



# Explaining the Commission Work Programme

19 October 2021

## 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 2022 Work Programme



**15 September 2021:** The President of the European Commission delivers her [State of the Union address](#) before the European Parliament, setting out her political priorities for the year ahead.

The President and the Vice-President for Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight send a [Letter of Intent](#) to the President of the European Parliament and the Council of the EU Presidency, outlining the specific measures the Commission intends to take following the President's speech. The letter kick-starts a dialogue with the Parliament and Council.



**September/October 2021:** The (Executive) Vice-Presidents meet with the **Parliament's Conference of Committee Chairs** for a formal preparatory discussion on the Work Programme. In Council, the Commission participates in the exchange of views on the Letter of Intent that takes place in the **General Affairs Council**, providing input to the Work Programme.

The Commission hears the views of the **European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions**.



**19 October 2021:** The Commission adopts its Work Programme for 2022, and presents it afterwards in the European Parliament and to the other institutional partners.



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 simplify 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.

## 2022 Commission Work Programme - key figures



42

New policy initiatives



26

Initiatives for regulatory simplification



76

Pending priority proposals



6

Proposals for withdrawal

## New 'one-in, one-out' approach to EU law-making



To minimise the burden linked to the successful achievement of EU policy objectives, the Commission Work Programme initiatives will follow the 'one-in, one-out' approach. The approach will ensure that when introducing new burdens, we will systematically and proactively seek to reduce burdens for citizens and businesses in the same policy area and present costs, where feasible and proportionate. The purpose is to make sure that EU legislation delivers concrete benefits while alleviating administrative burden on EU citizens and businesses, especially small- and medium-sized enterprises.

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