



# Management Plan 2020

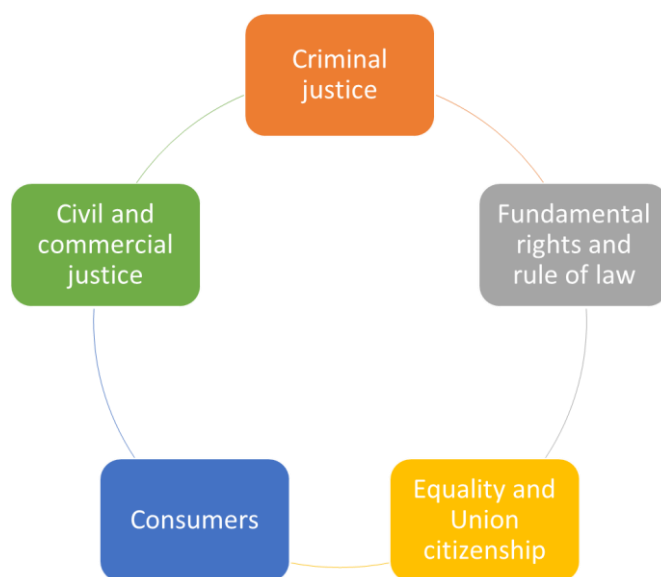
DG JUST

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## INTRODUCTION

DG JUST's mission is to uphold and strengthen the rights of people living in the European Union, whether they are acting as citizens, as entrepreneurs, as consumers or as workers, wherever they are in the European Union. To achieve this, we aim to strengthen the respect of the core EU values – democracy, fundamental rights and the rule of law, to deepen European cooperation in the area of justice, and to support the development of a dynamic single market for consumers, workers and businesses, contributing to European growth.

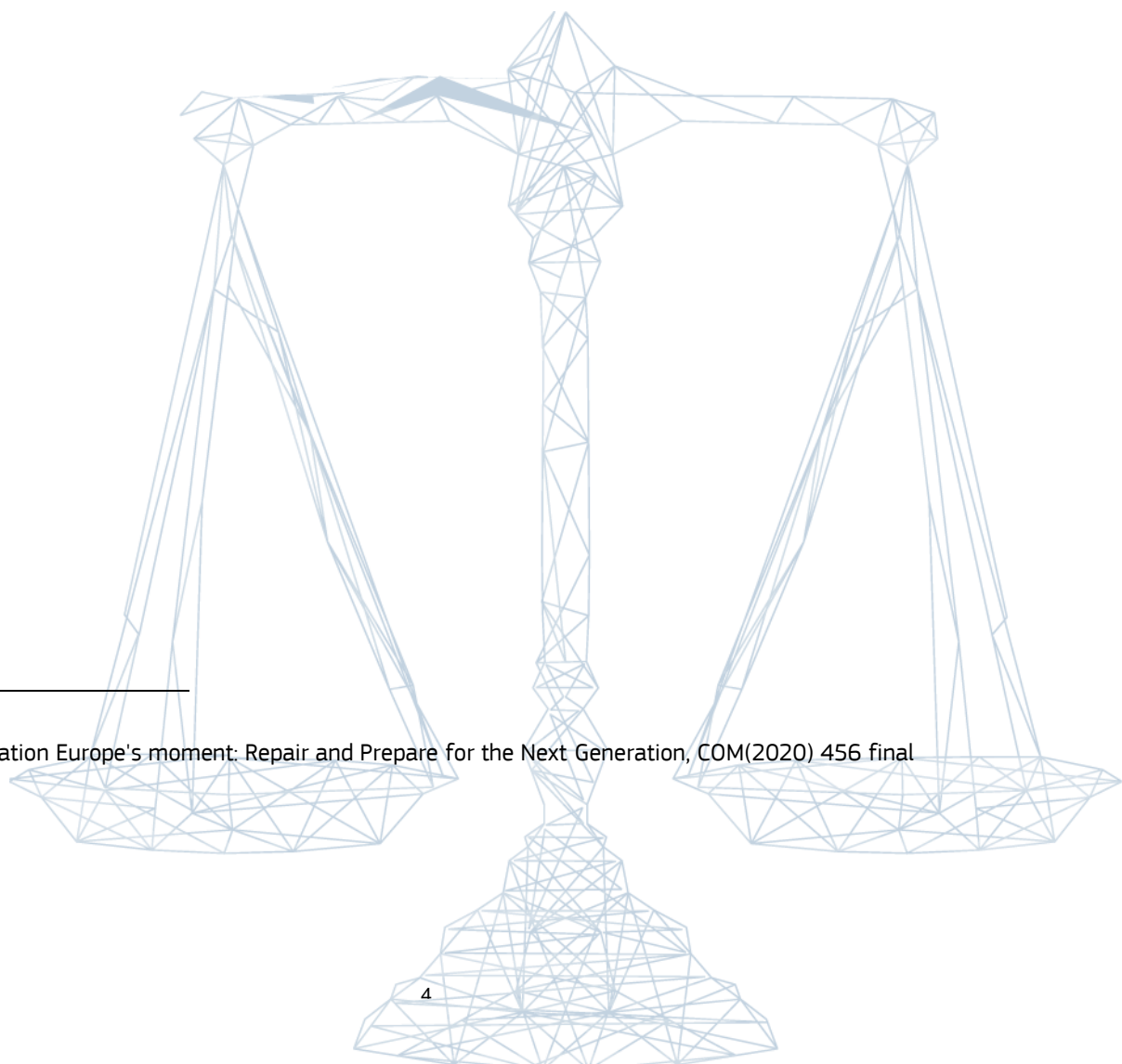


This management plan presents the main actions of DG JUST in 2020 which will contribute to the achievement of the European Commission priorities. DG JUST contributes in particular to four headline ambitions defined by President von der Leyen in her political guidelines for the 2020-2024 mandate:

- A new push for European democracy
- A European Green Deal
- A Europe fit for the digital age
- Promoting our European way of life

Under the leadership of Commissioners Dalli and Reynders, DG JUST is responsible for initiating and implementing policy in the areas of justice, equality and consumers. DG JUST also contributes to a number of workstreams coordinated by Vice-President Jourová, Vice-President Šuica and Vice-President Schinas as well as Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis. In 2020, according to the Commission Work Programme, DG JUST will deliver on a number of initiatives and will be preparing initiatives to be launched later. Among others, DG JUST will contribute to delivering the EU Recovery Plan in the aftermath of the

Covid-19 crisis with initiatives in all areas of its competence: justice, consumers, equality and upholding EU values.<sup>1</sup>



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<sup>1</sup> See Communication Europe's moment: Repair and Prepare for the Next Generation, COM(2020) 456 final

## DG JUST Specific objectives for 2020-2024



### A new push for European democracy

- Strengthened rule of law in the Union
- Strengthened application of fundamental rights
- Improved framework to protect democracy in the European Union
- Increased perception of the status and the rights conferred by European citizenship
- High level of personal data protection achieved throughout the EU and EU data protection promoted as a global model
- Eliminate inequalities and discrimination, and promote equality for all



### A European Green Deal

- Improved sustainable consumption by empowering consumers and improved integration of sustainability considerations into companies' and companies' boards behaviour through an upgraded corporate governance framework



### A Europe fit for the digital age

- Consumers are empowered and better protected
- A human-centric legal framework for Artificial intelligence that protects citizens and promotes cross-border trade
- Company law improves conditions for companies, including SMEs, in particular to operate and expand cross-border and to use digital tools



### Promoting our European way of life

- Improved cross-border cooperation in civil and criminal matters
- Improved access to justice for citizens and facilitated cross-border cooperation for judicial authorities through better use of digital technologies

## PART 1.

# Delivering on the Commission's priorities: main outputs for the year

### General objective:

## A new push for European democracy



### Specific objectives:

#### 1. Strengthened rule of law in the Union


The rule of law is one of the fundamental values upon which the European Union is based and is indispensable for the application of EU law, for sustainable and fair growth, as well as for trust in Europe. In its Communication on Strengthening the rule of law within the Union – a blueprint for action, published on 17 July 2019<sup>2</sup>, the Commission set out concrete actions to strengthen the Union's capacity to promote and uphold the rule of law, through promotion of a common rule of law culture, prevention of rule of law problems and an effective response. In particular, the Commission has established a Rule of Law Review Cycle. The Political Guidelines of President von der Leyen<sup>2</sup> set a roadmap for a comprehensive European Rule of Law Mechanism, with an EU-wide scope and objective annual reporting by the European Commission.

