

State of the Union

2025

Timeline: first year in office

Von der Leyen Commission
2024-2029

December 2024



1 DECEMBER

The second von der Leyen Commission takes office.



6 DECEMBER

President von der Leyen travels to Uruguay and reaches a political agreement on a groundbreaking partnership with the Mercosur countries.



10 DECEMBER

The European Commission approves a final EUR 50 million payment to Moldova under its macro-financial assistance programme, bringing the total support provided since July 2022 to EUR 295 million.



16 DECEMBER:

The EU adopts the 15th package of sanctions against Russia. It includes the listing of 52 vessels from Russia's shadow fleet and 84 additional listings of individuals and entities. For the first time, the EU adopts fully-fledged listings on Chinese persons and entities for their role in supporting Russia's military industry.





16-17 DECEMBER

In the wake of the fall of the Assad regime in Syria, President von der Leyen travels to Türkiye and Jordan and expresses the EU's commitment to a united Syria that respects all minorities.



18 DECEMBER

The Commission disburses nearly EUR 4.1 billion to Ukraine under the Ukraine Facility.



20 DECEMBER

President von der Leyen reaches a political agreement on a modernised partnership between the EU and Switzerland.



The Commission approves a EUR 1 billion disbursement to Egypt under its macro-financial assistance programme, following the fulfilment of the agreed policy conditions.



24 DECEMBER

Entry in force of RESTORE (Regional Emergency Support to Reconstruction), allowing Member States to direct cohesion policy funds towards reconstruction efforts after climate-related disasters.



1 JANUARY

Land border controls between Bulgaria and Romania, and with the rest of the Schengen area, are lifted. The Schengen area is now composed of 29 European countries.



10 JANUARY

The first EUR 3 billion of loans under the G7-led Extraordinary Revenue Acceleration (ERA) initiative are disbursed to Ukraine, to be repaid with proceeds from immobilised Russian assets.



15 JANUARY

The Commission presents an action plan to bolster the cybersecurity of hospitals and healthcare providers.



17 JANUARY

The EU concludes negotiations on a modernised Global Agreement with Mexico.



20 JANUARY

Negotiations are relaunched on an EU–Malaysia free trade agreement, to unlock even greater benefits for businesses and consumers.



23 JANUARY

President von der Leyen, together with international partners and stakeholders, launches a new Global Energy Transition Forum to accelerate the clean energy transition.



27 JANUARY

The EU presents a EUR 30 million emergency assistance package to tackle the energy crisis provoked by Gazprom in Moldova. This support will help restore electricity and heating for 350 000 inhabitants in the Transnistrian region.



29 JANUARY

The Commission presents the competitiveness compass, its roadmap to boost Europe's competitiveness and secure sustainable prosperity.



30 JANUARY

The EU–Jordan Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership, which will help meet common challenges and advance shared values of peace, democracy and human rights, is signed.



February 2025



1 FEBRUARY

The EU–Chile Interim Trade Agreement enters into force.



4 FEBRUARY

Senior legal experts of the EU, the Council of Europe, Ukraine and 37 states lay down the legal foundations for the establishment of a Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine.



The Commission and Moldova agree on a two-year comprehensive strategy for energy independence and resilience, along with immediate support for energy bills.



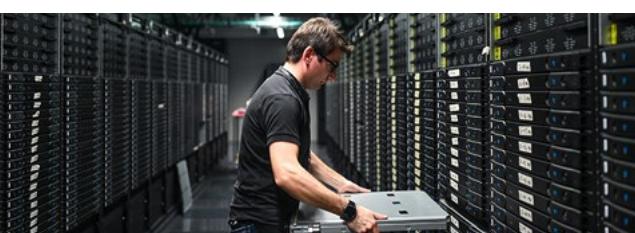
5 FEBRUARY

The Commission announces measures to tackle risks stemming from low-value imports sold via non-EU online retailers and marketplaces hosting non-EU traders.



9 FEBRUARY

Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania fully disconnect from Russian and Belarussian networks and join the European continental electricity grid ahead of schedule. This has been made possible in part thanks to political and financial support from the Commission, with over EUR 1.2 billion in European funding.



11 FEBRUARY

President von der Leyen launches the InvestAI initiative to mobilise EUR 200 billion of investment in AI, including a European fund of EUR 20 billion for AI gigafactories.



19 FEBRUARY

The Commission presents the vision for agriculture and food, an ambitious roadmap to support European farmers, protect the EU's food security and ensure the future of farming and food in Europe.



