



THE ROAD FROM ROME

A UNION THAT IS BIG ON BIG ISSUES AND SMALL ON SMALL ONES



*"Yes, I am an advocate of a stronger Europe in some fields. But I do not believe in more Europe for the sake of more Europe. **I want a better Europe. A Europe that is big on big things and small on small things.** When I am President of the next Commission I will work to do just that. This means that we will stop regulating each and every corner and every aspect of the daily lives of our citizens."*

Jean-Claude Juncker, 19 May 2014

The Juncker Commission focuses on a core set of [ten political priorities](#). This approach means acting only where the EU adds value, and leaving other issues to national and local authorities.

Delivering results where they are most needed requires that the EU Institutions work closely together, in particular when it comes to the legislative process. That is why we have committed to agree each year on a number of proposals for priority treatment in the legislative process. The first ever [Joint Declaration](#) on our legislative priorities for 2017 was signed by the three EU Institutions on 13 December 2016.

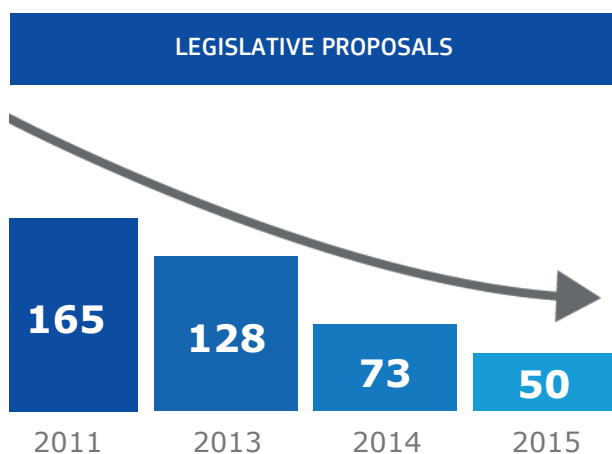
The Rome Declaration:

*"We will work together at the level that makes a real difference, be it the European Union, national, regional, or local, and in a spirit of trust and loyal cooperation, both among Member States and between them and the EU institutions, in line with the principle of subsidiarity. We will allow for the necessary room for manoeuvre at the various levels to strengthen Europe's innovation and growth potential. **We want the Union to be big on big issues and small on small ones.** We will promote a democratic, effective and transparent decision-making process and better delivery."*

As outlined in the **White Paper on the Future of Europe**, an example of taking decisions at the most appropriate level is the Commission's reform of State Aid law which ensures that 90% of all State Aid measures are in the hands of national, regional and local authorities. Being big on big things also means that the Commission no longer regulates oil cans or showerheads, but concentrates instead on what we can do better together rather than alone – such as tackling the refugee crisis, securing our external borders, or leading the fight against climate change.

This approach is at the core of the **Commission's Better Regulation Agenda**, which also ensures that EU legislation is checked regularly to see whether it is fit for purpose and outdated legislation is withdrawn.

Number of legislative proposals, 2011-2015



Better regulation in numbers, 2015-2017



THE WAY FORWARD

The 10 priorities of the Juncker Commission will continue to form the basis of the Commission's Annual Work Programmes.



The Inter-institutional Agreement on Better Law-making reached by the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission, which entered into force in 2016, marks a significant step forward in the culture of better regulation.

The three EU Institutions (European Commission, European Parliament and the Council of the EU) are now working better together, to deliver on agreed legislative priorities on the basis of a Joint Declaration on Priorities for 2017, signed by their Presidents. At the political level, the implementation of the Joint Declaration will be monitored jointly and regularly through meetings of the Presidents of the three Institutions, in March, July and November 2017.



We are listening to citizens and stakeholders throughout the policy cycle – through public consultations, The REFIT (Regulatory Fitness) Platform, the “Lighten the load” web portal, and Citizens’ Dialogues



Impact Assessments can now take place not just at the beginning of the policy-making process but also when the Commission’s proposal is amended



An independent Regulatory Scrutiny Board ensures the quality of Impact Assessment work



The subsidiarity principle is enhanced by **listening more to National Parliaments**. Over 400 Commissioner visits have been made to national Parliaments