data Quality	Ensure the good data quality of ABAC transactions with the focus on fields having a primary impact on the accounts		99%	99%
10. Management Data Quality	Ensure the good data quality of ABAC transactions with the focus on fields having a primary impact on the management decisions		93%	96%
11. Timely Invoice PF clearing	Ensure efficient clearing by invoices of prefinancing payments within the invoice payment time limit		100%	100%

ANNEX 5: Materiality criteria

Since 2019 ([13]), a 'de minimis' threshold for financial reservations has been introduced. Quantified annual activity report reservations related to residual error rates above the 2% materiality threshold are deemed not substantial for segments representing less than 5% of a DG's total payments and with a financial impact below EUR 5 million. In such cases, quantified reservations are no longer needed.

In conformity with the current guidelines, DG Competition applies the following quantitative and qualitative materiality criteria to assess the overall impact of a weakness and judge whether it is material enough to have an impact on the assurance.

Qualitative assessment

Competition policy is implemented through enforcement and involves predominantly procedural (case-handling) and advocacy activities, involving a very modest level of financial management. Qualitative criteria cover significant reputational risks for the DG or the Commission and significant weaknesses in the internal control systems. For assessing the significance of the weakness, the nature and scope, duration, existence of mitigating controls and/or remedial actions are considered. For weaknesses, which are considered significant in qualitative terms but not in quantitative terms, DG Competition contemplates the possible reputational impact they may entail to the image of DG Competition and the Commission. They will be assessed according to the context and nature of the impact, awareness, and duration.

Quantitative assessment

As regards legality and regularity, the proposed standard quantitative materiality threshold of 2% of the residual error rate of the executed payments is applied. DG Competition considers it an appropriate threshold above which weaknesses detected should be considered "material". In DG Competition, this applies to all non-compliance events detected throughout the year and with a quantifiable impact on legality and regularity.

([13]) Agreement of the Corporate Management Board of 30/4/2019.

ANNEX 6: Relevant Control System(s) for budget implementation (RCSs)

Management of operational and administrative expenditures ([14])

Main internal control objectives: Ensuring that the implementation of the contract follows the signed contract before payment.

Main risks It may happen (again) that…	Mitigating controls	Coverage, frequency and depth of controls	Cost-effectiveness indicators
The goods/services/works foreseen are not, totally or partially, provided in accordance with the technical description and requirements foreseen in the contract and/or the amounts paid exceed that due in accordance with the applicable contractual and regulatory provisions. DG unable to meet some objectives and priorities because the contractor is unable to deliver at the quality level and within the time limits as requested.	Operational and financial checks in accordance with the financial circuits. and against the contract provisions. Operation authorisation by the AO. Network in place for raising awareness and enhance co-ordination, monitoring and follow-up of contracts to reduce the risk of low quality or limited delivery of goods/services/ Works.	100% of the contracts are controlled Depth: All underlying documents	Error rate < 2% Payment times Deterrents & systematic weaknesses corrected. Benefits: Controls performed to comply with the base line requirements of the Financial Regulation.

([14]) All table X categories (Digital Europe etc) fall all under the RCS “management of operational and administrative expenditure”.

Main internal control objectives: Ensuring that any weakness in the procedures (tender and financial transactions) is corrected

Main risks It may happen (again) that...	Mitigating controls	Coverage, frequency and depth of controls	Cost-effectiveness indicator
An error or non-compliance with regulatory and contractual provisions, including technical specifications, or a fraud is not prevented, detected or corrected by ex-ante control, prior to payment.	Review of procurements and financial transactions through ex-post audits performed by the ICC. Review of reported exceptions.	Representative sample Depth: all underlying documents.	Amounts detected associated with fraud and error. Benefits: Controls performed comply with the base line requirements of the Financial Regulation. Potential irregularities, errors and overpayments prevented. Number of cases referred to OLAF. Number of instances of overriding controls or deviations from established procedure

Prevention, detection and correction of fraud and irregularities

Main control objectives: Ensuring that staff behaves according to the highest professional standards.

Main risks It may happen (again) that...	Mitigating controls	Coverage, frequency and depth of controls	Cost-effectiveness indicators
The reputation of the Commission is damaged due staff misconduct.	Controls put in place in addition to the existing controls at central level (ethics declarations and training): Ethics guide for DG COMP staff approved by DG HR and endorsed by senior management. Training and awareness sessions on ethics for staff. Systematic training of newcomers, including trainees and visiting staff. Conflict of interest checks in Case Management applications Yearly declaration of awareness of conflict of interest and confidentiality rules.	Coverage: 100% Relevant staff receives yearly a specific conflict of interest declarations and is invited to training sessions.	**Economy**: estimate of cost of staff involved. **Benefits**: staff awareness about the ethical rules, no reports of unethical behaviour, number of IDOC/OLAF investigations.