19-20 FEBRUARY

President von der Leyen boosts ties with the Caribbean region during the 48th CARICOM Summit in Barbados and reaffirms Europe's commitment to deepening its relations and partnership with the region.



21 FEBRUARY

The Commission and the EU High Representative present a set of measures to strengthen the security and resilience of submarine cables.



24 FEBRUARY

Three years after the start of Russia's war of aggression, President von der Leyen and the College of Commissioners visit Ukraine and meet President Zelenskyy and his government. The EU also adopts its 16th sanctions package against Russia and presents a new package to support Ukraine's energy security and its full integration into the EU's electricity market.



26 FEBRUARY

The Commission unveils the clean industrial deal; the action plan for affordable energy, to save EUR 260 billion annually by 2040; and simplification proposals on sustainability and EU investments, delivering more than EUR 6 billion in administrative relief. These initiatives will boost the competitiveness and resilience of European industry while keeping the EU committed to its climate targets and accelerating decarbonisation.



27-28 FEBRUARY

President von der Leyen and the College of Commissioners travel to India to strengthen the EU-India partnership. They meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government and hold the second meeting of the EU-India Trade and Technology Council.

March 2025



4 MARCH

The Commission launches the strategic dialogue on steel to address critical challenges faced by the sector and ensure its continued success as a key driver of the European economy.



5 MARCH

The Commission adopts the union of skills, accompanied by an action plan on basic skills and a STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education strategic plan. These initiatives will provide people with enhanced skills, allowing them to access quality jobs and navigate transitions, while making European companies more competitive.



The Commission and cross-industry social partners sign a new pact for European social dialogue to strengthen the role of social partners in shaping labour market, employment and social policies.



Presentation of the action plan for the European automotive sector, based on the related strategic dialogue. It includes measures to increase the sector's competitiveness; accelerate innovation and decarbonisation; and provide more flexibility in relation to compliance with CO2 standards for cars and vans, while keeping to the 2035 targets.



7 MARCH

The Commission adopts the roadmap for women's rights, setting out the EU's long-term vision to advance women's rights and reaffirming its commitment to fully realise a gender-equal society.



10 MARCH

The EU and the Republic of Korea conclude negotiations on a digital trade agreement.



11 MARCH

The Commission proposes a critical medicines act to improve the availability of medicines, diversify supply chains and boost pharmaceutical manufacturing in the EU.



A common European system for returns is proposed for the swifter, simpler and more effective return of migrants without the right to stay in the EU. The proposal includes a single European return order, mutual recognition of return decisions and full respect for fundamental rights.



13 MARCH

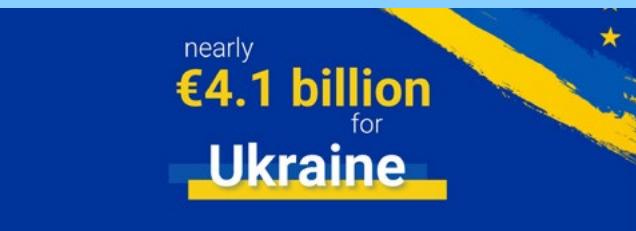
During the EU–South Africa Summit in Cape Town, President von der Leyen announces the launch of negotiations on a clean trade and investment partnership, along with a Global Gateway investment package worth EUR 4.7 billion, mainly to support South Africa's just energy transition.



17 MARCH

During the conference 'Standing with Syria: Meeting the needs for a successful transition' in Brussels, Belgium, the EU mobilises EUR 5.8 billion in international support for Syria's transition and the region, including EUR 2.5 billion for 2025–2026 from the EU itself.

The Commission disburses nearly EUR 4.1 billion to Ukraine under the Ukraine Facility.



19 MARCH

The Readiness 2030 plan is adopted. The package enables massive defence spending of over EUR 800 billion thanks both to the activation of the national escape clause and to SAFE, an instrument for the Commission to raise EUR 150 billion on capital markets. The money will be used to give loans to Member States on advantageous terms, to invest in the common procurement of priority defence capabilities.



The Commission adopts the savings and investments union strategy to improve the way the EU financial system channels savings towards productive investments. It will create opportunities for citizens to invest in productive undertakings and for EU businesses to find the funding they need to grow and scale up.



The action plan on steel and metals is adopted, building on the strategic dialogue launched on 4 March. The plan strengthens the sector's competitiveness and safeguards the industry's European future.



20 MARCH

A further EUR 1 billion is disbursed to Ukraine under the G7-led ERA loans, to be repaid with proceeds from immobilised Russian assets.



