



European
Commission

Management plan 2022

DG JUST

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plan in the aftermath of the Covid-19 crisis, with initiatives in all areas of its competence: justice, consumers, equality and upholding EU values.

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 2022

General objective:

A new push for European democracy



Specific objective 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 it is indispensable for the application of EU law and for sustainable and fair growth. It is also a prerequisite for the effective functioning of the EU, based on mutual trust. The Political Guidelines of President von der Leyen³ 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 2022 the Commission will publish the third **Annual Rule of Law Report**, a preventive tool for early detection of challenges and for finding solutions. For the first time, the Report will come with **specific recommendations to Member States**, as announced in President von der Leyen's State of the Union Speech of 15 September 2021. DG JUST will continue providing support for the Commission's application of the Rule of Law Toolbox, which now includes the general budget conditionality, the Recovery and Resilience Facility and the European Semester, as well as infringement proceedings where required. DG JUST will also support the Council in conducting the two Article 7 TEU procedures, currently pending. Work on infringement procedures that were successfully launched will continue. DG JUST will also prepare the **2022 EU Justice Scoreboard**, which provides a comparative overview of the efficiency, quality and independence of national justice systems.

³ [The European Commission's priorities | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/e3000420/1/1920020main_en.pdf)


General objective: A new push for European democracy

Specific objective 1: Strengthened rule of law in the Union

Related to spending programme: Justice Programme

Main outputs in 2022:

New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
 2022 Rule of Law Report (JUST co-CdF with SG)	Preparation by DG JUST, in cooperation with the associated services, of the 27 Country Chapters as part of the report and contribution to the Chapeau Communication, incl recommendations to the Member States.	Q3 2022

External communication actions

Output	Indicator	Target
Increased awareness on the rule of law among the defined target audiences.	Reach: Number of contacts made during the campaign (audited circulation and audience analytics) Other indicators to be defined in function of target audiences, countries and channels selected.	To be defined before launching the project

Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
2022 EU Justice Scoreboard (PLAN/2021/12474)	Adoption by the Commission	Q2 2022
Actions promoting the rule of law	Number of action grants Number of operating grants	Number of action grants: 15 Number of operating grants: 2

Specific objective 2: Strengthened application of fundamental rights

A strong protection of people's fundamental rights goes hand in hand with a healthy democracy where the rule of law prevails.

In 2022 DG JUST will continue to ensure that the Commission fully applies the Charter of Fundamental Rights in all its actions. DG JUST will in particular present its **annual report on the application of the Charter in the EU**.

Combating hate speech and hate crime is part of the Commission's action to foster the EU values and to ensure full respect of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. DG JUST will support negotiations in the Council and the European Parliament on the Commission initiative to **include hate speech and hate crime in the list of EU crimes** in Article 83(1) TFEU. DG JUST will also seek to reinforce the **Code of conduct on countering illegal hate speech online** in the context of the policy work undertaken in the High Level Group on Racism and Xenophobia.

DG JUST will coordinate the implementation of the EU strategy on the rights of the child adopted in March 2021. In 2022, the main deliverables will be the establishment of **the EU Children's Participation Platform** to foster the participation of children across the EU to political and democratic life, and the launch of the **EU Child Rights Network** to reinforce the dialogue among Member States, relevant stakeholders and the EU institutions.

The EU Strategy on **combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life**, adopted in October 2021, steps up action to actively prevent and combat antisemitism in all its forms. In 2022, DG JUST will work to bring together representatives from the Commission, the Member States, and relevant stakeholders to address antisemitism and maximise the effect of joint actions and EU funding. DG JUST will also continue coordinating the work on combating **anti-Muslim hatred and discrimination**.

General objective: A new push for European democracy

Specific objective 2: Strengthened application of fundamental rights

Related to spending programme(s): CERV

Main outputs in 2022:

Enforcement actions

Output	Indicator	Target
Infringement proceedings on the 2008 Framework Decision on combating racism and xenophobia	Reasoned opinions	Q1 / Q2 2022

External communication actions

Increased awareness on the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and concrete ways to claim Charter rights among target audiences in Cyprus, Sweden, Malta and the Netherlands.	<p>Landing page: users per campaign, conversation rate, average time per user, number of unique visitors etc.</p> <p>Social media; Facebook, Instagram, Youtube and Spotify: reach per country, impressions per country, engagement rate per country, CPC – CPM per country etc.</p> <p>Media relations: Number of press articles published as a result of media relations activities (per country), sentiment analysis of media coverage (per country) etc.</p> <p>Testimonials/ambassadors: Number of ambassadors (per country), engagement rate generated by testimonials' activities on social media endorsing the campaign: shares, likes, comments etc.</p> <p>Events: Number of attendees: physical and online; media reach of the event, overall usefulness of the event for attendees [survey] etc.</p>	To be defined before launching the project
Increased awareness on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life	Reach: Number of contacts made during the campaign (audited circulation and audience analytics). Other indicators to be defined in function of target audiences, countries and channels selected.	To be defined before launching the project

Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
2022 Charter report	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2022
Charter training	Training modules implemented: EU Learn training targeted at EU staff on how to ensure that all EU policy and initiatives comply with the Charter	Q3-Q4 2022
EU Children's Participation Platform	Contract signed after open tender procedure	Q2-Q3 2022
EU Child's Rights Network	Official launch and first activity organised	Q1 2022
The 14th EU forum on the Rights of the Child	Meeting organised	Q3 2022

Output	Indicator	Target
Renewed Code of conduct on countering illegal hate speech online	New text of the Code of conduct agreed with the IT Companies	Q4 2022
Working Group on the implementation of the EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life	Two meetings	Q2 and Q4 2022
Civil society forum on combating antisemitism	Meeting organised	Q3 2022
Funding actions promoting the rights of the child and preventing and combatting racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance as well as actions to promote capacity building and awareness on the EU Charter of fundamental rights ⁴	Number of action grants Operating grants	Number of action grants: 58 Operating grants: 10

⁴ [CERV programme supports actions to promote the rights of the child and combat racism, xenophobia and all forms of intolerance but does not support actions to promote the Charter \(which are financed with a prerogative line\).](#)

Specific objective 3: Improved framework to protect democracy in the European Union

Democracy is at the centre of EU values and key for a strong protection of fundamental rights. In the area of democracy and electoral rights, DG JUST will deliver on a number of commitments from the European Democracy Action Plan and the Citizenship Report 2020. A new joint mechanism will become operational, building on the work of the European Cooperation Network on Elections, with the aim to **promote resilient electoral processes** and take further practical measures to **protect election infrastructure against threats**, including on cybersecurity, disinformation and online forensics. DG JUST will work on a compendium on e-voting and best practice of voting rights of people with disabilities.

With a view to the next elections to the European Parliament, DG JUST will work with the European Parliament and the Council to move toward adoption of its proposals on **transparency and targeting of political advertising**, as well as on two directives on **electoral rights of mobile EU citizens in elections to the European Parliament and municipal elections**.