As part of the Rule of Law Mechanism, in 2020 the Commission will publish the first Annual Rule of Law Report prepared in collaboration with several services. It will report on significant rule of law developments in the Member States and at the EU level. DG JUST will continue providing support for the Commission's application of the Rule of Law Toolbox to uphold the rule of law in the Union, namely through infringement proceedings where necessary, and the country-specific monitoring in the European Semester. DG JUST will continue to actively monitor developments related to systemic threats to the rule of law in Member States, and to contribute to the preparation of the Commission's position in two Article 7 TEU procedures, currently pending in the Council, against Poland and Hungary. DG JUST has also prepared the 2020 EU Justice Scoreboard, which provides a comparative

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<sup>2</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024#documents>

overview of the efficiency, quality and independence of national justice systems. DG JUST will furthermore contribute to the negotiations in the Council and the European Parliament on the legislative proposal for a Regulation on the protection of the Union's budget in case of generalised deficiencies as regards the rule of law in the Member States.

<b>General objective: A new push for European democracy</b>		
<b>Specific objective 1: Strengthened rule of law in the Union</b>		<i>Related to spending programme(s): Justice Programme</i>
<b>Main outputs in 2020:</b>		
<b>New policy initiatives</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
 2020 Annual rule of law report (PLAN/2020/7982)	Adoption by the Commission	Q3 2020
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
2020 EU Justice Scoreboard (PLAN/2019/5413)	Adoption by the Commission	10 July 2020
Monitoring of country-specific challenges for the effectiveness of justice systems in the context of the European Semester	Delivery of DG Justice and Consumer contributions to the staff working documents (Q1 for the 2020 European Semester and Q4 for the 2021 European Semester) and the country specific recommendations (Q2) in the context of the European Semester as well as to the Commission's Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy (Q3)	Q1 2020 Q2 2020 Q3 2020 Q4 2020
Contribution to the negotiations on the proposal for a Regulation on the protection of the Union's budget in case of generalised deficiencies as regards the rule of law in the Member States	Adoption by the co-legislators	Q4 2020

## **2. Strengthened application of fundamental rights**



The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union enshrines the key rights of people living in the EU. In 2020, DG JUST will prepare a strategy to improve the effective application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the EU so that it becomes a reality for all. The strategy will focus on how to promote the use and awareness of the Charter in the Member States using the tools available at the EU level. An awareness raising campaign is planned to follow the adoption of the strategy.

In the first half of 2020, the Commission proposed technical amendments to the Council Regulation (EC) 168/2007 establishing a European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. The objective of this legislative proposal is to improve the governance, efficiency and relevance of the Agency.

In order to prepare a new EU strategy for the rights of the child (planned for Q1 2021), DG JUST will launch an open public consultation during summer 2020. Moreover, in autumn, DG JUST is organising the 13th edition of the EU Forum on the Rights of the Child, which is an annual occasion for a broad consultation. The input received in all consultations will inform the strategy that aims to strengthen promotion and protection of the rights of the child in the EU, and to achieve mainstreaming of children’s rights in all relevant EU policy areas.

We will continue to monitor the implementation of the Code of conduct on countering illegal hate speech online signed by major IT platforms. The results obtained in the context of the implementation of the Code of conduct in the last four years will inform the ongoing reflections on possible further measures to address illegal content online in the Digital Services Act.

DG JUST prepared an EU Strategy on victims’ rights (2020-2025), which the Commission adopted in June 2020. Its main objective is to ensure that all victims of all crime can assert their rights independently of where in the EU and in what circumstances the crime took place. The strategy will build on empowering victims of crime and on working together. It will set five key priorities, including improving communication, ensuring support and protection for the most vulnerable victims, improving victims’ access to compensation, strengthening cooperation and coordination and international aspects of victims’ rights.

<b>General objective: A new push for European democracy</b>		
<b>Specific objective 2: Strengthened application of fundamental rights</b>		<i>Related to spending programme(s): Prerogative Annual Work Programme</i>
<b>Main outputs in 2020:</b>		
<b>New policy initiatives</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EC) 168/2007 establishing a European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. (PLAN/2019/5405)	Adoption by the Commission	5 June 2020
 New Strategy for the effective application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the EU (PLAN/2020/6593)	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2020
 EU Strategy on victims’ rights 2020-2025	Adoption by the Commission	Q2 2020



(PLAN/2020/6682)		
Public consultations		
Output	Indicator	Target
Targeted stakeholders consultations for the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the EU strategy	Summary report	Q1/Q2
Open public consultation on the rights of the child strategy	Summary report	Q3/Q4 2020
External communication actions		
Output/ Result	Indicator	Target
Other important outputs		
Output	Indicator	Target
EU Forum on the Rights of the Child – Stakeholders meeting and consultation	Number of online participants	200 online participants
Report on the Implementation of the Victims’ Rights Directive (PLAN/2020/7143)	Adoption by the Commission	11 May 2020
Report on the Implementation of the Directive on the European Protection Order (PLAN/2020/7144)	Adoption by the Commission	11 May 2020
Preparation of an awareness raising campaign on the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the EU.	Concept note with suggestions on objectives, rights, messages, audience and KPI for the ToR	Q3-Q4 2020

### 3. Improved framework to protect democracy in the European Union

Democracy is at the centre of the EU values and key for a strong protection of fundamental rights. Over the years, the Commission has strengthened its efforts to support democracy in the EU, including the resilience of electoral systems.

A coordinated approach by Member States and the EU institutions, including the implementation of the Commission’s election package, helped protect the world’s second-largest democratic elections from manipulation and interference. The Commission report on the 2019 elections to the European Parliament sets out the lessons learned paving the way for future policy actions. In 2020, DG JUST will also contribute to the European Democracy Action Plan including by mapping measures allowing an abusive use of lawsuits (the phenomenon known as strategic lawsuit against public participation – SLAPP) in Member States with the aim to intimidate journalists and other activists, and other relevant policy actions. The goal of the Action Plan will be to help improve the resilience of our democracies and address the threats of external interference in European elections, to

counter disinformation and to adapt to evolving threats and manipulations, as well as to support free and independent media.

Under the European Democracy Action Plan, DG JUST will look into the possibility of future legislative proposals to provide greater transparency of paid political advertising and clarify the rules applicable to European political parties. Measures restricting free and fair elections and a fair democratic debate also building on the lessons learned during the Covid-19 crisis may also be reflected in this context.. DG JUST will contribute to Democracy action plan follow-up initiatives, as well as to the citizenship report and wider objectives under the New Push for European Democracy priority, including on lead candidates and transnational lists.