25 MARCH

The Commission selects the first 47 projects under the Critical Raw Materials Act, to secure and diversify EU access to raw materials.



The Commission launches the EU Sanctions Helpdesk, a one-stop-shop service providing free support to small and medium-sized enterprises in complying with EU sanctions worldwide.



26 MARCH

The EU preparedness strategy, to enhance Europe's capability to prevent and respond to emerging threats, is presented by the Commission and the High Representative. The strategy aims to prepare citizens, governments, and economic and social institutions in the event of disruption.



27 MARCH

During the Nutrition for Growth Summit, the Commission pledges EUR 3.4 billion until 2027 to combat malnutrition globally. The investment will focus on supporting partner countries facing high levels of child malnutrition.



President von der Leyen participates in a meeting of the Coalition of the Willing in support of Ukraine.



28 MARCH

Allocation of EUR 1.3 billion for the period up to 2027 to support the deployment and uptake of critical technologies, such as AI, by businesses and public administrations. The initiatives will be conducted under the digital Europe programme.



The Commission puts forward a proposal to support Europe's wine sector, ensuring it remains competitive and vital in the decades to come. The measures cover agricultural practices, climate support, marketing rules and EU-funded promotion abroad.



In the wake of a devastating earthquake that hits Myanmar/Burma, the EU mobilises initial emergency assistance worth EUR 2.5 million. In the following days, the EU launches a humanitarian air bridge operation, deploys experts to coordinate the delivery of assistance and provides additional financial support.



31 MARCH

The Commission announces 135 projects under the Technical Support Instrument to support Member States in preparing and implementing 390 reforms in 2025. The reforms will support the EU's competitiveness and digital transition.



1 APRIL

ProtectEU, an internal security strategy to bolster the EU's ability to guarantee security for its citizens, is adopted by the Commission. The measures proposed include closer cooperation between law enforcement agencies in the fight against hybrid threats, violent extremism and organised crime.



The Commission presents the mid-term revision of cohesion policy, with measures oriented towards making cohesion instruments support new EU priorities such as competitiveness, defence, affordable housing and water resilience.



The Commission proposes flexibility measures to help manufacturers comply with 2025 CO₂ emission targets for new cars and vans. The proposal maintains the 2025 target while safeguarding the industry's capacity to invest in the clean transition.



The Commission disburses the third regular payment of approximately EUR 3.5 billion under the Ukraine Facility.



3 APRIL

The EU-Türkiye High-Level Economic Dialogue is hosted by the Commission with the aim of enhancing EU-Türkiye cooperation at a time of significant geopolitical shifts.



4 APRIL

President von der Leyen, together with European Council President Costa, participates in the first-ever EU-Central Asia Summit, meeting the presidents of the five central Asian partners. The parties agree to upgrade relations between the EU and central Asia to a strategic partnership.

**8 APRIL**

The Commission holds a high-level dialogue with representatives of the pharmaceutical industry to discuss the implications of potential US tariffs on pharmaceutical products.

**9 APRIL**

The Commission adopts the AI continent action plan, to put the EU in a position to become a global leader in AI, establish AI gigafactories, develop high-end infrastructure, promote research and boost the deployment of AI by businesses and public administrations.

**9-10 APRIL**

The EU and the Commission take several decisions in support of Ukraine, including the disbursement of EUR 1 billion under the G7 ERA initiative to be repaid with proceeds from immobilised Russian assets; the signature of agreements worth EUR 300 million to support Ukraine's recovery; and the extension of the current road transport agreement that facilitates Ukraine's access to the EU single market.



14 APRIL

The Commission proposes a comprehensive support programme of up to EUR 1.6 billion to support Palestinian recovery and resilience. The programme will cover the 2025–2027 period, and includes EUR 620 million in grants for the Palestinian Authority; EUR 576 million in grants for concrete projects to foster economic recovery on the ground; and up to EUR 400 million in loans by the European Investment Bank (EIB) for the Palestinian private sector.



The 1st EU–Palestine High-Level Political Dialogue convenes. The two sides exchange views on the situation in Gaza and the West Bank, and the prospects for advancing the two-state solution.



15 APRIL

Simplification measures are published by the Commission within the framework of the entry into force of the EU Deforestation Regulation at the end of 2025. Together, all these measures will lead to a currently estimated 30% reduction of administrative costs and burden for companies.



During the High-Level Conference on Sudan, the Commission pledges EUR 282 million in 2025 to address the critical humanitarian situation in the country. The Member States pledge another EUR 240 million, for an EU total of EUR 522 million.