As part of an **EU action against abusive litigation (SLAPP)** targeting journalists and rights defenders, one of the actions under the European Democracy Action Plan, DG JUST will put forward a proposal for an initiative in 2022. The initiative aims to provide civil procedural safeguards for cross-border situations and to recommend best practices also to national level as well as European supporting measures.

The topic of democracy and citizens' rights feature prominently in the Conference on the Future of Europe, which should deliver its results in 2022. DG JUST will play an important part in providing its expertise, assessment of proposals and follow up on the Conference's outcomes.

General objective: A new push for European democracy

Specific objective 3: Improved framework to protect democracy in the European Union

Related to spending programme(s): REC/CERV Programme

Main outputs in 2022:

New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
EU action against abusive litigation (SLAPP) targeting journalists and rights defenders – Directive (PLAN/2021/11950)	Adoption by the Commission	Q2 2022

Output	Indicator	Target
Recommendation on the protection of journalists and rights defenders facing strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPP) (PLAN/2021/11951)	Adoption by the Commission	Q2 2022
Other important outputs		
Output	Indicator	Target
Increasing citizens participation, including town twinning and network of towns as well as in the area of remembrance and Union Values.	Number of action grants Number of operating grants	Number of action grants: 118 Number of operating grants: 30
Joint mechanism - resilient electoral processes	Start of operation (launch of call to MS experts)	Q1 2022

Specific objective 4. Increased perception of the status and the rights conferred by European citizenship

The Covid crisis demonstrated the need to protect EU citizens in Europe and abroad in particular in times of crisis and emergency. In 2022 DG JUST will continue to work on ensuring that restrictions to free movement introduced to protect public health during the COVID-19 pandemic are strictly necessary, proportionate and non-discriminatory. DG JUST will continue to ensure a coordinated approach to restrictions of free movement during the pandemic and present amendments to the respective Council Recommendation where the epidemiological situation so requires. DG JUST will present a **proposal to extend the period of application of the EU Digital Covid Certificate Regulation**⁵ beyond the initial limitation of June 2022 and present a **report** on its application in March 2022. DG JUST will **contribute to the single market emergency instrument**, which will allow the EU to be better prepared for future crises, not only linked to public health. The lessons learned from the pandemic will be included in updated guidelines on the implementation of the Free Movement Directive, which serve to provide for more clarity on free movement rights. They will take into account the most important judgments and address in particular rights of cross-border rainbow families. Finally, DG JUST will continue to monitor the correct implementation of the citizens' rights part of the Withdrawal Agreement concluded with the United Kingdom and take appropriate measure to ensure its effective implementation.

In 2022, DG JUST will deliver on its commitment to propose new rules on **consular protection**. The new rules will aim to enhance cooperation among Member States and strengthen the EU's supporting role, resulting in better consular protection to EU citizens travelling to third countries. An impact assessment will be carried out for this initiative.

General objective: A new push for European democracy		
Specific objective 4: Increased perception of the status and the rights conferred by European citizenship		
<i>Related to spending programme(s): REC/CERV Programme</i>		
Main outputs in 2022:		
Initiatives linked to regulatory simplification and burden reduction		
Output	Indicator	Target
Consular protection – review of EU rules (PLAN/2020/8637)	Adoption by the Commission	Q3 2022

⁵ [EUR-Lex - 32021R0953 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/1000/oj)

Enforcement actions		
Output	Indicator	Target
Consular Protection Directive Implementation Report (PLAN/2020/8805)	Adoption by the Commission	Q2 2022
Other important outputs		
Output	Indicator	Target
Guidelines on the implementation of Directive 2004/38 – free movement of persons	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2022

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

The right to the protection of personal data is a fundamental right enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. It is also a key element in delivering the “European way for the digital society” which is human-centred, ensures full respect of EU fundamental rights and further enables people to enforce their rights.

DG JUST will continue assessing – and enforcing where necessary – the **compliance of national legislation with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** and the **Data Protection Law Enforcement Directive (LED)**, and mainstreaming data protection rules into key EU sectoral policies, such as Data Strategy initiatives including common European data spaces, health, financial services and law enforcement. Compliance assessments of national data protection laws will also be conducted in the context annual Schengen evaluations.

As a follow-up to the 2020 GDPR evaluation report, DG JUST will pursue regular exchanges with national authorities and stakeholders, including through the Member States’ expert group on GDPR and LED, the Multistakeholder expert group on GDPR and the network of police data protection officers (DPOs). It will continue contributing actively to the work of the European Data Protection Board (EDPB), in particular when it is preparing guidelines aimed at stakeholders, and will support national data protection authorities through EU grants to reach out to individuals and SMEs in particular.

DG JUST will prepare **the first Commission report on the application of Data Protection Law Enforcement Directive** and **the first Commission report on the application of the Regulation on Data Protection for EU Institutions and Bodies (EUDPR)**, the “GDPR” for EU institutions and bodies.

The GDPR has become the “gold standard” and continues to be emulated by many countries that have aligned, or are aligning, their data protection framework (for example, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Paraguay, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea etc). **Negotiations on transatlantic data privacy flows** with the United States have intensified to comply with the July 2020 judgment of the Court of Justice in the Schrems II case. DG JUST will continue working with international partners towards upward convergence of data protection rules as a means to facilitate data transfers while ensuring the protection of personal data transferred abroad.

DG JUST will finalise its work on a **Commission proposal for a framework agreement on cross-border cooperation of supervisory authorities**.

With respect to specific instruments for data transfers from the EU, DG JUST is finalising **the review of the 11 adequacy decisions** adopted under Directive 95/46 and the adequacy decision for Japan (the first such decision adopted under the GDPR). In line with

the GDPR evaluation report of 2020, DG JUST will intensify its dialogue with third countries – as well as international organisations such as the OECD – interested in an adequacy finding.

Given the increasing importance of data exchanges as part of cross-border cooperation in criminal law enforcement, DG JUST (together with HOME for Europol) will work on negotiating **cooperation agreements ensuring appropriate data protection safeguards on behalf of Eurojust and Europol**, based on the mandates received from the Council. This also includes the renegotiation of existing Europol agreements as well as the existing Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty with Japan with a view to add the necessary safeguards. The Commission report on the evaluation of the Law Enforcement Directive that will also cover international data transfers.

General objective: A new push for European democracy

Specific objective 5: High level of personal data protection achieved throughout the EU and EU data protection promoted as a global model

Related to spending programme(s): REC/CERV Programme

Main outputs in 2022:

New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
Adequacy decision for Colombia	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2022

Evaluations and fitness checks

Output	Indicator	Target
Review of 11 existing adequacy decisions under Directive 95/46 and of Japan adequacy decision	Adoption of report (Commission Communication and Staff Working Document)	Q2 2022

Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
(Model) Framework Agreement for DPA Enforcement Cooperation	First signature with third country	Q2 2022
Report on the application of Law Enforcement Data Protection Directive (LED)	Adoption by the Commission	Q2 2022
Report on the evaluation of the application of the Regulation on Data Protection for EU Institutions and Bodies (EUDPR)	Adoption by the Commission	Q2 2022
Schengen evaluations (assessment of data protection laws)	Five to six evaluations	By end 2022

Specific objective 6. Eliminate inequalities and discrimination, and promote equality for all

To further build a “Union of equality”, DG JUST will implement a wide range of activities to combat discrimination and promote equality. The Commission will continue to closely **monitor the correct application of anti-discrimination legislation** and it will support the Council 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 Commission will also continue to provide support to Member States to step up national policies and legislation on combatting discrimination on all grounds through the work of the High Level Group on Non-Discrimination, Equality and Diversity and it will continue to work with the Member States to improve the collection of equality data and to support the Diversity Charters.

