

# Explaining the *Commission work programme 2026*

## What is the Commission work programme?

Every year, the Commission adopts its annual work programme setting out the list of the most important new policy and legislative initiatives it will take in the year ahead. The work programme is a key vehicle to deliver on commitments outlined in the [Political Guidelines](#) and the [mission letters](#) sent by President von der Leyen to each College Member and the ideas set out in the [2025 State of the Union address](#).

This Commission work programme marks the EU's independence moment. The central goal is simplification to drive both increased competitiveness and the full realisation of the Single Market. In addition to boosting economic strength, this programme directly addresses the needs of citizens by prioritising affordability and safeguarding jobs in Europe, particularly in manufacturing and clean energy. Furthermore, the document reaffirms the EU's commitment to fundamental values, reinforcing strong democratic principles while strategically ensuring security and defence.

## Commission work programme - key figures

> **38**

New policy  
objectives

> **25 out of 47**

legislative initiatives have a significant  
simplification dimension

> **20**

Evaluations to stress-test the stock of EU legislation, to identify potential to simplify,  
to reduce costs and to consolidate rules.

> **25**

Proposals  
for withdrawal

> **1**

Proposals  
to repeal

> **111**

Pending proposals

## New initiatives in the 2026 Commission work programme:

A comprehensive list of all initiatives is provided below. In the list, the simplification initiatives are presented with a **blue background** and must result in significant net cost savings. While they have simplification as a key objective, these initiatives could also serve other policy objectives.

| A new plan for Europe's sustainable prosperity and competitiveness                                                                        |                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ■ 28th Regime for Innovative Companies                                                                                                    | (legislative, Articles 50 and 114 TFEU, Q1 2026)                                                 |
| ■ European Innovation Act                                                                                                                 | (legislative, Articles 114, 173 and 182 TFEU, Q1 2026)                                           |
| ■ Public Procurement Act                                                                                                                  | (legislative, Article 114 TFEU, Q2 2026)                                                         |
| ■ Advanced Materials Act                                                                                                                  | (legislative, Articles 114 and 173 TFEU, Q4 2026)                                                |
| ■ Cloud and AI Development Act                                                                                                            | (legislative, Article 114 TFEU) and Chips Act (legislative, Articles 114 and 173 TFEU) (Q1 2026) |
| ■ Critical Raw Materials Centre                                                                                                           | (legislative, Article 114 TFEU, Q2 2026)                                                         |
| ■ European Research Area Act                                                                                                              | (legislative, Article 182 TFEU, Q3 2026)                                                         |
| ■ European Biotech Act II                                                                                                                 | (legislative, Article 114 TFEU, Q3 2026)                                                         |
| ■ Quantum Act                                                                                                                             | (legislative, Articles 173, 180 and 184 TFEU, Q2 2026)                                           |
| ■ Circular Economy Act                                                                                                                    | (legislative, Article 114 TFEU, Q3 2026)                                                         |
| ■ European Product Act                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                  |
| • Update of the new legislative framework of product rules                                                                                | (legislative, Article 114 TFEU, Q3 2026)                                                         |
| • Update of rules on the market surveillance and compliance of products                                                                   | (legislative, Articles 33 and 114 TFEU, Q3 2026)                                                 |
| • Update of rules on standardisation                                                                                                      | (legislative, Article 114 TFEU, Q3 2026)                                                         |
| ■ EU Delivery Act - update of rules on postal services                                                                                    | (legislative, Article 114 TFEU, Q3 2026)                                                         |
| ■ Electrification action plan, including heating and cooling                                                                              | (non-legislative, Q1 2026)                                                                       |
| ■ Strengthening Energy Security                                                                                                           | (legislative, Article 194 TFEU, Q1 2026)                                                         |
| ■ Update of the governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action including the phase-out of fossil fuels subsidies                       | (legislative, Articles 192 and 194 TFEU, Q4 2026)                                                |
| ■ Energy Union package for the decade ahead                                                                                               |                                                                                                  |
| • Development of the CO <sub>2</sub> transportation infrastructure and markets                                                            | (legislative, Article 194 TFEU, Q3 2026)                                                         |
| • Setting-up of the energy efficiency framework                                                                                           | (legislative, Article 194 TFEU, Q3 2026)                                                         |
| • Setting-up of the renewable energy framework                                                                                            | (legislative, Article 194 TFEU, Q3 2026)                                                         |
| ■ Omnibus to simplify energy product legislation                                                                                          | (legislative, Articles 192 and 194 TFEU, Q2 2026)                                                |
| ■ Climate package for the decade ahead                                                                                                    |                                                                                                  |
| • Revision of national targets and flexibilities in the EU climate policy framework                                                       | (legislative, Article 192 TFEU, Q4 2026)                                                         |
| • Update of the EU emissions trading system for maritime aviation and stationary installations, and the relevant market stability reserve | (legislative, Article 192 TFEU, Q3 2026)                                                         |
| ■ European Integrated Framework for Climate Resilience                                                                                    | (non-legislative and legislative, Article 192 TFEU, Q4 2026)                                     |
| ■ European strategy on sustainable tourism                                                                                                | (non-legislative, Q2 2026)                                                                       |
| ■ Omnibus on taxation                                                                                                                     | (legislative, Article 115 TFEU, Q2 2026)                                                         |
| ■ Update of rules on shareholder rights                                                                                                   | (legislative, Articles 50 and 114 TFEU, Q4 2026)                                                 |
| ■ Update of the European venture capital funds Regulation                                                                                 | (legislative, Article 114 TFEU, Q3 2026)                                                         |
| ■ Update of antitrust procedural rules                                                                                                    | (legislative, Article 103 TFEU, Q3 2026)                                                         |
| ■ Communication on better regulation                                                                                                      | (non-legislative, Q2 2026)                                                                       |

