



Explaining the Commission Work Programme

19 October 2020

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 2021 work programme



16 September 2020: 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 2020: 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 2020: The Commission adopts its work programme for 2021, 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.

2021 Commission work programme - key figures



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New policy objectives



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Proposals for withdrawal



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Ongoing priority files



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Initiatives for regulatory simplification