To implement the EU Anti-Racism Action Plan⁶, the Commission will put forward **a proposal for new legislation on minimum Standards for Equality bodies** and prepare a study on possible gaps in the legal protection against discrimination on grounds of racial or ethnic origin. A public consultation has been launched to prepare the initiative on equality bodies. In March 2022 DG JUST will organise a second **EU Anti-racism summit** and in April 2022, the Commission will nominate the first winners of the **Capitals for diversity and inclusion award**, ahead of the EU Diversity Month.

The Commission Anti-Racism Coordinator will continue to work closely with the subgroup composed of Member States experts towards the adoption of the **national action plans against racism** based on EU guidelines, and will ensure a dialogue with civil society organisations and other stakeholders.

As part of the implementation of the reformed EU Roma strategic framework, which sets a number of targets up until 2030 aiming to promote effective equality, socio-economic inclusion and meaningful participation of Roma, the Commission will adopt a Communication on the assessment of the national Roma strategic frameworks and will implement a Preparatory Action of Roma civil society capacity-building and reporting. To **promote effective equality, socio-economic inclusion and meaningful participation of Roma**⁷, the Commission will continue to work closely with the Member States to facilitate the implementation of their **national Roma strategic frameworks**.

⁶ See the [EU Anti-racism Action Plan 2020-2025 | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/eu-anti-racism-action-plan-2020-2025)

⁷ As set out in: [Union of Equality: EU Roma strategic framework on equality, inclusion and participation | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/union-of-equality-eu-roma-strategic-framework-on-equality-inclusion-and-participation)

To further implement the LGBTIQ Equality strategy⁸, the Commission will issue **Guidelines on national LGBTIQ equality action plans** to support the Member States' efforts. The Commission will also continue a regular dialogue with the civil society organisations and support diverse projects under the CERV programme.

DG JUST will continue to implement the actions set out in the **Gender Equality Strategy**⁹ 2020 – 2025 and work on gender mainstreaming in EU policies, legislation and budgets. DG JUST will report on the second year of the Strategy's implementation.

DG JUST will in particular put forward a **Council Recommendation on revising the Barcelona targets on childcare**. This initiative will form part of the European Care Strategy, together with a proposal on long term care, which falls under the responsibility of DG EMPL, and will also contribute to "Promoting our European Way of Life" headline ambition.

DG JUST will continue to lead the inter-institutional negotiations of the proposal on **binding pay transparency measures**, which was put forward in March 2021, striving for a swift adoption while maintaining the proposal's ambition. DG JUST will also work towards relaunching the Council's discussion on the initiative on Gender Balance in Corporate Boards.

DG JUST will present a **legislative proposal on violence against women and domestic violence**. Following the adoption of a draft directive scheduled for March 2022, the Commission will support the co-legislators towards a swift adoption of the act to ensure that EU Member States have effective measures in place to prevent and combat such violence. DG JUST will also prepare a **Council Recommendation on harmful practices** which will complement the legislative proposal.

Finalising the **EU's accession to the Istanbul Convention** also remains a priority for the Commission. Following the Court of Justice's opinion issued in October 2021, DG JUST will work with the respective Presidencies to **relaunch the accession negotiations** in the Council.

Finally, in line with its equality mainstreaming work plan, DG JUST will promote and apply **equality mainstreaming in initiatives** which are not equality-specific, such as initiatives in the areas of justice and consumers.

⁸ [LGBTIQ Equality Strategy - 2020-2025 | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0152&from=EN)

⁹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0152&from=EN>

General objective: A new push for European democracy

Specific objective 6: Eliminate inequalities and discrimination, and promote equality for all

Related to spending programme(s): REC /CERV Programme

Main outputs in 2022:

New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
 Recommendation on the revision of the Barcelona targets for the provision of early childhood education and care arrangements for children (PLAN/2021/11461)	Adoption by the Commission	Q3 2022
 Legislative proposal on Binding standards for equality bodies (PLAN/2021/11134)	Adoption by the Commission	Q3 2022
Legislative proposal on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (PLAN/2020/9290)	Adoption by the Commission	Q1 2022
 Recommendation on the prevention of harmful practices against women and girls (PLAN/2021/11462)	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2022
Possible initiative to address gaps in the Racial Equality Directive (PLAN/2021/11785)	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2022

External communication actions

Output	Indicator	Target
Increased awareness on gender stereotypes and on how to challenge them among target audiences in Bulgaria, Czechia, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Italy and Poland	Reach: Number of contacts made during the campaign (audited circulation and audience analytics) Other indicators to be defined in function of target audiences, countries and channels selected.	To be defined before launching the project

Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
Promoting actions in the area of anti-discrimination and gender equality as well as in the area of combating violence.	Number of action grants Number of operating grants	Number of action grants: 85 Number of operating grants: 17

General objective:

A European Green Deal



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

DG JUST will finalise the preparation of the **legislative proposal to empower consumers for the green transition** to be adopted in Q1 2022. The proposal aims to improve the information at the point of sale about products' environmental characteristics, such as lifespan and reparability. It also aims to better protect consumers from certain practices, such as greenwashing, product obsolescence or unreliable sustainability labels and digital information tools.

National consumer authorities will use existing legislation on unfair commercial practices to increase their number of relevant coordinated activities targeting unfair green claims and obsolescence practices.

DG JUST will put forward in 2022 a **new initiative promoting a more sustainable use of goods throughout their useful life by amending the Sale of Goods Directive and introducing a new right to repair** (planned for adoption in Q3, 2022). The initiative will aim to encourage consumers to make more sustainable choices by providing incentives and tools to use goods for a longer time, including by repairing defective goods. It will also encourage producers to design goods that last longer and are easily repairable. This would reduce unsustainable consumption and its negative impact on the global environment and climate and contribute to building a circular economy. An impact assessment will be carried out for this initiative.

DG JUST launched the pilot phase of the **Green Consumption Pledge** in 2021. It is an initiative to undertake concrete, public and verifiable commitments by business operators that go beyond legal obligations with an objective to promote the green economy. Eleven companies have come forward with strong commitments on e.g. CO2 emission reduction and engaging their consumers in sustainable practices. In 2022, following up on the lessons learnt, DG JUST will present the revamped design of the pledge for a roll-out.