16 APRIL

The Commission proposes to frontload elements of the pact on migration and asylum, along with a first EU list of safe countries of origin.



According to Safety Gate, the European rapid alert system for dangerous non-food products, 4 137 alerts were registered in 2024 – the highest number since the system's creation in 2003.

A list of products is adopted for which the Commission will prioritise the development of eco-design and energy labelling requirements. The selected products include steel, aluminium, textiles and tyres. The harmonised requirements will foster the use of repairable, circular and energy-efficient products, while preventing barriers to trade in the single market.

22 APRIL

To continue enabling defence investment, the Commission broadens the scope of the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP), enabling support for projects under Horizon Europe, the European Defence Fund and the digital Europe programme for defence-related and dual-use innovation.

23 APRIL

Under the Digital Markets Act, the Commission fines Apple EUR 500 million for breaching its anti-steering obligation and Meta EUR 200 million for breaching its obligation to give consumers the choice of a service that uses less of their personal data. On the same day, and following constructive exchanges, the Commission closes its investigation into Apple in a separate case relating to user-choice obligations.



24 APRIL

The Commission proposes a comprehensive overhaul of the EU's road safety and vehicle registration rules, prioritising road safety and air quality and better protecting citizens from fraudulent odometer tampering.

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The Commission proposes to integrate into EU law the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), which aims to protect the ocean, tackle environmental degradation and curb biodiversity loss.



May 2025



30 APRIL

The Commission announces 62 defence projects that will receive EUR 910 million in support from the European Defence Fund. The projects will contribute to the priorities laid out in the Readiness 2030 plan. For the first time, Ukrainian entities will participate in the projects.



5 MAY

President von der Leyen presents the 'Choose Europe' initiative to attract scientists, researchers, academics and highly skilled workers from around the world. The initiative includes a EUR 500 million package for 2025–2027.

6 MAY

The Commission adopts the REPowerEU roadmap, with the aim of completely phasing out all remaining imports of Russian gas, oil and nuclear fuels.



7 MAY

The EU signs a digital trade agreement with Singapore.



8 MAY

The Commission disburses EUR 1 billion to Ukraine under the G7 ERA loans initiative, to be repaid with proceeds from immobilised Russian assets.

9 MAY

On Europe Day, in Luxembourg, the presidents of the EU institutions mark the 75th anniversary of the Schuman Declaration, pronounced by Robert Schuman, which laid the ground for the development of the EU.



The Commission, the High Representative, the Council of Europe, Ukraine and other partner countries formally endorse the establishment of a Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine.



12 MAY

As part of the Commission's bid to boost competitiveness, President von der Leyen meets representatives of the European defence and chemical industries to discuss each sector's priorities and concerns.





During their third Digital Partnership Council, the EU and Japan agree to further cooperate on core digital technologies such as AI, semiconductors, high-performance computing, data governance, submarine cables and cybersecurity.

13 MAY

The second EU–Ukraine Defence Industry Forum takes place in Brussels, bringing together more than 500 industry representatives to strengthen cooperation and encourage joint procurement in the spirit of the Readiness 2030 plan.

14 MAY

The Commission adopts simplification measures targeting the common agriculture policy to make it easier to support farmers and make the processes involved more streamlined. The adopted measures could save farmers EUR 1.58 billion and national administrations EUR 210 million.

The Commission presents the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions 'Choose Europe for science' pilot project to give more opportunities to early-career researchers through competitive allowances and longer contracts. This is part of the 'Choose Europe' plan presented by President von der Leyen.

16-18 MAY

The final session of the European citizens' panel on the new EU long-term budget takes place in Brussels, Belgium. For the first time, a group of 150 randomly selected citizens from all Member States discuss the priorities for the next multiannual financial framework. They make 23 recommendations to the Commission.



19 MAY

The first-ever EU–United Kingdom Summit takes place in London. The two sides conclude a security and defence partnership. They also agree on reciprocal access to waters for fishers until 2038 and to continue negotiations towards a common sanitary and phytosanitary area, the association of the UK with the Erasmus+ programme or the creation of a youth experience scheme that gives young people the opportunity to study and work in the EU and the United Kingdom.



The Commission, the High Representative and several donors of humanitarian aid to Gaza call on the Israeli government to allow the full and immediate resumption of aid and to enable the United Nations (UN) and humanitarian organisations to work to save lives and reduce suffering. They also reiterate that Hamas must allow humanitarian assistance to be distributed without interference and release all remaining hostages.