<b>General objective: A new push for European democracy</b>		
<b>Specific objective 3: Improved framework to protect democracy in the European Union</b>		<i>Related to spending programme(s): REC/CERV Programme</i>
<b>Main outputs in 2020:</b>		
<b>New policy initiatives</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Report on the 2019 elections to the European Parliament (PLAN/2019/5400)	Adoption by the Commission	19 June 2020
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
Sharing best practices in the European Cooperation Network on Elections	two meetings	June and autumn 2020

#### **4. Increased perception of the status and the rights conferred by European citizenship**

In accordance with Article 23 TFEU, the Commission reports every three years on EU citizenship. In 2020, DG JUST is working on a new report. The 2020 Citizenship Report will be strongly linked to the priority of the Commission of bringing citizens closer to the EU. The Citizenship Report as the upcoming European Democracy Action Plan aims at strengthening the sense of belonging to the European society and fostering the development of a shared European identity.

The Citizenship Report will propose new priorities and actions aiming to bring concrete benefits to EU citizens in terms of effectively enjoying their EU citizenship rights. The Covid-19 pandemic has further demonstrated the importance of these rights. The upcoming Report should take stock of the lessons learned from the crisis, including in the area of consular protection of EU citizens and citizens' participation. The focus will be on the following priorities:

- Protecting EU citizens in Europe and abroad, including in times of crisis/emergency
- Facilitating the exercise of EU citizenship rights and simplifying daily life
- Strengthening democratic participation, citizens' empowerment and fostering inclusion of citizens in the EU
- Promoting and protecting the values of EU citizenship

<b>General objective: A new push for European democracy</b>		
<b>Specific objective 4: Increased perception of the status and the rights conferred by European citizenship</b>		<i>Related to spending programme(s): REC/CERV Programme</i>
<b>Main outputs in 2020:</b>		
<b>New policy initiatives</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
EU Citizenship Report 2020 (PLAN/2019/6120)	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2020
<b>Public consultations</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Citizenship rights	Summary report	Q3/Q4 2020

### **5. High level of personal data protection achieved throughout the EU and EU data protection promoted as a global model**

The General Data Protection Regulation, which applies in the EU since 25 May 2018, modernises and strengthens EU data protection and provides for a single set of rules directly applicable in the Member States. It guarantees the free flow of personal data between EU Member States and reinforces the trust and protection of individuals in the EU. It is an essential component of the human-centric approach to technology and the digital transition, notably in the field of artificial intelligence and a European Strategy for Data. The coronavirus pandemic has also highlighted that data protection rules were not an obstacle to address the sanitary emergency but part of the solution to ensure the acceptability of technological solutions by citizens, as demonstrated with the Guidance on tracing apps issued by the Commission in April.



In this context, DG JUST prepared a Commission report on the application of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which was adopted on 24 June. The report also presents future actions. It aims to ensure the consistent application of the GDPR and protection of individuals with regard to the processing of their personal data while at the same time fostering trust-worthy innovation.

In the field of law enforcement, the Commission presented a plan for a review of the EU legal acts that regulate processing of personal data by competent authorities and should be aligned with the Data Protection Law Enforcement Directive (LED). The alignments

ensure a consistent approach and high level of protection of personal data for the purposes of prevention, investigation, detection and prosecution of criminal offences.

With a view to facilitate data flows while ensuring a high level of protection, the Commission is pursuing discussions on possible adequacy findings with South Korea (under the GDPR) and, in line with the Political Declaration on the Future Relationship between the EU and the UK, the United Kingdom (under both the GDPR and the LED). As part of the first evaluation of the GDPR, the Commission is also required to review the eleven adequacy decisions that were adopted under the former data protection Directive 95/46. Given that the Court of Justice in a judgment to be delivered on 16 July may provide clarifications that could be relevant for certain elements of the adequacy standard, the Commission will report separately on this evaluation after the Court of Justice has handed down its judgment in that case.

Beside its adequacy work, the Commission is preparing a comprehensive modernisation of the so-called Standard Contractual Clauses, the most important tool for data transfers, to update them in light of new requirements introduced by the GDPR and the needs of the modern digital economy.

<b>General objective : A new push for European democracy</b>		
<b>Specific objective 5: High level of personal data protection achieved throughout the EU and EU data protection promoted as a global model</b>		<i>Related to spending programme(s): REC/CERV Programme</i>
<b>Main outputs in 2020:</b>		
<b>New policy initiatives</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
 GDPR evaluation report (PLAN/2019/6171)	Adoption by the Commission	24 June 2020
Guidance on Apps supporting the fight against COVID-19 pandemic in relation to data protection C(2020) 2523 final	Adoption by the Commission	16 April 2020
Adequacy decision for South Korea PLAN/2017/2219	Finalised talks and the adoption procedure triggered	Q3 2020
Adequacy decisions for the United Kingdom	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2020
New Standard Contractual Clauses (SCCs)	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2020
Review of the adequacy decisions under GDPR	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2020
<b>Enforcement actions</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
 Communication 'Way forward	Adoption by the Commission	24 June 2020

on aligning the former third pillar acquis with data protection rules (Plan/2020/6475)

**External communication actions**

<b>Output/ Result</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Citizens having greater awareness of GDPR	Reach: number of contacts made during the campaign	800,000

**6. Eliminate inequalities and discrimination, and promote equality for all**

On gender equality, we build on achievements under the past Commission mandate and move forward with a new level of ambition. A new European strategy to pursue actions promoting gender equality was announced by President von der Leyen in her Political Guidelines and delivered during the first 100 days of her mandate. DG JUST will be responsible for implementing many actions of the Strategy, as well as for gender mainstreaming, monitoring and reporting. In the course of 2020, DG JUST together with the Secretariat of the Task Force on Equality will establish new reporting methodologies.

In her Political Guidelines, President von der Leyen referred to the principle of equal pay for equal work enshrined in the Treaty. She stressed it will be the founding principle of a new European Gender Equality Strategy. The purpose of a new legislative initiative on binding pay transparency measures is mainly to improve access to information on pay, with a view to facilitate enforcement of the principle. It will be accompanied by a Commission Communication (as an Equal Pay Package) in the fourth quarter of 2020.

To deliver on the commitment of President von der Leyen to a Union that strives for more when it comes to social fairness and prosperity, DG JUST is working on a communication “EU Strategic Framework for Equality, Inclusion and Participation of Roma up to 2030”. It will be accompanied by a proposal for a revised Council recommendation on national strategic frameworks for Roma equality, inclusion and participation. This initiative aims to promote substantive equality, effective socio-economic inclusion and meaningful participation of Roma women and men, boys and girls. Its specific objectives is to reduce antigypsyism and discrimination of Roma in all spheres of life and to reduce gaps between Roma and the general population in the areas of education, employment, health and housing, thereby reducing poverty. Under the European semester, DG JUST will prepare, in collaboration with other DGs, country reports and country-specific recommendations for relevant countries with Roma population.


Combating discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity is a fundamental right. Building on the achievements of the List of actions to advance LGBTI equality 2016-2019, DG JUST is working on the Communication “LGBTI+ Equality Strategy”, which will provide the framework to advance towards an LGBTI+ inclusive society in 2020-2025. The proposed actions will address the persisting discrimination and inequality experienced by LGBTI people by supporting, coordinating and complementing Member States, enlargement, neighbourhood and third countries and other stakeholders’ actions. Further work supporting




national policies and legislation targeting this group in the areas of non-discrimination, hate crime and hate speech, education and health will be carried out in particular through civil society organisation and national authorities, co-funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme.