In the context of company law, DG JUST will propose, jointly with DG GROW, legislation fostering more **sustainable corporate governance** in companies in Q1 2022, and subsequently support the negotiations of the co-legislators on this file. This work contributes to implementing the overall Commission's objective of a just transition to a sustainable economy and a sustainable recovery after the Covid crisis, and was announced in the European Green Deal and the Commission's Recovery Plan. The aim is to foster long-term sustainable and responsible corporate behaviour in the green transition and beyond, contributing also to the headline ambition of "an Economy that works for people". The focus

of the initiative will be on putting forward EU-wide rules on corporate due diligence, to mitigate or prevent adverse impacts in the company’s own operations and its value chains . Work will also continue on the **transposition control of the revised Shareholders Rights Directive (SHRD 2)**, fostering long-term shareholder engagement, which was to be fully transposed by 2020.

Under the headline “an Economy that works for people”, DG JUST’s work on **improving the regulatory and corporate governance framework for board members in credit institutions** will continue in 2022. DG JUST will support the interinstitutional negotiations of the **banking package** adopted on 27 October 2021, jointly with DG FISMA. DG JUST’s contribution includes a review of the rules and procedures ensuring that board members have all the qualities and skills to manage the banks in a prudent and sound manner. In addition, focus will be on conducting transposition checks on the **Capital Requirements Directive V** and the **Investment firms’ Directive**.

General objective: A European Green Deal
Specific objective: Improved sustainable consumption by empowering consumers and improved integration of sustainability considerations into companies’ and companies’ boards behaviour through an upgraded corporate governance framework.
Related to spending programme(s): Not applicable

Main outputs in 2022:

New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
Proposal for a legislative initiative to empower consumers for the green transition (PLAN/2020/7019)	Adoption by the Commission	Q1 2022
Proposal for a legislative initiative on sustainable corporate governance (PLAN/2019/5404) Co-lead with DG GROW	Adoption by the Commission	Q1 2022
 Proposal for a legislative initiative to promote sustainability in consumer after-sales and a new consumer right to repair (PLAN/2021/11514)	Adoption by the Commission	Q3 2022

Enforcement actions		
Output	Indicator	Target
Cordinated enforcement actions by the CPC Authorities to address unfair green claims and unfair obsolescence	Number of coordinate actions Availability of specific enforcement guidelines	continuous
Other important outputs		
Output	Indicator	Target
Support to interinstitutional negotiations on the banking package	Progress/adoption by co-legislators	Q4 2022 / Q1 2023

General objective:

A Europe fit for the digital age



Specific objective 1: *Consumers are empowered and better protected*

In 2022, DG JUST will finalise a proposal to **revise the Distance Marketing of Financial Services Directive** to better protect consumers in the digital environment, to ensure a level playing field and reduce unnecessary burden for financial service providers. Following the digital transformation of the retail financial services sector, and taking into account the development of product-specific legislation (e.g. in relation to the banking sector, consumer credit, mortgages, insurance, personal pension, investment products or payment services) or horizontal legislation, the proposal will aim to ensure a future-proof and streamlined framework for the distance marketing of financial services. This initiative will be accompanied by an impact assessment.

DG JUST will continue to actively participate in the ongoing negotiations by the European Parliament and the Council on the legislative proposal for a new **Directive on Consumer Credit**. The proposal was adopted by the Commission in June 2021. The co-legislators are expected to reach an agreement in the course of 2022.

In 2022, DG JUST will also continue to actively assist the two co-legislators in their negotiations on the Commission's proposal for a new **General Product Safety Regulation**, adopted in June 2021. The final agreement by co-legislators could be reached by the end of 2022.

DG JUST will continue its work to help EU consumers affected by or at risk of **overindebtedness** with two initiatives launched in 2021, namely the financial support to centres for debt advice to consumers and a study. The study will identify the most affected

categories of consumers, analyse the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and EU and national rules and their possible role to prevent or remedy overindebtedness.

In 2022, DG JUST will intensify its work on ensuring digital fairness for consumers. In particular, DG JUST will finalise a behavioural study that gathers evidence on the prevalence and effects of new unfair practices in the digital environment, so-called ‘dark patterns’.

The Commission will continue **defending the rights of package travellers** in a fast-changing, highly digitalised market. During the COVID crisis, many package holidays were cancelled and travellers did not get their money back or only with considerable delay due to liquidity issues of organisers. As indicated in the 2022 Commission Work Programme¹⁰, DG JUST will evaluate whether the **Package Travel Directive** ensures robust and comprehensive consumer protection at all times, including during major disruptions like the COVID-19 pandemic. The evaluation will be carried out back-to-back with an impact assessment and take into account relevant actions of the sustainable and smart mobility strategy and also examine the possibility to simplify or streamline the rules of the current regulatory framework. In light of the outcome of this back-to-back evaluation and impact assessment, the Commission may propose a revision of the Directive at the end of 2022.

In addition, DG JUST will continue to assist Member States in the **transposition of the Directive on representative actions** for the protection of the collective interests of consumers. It will also develop a collaboration tool that will support the good functioning of the representative actions.

In 2022, DG JUST will start a **review of the functioning of the alternative and online dispute resolution (ADR/ODR) legislation and of the consumer protection cooperation (CPC) Regulation, notably thanks to evaluation studies**. This is needed to ensure that they are still fit in relation to the rapid development of online markets, their internationalisation and to increase the resilience of these frameworks using lessons learned from the COVID crisis. Coordinated enforcement activities to address EU level breaches of consumer law will be intensified with a view to address all major issues, notably in online and travel markets. Capacities of CPC authorities will be further strengthened through training, grants and the provision of online enforcement common tools (the E-Lab). A report on the biennial priorities of the CPC network will be published and new enforcement and capacity indicators will be prepared.

In 2022, DG JUST will continue to solidify the collaboration with its **consumer policy stakeholders**, notably through the Consumer Policy Network with national ministries, the Consumer Policy Advisory Group with consumer organisations, businesses and experts, and through the subgroup of the Consumer Policy Advisory Group, with national consumer organisations. DG JUST will perform a scoping study on **consumer education**. A new

¹⁰ Under “New Push for Democracy” in Annex II “Refit initiatives” of the 2022 Commission Work Programme: [com2021_645-annex_en.pdf \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/com2021_645-annex_en.pdf).

activity will be launched in partnership with DG CNECT to promote the economic rights of children in online markets, through a partnership with Better Internet for Kids Centres.

