

COMMISSION WORK PROGRAMME - 2023

A UNION STANDING FIRM AND UNITED

OCTOBER 2022

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A EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

The European Commission's first priority in its 2023 Working Programme is a comprehensive reform of the EU electricity market to strengthen the EU's capacity to cope with future price volatility and ensure affordable electricity bills. In parallel, the Commission will push for compromise on the 'Fit for 55' package files and invest €3 billion in the EU's green hydrogen economy. This will impact the majority of European businesses, with the most impact being visible in **energy-intensive industries and the energy sector itself**.

A targeted revision of the REACH Regulation is also envisioned alongside an initiative on access to chemicals data. The Commission aims to simplify and streamline existing rules for **users and producers of chemicals**.

The **hospitality industry** in the EU will need to prepare for a renewed push for increased recycling of textiles and reduced food waste with the Commission looking to revise the EU's waste framework directive and establish a framework for sustainable food systems.

In the area of **transport**, the Commission will adopt measures including a revision of the roadworthiness package and an initiative on greening corporate fleets.

KEY FILES

Legislative:

- ➔ Revision of EU's internal electricity market rules (Q1)
- ➔ Revision of EU waste framework Directive (Q2)
- ➔ Greening freight package (Q2)
- ➔ Legislative framework for sustainable food systems (Q3)
- ➔ Revision of the roadworthiness package (Q3)
- ➔ REACH revision (Q4)
- ➔ Initiative on chemicals data access (Q4)

Non legislative:

- ➔ EU Hydrogen Bank (potentially legislative, Q3)
- ➔ Greening corporate fleets initiative (potentially legislative, Q3)



A EUROPE FIT FOR THE DIGITAL AGE

In 2023, the EU will take action to boost its autonomy and reduce the resource footprint of digitalisation by securing a diversified supply of critical raw materials. The Commission has also envisioned a common European mobility data space alongside a framework for hyperloop giving the **transport sector** the tools with which to digitalise mobility.

The EU will continue to adapt the Single Market to the digital age. Companies will look forward to initiatives on the use of digital tools and processes in company law, while the upcoming patent licensing package will ensure a regulatory certainty for both **holders as well as implementers of patents**.

The Commission is also looking to take the lead on regulating activity in the **metaverse** through a non-legislative initiative on virtual worlds. As with other such innovations, the EU's rulebook is likely to influence global regulatory standards in the space.

KEY FILES

Legislative:

- ⊕ European critical raw materials act (Q1)
- ⊕ Directive to further expand and upgrade the use for digital tools and processes in company law (Q1)
- ⊕ Patents licensing package (Q2)
- ⊕ EU regulatory framework for hyperloop (Q3)
- ⊕ SME relief package - Revision of the late payments directive (Q3)

Non legislative:

- ⊕ The Single Market at 30 (Q1)
- ⊕ Initiative on virtual worlds, such as metaverse (Q2)
- ⊕ A common European mobility data space (Q2)

AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR PEOPLE

The review of the Payments Services Directive (PSD II) and the establishment of the Open Finance framework are both high on the agenda, aiming to give consumers more control over their financial data, and increase the number of innovative products available to consumers in areas such as **insurance, investments and pensions**.

Additionally, through the proposal for a **Digital Euro**, the EU is looking to establish fundamental principles to capitalise upon the digital payments revolution – whilst bolstering the Euro’s resilience against unregulated financial innovations, such as crypto-assets.

The Commission will also intensify its efforts to augment the levels of **retail investor participation in capital markets** through the Retail Investment Package. A central pillar of the Capital Markets Union action plan from 2020, its aim is to make Europe a safer, more attractive environment for consumers to invest.