In order to complement the existing EU legislation on diversity and antidiscrimination at the workplace (such as the Employment Equality Directive, the Racial Equality Directive or the Directive on disclosure of non-financial and diversity information), DG JUST will continue promoting diversity in the workplace through, inter alia, the EU Platform of Diversity Charters. The European Commission provides funding to this Platform to enable Diversity Charters from across Europe to meet regularly, to exchange best practices and to help build the movement in Europe and it will also provide its support to the actions of the Diversity Charters and their members marking a “European diversity month”. Furthermore, Commission will continue to support the Member States to work towards the adoption of the Equal Treatment Directive, to ensure that discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief, age, disability and sexual orientation is prohibited in the same way as it is on grounds of sex and race, or ethnic origin. The EU policies to fight discrimination will continue to include raising awareness among the population of their rights and obligations and the benefits of diversity, as well as support for intermediary actors such as NGOs, social partners and equality bodies, to improve their capacity to combat discrimination.

In line with the Political Guidelines of President von der Leyen, DG JUST will work towards unblocking the Council’s stalemate on the proposed Directive on Gender Balance in Corporate Boards. Also, DG JUST will launch a fitness check of the EU legislation on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, to prepare for a possible legislative initiative in 2021 (pending the outcome of EU’s accession to the Istanbul Convention).

Preparing for the coming years, in 2020 DG JUST will work towards availability of a budget sufficient to carry out the actions defined in the Strategic Plan. To this end the DG will continue supporting the inter-institutional negotiations on the programmes under the 2021-2027 Multi-Annual Financial Framework, including the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) Programme.

<b>General objective: A new push for European democracy</b>		
<b>Specific objective 6: Eliminate inequalities and discrimination, and promote equality for all</b>		Related to spending programme(s): REC /CERV Programme
<b>Main outputs in 2020:</b>		
<b>New policy initiatives</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
 Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025	Adoption by the Commission	5 March 2020

(PLAN/2019/5425)		
 Communication on LGBTI+ equality strategy (PLAN/2019/5399)	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2020
 Post-2020 EU Strategic Framework for equality, inclusion and participation of Roma (PLAN/2019/5484)	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2020
Proposal for a revised Council Recommendation on national strategic frameworks for Roma equality, inclusion and participation that will accompany the EU Strategic Framework (PLAN/2019/5484)	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2020
 Strengthening the principle of equal pay between men and women through pay transparency (PLAN/2019/5818)	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2020
<b>Evaluations and fitness checks</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Fitness check of the EU legislation on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence (PLAN/2020/8279)	Contract for the study signed	Q4 2020
<b>Public consultations</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Public consultation on pay transparency	Synopsis report	Q3 2020
Fitness check of the EU legislation on violence against women and domestic violence	Launch open public consultation	Q4 2020
<b>External communication actions</b>		
<b>Output/ Result</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Citizens being aware of EU Roma policies on inclusion and equal opportunities (social media campaign)	Reach: Number of contacts made during the campaign	1 mil
Citizens being aware of the actions aiming to advance LGBTI+ equality	Reach: Number of contacts made during the campaign	4 mil
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
MFF 2021-2027 – Support to interinstitutional negotiations on the CERV programme	Adoption by the co-legislators	End 2020

**General objective:**

## **A European Green Deal**



Specific objective:

***1. Improved sustainable consumption by empowering consumers and improved integration of sustainability considerations into companies' and companies' behaviour through an upgraded corporate governance framework***

In 2020, DG JUST will work on the preparation of a legislative proposal to empower consumers for the green transition, following the mandate received in the Commission Working Programme (in January and the adjusted programme adopted in May) and the Circular Economy Action Plan published in March 2020. It will be adopted in 2021 and will be based on the results of various stakeholder consultations and a preparatory study.

DG JUST will work to ensure that Member States enforcement authorities work together to implement the Unfair commercial practices directive in the area of green claims. We will provide detailed sector-specific consumer surveys on their interest for sustainable consumption.

A sustainable corporate governance initiative to embed sustainability in the corporate governance framework was announced in the 2019 Communication on the European Green Deal and three of its implementing strategies, as well as in the 2020 EU Recovery Plan Communication, with an adoption date in 2021. To lay down the ground for this major initiative, in 2020 DG JUST will prepare an open public consultation and engage in broad consultative activities.

DG JUST will also analyse the results of the public consultation on a renewed sustainable finance strategy which are relevant for the possible sustainable corporate governance initiative as well as the findings of two specific studies on due diligence in the supply chain and on directors' duties. All these elements will feed into an impact assessment which will be prepared in the course of 2020, in accordance with the Better Regulation guidelines.

DG JUST will also continue to monitor the implementation of the 2017 Shareholder Rights Directive which contains first elements toward long-term engagement of shareholders and sustainable corporate governance. Where necessary, the launch of infringement proceedings will be prepared. A Commission notice, containing guidelines on the presentation of the remuneration report, is to be adopted in the fourth quarter of 2020.




**General objective: A European Green Deal**

**Specific objective 1: Improved sustainable consumption by empowering consumers and improved integration of sustainability considerations into companies' and companies' boards behaviour through an upgraded governance framework**

Related to spending programme(s): Not applicable

**Main outputs in 2020:**

**Public consultations**

<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
 Empowering the consumer for the green transition: public consultation and impact assessment (PLAN/2020/7019)	Summary report	Q3 2020
	Impact assessment completed for submission to the Regulatory Scrutiny Board	Q4 2020
Sustainable corporate governance initiative (PLAN/2019/5404)	Launch of the open public consultation	Q3 2020

**Enforcement actions**

<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Develop a common approach among the Consumer Protection Cooperation network to assess how to enforce misleading green claim	Availability of the common approach	End 2020

**Other important outputs**

<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Evaluate the interest for sustainability considerations in various economic sectors	Availability of EU level consumer surveys, representative at Member States level (the Market Monitoring Surveys)	Five sectoral surveys available by end 2020
Guidelines on the presentation of the remuneration report (follow-up to Shareholders Rights Directive) (PLAN/2018/2969)	Adoption of Commission notice	Q4 2020

**General objective:**

# A Europe fit for the digital age



Specific objectives:

**1. Consumers are empowered and better protected**

DG JUST will continue contributing to a high level of protection of consumers and their rights, including in the online environment and financial sector, as well as against misleading and abusive practices or dangerous products and services.

DG JUST will prepare a New Consumer Agenda for adoption before the end of 2020 in the form of a Commission Communication. It will provide a new strategic framework for consumer policies at EU and national levels. Besides a new approach to traditional consumer policy issues (vulnerable consumers, international cooperation, consumer markets monitoring and data), it will newly deal with the role of consumer policy in the context of the post-COVID-19 economic recovery as well as in the longer-term context of digital and green transitions. The Agenda will also aim to bring to new levels the cooperation between the Commission, consumer organizations and policymakers, including closer coordination between consumer policy priorities, objectives and resources in the EU and its Member States.

In 2020, DG JUST will also work on the revision of Directive 2001/95/EC on general product safety. The proposal, to be adopted in 2021, will be based on the results of a public consultation, an evaluation of the Directive, an impact assessment study and a behavioural study on strategies to maximise product recall effectiveness.

In parallel, DG JUST will conduct the review of Directive 2008/48/EC on credit agreement for consumers. The review will build on the evaluation of the directive, which was performed in 2018-2019 to assess its functioning, following a REFIT platform opinion. The review will include an impact assessment to be performed in the course of 2020 and - depending on its results - a proposal to revise the Directive, to be adopted in 2021. A new proposal would ensure better consumer information and better protection from irresponsible lending practices, particularly those spread online.


DG JUST will at the same time continue its work towards ensuring that national authorities enforce the legislation appropriately and economic operators at all levels of production or distribution of products, also online, make sure only safe products are available on the market for EU consumers. Also, in 2020 DG JUST will submit for adoption by the Commission two implementing decisions for publishing references of new and revised standards for product safety. Furthermore, DG JUST is preparing new safety requirements


for standards on childcare articles in cooperation with the Member States and stakeholders (adoption planned in 2021).

