



Explaining the Commission Work Programme

What is the Commission Work Programme?

Every year, the European Commission adopts a Work Programme which sets out its key initiatives for the year ahead. It informs citizens how we will deliver on our political priorities and turn them into concrete action.

The timeline of the 2020 Work Programme



16 July 2019: The President-elect of the European Commission presents her [Political Guidelines](#) before the European Parliament.

18-19 October 2019: The President-elect exchanges views with European Leaders at the European Council.

September – November 2019: During their **hearings**, Commissioners-designate discuss the priorities with the European Parliament Committees.

27 November 2019: The President-elect presents to the European Parliament her team of Commissioners and the distribution of responsibilities. The von der Leyen team is **voted into office**.



December 2019: The Commission participates in the exchange of views in the General Affairs Council.

December 2019: The Commission hears the views of the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.

January 2020: The College of Commissioners meets with the Parliament's Conference of Presidents and Conference of Committee Chairs.



29 January 2020: The Commission adopts its Work Programme for 2020.



On the basis of the Commission Work Programme, the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council establish a **Joint declaration on the EU's legislative priorities** to take swift action.

The Commission Work Programme structure



Annex I:

New policy and legislative initiatives;



Annex II:

REFIT initiatives, to review existing legislation;



Annex III:

The priority pending legislative files where we want the co-legislators to take the swiftest action;



Annex IV:

Intended withdrawals of pending proposals;



Annex V:

Existing legislation which the Commission proposes to repeal.

2020 Commission Work Programme - key figures

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New Policy Objectives

34

Proposals for Withdrawal and Repeals

126

Ongoing files [of which 56 are MFF related]

44

Initiatives for Regulatory Simplification

'One In, One Out' approach

When implementing the Commission Work Programme, the von der Leyen Commission will apply the 'one-in, one-out' approach. This entails that newly introduced burdens are offset by relieving people and businesses of equivalent administrative costs at EU level in the same policy area. The purpose is to make sure that EU legislation benefits its final users without imposing unnecessary burdens on citizens and businesses, notably SMEs.

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