General objective: A Europe fit for the digital age

Specific objective 1: Consumers are empowered and better protected


Related to spending programme(s): Consumer/ Single Market Programme

Main outputs in 2022:

New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
Proposal for a directive amending Directive 2002/65/EC on the Distance Marketing of Consumer Financial Services- Review of EU rules (PLAN/2020/7021)	Adoption by the Commission	Q2 2022
Commission Decision on the safety requirements to be met by European standards for certain children's and related products pursuant to Directive 2001/95/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (PLAN/2021/10060)	Adoption by the Commission	Q1 2022

Initiatives linked to regulatory simplification and burden reduction

Output	Indicator	Target
 Review of the Package Travel Directive (PLAN/2021/11358)	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2022

Evaluations and fitness checks

Output	Indicator	Target
Evaluation: Reports on the functioning of the ADR/ODR legislation as requested by the legislation (art 26/art 21)	Draft ADR/ODR report(s) finalised	Mid 2022
Evaluation: Report on the functioning of CPC Regulation as requested by the Regulation (art 40)	Draft CPC report finalised	Mid 2022

Public consultations

Output	Indicator	Target
Public consultation on ADR/ODR and CPC legislation	Summary report on ADR/ODR and CPC legislation PA	Mid 2022
Public consultation on the review of the Package Travel Directive	Summary report	Q3 2022

Enforcement actions		
Daily management and running of Safety Gate, the rapid alert system of dangerous goods	Timely treatment of information respecting deadlines for action Commission included in Commission Decision 2019 (417)	Business Continuity ensured
Coordinated Activities on the Safety of Products (CASP) 2022	6 Product activities and 4 horizontal activities and an extra Coordinated Activities on the Safety of Products (CASP) focusing on child appealing and food imitating products. Participation covering all MSs.	Conclusion Q4 2022
Support Member states in their work on the transposition of the Directive (EU) 2020/1828 representative actions for the protection of the collective interests of consumers and repealing Directive 2009/22/EC	Number of workshops	3
Coordinated actions, including sweeps, carried out by the CPC network	Number of actions published	End 2022
Publication of a report on Consumer law enforcement priorities 2022-2023	Report published	End of Q1 2022
Informal EU/US cooperation on enforcement of consumer law. vis a vis platforms	Report on topics covered presented in a public event with the Commissioner participation	End 2022
E-lab	Number of users of the E-lab	End 2022
External communication actions		
Output	Indicator	Target
Safety Gate annual event to present the 2021 results of the Safety Gate rapid alert system for dangerous products	Participation of 20 journalists	Q1 2022
Increased awareness of consumers and SMEs about specific changes in consumer rights	Reach: number of contacts made during the campaign	300.000 Q1 and Q3 2022
International Product Safety Week	500 participants worldwide	Q4 2022

Other important outputs		
Output	Indicator	Target
eSurveillance webcrawler: tool to help national authorities trace dangerous products online	Testing phase by national authorities will conclude end 2021	Launch of the tool Q1 2022
Collaboration tool to support the functioning of the Directive (EU) 2020/1828 representative actions for the protection of the collective interests of consumers	Beta testing	Q4 2022
Consumer Law ready (training of SMEs in consumer law)	Number of trainings of lead trainers and local trainers	58
Financing of specific actions to promote the protection of children's economic interest in online markets	Contract signed under CNECT management	Q3 2022
New Consumer scoreboard focus on foresight report		Q1 2022
Continuous support to various networks: ADR entities, ECC-Net, ADR/ODR contact points, CPC authorities	Nb of Workshops to exchange knowledge organised Credits granted efficiently	Continuous
Consumer Law Pledge	Signature by all present Product Safety Pledge signatories	Signature by online platforms by end 2022
Action Plan on the safety of products sold online – to be signed between the General Administration of China Customs (GACC) and DG JUST	Regular rapid exchanges on products sold online in the framework of the RAPEX-China scheme, information exchange and awareness raising during workshops and trainings.	Endorsement in Q1, followed by implementation. Signature is expected later, together with the Administrative Arrangement (in Q4).
Administrative Arrangement on non-food product safety cooperation between the General Administration of China Customs (GACC) and DG JUST	Renewing the Memorandum of Understanding on product safety cooperation, enabling to continue the existing information exchange in the framework of the RAPEX-China scheme.	Signature in Q4 during the International Product Safety Week.

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

Following the adoption of two Commission Proposals for Regulations laying down harmonised rules on Artificial Intelligence (AI)¹¹ and on General Product Safety¹², DG JUST will continue to implement the Commission’s strategy concerning AI in two main work strands:

- (i) It is the primary responsibility of manufacturers to ensure their products have been fully assessed for all their possible functionalities. To this end, DG JUST is working on a **revision of the General Product Safety Directive**, which is currently in the legislative process;
- (ii) DG JUST will work in parallel on **a proposal for harmonised liability rules for AI** in order to create legal certainty, avoid fragmentation in the EU and build an adapted framework, which ensures that victims of damage 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
Specific objective 2: A human-centric legal framework for Artificial Intelligence that protects citizens and promotes cross-border trade
Related to spending programme(s): Not applicable

Main outputs in 2022:

New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
Proposal for a Directive on civil law liability for Artificial Intelligence applications (together with DG GROW work on the product liability directive) (PLAN/2020/9848)	Adoption by the Commission	Q3 2022

¹¹ COM(2021) 206, 21.4.2021

¹² COM(2021) 346, 30.6.2021

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

Contributing to creating a legal framework enabling companies, and importantly SMEs, to thrive and expand within the Single Market, while providing protection for the stakeholders concerned, DG JUST will work in 2022 on preparing a proposal for **a legislative initiative on upgrading digital company law**. This initiative will be the second step of the digitalisation of company law, following the 2019 Digitalisation Directive. The COVID-19 pandemic has proven how essential digital tools and processes in EU company law are to ensure business continuity. In the new initiative, DG JUST will continue to focus on upgrading company law to keep up with the ongoing developments in digitalisation and technology. The initiative would address the issues of transparency and access to company information, in particular via the Business Registers Interconnection System (BRIS), use of authentic and trustworthy company data cross-border, and ways to make the EU company law rules and procedures fit for digital age.

In the framework of its overall task to lead the work on **the maintenance and development of the Business Registers Interconnection System (BRIS)**, in 2022 DG JUST will focus on adapting the system to the new company law rules set by the Digitalisation Directive and continue to enforce the transposition of the existing rules. DG JUST will also prepare a BRIS implementation report that will focus on the technical and financial aspects of the system, as required by the BRIS Directive.

General objective: A Europe fit for the digital age		
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>Related to spending programme(s): Prerogative Annual Programme 2021 and SMP as from 2021</i>		
Main outputs in 2022:		
Public consultations		
Output	Indicator	Target
Public consultation on upgrading digital company law (PLAN/2021/11038)	Summary report	Q2 2022
Other important outputs		
Output	Indicator	Target
Impact assessment supporting the proposal for a legislative initiative on upgrading digital company law	Submission to RSB or Impact assessment ready	Q4 2022
BRIS implementation report	Publication of the Report	Q4 2022

General objective:

Promoting our European way of life



Cross-border cooperation in civil and criminal matters in the EU is an activity undertaken by various justice professionals and performed on multiple layers contributing to the EU's Area of Security and Justice.

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

In the field of judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters, the objective is to conclude the trilogues on the **proposed regulation on the law applicable to the third-party effects of assignment of claims**. In 2022, DG JUST will also continue the work on the new initiatives on **harmonising certain aspects of substantive law on insolvency proceedings** (legislative or non-legislative) and on **recognition of parenthood** between Member States, with the adoption of both Commission proposals expected in Q3 2022. These initiatives will be accompanied by an impact assessment. The insolvency initiative also contributes to the headline ambition “An economy that works for people”, while recognition of parenthood initiative – to “A new push for European Democracy”.

Preparations on the new **initiative on the protection of vulnerable adults** in cross-border situations will be pursued in 2022, including work on the impact assessment. A public consultation will be launched. This initiative will also contribute to “A new push for European Democracy” headline ambition.