20 MAY

The EU adopts the 17th package of sanctions against Russia and increases the cost of the war for Putin. The package includes the listing of 189 vessels that are part of Russia's shadow fleet, bringing the total to 342.



The Commission proposes to facilitate Member States' application of the 'safe third country' concept. This will accelerate asylum processes and reduce pressure on asylum systems, while ensuring legal safeguards for applicants and the respect of fundamental rights.



The Commission announces 15 projects on renewable hydrogen production, which will be supported with EUR 992 million through the European Hydrogen Bank.

At the end of the European Humanitarian Forum, the Commission pledges over EUR 2.3 billion in humanitarian aid for 2025 to address humanitarian needs in Gaza, Sudan and Ukraine.

21 MAY

The Commission presents a single market strategy that will create a more simple, seamless and strong European market, to make companies choose Europe.

The Commission proposes simplification measures to save EU businesses a further EUR 400 million per year. This new set of measures notably identifies a new category of companies – small mid-caps – giving them access to certain existing benefits for small and medium-sized enterprises, thus encouraging scaling up in Europe.

The Commission announces EUR 80 million in EU humanitarian funding for 2025 to support people in need in Yemen.



26 MAY

Ahead of the summer and the wildfire season, the Commission announces measures such as the deployment of 670 firefighters, 22 firefighting planes and four helicopters, from 14 Member States, across high-risk locations in Greece, Spain, France and Portugal. The deployment is coordinated and co-financed by the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.



27 MAY

The Council adopts SAFE, the EUR 150 billion instrument of Readiness 2030. This will enable the Commission soon to start raising money on capital markets to allow Member States to finance joint procurement on defence priorities.



28 MAY

The Commission and the High Representative adopt a strategy for the Black Sea region. The EU will forge closer cooperation with Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Türkiye, Armenia and Azerbaijan, by enhancing security and stability, fostering sustainable growth and prosperity, and promoting environmental protection, climate change resilience, preparedness, and civil protection.





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The Commission's assessment of Member States' national energy and climate plans shows the EU is closing in on the 2030 objective of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 55 % in comparison to 1990 levels.



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The Commission launches the 'Choose Europe to start and scale' strategy, which will help start-ups and scale-ups address challenges in taking their ideas from the lab to the market.



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The EU, together with 14 Member States, ratifies the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement in New York, United States, ahead of the UN Conference on the Ocean in Nice, France.

June 2025



4 JUNE

In the European semester spring package, the Commission proposes country-specific recommendations in line with the priorities of the competitiveness compass. This is the first assessment of Member States' progress under the revised economic governance framework.



The Commission concludes that Bulgaria is ready to adopt the euro as of 1 January 2026 and proposes to the Council a decision to that effect, which it adopts on 8 July.



The Commission proposes the 2026 EU budget, designed to support strategic objectives such as support for Ukraine, competitiveness, migration management, security and defence, and strategic investment.



Presentation of a European way forward for Ukrainian refugees in the EU. This includes a proposal to prolong temporary protection for people fleeing Russia's aggression against Ukraine until 4 March 2027, while also preparing for a coordinated transition to other regimes.



Adoption of the European water resilience strategy, aiming at restoring and protecting the water cycle, securing clean and affordable water for all and creating a sustainable, resilient, smart and competitive water-economy in Europe.



The Commission takes stock of the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility and provides guidance to Member States with a view to its closure at the end of 2026.



5 JUNE

The Commission sets up a new surveillance tool to help protect the EU against sudden and potentially disruptive surges in imports.



The Commission and the High Representative set out an international digital strategy to work with partners around the world in supporting their digital transitions.



9 JUNE

At the 2025 UN Ocean Conference, President von der Leyen presents the EU ocean pact to restore the ocean's health, promote a thriving blue economy and support the well-being of people living in coastal areas.



11 JUNE

The Commission, Spain, the United Kingdom and Gibraltar reach a political agreement to remove checks on people and goods circulating between Gibraltar and Spain while preserving the integrity of the Schengen area, the single market and the customs union.



13 JUNE

The Commission proposes that the Council authorises the signature of the comprehensive agreements with Switzerland. On the same day, the Swiss Federal Council approves the agreements and opens the process for their domestic consultation.



The Commission disburses EUR 1 billion to Ukraine under the G7 ERA loans initiative, to be repaid with proceeds from immobilised Russian assets.



15-17 JUNE

President von der Leyen, together with President Costa, participates in the G7 Summit in Kananaskis, Canada.