Main risks It may happen (again) that…	Mitigating controls	Coverage, frequency and depth of controls	Cost-effectiveness indicators
	Two staff members supporting DG HR in information to staff on ethics rules.		

Safeguard of information and IT-systems

Main control objectives: Ensure that confidential and/or sensitive information is not disclosed, or its integrity breached (data altered) due to security of IT systems and/or information processes not being fully effective.

Main risks It may happen (again) that…	Mitigating controls	Coverage, frequency and depth of controls	Cost-effectiveness indicators
Sensitive information is disclosed, or its integrity breached (data altered) due to security of IT systems and/or information processes not being fully effective.	Security of IT systems and information safeguarding 'culture': appropriate design of IT systems and/or information processes Yearly update of the IT Risk Register Formal procedures to add, manage and remove user access rights to IT applications. Detailed manuals of procedures, specific guidance by LISO and LSO. Application of corporate policy on job functions that handle high volumes of sensitive information Use of marking system. Reporting, risk assessment and follow-up of incidents. Physical access controls. LISO's prior approval of, and timely follow up reporting by, DG DIGIT's investigation of suspicious activities on COMP workstations Staff awareness actions	Security rules and culture to be adjusted in view of latest technical developments and 'possibilities'. DG's IT governance body to evaluate the probability and impact of IT risks at least once per year and to discuss mitigation actions. Continuous risk management of each project according to the PM2 methodology. Daily access rights management of the case management applications and related applications Systematic (access controls, training sessions for newcomers, reporting and follow-up of disclosures), and ad –hoc (update of internal guidance documents, communication of events and policies, information sessions)	Efficiency: Reaction to security incidents and adaptation to prevent future events. Economy: estimate of cost of staff involved. Effectiveness: staff awareness of security rules and best practices.

Enforcement and policy action taken in the area of EU competition policy and enforcement

Main internal control objectives: Ensuring that EU competition policy and enforcement actions are of high quality

Main risks It may happen (again) that…	Mitigating controls	Coverage, frequency and depth of controls	Cost-effectiveness indicators
Challenges before courts potentially leading to significant reputational risks, excessive legal costs, annulments of decisions and (monetary) compensation claims of high value.	A dedicated team in DG Competition continuously updates instrument specific Manuals of Procedures (ManProc) for antitrust/cartels, mergers and State aid. Instrument-based ManProcs and the Working Arrangements with the Commissioner provide guidance to the staff of DG Competition about the different roles, procedures, required consultations and procedurals steps to be followed in the daily operations. The case support Units contribute to ensuring policy consistency and high quality of draft decisions in terms of substance and clarity. They participate in the weekly meetings with the Commissioner and instrument management meetings contributing to the uniform application of the rules and regulations by the case teams. Chief Economist Team (CET) offers an expert economic view for policy development and provides independent guidance in individual cases in all 3 instruments (anti-trust, mergers and State aid) throughout the investigation process and a final written advice on a formal proposal which is to be submitted for decision to the Commissioner. Peer review panel assures internal scrutiny organised for major antitrust, merger and State aid cases, covering all or certain aspects of the case (factual basis, legal reasoning and economic analysis). Legal Service (an independent Commission service operating under the control and authority of the President of the Commission) ensures high quality output in terms of theory of harm and legal reasoning in enforcement cases and policy documents. Independent Hearing Officers chair oral hearings and oversee the procedural fairness of competition proceedings in the field of antitrust, cartels and mergers and provide a final opinion published in the Official Journal when the Commission decision is taken.	**Coverage**: 100%	Number of control failures Number of annulments of competition decisions by the EU courts and reductions of fines

Main risks It may happen (again) that...	Mitigating controls	Coverage, frequency and depth of controls	Cost-effectiveness indicators
	The Principal Adviser strengthens the capacity of DG Competition to carry out economic evaluations of the EU's competition policy. Senior Management Meeting (SMM) chaired by the Director General discusses inter alia major developments in on-going cases and jurisprudence of the General Court and the Court of Justice. Director-General and Deputy Director-General of the instrument in close cooperation with the Commissioner discuss major on-going cases and decide on the granting of priority in a case. Weekly instruments management meetings review and decide on the planning of ongoing cases and horizontal policy initiatives and ensure adequate staffing of cases. Knowledge Management and information sharing tools like 'COMPWiki' allow staff to share knowledge and best practices within the DG. Document Management and Case Management Applications support key business processes. Important developments in competition cases and horizontal policy initiatives are discussed in weekly meetings between the Competition Commissioner, the Cabinet and DG Competition. In this way, the Commissioner is kept up to date and alerted in a timely manner of any developments likely to be relevant for him/her or the College. The Commissioner is regularly updated on the progress in the most important enforcement cases in all instruments (quarterly meetings or ad-hoc multiannual meetings as appropriate) as well as strategic meetings with the Senior Management and Directorates of DG Competition.		