DG JUST will launch, among several joint market surveillance activities, an emergency coordinated action to test products related to Covid-19. Furthermore, DG JUST will use the network of enforcement authorities under the Consumer Protection Cooperation Regulation to address the consumer problems related to the Covid-19 crisis both in relation to consumer scams and travel cancellations.

DG JUST will actively contribute to the Commission's work on the Digital Services Act in order to strengthen consumer protection aspects and engage all relevant stakeholders. DG JUST will support the interinstitutional negotiations with the objective that the Directive on representative actions for the protection of the collective interests of consumers is adopted by the co-legislators. DG JUST will also assist Member States in their work to transpose the recently adopted Directive on better enforcement and modernisation.

DG JUST will carry out the systematic compliance check of the national transposition measures of the Package Travel and linked travel arrangement. In 2020, the recommendation on vouchers offered to passengers and travellers as an alternative to reimbursement for cancelled package travel and transport services in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic will be adopted. Together with DG MOVE, DG JUST will monitor its implementation and, if necessary, will open infringements. DG JUST will also start preparations for the report on the implementation of the Directive, due in 2021.


<b>General objective: A Europe fit for the digital age</b>		
<b>Specific objective 1: Consumers are empowered and better protected</b>		<i>Related to spending programme(s): Consumer/Single Market Programme</i>
<b>Main outputs in 2020:</b>		
<b>New policy initiatives</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
 A new Consumer Agenda (PLAN/2020/7016)	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2020
Recommendation on vouchers offered to passengers and travellers as an alternative to reimbursement for cancelled package travel and transport services in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic (C(2020)3125)	Adoption by the Commission	13 May 2020
Consumer aspects well reflected and engagement with key stakeholders successful (the Digital Services Act package)	Proposal for a Digital Services Act adopted by the Commission	End 2020
<b>Public consultations</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>

Commission Proposal to review Directive 2008/48/EC on credit agreement for consumers: public consultation and impact assessment (PLAN/2020/6978)	Summary report	Q3 2020
	Impact assessment completed for submission to the Regulatory Scrutiny Board	Q4 2020
Revision of the Directive 2001/95/EC on general product safety (GPSD) (PLAN/2019/6283)	Summary report	End 2020
	Two workshops with stakeholders	End 2020
 A new Consumer Agenda	Summary report	Q4 2020

### Enforcement actions

Output	Indicator	Target
Services to support cooperation and uniform application of EU consumer product safety legislation including international aspects	Number of product-specific activities under the 2019 annual work programme  Percentage of Member States participating	3-4 product specific market surveillance activities  and 66% of Member States participating in overall actions
Commission (implementing) decisions under the General Product Safety Directive 2001/95/EC on safety requirements to be met by European standards, on the publication of references of certain standards, on standardisation requests to the European Committee for Standardisation	Adoption by the Commission and publication in the EU Official Journal	End 2020
Address consumer scams and other misleading activities in relation to the Covid-19 crisis	Reduction of the number of scams on platforms	by July 2020
Ensuring travel operators respect consumer and passenger rights	Consumer Protection Cooperation common approach to cancellation practices of travel operators available	September 2020
Continuous coordination of the work of Member States to ensure that consumer rights across the EU are enforced and that the Member States implement the Consumer Protection Cooperation Regulation efficiently	Coordination of various activities tackling EU level infringements to consumer rights	Ongoing
Resuming negotiations of a Consumer Protection Cooperation enforcement cooperation agreement with the US	Agreement by the US Federal Trade Commission to resume negotiations	End 2020 (after US presidential elections)

### External communication actions

<b>Output/ Result</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Citizens of Belgium, France, Ireland, Sweden and Bulgaria having higher awareness of consumer rights Limited extension of your EUright consumer campaign in the five countries.	Reach: Number of contacts made during the campaign	4 mil
Citizens being more informed about specific consumer related topics: sustainable consumption, financial literacy, internet safety, data protection	Number of views  Other KPIs we are proposing are view through rates, cost/view on all channels, but at this stage they have not been agreed on. We will have a better view on the specific in autumn 2020.	2 mil
International Product Safety Week Assemble stakeholders and officials from all over the world to discuss product safety issues	Number of attendees (physical and online)	120
Umbrella initiative to promote the European Consumer Centres Network activities on DG JUST social media channels targeting Brussels based journalists from all EU Member States + the UK, Norway, Iceland and ECC Net Anniversary event	Number of views  Number of attendees	2 mil  100
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
 Directive on representative actions for the protection of the collective interests of consumers and repealing Directive 2009/22/EC	Adoption by the co-legislators	Q3/Q4 2020
MFF 2021-2027 – support to interinstitutional negotiations on the Single Market Programme (DG GROW in the lead, DG JUST)	Adoption by the co-legislators	End 2020
Completion of compliance check of national transposition measures of Directive 2015/2302 on package travel and linked travel arrangements	Report by the consultant	Q4 2020
New information system to evaluate Member States enforcement capacities, completion of the three waves of market monitoring consumer surveys and publication of ranked results	Feasibility study launched for new enforcement capacity indicators	Q3 2020
Coordinated advice to consumers to help them identify most common Covid-19 related frauds and scams	Advice available	May 2020



## 2. A human-centric legal framework for Artificial intelligence that protects citizens and promotes cross-border trade

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a key enabling technology for services and products, which is expected to transform our economy and society. To allow the uptake of AI and to reap its economic and societal benefits, businesses need investment stability and the society needs to be able to trust AI in order to accept it.

A human-centric approach to AI means ensuring that AI applications comply with fundamental rights and consumer protection legislation, a high level of safety and effective damage compensation for victims.

DG JUST contributed to the White Paper on artificial intelligence, aiming to foster a European ecosystem of excellence and trust in AI and to the Report on the safety and liability implications of AI, the Internet of Things and robotics, both adopted in the first 100 days of the von der Leyen's Commission mandate.

As a follow-up to the White Paper, DG JUST will be working on a proposal for harmonised liability rules. The aim would be to avoid fragmentation in the EU and to build an adapted framework which ensures that victims of damages caused by AI-equipped products/services have the same level of protection as victims of traditional technologies.

General objective: A Europe fit for the digital age		
<b>Specific objective 2: A human-centric legal framework for Artificial intelligence that protects citizens and promotes cross-border trade</b>		Related to spending programme(s): Not applicable
<b>Main outputs in 2020:</b>		
<b>New policy initiatives</b>		
Output	Indicator	Target
 White Paper on Artificial Intelligence	Adoption by the Commission	19 February 2020
Report on safety and liability implications of AI, the Internet of Things and Robotics	Adoption by the Commission	19 February 2020
<b>Public consultations</b>		
 Initiative on civil law liability for Artificial Intelligence applications (PLAN/2019/5403)	Summary report	Q4 2020

### 3. Company law improves conditions for companies, including SMEs, in particular to operate and expand cross-border and to use digital tools

DG JUST will work closely with Member States to ensure the full implementation of the recent EU company law rules to facilitate the use of digital tools and processes and cross-border mobility of companies. Those new rules adopted in 2019 add to a balanced framework for companies in the single market. The focus of the support to Member States' transposition work in 2020 will be on the new rules on digital tools and processes – to be implemented to a large part in 2021 – which make it possible to form a company, register a branch and file fully online company-related documents to business registers.

The new rules further expand the use of the Business Registers Interconnection System (BRIS) in the interest of further transparency and smooth cross-border exchange of information between business registers. In 2020, DG JUST will prepare implementing acts – which the Commission must adopt in 2021 – to establish the technical specifications and procedures for those new elements in BRIS. DG JUST will also work on maintaining and further developing BRIS, including adapting it to the new legislation. DG JUST also reviews the options for facilitating through the European e-Justice portal access to Member States' business register documents that are only available to the public for a fee. It further prepares the necessary infringement proceedings to ensure the full transposition of the directive underlying BRIS.