DG JUST will carry on with the **review of existing instruments** in the field of **civil justice**, namely the Rome II Regulation, the Maintenance Regulation and the Brussels Ia Regulation.

DG JUST will continue to support the **international negotiations** in the context of the **Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH), Uncitral and Unidroit**. Following the adoption of the 2019 worldwide **Hague Judgments Convention**, the Commission proposal for the **Council Decision on the EU accession to the Convention** was adopted in July 2021 and the adoption of the Council Decision can be expected during the first half of 2022.

In addition, Commission implementing regulations on the digitalisation of the revised service of document and taking of evidence regulations (adopted in 2020) as well as on data collection under the 2019 Directive on restructuring and insolvency will be delivered in Q1 2022. DG JUST will also produce an application guide to accompany the entering into force, in August 2022, of the Brussels IIa Recast.

In the area of criminal justice and judicial cooperation in criminal matters, DG JUST will adopt a proposal on the **transfer of criminal proceedings** between Member States, to step up the fight against cross-border crime. There is currently no common legal framework for the transfer of criminal proceedings between EU Member States. The aim of the proposal is to establish common rules facilitating the transfer of criminal proceedings between competent authorities of the Member States, thereby ensuring effectiveness, efficiency and legal certainty, but also taking into account the legitimate interests of suspects, accused persons and victims. The proposal will be based on an impact assessment (due in Q2 2022) and also take into account the results of a public consultation (launched in December 2021). The initiative will also contribute to “A New Push for European Democracy” headline ambition.

DG JUST will also adopt a Commission Recommendation on **pre-trial detention** and **detention conditions** providing minimum standards and codification of relevant case-law. This initiative will also contribute to “A new push for European Democracy” headline ambition.

Moreover, following the evaluation of the **Victims’ Rights Directive**, it is likely that DG JUST will propose its revision¹³. The revision could include areas that are singled out by the EU Strategy on victims’ rights such as: strengthening victims physical protection by introducing possible minimum standards, including minimum conditions on issuing and modalities of protection measures or improving victims’ access to information as well as access to compensation. The revision will also take into account the results of the ongoing evaluation of the Victims’ Rights Directive (due in Q1 2022) and the outcome of the upcoming impact assessment (due in Q4 2022). A public consultation is planned to be launched in Q1 2022. This initiative will also contribute to “A New Push for European Democracy” headline ambition.

DG JUST will continue implementing the **European judicial training strategy**¹⁴ that aims to improve the application of EU law, increase the efficiency of justice by promoting training on ‘judgecraft’ and non-legal knowledge and skills, foster mutual trust in cross-border judicial proceedings and build a common European judicial culture, including of the rule of law. Its actions will tackle new developments and challenges, such as digitalisation and the use of artificial intelligence, initial judicial training serving the rule of law, the further development of the European training Platform¹⁵ and the capacity building of judicial training in the Western Balkans.

The Commission will seek to enhance the capacity of **Eurojust** to exchange information with third countries. In addition, the Commission continues to work on improving the digital

¹³ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13096-Criminal-justice-EU-rules-on-victims%E2%80%99-rights-update- en>

¹⁴ Commission Communication, Ensuring justice in the EU — a European judicial training strategy for 2021-2024, COM(2020)713 final, adopted on 2 December 2020.

¹⁵ <https://e-justice.europa.eu/european-training-platform/>



information exchange on cross-border terrorism cases in the European Judicial Counter-Terrorism Register (CTR) at Eurojust.

With the purpose of strengthening the exchange of **criminal records** information between the EU Member States, the Commission aims to adopt the relevant implementing acts referred to in Regulation 2019/816 and Directive 2019/884, and to continue its support to the Member States and eu-LISA in the context of the ECRIS-TCN Advisory Group and the Programme Management Board.

DG JUST has taken the lead on establishing the European Public Prosecutor’s Office (EPPO), which became operational on 1 June 2021. By investigating and prosecuting crimes affecting the Union budget, the EPPO protects taxpayers’ money and significantly contributes to a safer Europe. In order to ensure that EU funds are duly protected also beyond the Union’s borders, the Commission will continue to participate in the Council of Europe’s discussions on a new legal instrument to **regulate the cooperation between the EPPO and the authorities of the States Parties to the 1959 European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters**. The Commission will also consider concluding EU level agreements with some priority third countries on the cooperation between their authorities and the EPPO. Such countries will be identified among those where the EU budget is at a high risk of fraud.

DG JUST will continue monitoring the effective **implementation** of Union legislation concerning criminal law and judicial cooperation instruments and take the necessary steps to correct deficiencies, including by launching infringements.

General objective: Promoting our European way of life		
Specific objective 1: Improved cross-border cooperation in civil and criminal matters		
<i>Related to spending programme(s): Justice Programme</i>		
Main outputs in 2022:		
New policy initiatives		
Output	Indicator	Target
 Proposal for an initiative on Enhancing the convergence of insolvency laws (PLAN/2020/8631)	Adoption by the Commission	Q3 2022
 Proposal for Recognition of parenthood (PLAN/2021/10134)	Adoption by the Commission	Q3 2022
 Proposal for a Directive on transfer of proceedings in criminal matters (PLAN/2021/11423)	Adoption by the Commission	Q3 2022

Output	Indicator	Target
 Recommendation of the Commission on detention (PLAN/2021/11724)	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2022
Initiatives linked to regulatory simplification and burden reduction		
Output	Indicator	Target
 Proposal for the amendment of the Victims' Rights Directive (PLAN/2021/11420)	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2022
Enforcement actions		
Output	Indicator	Target
Recommendation on cooperation agreements between the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) and selected third States	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2022
Report on the implementation of the Directive on procedural safeguards for children	Adoption by the Commission	Q3 2022
Report on the implementation on the Directive on Legal Aid	Adoption by the Commission	Q2 2022
External communication actions		
Output	Indicator	Target
Increased awareness of citizens about victims' rights	Reach: total number of contacts made during the campaign	15 mil Q1 & Q2 2022
Other important outputs		
Output	Indicator	Target
DG Justice and consumers Annual report on European judicial training	Annual number of justice professionals participating in training on EU law in the EU	201 000 (2021 report-2020 data) 278 000 (2025 report-2024 data)
Actions in the area of judicial cooperation and judicial training	Number of action grants	Action grants: 27
	Number of operating grants	Operating grants: 8
Support discussions and negotiations in the Council of Europe on a new legal instrument on the cooperation between the EPPO and the competent authorities of the States Parties to the 1959 European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters	Adoption of a mandate to negotiate a new Convention/Protocol by the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers	Q1/Q2 2022
Implementation of ECRIS-TCN and ECRIS- adoption of implementing acts referred to in Regulation 2019/816 and Directive 2019/884	Adoption by the Commission	Q1/Q2 2022

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

In her State of the European Union address of 15 September 2021, President von der Leyen defined digital as the "**make-or-break issue**" for the EU. Digital technologies play a crucial role for improving the efficiency, resilience and accessibility of the EU's justice systems. Similarly, the digital transformation of EU judicial cooperation and employing digital means facilitating access to justice in cross-border cases are two essential elements necessary to modernise the European area of freedom, security and justice. Individuals and businesses deserve to have the possibility to use modern, electronic means of communication in order to exercise their rights or seek remedy as provided by EU law, irrespective of their physical location.