Fines imposed in competition

Main control objectives: Ensuring that the Commission establishes its revenue entitlements and correctly registers its revenue entitlements, reliable reporting (true and fair)

Main risks It may happen (again) that…	Mitigating controls	Coverage, frequency, and depth of controls	Cost-Effectiveness indicators
The Commission decision embeds weaknesses that would undermine the Commission's legal rights in terms of revenue entitlements such as decision not addressed to the correct legal entity.	Main parameters of the fines are discussed before the SO is finalised in a meeting chaired by the DDG Antitrust in which A1, CET, LS and CAB participate Experienced case handlers verify calculations (fresh pair of eyes)	**Coverage**: 100% in-depth panel review for draft COMP-decisions on fines	**Effectiveness**: Value of the rights concerned (e.g. decision on fine overruled by CoJ) **Benefits**: The (average annual) total value of the significant errors detected/avoided - and thus prevented in terms of the Commission's rights
EU accounting rules are not respected and that the accounts do not reflect the reality.	Commission Decisions being followed-up by concerned services	**Coverage**: 100% monthly for new decisions quarterly follow-up of fines before Court of Justice	**Effectiveness**: Value of the rights concerned **Benefits**: The accounts at year-end give a true and fair view. **Economy** (costs): estimation of cost of staff involved in the controls.

ANNEX 7: Specific annexes related to "financial management"

1. Reports and documentation considered for the assessment of the DG's functioning in view of the AOD's assurance

The Internal Control Framework of DG Competition governs the internal controls related to the main inherent risks in DG Competition, which concern procedures leading to Commission enforcement action (Commission decisions) and policy initiatives in the field of EU competition policy, handling of confidential information as well as the implementation and operation of modern IT solutions to support these actions and attracting and maintaining highly qualified staff. Considering the impact that competition enforcement decisions can have on EU citizens, companies and the Member States, DG Competition cannot focus any less on its non-financial than its financial controls.

The results are explicitly documented and reported to the Director-General. The following reports / documentation have been considered:

- Contribution of the Internal Control Coordinator, including the opinion and the observations of the ex-post controls of financial transactions; and the results of internal control monitoring at the DG level;
- Registers of exceptions and non-compliance events (CENTRICS);
- Risk assessment and risk register presented to and approved by the Senior Management, and the IT risk register approved by DG Competition's IT Steering Committee (DIT);
- Notes on inadvertent disclosures of sensitive information;
- Observations, recommendations and limited conclusions issued by the Internal Audit Service (IAS) and analysis of the implementation of the recommendations by the European Court of Auditors;
- Financial reports on budget execution, expenditures, payment delays, procurement and contract management;
- Validation of Local Systems Report;
- Litigation notes of the Commission's Legal Service.

The systematic analysis of the available evidence provides sufficient guarantees as to the completeness and reliability of the information reported and results in the full coverage of the budget delegated to the Director-General of DG Competition.

A) DG COMP registered one exception and one non-compliance event in the management of procurement procedures in 2024 (as per Art 92.3 FR). The events have been filed in the CENTRICS corporate risks depository. The events have not increased the financial or management risk of DG COMP and no specific corrective measures have been put in place because assessed as non-necessary. The reports signed off by the DG of COMP are filed as:

COMP-NONC-1: Countersignature of a contract before finalisation of budgetary commitment

COMP-EXCE-1 Interpretation of Art 176 of the Financial Regulation on the possibility for natural and legal person to enter into contract with EC

2. Financial Regulation: Additional reporting requirements resulting from the 2018 and 2024 revisions.

In line with the requirements of the Financial Regulation, Department I report for the year 2024:

1) no cases of any in-kind donation made to the Union, for the purposes of humanitarian aid, emergency support, civil protection or crisis management aid (FR art 25.3)

2) no cases of "confirmation of instructions" (FR art 92.3)

3) no cases of financing not linked to costs (FR art 125.3)

4) no Financial Framework Partnerships >4 years (FR art 131.4)

5) no cases of flat rates >7% for funding indirect costs (FR art 184.6)

6) no derogations from the principle of non-retroactivity pursuant to Article 196 of the Financial Regulation.