With aim of creating a good environment for companies, DG JUST will also contribute to the legislative proposals (DG FISMA in the lead) to review the Capital Requirements legislation. DG JUST will work on a revision of “fit and proper” rules to enable competent authorities to supervise board members and other management roles more effectively and efficiently. Such measures would help mitigate reputational risks and promote public trust in credit institutions and large investment firms, with the overall objective of contributing to financial stability.

DG JUST will launch its consultative and analytical work in the context of the Commission's “SME Strategy for a digital and sustainable Europe”, as regards the need for additional company law measures to facilitate the cross-border expansion and scale-up by SMEs. In this context, it will take into account also the impacts on companies, experienced in the COVID-19 crisis.

<b>General objective: A Europe fit for the digital age</b>		
<i>Specific objective 3: Company law improves conditions for companies, including SMEs, in particular to operate and expand cross-border and to use digital tools</i>		<i>Related to spending programme(s): Prerogative Annual Programme 2020 and SMP from 2021</i>
<b>Main outputs in 2020:</b>		
<b>New policy initiatives</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>

Implementing Act under Digital Tools Directive (EU) 2019/1151 (PLAN/2019/5710)	Committee's opinion under comitology procedure	Q4 2020
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**Other important outputs**

<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Commission proposal for a Council Regulation on temporary measures concerning the general meetings of European companies (SEs) and of European Cooperative Societies (SCEs)	Adoption by the Council after the European Parliament's consent	25 May 2020

**General objective:**

**Promoting our European way of life**



**Specific objectives:**

**1. Improved cross-border cooperation in civil and criminal matters**

Cross-border cooperation in civil and criminal matters in the EU is an activity undertaken by various justice professionals and performed on multiple layers. Together with digitalisation of justice, these actions increase effective access to justice and contribute to the EU's Area of Security and Justice, which is part of Promoting our European way of life headline ambition under the President's Political Guidelines.

**Criminal justice**

The use of digital technologies can have a major positive impact on the efficient, secure and resilient cross-border communication in the context of cross-border cooperation. Therefore, DG JUST is working on a Commission proposal to provide a legal basis to ensure the sustainable management of the e-CODEX system, which has been specifically developed to support data exchanges in the justice field.

In order to further increase the effectiveness of Eurojust in its role to support the cooperation of Member States' judicial authorities in criminal cases, the Commission will recommend to the Council to authorise it to enter into negotiations on a cooperation agreement concerning Eurojust with ten third States: Algeria, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey.

The European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS) is an important tool of cross-border cooperation, allowing for an efficient electronic exchange of information on previous convictions between the Member States. Providing transparent information on the



system usage by adoption of the Second Statistical Report on ECRIS (after the one adopted on 29 June 2017) will contribute to increasing trust and stimulate uptake of ECRIS usage.

Training justice professionals on EU law is a tool of the Commission's commitment in its 2020 Work Programme to a uniform and better "implementation and enforcement of EU law" in the EU. The current European judicial training strategy, which elapses in 2020, enabled a step change in this field and was overall evaluated as successful. As differences remain across professions and Member States and new developments and challenges appeared, such as a deterioration of the rule of law or the development of digitalisation, the Commission will adopt in 2020 a Communication setting a new strategy to address new issues and set new goals for the future.

Moreover, in 2020 DG JUST will support negotiations on its proposals for a directive and a regulation which will improve access to electronic evidence in criminal proceedings, and intends to make progress in the international negotiations on this issue.

The Commission is also monitoring the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on judicial cooperation in criminal matters, procedural rights and victims rights, in cooperation with Member States, the European Judicial Network (EJN) in Criminal Matters, Eurojust and the European Network on Victims' Rights, and is publishing and updating information on the European e-Justice Portal. Moreover, a European Arrest Warrant coordination group has been set up to allow for the swift exchange of information and cooperation between different actors involved in the operation of the European Arrest Warrant, i.e. practitioners and policy-makers from Member States, Eurojust, EJN, Council and Commission., during the crisis and beyond.

## **Civil justice**

With regard to judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters, in 2020 DG JUST will support negotiations on its two legislative proposals that promote digitalisation of cross-border civil justice - the revised regulation on service of documents and regulation on taking of evidence. Also, with the aim of adoption by co-legislators in 2020, we will support the Council negotiations on the regulation on the law applicable to the third-party effects of assignments of claims.

Following the adoption of the 2019 worldwide Hague Judgments Convention, work is underway on preparation of a proposal for the Council decision on the EU accession to the Convention. This key initiative will help to provide legal certainty to EU citizens and businesses in the global context.

DG JUST will continue working on review of the Maintenance Regulation, the Rome II Regulation (on law applicable to non-contractual obligations) and the European Enforcement Order Regulation. A reflection exercise on the protection of vulnerable adults in cross-border civil justice situations will be launched in 2020 with a study.

In the field of insolvency, the focus is on ensuring the swift and correct transposition of the 2019 Insolvency and Restructuring Directive (including transposition workshops and guidance to Member States). This has become even more relevant in the post-crisis situation with the risk of mass insolvencies. At the same time, a reflection on the future needs in the field of insolvency is underway. A public consultation is envisaged by the end of 2020 on areas that may lend themselves to a possible future initiative in 2021/2022 to bring about greater convergence in relation to substantive insolvency law.

In context of the COVID-19 crisis, DG JUST has collected information on specific quarantine measures in the fields of civil judicial cooperation and insolvency. The Commission has published them in the European e-Justice Portal in April 2020. DG JUST will continue to monitor the situation and update information. This includes measures such as the complete or partial suspension of the work of courts and authorities and the suspension or extension of time limits.

<b>General objective: Promoting our European way of life</b>		
<b>Specific objective 1: Improved cross-border cooperation in civil and criminal matters</b>		<i>Related to spending programme: Justice Programme</i>
<b>Main outputs in 2020:</b>		
<b>New policy initiatives</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Proposal for a sustainable arrangement for the maintenance, and where applicable the development, of the computerised system for cross-border communication in judicial proceedings and between judicial authorities (e-CODEX) (PLAN/2017/794)	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2020
Commission Delegated Act on the categories of operational personal data and the categories of data subjects pursuant to Article 49(3) of Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 (the "EPPO Regulation")	Adoption by the Commission	Q3 2020
Proposal for a Recommendation to the Council on the opening of negotiations with ten third States concerning cooperation with Eurojust	Adoption by the Commission	Q3 2020
Communication on the 2021-2027 European judicial training strategy (PLAN/2017/1303)	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2020