With this in mind, in 2022 DG JUST will work closely with the co-legislators towards the swift adoption of a Regulation, pursuant to the Commission **proposal for the digitalisation of the body of EU civil and criminal judicial cooperation legal instruments**. This initiative seeks to address the urgent need for digitalisation of justice systems and improving access to justice in the context of the COVID-19 crisis. The proposal aims to enable the default use of the digital communication channel between the competent national authorities with the goal of improving the effectiveness and resilience of cross-border judicial cooperation. It furthermore strives to facilitate individuals' and businesses' access to justice.

DG JUST will also work with the co-legislators towards their adoption of the proposal for a Regulation concerning the establishment of a collaboration platform to support the functioning of **Joint Investigation Teams (JITs)**. The general objective of that initiative is to provide technological support to those involved in a JIT in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of these cross-border investigations and prosecutions.

Following the adoption of a Regulation on the e-CODEX system for interoperable cross-border electronic data exchange in the justice area, the Commission will work towards the adoption of the therein foreseen implementing act.

General objective: Promoting our European way of life

Specific objective: Improved access to justice for citizens and facilitated cross-border cooperation for judicial authorities through better use of digital technologies

Related to spending programme(s): Digital Europe Programme, Justice Programme, other relevant MFF 2021-2027 funding instruments

Main outputs in 2022:

New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
e-CODEX implementing act	Implementing act adopted	Q4 2022

Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
Webinars on practical uses of Artificial Intelligence applications in the justice field	Number of organised webinars	At least two webinars organised by the end of Q4 2022
Actions improving access to justice including e-Justice	Number of action grants Number of operating grants	Number of action grants: 4 Number of operating grants: 8
Task force bringing together the Commission and JHA actors to support the implementation of 'hit/no-hit' mechanisms between relevant agencies	Final report produced	Q4 2022
Conclusion of the negotiations with the co-legislators on the Commission proposal on the Digitalisation EU cross-border judicial cooperation	Adoption	Q4 2022

PART 2. Modernising the administration: main outputs for 2022

The Commission is committed to further modernise its way of working. To this end, in 2022 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 framework¹⁶ 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 resources management

In 2022, DG JUST will pursue the implementation of the human resources priorities set out in the 2020-2024 local HR Strategy, adopted in December 2020. The concrete list of activities (e.g. workshops, welcome sessions etc.) will be set out in a 2022 annual HR Plan ensuring both continuity and consistency with 2021 activities. Staff will be informed with regular news and updates on the Directorate-General's intranet.

Further improving the **alignment of resources with priorities** will be a core element of the HR efforts in 2022, including, for example, through the implementation of a project on **workload indicators**, started in 2021. DG JUST will continue in parallel its efforts to reach out, assist staff in the ongoing transition to a **new flexible working environment**, and so contribute to staff wellbeing and engagement. COVID-19 related circumstances will however still affect the human resources management in 2022 to some extent.

DG JUST remains committed to **gender equality** and contributes to the corporate objectives. It is also pro-actively involved in the review of HR processes to **fight discrimination** (e.g. in recruitment processes) as part of the development of the new corporate HR Strategy.

⁽¹⁶⁾ [Communication C\(2017\)2373 - Revision of the Internal Control Framework](#)

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 2022:

Output	Indicator	Target
Targeted actions under the DG JUST HR policy oriented towards staff well-being and L&D efforts	Number of activities	4 welcome sessions by end of the year 6 online wellbeing activities by then end of the year
Implementation of annual HR Plan under the DG JUST HR Strategy	Implementation	2022

B. Sound financial management

DG JUST has an **effective internal control system** and the components and principles are present and functioning well overall. 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.

Corrective action to **decrease the error rate** in the non-audited population of grants are taken every year. DG JUST will further simplify the eligibility rules where possible as allowed by the new MFF and the new MGA, will ensure a close follow up of the projects with the continuous reporting tool.

To monitor the financial performance, the Budgetary and Financial Monitor report, including all necessary **Key Performance Indicators** (KPIs), will be reviewed in order to fit with the standard financial measurements included in the Financial Performance Scorecard currently under development by DG BUDG. This Monitor provides the necessary key indicators to ensure a sound and efficient management and the follow-up of financial transactions (budget consumption, time-to-register, time-to-pay, quality of the financial files, etc.). Close monitoring of the payments and continuous increase of awareness among staff directly involved in the process will be ensured in 2022 to keep the same level of performance.

The achievement of this objective will be mainly supported by the following actions:

- Performance of *ex-ante* financial controls.
- The deployment of an audit strategy for *ex post* audits. This focuses on risks as in previous years but it also aims to complete all the remaining audits simultaneously and to ensure equal treatment among selected beneficiaries. These activities aim at providing assurance on the legality and regularity of the expenditures declared to the Commission, while maximising the flexibility and efficiency of audit resources
- The timely application of financial corrections, when needed.

- A regular follow-up of the state of implementation of all outstanding and overdue audit recommendations issued by the IAS and ECA.

Upon a **specific request from DG JUST**, new provisions on respect of EU values are now included in the corporate Commission model grant agreement (Article 14.2 - in force under the 2021-2027 MFF), making this the **first corporate** measure on the respect of EU values, applying across programmes and DGs. Not only beneficiaries **across programmes** are required to “*commit to and ensure the respect of basic EU values (such as respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and human rights, including the rights of minorities)*”, but also consequences of non-compliance cases are foreseen.

While publishing **calls for proposals** under the CERV and Justice programmes, adherence to EU values is established and clearly announced as an eligibility condition: in order to be eligible for our calls, applicants **must** comply with Article 2 of TEU and Article 21 of EU Charter.

DG JUST will continue its efforts to reach the targets in the tables below. As every year, DG JUST will do the assessment of its internal control system together with the fraud risk assessment in the frame of the annual risk assessment exercise.

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 2022:

Output	Indicator	Target
Effective controls: Legal and regular transactions	Risk at payment	remains < 2 % of relevant expenditure ⁽¹⁷⁾
	Estimated risk at closure	remains < 2 % of relevant expenditure
Efficient controls	Budget execution and / or time-to-pay	remains 96% of payment appropriations and/or remains 99% of payments (in value) on time
Economical controls	Overall estimated cost of controls	becomes < 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

¹⁷ The Research, industry, space, energy and transport family has a different threshold for risk at payment.

Commission anti-fraud strategy¹⁸. It was further updated in April 2018 and again during 2020, setting out an action plan covering the period 2021-2023. The latest update was done taking into account the new Commission anti-fraud strategy¹⁹ and giving also further consideration 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**, as identified following both the fraud risk assessment and the evaluation of the previous anti-fraud strategy and detailed in the updated 2020 anti-fraud strategy, specific anti-fraud related actions will continue to be carried out by DG JUST during 2022, including:

- increasing fraud awareness among staff members through dedicated training sessions and lunchtime seminars to be organised in collaboration with OLAF and / or DG HR experts;
- 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, to optimise cooperation with OLAF.