7) no cases of financial support to third parties >EUR 60 000 (FR art 207)

8) no of non-financial donations provided in the form of services, supplies or works (FR art 244.3)

3. Table Y on the estimated “cost of controls” at Commission level

Overview of department ’s estimated cost of controls at Commission (EC) level:

- Overview of COMP's estimated cost of controls at Commission (EC) level

EXPENDITURE

The absolute values are presented in EUR

COMP	Ex ante controls***			Ex post controls			Total	
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)
Relevant Control System (RCS) / Other as defined in Annex 6 of the AAR*	EC total costs	related payments Made	Ratio (%)** *(a)/(b)*	EC total costs	total value verified and/or audited	Ratio (%) *(d)/(e)*	EC total estimated cost of controls *(a)+(d)*	Ratio (%)** *(g)/(b)*
Financial management – administrative and operational expenditure	1.739.839,00 €	27.163.622,12 €	6,41%	135.280,00 €	8.879.288,29 €	1,52%	1.875.119,00 €	6,90%
EU competition policy and enforcement actions *****	- €	- €	0,00%	- €	- €	0,00%	- €	0,00%
	- €	- €	0,00%	- €	- €	0,00%	- €	0,00%
	- €	- €	0,00%	- €	- €	0,00%	- €	0,00%
	- €	- €	0,00%	- €	- €	0,00%	- €	0,00%
	- €	- €	0,00%	- €	- €	0,00%	- €	0,00%
	- €	- €	0,00%	- €	- €	0,00%	- €	0,00%
	- €	- €	0,00%	- €	- €	0,00%	- €	0,00%
	- €	- €	0,00%	- €	- €	0,00%	- €	0,00%
	- €	- €	0,00%	- €	- €	0,00%	- €	0,00%
	- €	- €	0,00%	- €	- €	0,00%	- €	0,00%
	- €	- €	0,00%	- €	- €	0,00%	- €	0,00%
	- €	- €	0,00%	- €	- €	0,00%	- €	0,00%
	- €	- €	0,00%	- €	- €	0,00%	- €	0,00%
	- €	- €	0,00%	- €	- €	0,00%	- €	0,00%
OVERALL total estimated cost of control at EC level for expenditure	**1.739.839,00 €**	**27.163.622,12 €**	**6,41%**	**135.280,00 €**	**8.879.288,29 €**	**1,52%**	**1.875.119,00 €**	**6,90%**

NON-EXPENDITURE ITEMS ****

COMP	Ex ante controls***			Ex post controls			Total	
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)
Relevant Control System (RCS) / Other as defined in Annex 6 of the AAR*	EC total costs	related amounts	Ratio (%)** *(a)/(b)*	EC total costs	total value verified and/or audited	Ratio (%) *(d)/(e)*	EC total estimated cost of controls *(a)+(d)*	Ratio (%)** *(g)/(b)*
Only applicable for DGs with non-expenditure items								
Prevention, dectection and correction of fraud and irregularities	53.400,00 €	- €	N/A	- €	- €	N/A	53.400,00 €	N/A
Safeguard of information and IT systems	414.325,75 €	- €	N/A	- €	- €	N/A	414.325,75 €	N/A

ANNEX 8: Reporting on the internal and external audits and assessing the effectiveness of Internal control systems

Internal and external Audits

DG Competition was not audited by the Internal Audit Service during the reporting year.

In 2024, the European Court of Auditors (ECA) completed its audit and issued the Special Report 21/2024: State Aid in Times of Crisis. Concluding, ECA recommended the Commission to strengthen the assessment and monitoring, evaluate the impact on competition and to improve analysis of the need for State aid to support EU industrial policy objectives. All recommendations fall due in 2025-2028.

DG Competition was nevertheless implementing two very important recommendations issued by the Internal Audit Service in 2023 relating to the CASE@EC IT system, including the need to strengthen the role of the LISO and further improve project governance artefacts and reporting. The agreed action plan is being implemented. Their progress is followed by the IT monitoring processes and subject to the management oversight within the DG Competition's Internal Control system. The final implementation is planned for 2025.

Similarly, DG Competition was implementing one recommendation of the European Court of Auditors issued in its Special Report 21/2020: Control of State aid for financial institutions in the EU: in need of a fitness check. Recommendation 1.1 (evaluation of the current crisis rules) was fully implemented, whereas the Commission is in the process of considering the need for corrective action following the evaluation (recommendation 1.2).