<b>Evaluations and fitness checks</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Evaluation of Directive 2008/99/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on the protection of the environment through criminal law (PLAN/2018/3394)	Staff Working Document	Q3 2020
<b>Public consultations</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Preparing for future initiatives in the field of insolvency	tbc	Q4 2020
Evaluation of the European Enforcement Order Regulation (PLAN/2019/6007)	Summary report	Q4 2020
Proposal for a Council Decision on EU accession to the Hague Judgments Convention (PLAN/2019/5402)	Summary report	Q4 2020
<b>Enforcement actions</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Statistical Report concerning the exchange through the European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS) of information extracted from criminal records between the Member States (PLAN/2019/6097)	Adoption by the Commission	Q3 2020
Report on the implementation of Council Framework Decision of 13 June 2002 on the European Arrest Warrant	Adoption by the Commission	Q2 2020
Replies to the questionnaire on quantitative information on the practical operation of the European Arrest Warrant – year 2018	Adoption by the Commission	Q2 2020
Infringement proceedings to ensure compliance of Member States legislations with Council Framework Decision of 13 June 2002 on the European Arrest Warrant	Adoption by the Commission	Q2 and 3 2020
Support Member States in transposition of 2019 Insolvency and Restructuring Directive	2 workshops + guidance to Member States	Q1-Q4 2020
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Revision of the Regulation on	Adoption by co-legislators	Q4 2020

service of documents		
Revision of the Regulation on taking of evidence	Adoption by co-legislators	Q4 2020
Regulation on law applicable to third-party claims	Adoption by co-legislators	Q4 2020
MFF 2021-2027 – Support to interinstitutional negotiations on the Justice programme	Adoption by the co-legislators	End 2020
European Arrest Warrant (EAW) coordination group	Swift exchange of information and cooperation between different actors involved in the operation of the EAW, i.e. practitioners and policy-makers from Member States, Eurojust, EJM, Council and Commission.	Q3 2020 further shaping under DE Presidency
Support to stakeholders for transnational projects on judicial training covering civil law, criminal law or fundamental rights	Number of grants agreement signed in 2020	15
Support to stakeholders operating grant to the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN)	Number of judges and prosecutors trained by the EJTN in 2020	7900
Annual report on European judicial training	DG JUST report publication  Cumulative number of legal professionals receiving training on EU law or law of another Member State, including Civil Justice, Criminal Justice and Fundamental Rights	Q4 2020  800 000 trained legal practitioners

## ***2. Improved access to justice for citizens and facilitated cross-border cooperation for judicial authorities through better use of digital technologies***

As set out in the Political Guidelines of von der Leyen, “The public sector has an important role in stimulating digital transformation”. The Covid-19 crisis has further demonstrated that digital solutions could address many of the challenges faced by citizens, businesses and the justice systems in times of crisis. The Commission’s Communication “Europe’s moment: Repair and Prepare for the Next Generation”<sup>3</sup> reiterates that digitalisation of

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<sup>3</sup> COM(2020)456 final

justice systems can improve access to justice and the operation of the business environment. In result, effective justice systems contribute to the EU’s Area of Security and Justice, part of Promoting our European way of life headline ambition under the President’s Political Guidelines.

Digitalisation of justice in the EU would benefit from further progress through the definition and implementation of concrete actions. To this end, DG JUST will prepare for Commission’s adoption a strategic Communication focusing on a “toolbox” of measures to boost the digitalisation of justice, towards creating a modern, efficient and resilient EU justice environment. The Communication will be underpinned by a mapping on the state of play of digitalisation of the national justice systems.

<b>General objective: Promoting our European way of life</b>		
<b>Specific objective 2: Improved access to justice for citizens and facilitated cross-border cooperation for judicial authorities through better use of digital technologies</b>		<i>Related to spending programme(s): Digital Europe Programme, Justice Programme, other relevant MFF 2021-2027 funding instruments</i>
<b>Main outputs in 2020:</b>		
<b>New policy initiatives</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Communication on the digitalisation of justice in the European Union (PLAN/2020/7861)	Adoption by Commission	Q4 2020
<b>Public consultations</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Targeted consultation aiming to map the state of digitalisation of justice in Member States	Available mapping	Q4 2020

## PART 2.

# Modernising the administration: main outputs for the year



The Commission is committed to further modernise its way of working. To this end, in 2020 DG JUST will focus on the key outputs in the traditional areas of organisational management, namely, human resources management, financial management, fraud risk management, and information management. Digital transformation and sound environmental management are two new areas, where DG JUST set out its targets for modernisation.

The internal control framework<sup>4</sup> supports sound management and decision-making. It notably ensures that risks to the achievement of objectives are taken into account and reduced to acceptable levels through cost-effective controls.

DG JUST has established an internal control system tailored to its particular characteristics and circumstances. The effective functioning of the service's internal control system will be assessed on an ongoing basis throughout the year and be subject to a specific annual assessment covering all internal control principles.

### A. Human resource management

The COVID-19 crisis is influencing significantly the HR activities of the Directorate General in 2020, constraining DG JUST's activities to foster staff engagement and staff well-being. The focus of HR efforts during the crisis is in providing assistance, and informing and reaching out to staff and managers (e.g. by means of regular mails from the Director General, intranet news, organization of information sessions to staff) while ensuring that the Directorate-general follows corporate guidance and indications. DG-specific lessons will be drawn at the end and fed into the new local HR Strategy to be developed in 2020.

DG JUST will, despite the exceptional context and circumstances, continue with those activities (e.g. newcomer sessions, learning and development activities) set out in its 2019 HR Development Plan that can be adapted to prevailing remote working arrangements and conditions. Efforts to align internally resources with policy priorities will also continue.. For a more efficient resources allocation, DG JUST will do a more in-depth assessment of

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<sup>4</sup> [Communication C\(2017\)2373 - Revision of the Internal Control Framework](#)

units' workload (based on Unit Management Plans) in the light of new Commission priorities and high delivery expectations in a context of scarce resources.

DG JUST will reach its target for first time female appointments to middle management positions during 2020.:

**Objective:** DG JUST 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

**Main outputs in 2020:**

Output	Indicator	Target
Female representation in management	Number of first female appointments to middle management	1
Targeted actions under the DG JUST HR policy oriented towards staff well-being and L&D offers	Number of activities	6 activities
Development of a local HR Strategy	Adoption	Q3 2020

## B. Sound financial management

DG JUST will implement its budget driven by political priorities in the areas of its portfolio, in particular set out under the Political Guidelines of President van der Leyen and the Mission Letters to Commissioners Dalli and Reynders.

DG JUST implements its budget in accordance with the Financial Regulation budgetary principles. Sound financial management in particular requires effective and efficient internal control.

For what the legality and regularity of transactions is concerned, it is ensured through the controls throughout the operational and financial management of commitments and payments.

Sound financial management is measured mainly through indicators defined in the Financial Regulation and reported in the Annual Activity Report such as time-to-inform, time-to-grant and time-to-pay. Already compliant in the previous years (i.e. within the deadlines specified in the Financial Regulation), close monitoring of the payments and continuous increase of awareness among staff directly involved in the process will be ensured in 2020 to keep the same level of performance.

Corrective action to decrease the error rate in the non-audited population of grants. A strategy that focus on the beneficiaries and its diverse participations in grant agreements and no longer on the project. A very high rate of projects audited in the population at will

be maintained for next years with a coverage of more than 40% of the population to be audited.

**Objective:** The authorising officer by delegation has reasonable assurance that resources have been used in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and that cost-effective controls are in place which give the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of underlying transactions

**Main outputs in 2020:**

Output	Indicator	Target
Effective controls: Legal and regular transactions	Risk at payment	remains < 2 % of relevant expenditure
	Estimated risk at closure	remains < 2 % of relevant expenditure
Efficient controls	Budget execution and time-to-pay	remains 96% of payment appropriations and become 95% of payments (in value) on time
Economical controls	Overall estimated cost of controls	become 5% of funds managed

### C. Fraud risk management

DG JUST has developed and implemented its own anti-fraud strategy since 2012, on the basis of the methodology provided by OLAF, following the adoption of the previous Commission anti-fraud strategy<sup>5</sup>. It was last updated in April 2018 and will be updated during 2020, taking into account the new Commission anti-fraud strategy<sup>6</sup> and after further consideration is given to the possible new implications of the adoption of the new Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027. Afterwards it will be updated and reviewed as appropriate every two to three years. Its implementation will continue to be monitored twice a year with reporting to management.

To minimise the risk of fraud, specific anti-fraud related actions will be carried out by DG JUST during 2020, including:

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<sup>5</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, and the Committee of the Regions and the Court of Auditors of 24 September 2011 on the Commission AntiFraud Strategy, COM (2011) 376 final

<sup>6</sup> Communication from the Commission 'Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy: enhanced action to protect the EU budget', COM(2019) 176 of 29 April 2019 – 'the CAFS Communication' – and the accompanying action plan, SWD(2019) 170 – 'the CAFS Action Plan'.