16 JUNE

In the light of the situation between Israel and Iran and airspace closures in the Middle East, the Union Civil Protection Mechanism supports the organisation of several flights for EU citizens to leave the region.



17 JUNE

Following the presentation of the REPowerEU roadmap in May, the Commission proposes legislation to gradually stop imports of Russian gas and oil by the end of 2027.



The Commission proposes a simplification package dedicated to defence with the goal of speeding up defence investment and production.



As the first legislative proposal under the savings and investments union strategy, the Commission proposes a new framework to make securitisation simpler and more fit for purpose.



The Commission proposes to integrate Ukraine into the EU roaming area as from January 2026, fully eliminating roaming charges for Ukrainian phone numbers in the EU and vice versa.



An EU humanitarian air bridge flight arrives in Afghanistan with almost 100 tonnes of humanitarian supplies. On the same day, the Commission commits to providing EUR 161 million to help the most vulnerable Afghans.



18 JUNE

The EU and Australia agree to start negotiations on a security and defence partnership and renew their engagement to conclude a free trade agreement.



The Commission announces its preliminary finding under the Digital Services Act that AliExpress is in breach of its obligation to assess and mitigate risks relating to the dissemination of illegal products. The company can now examine and reply to the finding. The Commission also accepts AliExpress's commitments to deal with issues of transparency in advertising and recommender systems.



20 JUNE

Within the framework of the Global Gateway and Italy's Mattei Plan, the Commission signs several agreements with African countries to increase connectivity, develop skills and advance sustainable agri-food systems.



The Commission excludes Chinese companies from EU government purchases of medical devices exceeding EUR 5 million, following an investigation under the International Procurement Instrument.

23 JUNE

At the EU–Canada Summit, the two sides sign a security and defence partnership, further strengthening bilateral ties.

In order to step up support for the Palestinian people, the Commission allocates EUR 202 million to the UN Relief and Works Agency in the Near East (UNRWA) and the Palestinian Authority.

24 JUNE

North Macedonia becomes a participant in the EU citizens, equality, rights and values programme.

The Commission presents a roadmap setting out how national law enforcement authorities will have effective and lawful access to the digital data they need to tackle organised crime, terrorism, drug trafficking, child sexual abuse, etc.

25 JUNE

The Commission proposes an EU space act and a vision for a European space economy – a new set of measures to make the EU space sector cleaner, safer and more competitive.



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The Commission presents a new State aid framework to support the clean industrial deal's objectives. It will enable Member States to push forward the development of clean energy, industrial decarbonisation and clean technology.



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At the Gavi Global Summit: Health and Prosperity through Immunisation, co-hosted by the EU and the Gates Foundation, world leaders pledge more than EUR 7.7 billion to Gavi.



28 JUNE

The Commission adopts two adequacy decisions to allow data to continue flowing freely and safely with the UK.



30 JUNE

The EU and Ukraine reach an agreement on a modernised trade relationship within the context of Ukraine's accession process, taking into account the sensitivity of certain EU agricultural sectors.



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President von der Leyen participates in the fourth UN International Conference on Financing of Development. The Commission and the EIB announce a new type of guarantee agreement that will provide up to EUR 5 billion to de-risk investments and expand EIB operations outside the EU.

July 2025



1 JULY

The Commission and the six Western Balkans partners gather in Skopje, North Macedonia, to take stock of progress under the growth plan for the Western Balkans, including reforms, integration into the single euro payments area and digital connectivity. The Commission proposes an investment package to mobilise up to EUR 487.3 million worth of investment in clean energy in Albania, Montenegro and Serbia.

2 JULY

The Commission proposes to set in the EU Climate Law a 2040 climate target of a 90 % reduction in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels. The proposal introduces flexibilities that the Commission will consider in designing instruments to achieve this target and shows that the EU is staying the course to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.

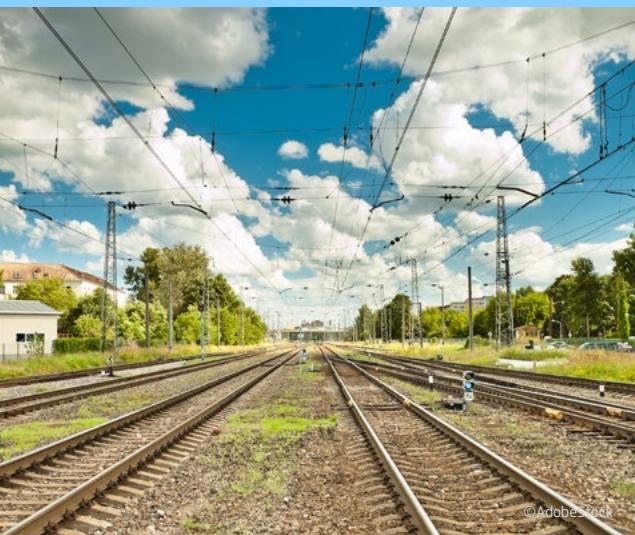
With the 'Choose Europe for life sciences' strategy, the Commission seeks to optimise research and enable rapid market access for innovations in the field of life sciences (the study of living systems).