DG Competition was also implementing four recommendations of the European Court of Auditors issued in its Special Report 24/2020 The Commission's EU merger control and antitrust proceedings: a need to scale up market oversight. Three of these recommendations (optimise merger procedures and case management, take into account new market realities and regularly carry out ex post evaluations of performance of its enforcement decisions, including of their impact) were implemented in full. The completion of the implementation of one recommendation (study of the deterrent effect of fines) is envisaged in 2025.

The residual risk from audit recommendations remaining open from previous years and being implemented by DG Competition is not considered to have material impact on the declaration of assurance.

Assessing the Effectiveness of the Internal Control Systems

During the reporting year the senior management of DG Competition **monitored** the functioning of its internal controls. Relevant actions were implemented when necessary. To this end, DG Competition has used existing **procedures** (DG Competition IC Strategy and DG Competition IC Framework) and **structures** (senior management, DG Competition IC Coordinator, DG Competition IC Network) established and operating according to the best professional practices and to central guidelines (the Communication on the Revision of the

Control Framework and the Implementation Guide of the Internal Control Framework of the Commission) provided by the relevant Commission services (DG BUDG, IAS).

For this report DG Competition has assessed, in a **structured review process**, the effectiveness of its comprehensive risk based internal control system. In this process DG Competition has identified deficiencies and measured their impact on the Internal Control principles as defined in the European Commission Internal Control Framework. The assessment has been assured, validated, and reported by the Director in charge of **Risk Management and Internal Control (RMIC)**.

In this process DG Competition analysed numerous **sources of information** including: risk assessment, self-assessments of internal controls, assessment of actions mitigating risks identified in previous years, ex-post review of financial transactions, anti-fraud report, registers of non-compliance and exceptions, analysis of internal control deficiencies identified in the past, observations and recommendations provided by the IAS, assessment of the implementation of recommendations of the European Court of Auditors, results of the corporate indicators reported in the AAR Annex 4, review of inadvertent disclosures of sensitive information, and the review of sensitive posts.

The residual risk identified in the DG Competition Internal Control assessment is not considered to have material impact on the declaration of assurance.

ANNEX 9: Specific annexes related to "Control results" and “Assurance: Reservations”

A. Annex related to "Control results" - Table X: Estimated risk at payment and at closure

Table X : Estimated risk at payment and at closure (amounts in EUR mios)

DG COMP -1	Payments made (2024;MEUR) -2	minus new prefinancing [plus retentions made] (in 2024;MEUR) -3	plus cleared prefinancing [minus retentions released and deductions of expenditure made by MS] (in 2024;MEUR) -4	Relevant expenditure (for 2024;MEUR) -5	Detected error rate or equivalent estimates -6	Estimated risk at payment (2024;MEUR) -7	Adjusted Average Recoveries and Corrections (*adjusted* ARC; %) -8	Estimated future corrections [and deductions] (for 2024;MEUR) -9	Estimated risk at Closure (2024;MEUR) -10
Digital Europe Programme	0,24	0,00	0,00	0,24	0,50% - 0,50%	0,00 - 0,00	0,00% - 0,00%	0,00 - 0,00	0,00 - 0,00
Pilot projects, preparatory actions, prerogatives and other actions	0,08	0,00	0,00	0,08	0,50% - 0,50%	0,00 - 0,00	0,00% - 0,00%	0,00 - 0,00	0,00 - 0,00
Single Market Programme	24,41	- 0,76	0,12	23,78	0,50% - 0,50%	0,12 - 0,12	0,00% - 0,00%	0,00 - 0,00	0,12 - 0,12
Justice	0,22	0,00	0,44	0,66	0,50% - 0,50%	0,00 - 0,00	0,00% - 0,00%	0,00 - 0,00	0,00 - 0,00
Administrative Expenditures	2,20	0,00	0,00	2,20	0,50% - 0,50%	0,01 - 0,01	0,00% - 0,00%	0,00 - 0,00	0,01 - 0,01
DG total	**27,16**	**- 0,76**	**0,56**	**26,97**		**0,13 - 0,13**	**0,00% - 0,00%**	**0,00 - 0,00**	**0,13 - 0,13**
					Overall risk at payment in %	**0,50% - 0,50%** *(7) / (5)*		**Overall risk at closure in %**	**0,50% - 0,50%** *(10) / (5)*

Notes to the table X

(1) Relevant Control Systems [if possible] differentiated per relevant portfolio segments and at a level which is lower than the total.

(2) Payments made or equivalent, e.g. expenditure registered in the Commission’s accounting system, accepted expenditure or cleared pre-financing. In any case, this means after the preventive (ex-ante) control measures have already been implemented earlier in the cycle.