| A new era for European Defence and Security                                    |                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| ■ Simplifying defence and sensitive security procurement                       | (legislative, Article 114 TFEU, Q3 2026)        |
| ■ Qualitative Military Edge programme                                          | (Q1 2026)                                       |
| ■ Communication on the Defence Single Market: EU technological base fit future | (non-legislative, Q1 2026)                      |
| ■ European Space Shield - Action Plan                                          | (non-legislative, Q2 2026)                      |
| ■ Strengthening Frontex                                                        | (legislative, Articles 77 and 79 TFEU, Q3 2026) |

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|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| ■ Digitalisation of the return process                 | (legislative, Article 79 TFEU, Q3 2026) |
| ■ Modernised rules to combat organised crime           | (legislative, Article 83 TFEU, Q3 2026) |
| ■ Strengthening Europol                                | (legislative, Article 88 TFEU, Q2 2026) |
| ■ Creation of a European critical communication system | (legislative, Article 87 TFEU, Q3 2026) |

## Supporting people, strengthening our societies and our social model

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ■ Initiative on short term rentals                                                                                                                                                                                           | (legislative/ non-legislative, Q2 2026)                                                                                                           |
| ■ Construction Services Act                                                                                                                                                                                                  | (legislative, Articles 114, 153, 191-193, and 194 TFEU, Q4 2026)                                                                                  |
| ■ Strategy for outermost regions                                                                                                                                                                                             | (non-legislative, Q1 2026)                                                                                                                        |
| ■ Communication on Eastern border regions                                                                                                                                                                                    | (non-legislative, Q1 2026)                                                                                                                        |
| ■ Communication on islands and coastal communities                                                                                                                                                                           | (non-legislative, Q2 2026)                                                                                                                        |
| ■ Quality Jobs Act                                                                                                                                                                                                           | (legislative, Article 153 TFEU, Q4 2026)                                                                                                          |
| ■ Education package <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● European School alliances and Basic Skills Support Scheme</li> <li>● 2030 Roadmap on the future of digital education and skills</li> </ul>                      | (non-legislative, Q3 2026)<br>(non-legislative, Q3 2026)                                                                                          |
| ■ Fair labour mobility package <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Proposal for a European Social Security Pass</li> <li>● Strengthen the European Labour Authority</li> <li>● Skills portability initiative</li> </ul> | (legislative, Article 48 TFEU, Q3 2026)<br>(legislative, Articles 46 and 48 TFEU, Q3 2026)<br>(legislative, Articles 46, 53 and 62 TFEU, Q3 2026) |
| ■ Citizens omnibus                                                                                                                                                                                                           | (legislative, Q4 2026)                                                                                                                            |
| ■ Intergenerational fairness strategy                                                                                                                                                                                        | (non-legislative, Q1 2026)                                                                                                                        |
| ■ Anti-poverty strategy                                                                                                                                                                                                      | (non-legislative, Q2 2026)                                                                                                                        |
| ■ Strengthening of the Child Guarantee                                                                                                                                                                                       | (non-legislative, Q2 2026)                                                                                                                        |