KEY FILES

Legislative:

- Improving the Retail Investment framework (Q1)
- Economic Governance Framework (potential to be non-legislative, Q1)
- Revision of EU rules on payment services, PSD III (Q2)
- Proposal for a Digital Euro (Q2)
- Open Finance framework (Q2)
- Revision of the Late Payments Directive (Q3)

Non legislative:

- Review of the Multiannual Financial Framework (potential to be legislative, Q2)
- Economic Governance Framework (potential to be legislative, Q1)

A STRONGER EUROPE IN THE WORLD

Following the Russo-Ukrainian war, the EU is looking to recalibrate its existing sanctions regime. Specifically, the Commission will propose updates to the sanctions toolbox to include **corruption** as a sanctionable crime.

In line with the Strategic Compass adopted earlier this year, the Commission will also present two new initiatives covering **Space and Maritime Security** in 2023.

The Commission envisions further integration of the EU in global supply chains through a renewed push for the ratification of trade agreements with a number of third countries including Chile, Mexico and New Zealand. Particular focus is expected on **improving trade with Latin America**, which will materialise through the new Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean.

KEY FILES

Legislative:

- Updated sanctions framework targeting corruption (Q2)

Non legislative:

- Update of the EU Maritime Security Strategy (Q1)
- An EU Space Strategy for Security and Defence (Q2)
- A New Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (Q2)

PROMOTING OUR EUROPEAN WAY OF LIFE

In declaring 2023 the European Year of Skills, the Commission is placing its focus on fostering a resilient and skilled workforce. An update to the current EU learning mobility framework will ensure companies can make use of a workforce equipped with the necessary skills to ensure competitiveness.

A Skills and Talent Package will aim to attract mutually beneficial legal migration from talented third country nationals and enable them to put their skills to use in the Single Market. The Commission will focus on promoting strategically important skills by setting up a Cybersecurity Skills Academy.

Change for **travel infrastructure** is also on the way, with a new initiative on the digitalisation of travel documents and the revision of the airport slot Regulation and the passenger rights framework.

Work on the European Health Union is also expected to progress. Through the revision of the variation framework for medicines, and a push for a swift compromise on the European Health Data Space, the Commission intends to reduce inefficiencies and costs for **pharmaceutical companies and the healthcare sector**.

KEY FILES

Legislative:

- ➔ Revision of the passenger rights regulatory framework (Q2)
- ➔ Digitalisation of travel documents and facilitation of travel (Q3)
- ➔ Recognition of qualifications of third country nationals (Q3)
- ➔ Revision of the airport slot Regulation (Q3)

Non legislative:

- ➔ A comprehensive approach to mental health (Q2)
- ➔ Cybersecurity Skills Academy (Q3)
- ➔ Council Recommendation on updated learning mobility framework (Q3)
- ➔ Revision of the variation framework for medicines (Q4)



A NEW PUSH FOR EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY

Dispute resolution between businesses and consumers is also an area the Commission will be focusing on. **Businesses in B2C sectors** – both in the physical as well as digital environments – will need to pay close attention to the revision of the current regime.

The Commission has announced its hope for swift agreement between the co-legislators on the new Electoral law, as well as the proposals on political advertising and funding. If achieved, **European political groups and prospective Members of the European Parliament** will be faced with a different regulatory environment when completing their election campaigns come 2024.

KEY FILES

Legislative:

- ➔ Revision of alternative dispute resolution and online dispute resolution framework to improve enforcement of consumer law (Q2 2023)
- ➔ Update of the anti-corruption legislative framework (Q3 2023)
- ➔ European Disability Card (Q4 2023)

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If you would like to speak to us about this document or how we can support your organisation, please do contact a member of the EU Public Affairs team:



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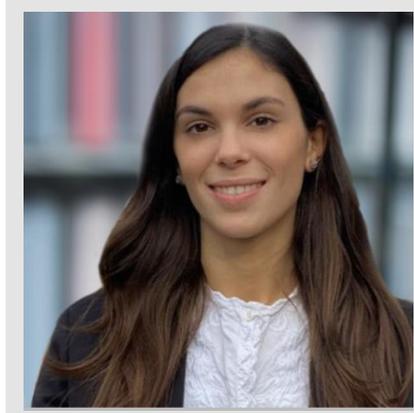
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REDEFINING COMMUNICATIONS TO DELIVER
MEANINGFUL CHANGE