In all cases of Co-Delegations (Internal Rules Article 3), "payments made" are reported by the Delegated departments. For Cross-SubDelegations (Internal Rules Article 12), the reporting remains with the Delegating departments.

(3) New pre-financing actually paid by out by the department itself during the financial year (i.e. excluding any pre-financing received as a transfer from another department). as per note 2.5.1 to the Commission annual accounts thus excluding "Other advances to Member States" which are covered on a purely payment-made basis (note 2.5.2). Pre-financing paid/cleared" are always covered by the Delegated departments, even for Cross-SubDelegations.

Retentions: in Cohesion, the 10% retention applied during the year.

(4) Pre-financing actually cleared during the financial year (i.e. their 'delta' in the Financial Year 'actuals', not their 'cut-off' based estimated 'consumption'). Retentions: in Cohesion, the retentions released during the year by the Commission.

(5) For the purpose of equivalence with the ECA's scope of the EC funds with potential exposure to legality & regularity errors (see the ECA's Annual Report methodological annex 1.1), our concept of "relevant expenditure" includes the payments made, subtracts the new pre-financing paid out [& adds the retentions made], and adds the pre-financing actually cleared [& subtracts the retentions released; and any deductions of *expenditure made by MS*] during the FY. This is a separate and 'hybrid' concept, intentionally combining elements from the budgetary accounting and from the general ledger accounting.

(6) In this column, we disclose the detected error rates or equivalent estimates. [*Equivalents might be e.g. the "adjusted error rates", AGRI, or the “residual total error rates”, REGIO, EMPL, MARE, HOME. In other cases, e.g. INTPA and NEAR, they are derived by a backwards calculation based on results from the residual error rate studies; i.e. by adding the estimated future corrections (if not assumed to be zero) to the risk at closure.*]

For low-risk types of expenditure, where there are indications that the equivalent error rate might be close to 'zero' (*e.g. administrative expenditure)*, the rate which should be used is 0.5% as a conservative estimate, unless the department has a more precise estimate based on evidence.

Similarly, the subsidies given by partner DGs to decentralised agencies as part of their establishment and core tasks are considered error-free types of expenditure and the rate which should be used is 0%.

(8) The adjusted average recovery and corrections percentage is based on the 7 years historic Average of Recoveries and financial Corrections (ARC), which is the best available indication of the corrective measures each department applied over the past years as a result of ex post controls. In view of the low level of risk implied in financial transactions, this represents also the estimated future and implemented financial corrections and recoveries

(9) For some programmes with no set *closure* point (e.g. EAGF) and for some multiannual programmes for which corrections are still possible afterwards (e.g. EAFRD and ESIF), all corrections that remain possible are considered for this estimate.

B. Reservations

Not applicable

ANNEX 10: Reporting – Human resources, digital transformation and information management and sound environmental management

Human resources

Objective 1: DG Competition employs a competent and engaged workforce and contributes to gender equality at all levels of management to effectively deliver on the Commission's priorities and core business

Indicator 1: Number and percentage of first female appointments to middle management positions
Source of data: Commission Decision SEC(2020)146 of 1 April 2020

Baseline (01/12/2019)	**Target** (2024)	**Latest known results** (31/12/2024)
45%, 20 out of 45	A new target for first female appointments to middle management functions was adopted in 2023 (reference period 01/01/2023 until the end of the mandate).	DG COMP had a target of three additional first female appointments for the period 2023-2024, which were met by DG Competition on 1 August 2023. Moreover, two female appointments out of five first appointments were made in 2023-2024.

Indicator 2: DG Competition's staff engagement index
Source of data: Commission staff survey

Baseline (2018)	**Target** (2024)	**Latest known results** (31/12/2024)
76%	At least 76% and maintain above the Commission average (69% in 2018)	76% (Commission average 73%)

Main outputs in 2024:

Description	**Indicator**	**Target**	**Latest known results** (31/12/2024)
Entrance, career development and exit interviews	Percentage of the respective staff invited	100%	100%
180° feedback development exercise for DG Competition's middle management	Participation level of middle managers	100%	100% of the eligible middle managers participated in the exercise

Description	Indicator	Target	**Latest known results** (31/12/2024)
Implementation of initiatives aimed at increasing the number of female candidates to middle management position	First female appointments to middle management	Sending the maximum number of female colleagues to the corporate female development programme as a preparation to become Head of Unit. Continuing the cross-DG (COMP; GROW, ECFIN, FISMA) female talent development programme in 2024 to build a pipeline of female Deputy Head of Units as candidates for future Head of Unit positions. Continue encouraging female colleagues to participate in management trainings.	New targets for first female appointments to middle management functions were adopted in 2023 (reference period 01/01/2023 until the end of the last mandate). DG COMP had a target of three first female appointments, which were met by DG Competition on 1 August 2023.