## Sustaining our quality of life: food security, water and nature

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| ■ Livestock strategy including elements on animal welfare       | (non-legislative, Q2 2026)                                      |
| ■ Review of rules on unfair trading practices in the food chain | (legislative, Article 43 TFEU, Q3 2026)                         |
| ■ Vision 2040 for fisheries and aquaculture                     | (non-legislative, Q3 2026)                                      |
| ■ Ocean Act                                                     | (legislative, Articles 43, 100, 182, 192 and 194 TFEU, Q4 2026) |

## Protecting our democracy, upholding our values

|                                                                                 |                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| ■ Digital Fairness Act                                                          | (legislative, Article 114 TFEU, Q4 2026)        |
| ■ Strengthening Eurojust                                                        | (legislative, Article 85 TFEU, Q2 2026)         |
| ■ Update of rules on audiovisual media services                                 | (legislative, Articles 53 and 62 TFEU, Q3 2026) |
| ■ Anti-corruption strategy                                                      | (non-legislative, Q4 2026)                      |
| ■ Review of the anti-fraud architecture                                         | (non-legislative and legislative, Q4 2026)      |
| ■ Action plan against cyberbullying                                             | (non-legislative, Q1 2026)                      |
| ■ Gender equality strategy 2026-2030                                            | (non-legislative, Q1 2026)                      |
| ■ Enhancing the strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities up to 2030 | (non-legislative, Q2 2026)                      |

## A global Europe: Leveraging our power and partnerships

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ■ Joint Communication on a Middle East strategy, including supporting the transition in Syria and Lebanon | (non-legislative, Q2 2026) |
| ■ Communication on humanitarian aid                                                                       | (non-legislative, Q2 2026) |
| ■ Global health resilience initiative                                                                     | (non-legislative, Q2 2026) |

# The Commission work programme structure



## **Annex I: New initiatives**

This annex lists the flagship initiatives the Commission intends to adopt in 2026 to deliver on its priorities. It also includes omnibus packages and simplification proposals as well as other initiatives that will simplify legislation to streamline permit granting, authorisations and reporting requirements.



## **Annex II: Annual plan on evaluations and fitness checks**



## **Annex III: List of pending proposals**



## **Annex IV: List of intended withdrawals**



## **Annex V: List of repeals**

## **Simplification as a central focus**

A significant share of next year's initiatives focuses on making EU law simpler, clearer, and easier to implement. Omnibus and other simplification proposals will simplify rules across key sectors, including energy product legislation, taxation, defence, competitiveness, and innovation.

The Commission has already put forward omnibus and other simplification proposals aiming to bring more than EUR 8.6 billion in annual savings for European businesses.

In addition to the current momentum:

- Several omnibus and major simplification proposals will still be brought forward in 2025, in key areas such as digital, environment, automotive, food and feed safety, and medical devices.
- More than half of the work programme legislative proposals in 2026 will have a strong simplification component, including the omnibus proposals on energy product legislation, taxation, and for citizens.
- We will continue to stress test our laws and implementing rules and use our new consultation tools—implementation dialogues and reality checks—to find further opportunities for simplification, which will then feed into additional simplification proposals.