The Commission presents a quantum strategy to make the EU a leader in the sector by 2030. The measures promote research and investment in a resilient, European quantum ecosystem.



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To accelerate the transition to a circular economy, the Commission launches initiatives in the fields of waste shipments and the management of electrical and electronic waste. A strategic dialogue on circularity starts a period of public consultation leading towards the upcoming circular economy act.



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3 JULY

The Commission selects 94 transport projects that will receive almost EUR 2.8 billion under the Connecting Europe Facility to support the clean and digital transition. Further EUR 3.66 billion are disbursed from the Modernisation Fund to support 34 energy projects to support the modernisation of energy systems.



4 JULY

The EU and Moldova hold their first-ever bilateral summit. President von der Leyen announces the first disbursement of EUR 270 million under the Growth Plan for Moldova and reiterates the Commission's assessment that the country is ready to open the first cluster of accession negotiations.



The Commission announces six projects of electric vehicle battery cell manufacturing that will receive EUR 852 million under the Innovation Fund. The projects support the EU's decarbonisation goals while boosting industrial competitiveness and creating high-quality jobs in Europe.



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7 JULY

To incentivise private investment in actions to protect and preserve nature, the Commission launches a roadmap towards nature credits.



8 JULY

The Commission's rule of law report confirms a positive trajectory in many Member States, although challenges remain in some countries. This year's report puts a particular emphasis on issues that have a direct link with the proper functioning of the single market and competitiveness.

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The Commission presents an action plan for the chemicals industry and a simplification package for the sector. These initiatives will strengthen the sector's competitiveness and modernisation in the EU.

9 JULY

Implementing the preparedness union strategy, the Commission launches the EU stockpiling strategy and the medical countermeasures strategy. Both are designed to improve access to essential goods in times of crisis.

10 JULY

At the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Rome, the Commission unveils a EUR 2.3 billion package of agreements with public financial institutions to support Ukraine's reconstruction efforts. President von der Leyen reiterates the EU's commitment to Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction and the Commission's assessment that Ukraine is ready to open the first cluster of accession negotiations.

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The Commission receives the general-purpose AI code of practice prepared by independent experts. The code is a voluntary tool designed to help industry comply with the AI Act's rules.



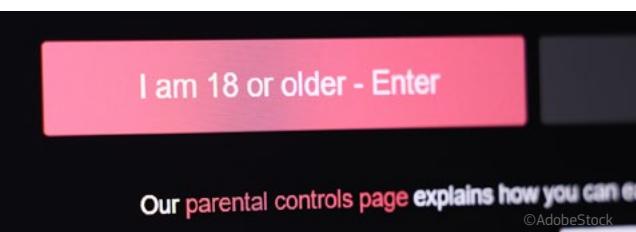
11 JULY

The Commission and Ukraine announce BraveTech EU to accelerate defence innovation building on battlefield-tested innovations from Ukraine.



13 JULY

The Commission and Indonesia reach a political agreement on their Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, a decisive milestone towards its conclusion.



14 JULY

Under the DSA, the Commission presents guidelines for the protection of minors and a prototype of an age-verification app to minimise children's exposure to harmful content online while fully protecting the privacy of its users.



16 JULY

The Commission proposes the most ambitious EU long-term budget ever with almost EUR 2 trillion for the period 2028-2034. It focuses on investing in Member States, regions and people, boosting European competitiveness and innovation, protecting Europe and its citizens and strengthening the EU as a global actor.





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The Commission launches a reflection process for the review of the EU anti-fraud architecture.



17 JULY

During a visit to Iceland, President von der Leyen and Prime Minister Kristrún Frostdóttir agree to launch negotiations on a security and defence partnership and strengthen cooperation on fisheries, ocean governance, climate, and more.



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The Republic of Korea becomes an associate country to Horizon Europe, the first Asian country to join the programme.



18 JULY

The EU adopts its 18th package of sanctions against Russia, which includes lowering the oil price cap, transaction ban for Nord Stream pipelines, and additional individuals, companies, banks, and vessels listed.