Digital transformation and information management

Objective: DG Competition is using innovative, trusted digital solutions for better competition enforcement, information management and administrative processes to forge a truly digitally transformed, user-focused and data-driven Commission in the competition domain and beyond]

Indicator 1: Degree of implementation of the digital solutions modernisation plan: - the three most important aggregated IT solutions: case management solutions (CASE@EC), exchanges with external stakeholders and data analytics/artificial intelligence
Source of data: Yearly DG Competition IT strategy

Baseline (2019)	(2023)	**Target** (2024)	**Latest known results** (31/12/2024)
25% Support for horizontal projects at DG COMP	81,8% Support available for State Aid case management, Horizontal Projects, Digital Markets Act (DMA) and Foreign Subsidies Regulation (FSR), and document registration for all competition instruments. Support available for CNECT (Digital Services Act and DMA), GROW (FSR public procurement cases), BUDG (Rule of Law).	85%	85% Support available for State Aid case management, Horizontal Projects, Digital Markets Act (DMA) and Foreign Subsidies Regulation (FSR), and document registration for all competition instruments. Support available for DG CNECT (Digital Services Act and Digital Markets Act), DG GROW (FSR public procurement cases and Critical Raw Materials Act), DG BUDG (Rule of Law Conditionality) and DG Sante (Health and food audits).

Baseline (2019)	(2023)	**Target** (2024)	**Latest known results** (31/12/2024)
50% Support for State Aid digital exchanges, collaboration within the European Competition Network and leniency applications.	81,8% State Aid digital notification, reporting and transparency; Collaboration within the European Competition Network; Leniency applications; Negotiation on confidentiality claims; Requests for information and; Publication of competition public data.	100%	100% State Aid digital notification, reporting transparency and calculation of interest in recovery cases; Collaboration within the European Competition Network; Secure submission of documents by law firms; Leniency applications; Negotiation on confidentiality claims; Requests for Information; Publication of competition public data.
18,75% Results of proofs of concept using machine learning	66,7% Data science workbench established; Market study for e-discovery solutions; Revamped eDiscovery; Ad-hoc data services; Advanced content search tool to support non-standard submissions; Pilot Machine Learning platform; Decisions content search tool.	100%	100% Big-data science workbench established; eDiscovery support for DMA and FSR implemented, covering all instruments; NextGeneration eDiscovery contract signed; Internal and external dashboards; Pilot with AI assistant e.g. for public decisions
New information systems (going into production in a given year) have a security plan and/or a security risk assessment to safeguard information ([15]).	100%	100%	100% All COMP information systems have an IT security plan.

Indicator 2: Percentage of COMP key data assets for which corporate principles for data governance have been implemented
Source of data: Local Data Correspondent

Baseline (2019)	(2023)	**Target** (2024)	**Latest known results** (31/12/2024)
10%	60% 4 out 6 DG Competition instruments supported by CASE@EC and modern data management practises.	100% Considering the specificity of the COMP data and depending on the availability of resources and guidance from horizontal services.	100% Considering the specificity of the COMP data and depending on the availability of resources and guidance from horizontal services.

([15]) Contained in IT Risk file. IT Risks and mitigating actions are discussed by the DG Competition governance body for IT (DIT) and documented in the IT Risk Register.

Indicator 3: Percentage of staff attending awareness raising activities on data protection compliance **Source of data:** DPC activities			
Baseline (2018)	(2023)	**Target** (2024)	**Latest known results** (31/12/2024)
90%, information sessions, interventions from the DPCs in the management meetings, directorate house meetings or unit meetings took place in 2018. There was a large demand for that following the entry into force of the GDPR in May 2018.	95%	100% of staff	100%; information sessions, presentations by the DPC/assistant DPCs in management, directorate house or unit meetings and newcomer seminars; regular review of processing records; creation of a Working Group on the interplay between data protection and competition enforcement.

Main outputs in 2024:			
All newcomers follow data protection training	Percentage of newcomers attending awareness raising activities on data protection compliance	100%	100%
List of actions to implement the corporate principles for data governance for DG Competition's key data assets ([16])	Percentage of implementation of the corporate principles for data governance for DG Competition's key data assets	Target by 2024: 80%	80%

([16]) For each key data asset, departments should assess if the following principles have been respected:
- Identify and designate the data owner and the data steward(s).
- Instruct their data stewards to share the metadata of their data assets in the Commission's data catalogue and to keep them up to date.
- Design and document processes for data collection/creation, acquisition, access, sharing, use, processing preservation, deletion, quality, protection, and security. Information concerning these processes should be made available to anyone interested, as long as confidentiality restrictions are respected.
- Make any necessary changes and updates to the IT systems used for storing, managing, and disseminating these data assets to implement the requirements and processes.