- 📊 increasing fraud awareness among staff members through dedicated training sessions and lunchtime seminars to be organised in collaboration with OLAF;
- 📊 discussions at management level on how to further strengthen the culture of trust and zero tolerance to fraud in DG JUST, as well as the professional integrity of its staff members;
- 📊 regular attendance of the Fraud Prevention and Detection Network meetings chaired by OLAF and of the specific subgroups to be set-up following the Commission's new anti-fraud strategy.

At the same time, DG JUST will continue to support the setting-up of the European Public Prosecutor's Office and provide it with administrative assistance in the start-up phase, as well as support Member States' transposition and implementation of the so-called PIF Directive concerning fight against fraud <sup>7</sup>.

**Objective:** The risk of fraud is minimised through the application of effective anti-fraud measures and the implementation of the Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy (CASF)<sup>8</sup> aimed at the prevention, detection and correction<sup>9</sup> of fraud

**Main outputs in 2020:**

Output	Indicator	Target
Implementation of the anti-fraud strategy	% of implementation of actions planned for 2020 in the anti-fraud strategy	100%
Training sessions on anti-fraud	Number of participants from the DG in training sessions on anti-fraud	40

## D. Digital transformation and information management

In 2020 DG JUST will maintain and further **develop its IT systems** in the areas of Civil, commercial and criminal justice, fundamental rights and rule of law, equality and union citizenship and consumer policy.

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<sup>7</sup> Directive (EU) 2017/1371 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2017 on the fight against fraud to the Union's financial interests by means of criminal law, OJ L 198, 28.7.2017, p. 29. Transposition deadline: 4 July 2019.

<sup>8</sup> Communication from the Commission "Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy: enhanced action to protect the EU budget", COM(2019) 176 of 29 April 2019 – 'the CAFS Communication' – and the accompanying action plan, SWD(2019) 170 – 'the CAFS Action Plan'.

<sup>9</sup> Correction of fraud is an umbrella term, which notably refers to the recovery of amounts unduly spent and to administrative sanctions.

In the area of justice, the e-Justice Portal and its subsystems will be migrated to a new operating system version (Redhat 7) while its new user interface, published currently as Beta version, will be completed and will replace the old user interface.

In the framework of cooperation in criminal matters, the first version of the eEvidence system will be rolled out and used as of 2020 by Member State competent authorities for the digital exchange of information in the context of the European Investigation Order (EIO) and Mutual Legal Assistance agreements (MLAs). The system will facilitate the digital exchange by providing a fast, secure and efficient data exchange platform.

In the area of Consumers policy the rapid alert system Safety Gate, revamped in its first version in 2019 will integrate some old subsystems like Rapex Publication and Risk assessment Guidelines, while the archive will be decommissioned. The data migration from the old RAPEX system to the new Safety Gate system will be completed by end 2020.

The two studies launched for a modernised Online Dispute Resolution platform will be finalised by the end of 2020.

Some systems will be upgraded to a new, state of the art technology, Drupal 8, DG JUST participating this way to the corporate effort in the framework of Coldfusion transformation and Drupal 8 migration. In this process, some websites/subsystems will be decommissioned, this way DG JUST participating at the corporate IT and Web rationalisation.

The initiatives identified for digital transformation will be further analysed and, where feasible, they will become part of **DG JUST Modernisation plan**.

Existing systems and new planned ones contribute to the achievement of **EC Digital Strategy principles**, in particular on Digital by default, Once Only, User-centric, Cross-border Data-driven and Interoperability, as they aim at reducing the burden on citizens, increasing efficiency of national and European institutions and bodies, and at their closer cooperation and collaboration in the above mentioned domains.

Having developed and implemented since 2018 its own Data quality framework, DG JUST will revise this framework in 2020 to align it with the Commission's Reference quality framework for other statistics, expected to be released during the year by Eurostat. The DG will continue to actively participate in the Local Data Correspondents network and in 2020 will initiate the implementation of data governance standards adopted corporately in late 2019. The DG will continue in 2020 to implement its **Knowledge management strategy**, with particular focus on collaboration (after having dedicated the first year of implementation to information sharing and retrieval). An internal collaboration network will be set up with a mission to foster a collaborative culture within the DG.

As regards **data protection compliance**, DG JUST has achieved full coverage of its personal data processing operations in the Data Protection Management System (DPMS) in 2020. This system will be monitored and updated throughout the year. In terms of

awareness raising, DG JUST will organise activities such as lunchtime seminars, information at unit meetings and include a data protection module in the introductory training for newcomers. Staff will also be encouraged to participate in the data protection trainings organised by the office of the Data Protection Officer. The objective would be to ensure that 100 DG JUST staff take part in such activities during the year.

**Objective:** DG JUST is using innovative, trusted digital solutions for better policy-shaping, information management and administrative processes to forge a truly digitally transformed, user-focused and data-driven Commission

**Main outputs in 2020:**

<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
eEvidence system	Degree of completion and of the first version of the Reference Implementation	100%
New e-Justice Portal user front-end	Degree of completion	80%
Technical migration of e-Justice Portal to the new operating system	Degree of migration completed	100%
Safety Gate Data migration	Degree of completion	100%
Safety Gate sub-systems Rapex publication and Risk Assessment Guidelines integration into the new main system	Degree of completion	100%
Technical migration of Consular Protection website from Drupal 7 to Drupal 8	Degree of migration completed	80% of the technical upgrade done
Daphne Toolkit archiving	Degree of completeness in terms of grant projects and archiving of the system	100%
Internal collaboration network	Set-up of the network	End 2020
DG JUST staff being more aware of data protection rules	Number of staff participating in awareness raising activities	100

## **E. Sound environmental management**

The European Green Deal is one of the headline ambitions of the von der Leyen Commission. In this Communication, the Commission committed itself to lead by example also in this field: “The Commission is also keen to reduce its environmental impact as an institution and as an employer. It will present a comprehensive action plan in 2020 to implement itself the objectives of the Green Deal and to become climate neutral by 2030.”

Through EMAS - The Eco-Management and Audit Scheme - the Commission wishes to "lead by example" through the reduction of the direct environmental impact of its own activities. DG JUST aims to contribute to that objective through the following actions in 2020:

- Digital transformation as an enabler of more a more sustainable workplace. Drawing on the experience from the Covid-19 crisis, increased use of distance communication and teleworking tools would reduce the need for transport to and from meeting points, and thus reduce the carbon footprint of the DG
- Encourage staff to use their digital devices rather than print documents for meetings
- Encourage staff to turn off their computers at the end of the working day and to take the stairs, in order to reduce electricity consumption

**Objective: DG JUST takes full account of its environmental impact in all its actions and actively promotes measures to reduce the related day-to-day impact of the administration and its work**

**Main results and outputs in 2020:**

<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Staff's contribution to limiting the DG's environmental impact	Awareness raising activities	Organisation of one awareness-raising activity

**F. Example(s) of initiatives to improve economy and efficiency of financial and non-financial activities**

In the project financial management, the top up of the pre-financing through amendment and the 2nd pre-financing will be done directly in Compass and no longer manually in ABAC. So far the second part of the pre-financing was paid directly in ABAC and needed complicated manual interventions, which required support of the helpdesk. Now the payment of the second pre-financing is managed in the system via an amendment for topping up the initial pre-financing with no complicated work and no intervention of the helpdesk. Furthermore, the additional final payment workflow and the Recovery Order payment module are now available in Compass. All these measures are expected to improve the efficiency of financial activities.