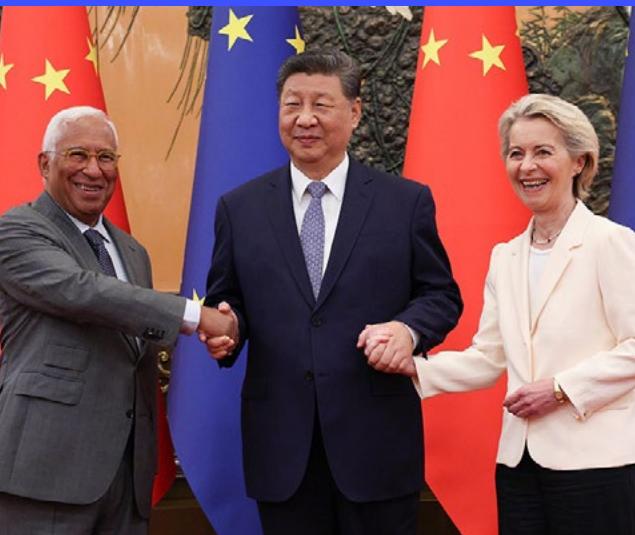
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The Council authorises the Commission and the High Representative to enter negotiations with each of the six Gulf Cooperation Council members to conclude bilateral strategic partnership agreements.



23 JULY

At a bilateral summit, the EU and Japan launch a competitiveness alliance with a focus on trade, economic security, innovation, and the green and digital transitions. Both partners also enhance their defence security cooperation.



24 JULY

At a summit marking 50 years of diplomatic relations between the EU and China, President von der Leyen underscores the need to rebalance bilateral relations. In a joint press statement, both sides identify opportunities to work closer on climate.



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The Commission reaches an agreement with Moldova to update the bilateral trade relation towards a stable, long-term and balanced trade relationship, notably in the context of Moldova's accession process.



The Emergency Response Coordination Centre sends firefighting airplanes from rescEU to fight wildfires in Cyprus. This season the EU has responded to wildfire emergencies in Greece, Bulgaria, Albania and North Macedonia. Firefighters from across Europe have been strategically prepositioned in key high-risk areas in Portugal, Spain, Greece, and France.



27 JULY

President von der Leyen and US President Donald Trump reach an agreement on tariffs and trade that delivers stability and predictability for citizens and businesses.



28 JULY

The Commission proposes to partially suspend Israel's participation to Horizon Europe following the review of article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement.

August 2025



5 AUGUST

The Commission proposes a new macro-financial assistance operation for Jordan worth EUR 500 million in order to help the country advance its reform agenda and foster employment, economic growth, and investment.



13 AUGUST

Spain activates the Civil Protection Mechanism for the first time ever for forest fires and the Commission quickly mobilises two resceU planes. In the previous week, Albania, Bulgaria, Greece and Montenegro had also activated the mechanism and all received support. The number of activations for 2025 is already equal to the total activations for wildfires for 2024 during the whole fire season.



18 AUGUST

President von der Leyen, together with several European leaders, joins President Zelenskyy in his meeting with US President Donald Trump in Washington DC. Leaders agree to work on security guarantees for Ukraine and express support for President Trump's efforts to stop the killing. The day before, President von der Leyen welcomes President Zelenskyy in Brussels and hosts a videoconference with other European leaders following President Trump's meeting with Vladimir Putin.



22 AUGUST

The Commission disburses to Ukraine EUR 4.05 billion: EUR 3.05 billion under the Ukraine Facility and EUR 1 billion under the exceptional macro-financial assistance programme to be repaid with the proceeds of immobilised Russian assets held in the EU.

EU-US JOINT STATEMENT

September 2025



28 AUGUST

To pave the way for implementing the EU-US Joint Statement of 21 August and restoring stability and predictability in bilateral trade relations, the Commission puts forward two proposals to eliminate tariffs on US industrial goods, provide preferential market access to some US seafood and non-sensitive agricultural goods, and prolong the current tariff-free treatment for lobster.

29 AUGUST – 1 SEPTEMBER

President von der Leyen visits the EU's frontline Member States: Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania. During the trip, the President announces the full subscription of EUR 150 billion in SAFE funds by 19 Member States. She also underscores the EU's solidarity in the wake of the challenges faced by countries bordering Russia and Belarus.

3 SEPTEMBER

The Commission presents to the Council, for signature and conclusion, its proposals for an EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement and an EU-Mexico Modernised Global Agreement.



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