Sound environmental management

Objective: DG Competition takes account of the environmental impact of its day-to-day actions, taking measures to reduce the impact of the administration work, supported by their respective EMAS Correspondents or EMAS Site Coordinators.			
Main outputs in 2024:			
I. Reducing emissions from staff and expert' business travel and reducing CO2 and other atmospheric emissions			
Output	**Indicator**	**Target** (2019 as baseline)	**Latest known results** (31/12/2024)
Reduced emissions from staff missions Analysis of DG's missions' trends / patterns (based on corporate EC-staff's and experts' professional trips (missions), optimise and gradually reduce CO_2 emissions (e.g. by reducing the number of participants in the same mission, promoting more sustainable travelling options, promoting videoconferencing/ virtual events as an alternative).	CO_2 (t) emissions from DG's missions	Reduce DG's CO_2 emissions from missions with 50% (2019 as baseline)	Reduction of 46,54% For distances of 500km or less, DG Competition approves only rail transportation for single mission performers or encourages shared mobility options (shared service/private car) for two or more mission participants.
DG Competition staff participation in Velo May and Walk Challenge	Number of DG Competition participants in Velo May and Walk challenge	Increased participation in the Velo May action and Walk Challenge with base line 2023 (36 and 3 participants respectively)	Velo May: 30 participants – 16,7% decrease Walk Challenge: 14 participants – almost fivefold increase
II. Reducing resource use in buildings and workspace (energy) More efficient use of resources (energy):			
Output	**Indicator**	**Target** (2019 as baseline, if appropriate)	**Latest known results** (31/12/2024)
Participation in corporate energy saving actions, by closing down DG's buildings during the Christmas and New Year's and optimisation of the temperature in EC buildings.	The DG building participates in: • End and beginning of year energy saving action • A reduction in the hours of heating and air-conditioning • Adjustment of the temperature - at least 19 °C in winter and no more than 25 °C in summer	• 100% of DG building participating in: End and beginning of year energy saving action • Optimisation of comfort hours • Optimisation of comfort temperature	• 100% in two initiatives of the BEST action: end and beginning of the year. Action enhanced with extra two weeks in August • 100% implementation of the comfort hours • 100% implementation of the temperature optimisation winter and summer based

III. Organise sustainable events			
Output	**Indicator**	(2023)	**Latest known results** (31/12/2024)
Sustainable meetings and events organised	Number (or %) of green events	100%	All staff is encouraged to bring "own mug/glass or plate" during the events organised for the whole DG, i.e. the corridor party and the bake sale.

IV. Circular economy (public procurement (GPP), waste, biodiversity and sustainable food			
Output	**Indicator**	**Target** (2019 as baseline, as appropriate)	**Latest known results** (31/12/2024)
Paperless working methods at DG level (such as paperless working e-signatories, collaborative working tools)	% of staff informed related to paperless working methods	100% of staff informed	100% of staff informed
Local action in giving second life through collection of clothes and electric Items.	Discarded textile / electro items/ sports equipment collection @MADO	Minimum 1 event in 2024	• Empty Cupboard Operation – ECO - returning not used stationery items to a DG COMP depot managed by the Local OIB Team • Old textile and sports equipment collection in November-December to the benefit CYCLUP • Sourcing 400 new reusable plastic cups to be lend to units and directorates for future events.

V. Staff awareness			
Output	**Indicator**	**Target** (2019 as baseline, as appropriate)	**Latest known results** (31/12/2024)
Staff awareness actions about waste reduction and sorting in the framework of EMAS corporate campaigns and/ or staff awareness actions about DG's waste generation in collaboration with OIB where appropriate (for example, promote and label the waste sorting schemes in place)	% of staff informed through an awareness campaign for the reduction of waste production, for properly sorted waste, for the re-use of items, for printing less (through COMP EMAS page, COMP Intracomm news, COMP EMAS staff emails)	100% of staff informed.	100% of staff informed

ANNEX 11: Implementation through non-EU entrusted entities and/or EU Trust Funds (not applicable)

ANNEX 12: EAMR of the Union Delegations (not applicable)

ANNEX 13: Decentralised agencies and other EU bodies (not applicable)