At the same time, DG JUST will continue to support Member States' **transposition and implementation of the so-called PIF Directive** concerning fight against fraud²⁰ (as detailed in the Action point 54 of the new CAFS's Action plan).

¹⁸ 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

¹⁹ 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'

²⁰ 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.

Objective: The risk of fraud is minimised through the application of effective anti-fraud measures and the implementation of the Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy (CAFS)²¹ aimed at the prevention, detection and correction²² of fraud

Main outputs in 2022:

Output	Indicator	Target
Implementation of the anti-fraud strategy	Percentage of implementation of actions planned for 2022 in the anti-fraud strategy	100%
Training sessions on anti-fraud	Number of participants from the DG in training sessions on anti-fraud	40 per year

D. Digital transformation and information management

DG JUST will continue in 2022 its drive to **strengthen data governance**, in particular through updating its Data Quality Framework to ensure alignment to the final form of Eurostat’s Reference Quality Framework for other statistics (piloted in 2021) and through advancing the implementation of corporate data governance principles for its key data assets.

Knowledge management activities in 2022 will be geared toward supporting knowledge sharing and collaboration in the new flexible working environment. This will be done among others through nurturing a network of ‘M365 champions’ (set up in autumn 2021), upgrading and monitoring the uptake of collaboration and knowledge sharing features implemented in 2019-21 under its Knowledge Management Strategy.

In 2022 DG JUST will maintain and further develop its IT systems in the areas of civil, commercial and criminal justice, fundamental rights, rule of law, equality, union citizenship and consumer policy. Existing systems and planned new ones will continue to contribute to the achievement of Commission’s Digital Strategy principles, in particular on Digital by default, Once Only, User-centric, Cross-border, Data-driven, Interoperability and Security, 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 domains of Justice and Consumers.

In the cybersecurity area, the **security plans revamped** in 2020 and 2021 pursuant to the EC change of methodology in the domain, will be further updated where needed, identifying further cybersecurity related actions. Some of these actions will further address

²¹ Communication from the Commission ‘Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy: enhanced action to protect the EU budget’, COM(2019) 196 of 29 April 2019 – ‘the CAFS Communication’ – and the accompanying action plan, SWD(2019) 170 – ‘the CAFS Action Plan’.

²² Correction of fraud is an umbrella term, which notably refers to the recovery of amounts unduly spent and to administrative sanctions.

the protection of sensitive non-classified data with measures such as multiple factor authentication. Staff will continue to be encouraged to attend corporate cybersecurity awareness initiatives, while IT security knowledge and expertise will be maintained and further improved by embedding cybersecurity elements into the IT specific working methods. Upcoming releases of IT systems will benefit from improved EC central security services and compliance benchmarks.

DG JUST will approach in 2022 the final phase of the **migration to Drupal 8** of its remaining Drupal 7 systems. In the process, the User Centricity aspects of the systems and websites will also be improved. The Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) system will be re-platformed to the Cloud. In areas like Once Only, Cross border cooperation and Interoperability, DG JUST will make a significant progress: the eEvidence system will be further deployed on more Member States’ infrastructures, enabling point-to-point exchange of evidence in the criminal justice proceedings. The Implementing Act on Service of Documents/Taking of Evidence is expected to be adopted early 2022, which will mark the beginning of the implementation of the new IT system to support the underlying Twin Regulations. The eJustice portal will be subject to important improvements in the areas of User Centricity, Once Only, Cross border and Security, which are expected to start in 2022, continuing the adoption of new generation technologies in its technology stack and by implementing new online forms for a further harmonisation and portability of citizens documents’ data formats across Member States.

As regards **data protection compliance**, DG JUST will continue to monitor and update the information regarding its processing operations in the Data Protection Management System (DPMS) throughout 2022. 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. Awareness raising activities will focus on practical issues of relevance to the DG, such as handling data breaches, data subject requests, and organisation of meetings and event. 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 2022:

Output	Indicator	Target
Implementation of the corporate principles for data governance for DG JUST’s key data assets	Percentage of implementation of the corporate principles for data governance for DG JUST’s key data assets	Interim milestone by 2022: 70%
Awareness raising in the DG on data protection rules	Number of staff participating	100 staff
Technical migration of Drupal 7	Degree of migration completed	100% of the technical upgrade

Output	Indicator	Target
systems/websites to Drupal 8		done

E. Sound environmental management

The European Green Deal is one of the headline ambitions of the Von der Leyen Commission. In its 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 2022:

- 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;
- provide for VC equipment in meeting rooms in order to make remote participation possible;
- regarding missions, assess in each case whether physical presence is really needed, or whether an online meeting could be possible instead;
- 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 account of its environmental impact in their actions and actively promotes measures to reduce the related day-to-day impact of the administration and its work, with the support their respective EMAS Correspondents/EMAS Site Coordinators.

Main outputs in 2022:

I. More efficient use of resources (energy, water, paper):

Output	Indicator	Target (2019 as baseline)
Participation in the end of the year energy saving action, by closing down DG's buildings during the Christmas and New Year's holiday period.	Number of buildings participating	100 % of DG buildings participating

II. Reducing CO₂, equivalent CO₂ and other atmospheric emissions

Output	Indicator	Target (2019 as baseline)
Gradual increased use (and number of) VC ²³ meeting rooms for meetings with stakeholders (avoiding business trips) in the DG, in collaboration with DG SCIC, OIB and OIL	Number of VC meeting rooms	8 VC meeting rooms

III. Reducing and management of waste

Output	Indicator	Target (2019 as baseline)
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/OIL where appropriate (for example, promote and label the waste sorting schemes in place).	Number or % of staff informed/participated	Number or 100 % of staff informed/participated Reduce waste generation (5 %) Increase waste sorting (%)
Implementation of the EC Guidelines for sustainable meetings and events , e.g. reduce/eliminate single-use plastics, gadgets/gifts.	Number of green events	100%

F. Initiatives to improve economy and efficiency of financial and non-financial activities

Following the recommendation of the *ex-post* evaluation of the Justice and the REC programmes, DG JUST develops a robust monitoring framework that systematically collects information on achieved outputs and results and allow for a better assessment of the performances, effectiveness and efficiency of the programmes.

About 1-2 weeks before finalising the call evaluation, when the draft call ranking is available, DG JUST now also triggers (via REA) the Legal entity and bank account validation, and the automatic financial capacity assessment for entities involved in successful proposals. This gives DG JUST a time advantage by reducing the overall time to inform applicants.

For projects with a positive evaluation which were invited for grant preparation, at the



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initial stage of preparation for grant agreement signature, the Project

²³ VC (Videoconferencing) room

Officer and the consortium prepare the grant agreement together in the system. In the past, DG JUST allocated 3 weeks to this initial step, whereas now it has been reduced to 2 weeks, which is still sufficient time and gives the opportunity to reduce accordingly the Time-to-grant.